History, Buildings and People
Foreword by the President

Leibniz Universität Hannover is a university with a history stretching back over more than 175 years.

In this brochure, we would like to give our readers an impression of this tradition and the impact it has on the present day, of the historically evolved blend of old and new, of the palace, barracks, stables, urban villas, industrial buildings and modern new constructions.

The varying architectural feel and the fragmented campus along what is referred to as our “science axis” from the Conti-Campus at Königswort- her Platz to Garbsen bear witness to how, and in which eras, our university arose and has developed way beyond the centre of Hannover like an organic structure.

The institutions’ buildings, sites and key figures are indicative of a lively, eventful and instructive past, which has made a lasting mark on the university and can be felt to this day.

Being public spaces, many Leibniz Universität buildings are generally accessible to the public or can at the very least be viewed from the outside on a guided tour, which I can highly recommend!

I invite you to gain a wealth of new impressions and information as you read this brochure.

Professor Dr. Volker Epping
President
Preface

Leibniz Universität Hannover invites you to take a tour of the most important places associated with the university and its history. At the same time we present a selection of the most interesting personalities since the university was founded. In addition, this brochure provides an overview of the more than 175 year history of this university. Leibniz Universität Hannover originated as a polytechnic, and step by step a variety of academic educational establishments were incorporated into a joint institution. Among these establishments was the former College of Education, which looks back on a long tradition of teacher training in Hannover. The history of all the institutions which joined the core science and technology research and teaching areas will also be briefly documented in this brochure.

Yet Leibniz Universität and Hannover as an academic location possess much more of historical relevance than could be included in this publication, and it was necessary to make a selection. The most important criterion was to present the breadth of teaching and research, so that references to some important personalities of the past and present had to be omitted.

This brochure goes back to an initiative from 2006 by the Working Group on Regional and Local History (now part of the Research Initiative TRUST – Transdisciplinary Rural and Urban Spatial Transformation at Leibniz Universität).

It was created in teamwork, in the best sense of the word: Dr. Stefanie Beier and Andrea Wiese, M. A. (Office for Communication and Marketing), Dr. Rita Seidel (University Archive), Carsten Stühring, M. A. (History Department), Dr.-Ing. Ulrich Wagner† (Electrical Engineering and Information Technology) supported me in this process. Dr. Rita Seidel wrote the first part, and Carsten Stühring the texts on buildings and people. Mechtild Frein von Münchhausen, M. A., as well as Katrin Wernke, M. A., and Heike Köhn, Dipl.-Ök. (Office for Communication und Marketing) contributed to the revision of the 2013 and 2016 versions. My thanks go to all of them!

Hannover, January 2016

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HANNOVER.
Technische Hochschule (Welfenschloss)
History and People
Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, born 1st July 1646 in Leipzig, died 14th November 1716 in Hannover.

German philosopher and scholar, mathematician, physicist, historian, lawyer, diplomat and librarian. Universal thinker of his age and one of the most important philosophers at the end of the 17th and the beginning of the 18th century.
Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität Hannover

The Name Says it All

On 1st July 2006 the University of Hannover gave itself a name: Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität Hannover, after the philosopher and universal scholar who had lived and worked in Hannover for 40 years.

The 360th birthday of Leibniz and the 175th anniversary of the university in 2006 led to this choice of date for adopting the new name.

With his scientific studies ranging from philosophy to engineering, Leibniz embraced a scientific diversity that characterises the profile of today’s Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität Hannover.

A Short Profile

Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität Hannover offers its 26,800 or so students (as of: winter semester 2015/2016) a broad range of courses in science and engineering, in the humanities and social sciences, and in law, economics and business administration.

After the Second World War, the university widened its programme with the integration of the College of Horticulture and Land Culture, the College of Education for Technical Schools and the College of Education for Lower Saxony/Hannover. With the creation of the Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences, Law, and Economics and Business Administration, the former Institute of Technology acquired a much broader profile. Its tradition in teacher training goes back to the times of Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz.

With some 4,807 employees (including third-party funded positions), Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität Hannover is one of the major employers in Hannover Region: 2,930 people work in research and teaching, including 320 professors, 1,810 technical and administrative staff and 90 apprentices. In addition there are many student assistants. The university is governed by a six-member Presidential Committee consisting of the President and five Vice Presidents. The University Council advises the Presidential Committee and the Senate, particularly on development and economic plans.
From the Higher Trade School to the Polytechnic

Students had to be at least 15 years old if they wished to attend the Higher Trade School, where they would learn a trade. The first director Karl Karmarsch, aged 28, came from the Polytechnic in Vienna and became one of the leading technologists of his time.

Hannover had been a kingdom since 1814 and was ruled in personal union with Great Britain until 1837. King George IV lived in far-off London, while the popular Adolph Friedrich, Duke of Cambridge, reigned in Hannover. It was during his reign that the modernisation of agriculture and the beginnings of industrialisation occurred.

Due to the absence of the king, Hannover had remained agricultural; training at the Higher Trade School was to help Hannover to catch up economically and reach the level of industrialisation that was already well underway in Great Britain. Personal Union with Great Britain came to an end in 1837, and the ultra-conservative Ernst August became King in Hannover. His name is associated with the suspension of the state constitution in 1833 and the protest and dismissal of seven Göttingen professors, who became known as the Göttingen Seven.

In 1837, the Higher Trade School moved into its own new building in Georgstraße. This is where the Kröpcke Centre is today. The coming of the railways in 1842 was a major breakthrough for the Higher Trade School. Skilled engineers were required for the state railways.
The number of students rose sharply, the curriculum was radically altered, and the institution was turned into a polytechnic in 1847. Entrance requirements and the age of the polytechnic students were raised. Teaching became more theoretical, mathematical and specialised.
Karl Karmarsch
* 17.10.1803 | † 24.03.1879

The technologist and founder of the future Institute of Technology Karl Karmarsch was one of the most important personalities in the history of what is now Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität Hannover. He studied and worked from 1817 at the Polytechnic Institute in Vienna. In 1831 he was appointed to the Higher Trade School in Hannover as the senior teacher and Director of Technology and Chemistry. To prepare for his new position, he visited polytechnics and worked on the statutes and the curriculum of the new college. While he was in office Karmarsch advocated combining scientific insights and practical, technical knowledge. He was also involved in the introduction of the metric system to Germany.

Karmarsch was also involved in the Trade Association of Hannover as its Vice President. In 1846 he was awarded the Freedom of the City. His retirement in 1875 was marked by the establishment of the Karmarsch Foundation, which awards scholarships. After his death he was honoured posthumously. A street was named after him in the centre of Hannover, and a life-size bronze statue was erected in Georgstraße. Finally in 1925 a bust was put on display in the Institute of Technology and the Karmarsch Medal was donated by the Hannoversche Hochschulgemeinschaft (Friends of Hannover Institute of Technology).
When the 1848 Revolution reached Hannover, the polytechnic students stood as one united corps in the Citizens’ Militia. One of them was the sixteen-year-old Wilhelm Busch, who wanted to become a mechanical engineer. On the whole, however, political events in Hannover passed peacefully.

A one-year preparatory school had been introduced at the polytechnic in 1847. On average, studies took 2 ½ years, and in 1853 the age of the students entering the college was just under 20. The number of subjects taught tripled between 1845 and 1853. The library built up by Karl Karmarsch could soon measure up to other similar institutions. The chemistry laboratory set up by Friedrich Heeren in 1854/55 was regarded as one of the largest and most modern in the whole of Germany. The 25th anniversary of the college was a proud demonstration of what had been achieved so far, and Karl Karmarsch’s speech was full of the unwavering faith in progress of his age.
Hannover was growing rapidly at that time. The railway station in Steintorfeld was completed, and Ernst-August-Stadt between Georgstraße and the railway was incorporated. Hannover’s industrial development was mainly in the adjoining town of Linden. Until Hannover joined the Zollverein in 1851, however, inner-German trade barriers prevented rapid economic growth.

The chemistry laboratory at the polytechnic set up by Friedrich Heeren | 1854/55.
Friedrich Heeren

* 11.08.1803 | † 02.05.1885

Friedrich Heeren was associated with the Higher Trade School for an unusually long period after its foundation. In 1831, together with Karl Karmarsch, he was appointed to the recently founded Higher Trade School in Hannover as the second teacher in chemical engineering. First of all he taught practical chemistry by working with the students in the laboratory. He also took over the teaching in physics and mineralogy. Later on Heeren also taught theoretical chemistry and chemical engineering.

When he took up his position, chemistry was taught under cramped conditions. The situation changed only in 1853 with a large extension to the school building in Georgstraße. Heeren was asked to set up the new chemistry laboratory. He turned the laboratory into one of the most modern and largest of its type in Germany. Heeren became famous when he wrote the extremely successful Technisches Wörterbuch (Technical Dictionary) together with Karmarsch. In addition he was involved in the Trade Association and supported the development of Hannoverian industry in a variety of ways. For his services, he was awarded the Freedom of the City of Hannover in 1846. In 1884 Heeren retired. A street in Hannover was named posthumously after him.
The Polytechnic in the Time of Radical Change

In 1866 Prussia annexed the Kingdom of Hannover. It became a Prussian province. Prussian legislation led to substantial liberalisation. After the foundation of the Empire in 1871, economic development was stimulated further, and many new industrial plants were created. The downside of advancing industrialisation was an increase in social problems.

With the incorporation of Hannover into the Prussian state, the Polytechnic was put under the responsibility of the Prussian Ministry for Trade, Industry and Public Works. The social status of the building officers for the State Technical Service in Hannover had to be brought up to the higher Prussian level, so as not to degrade the new Prussian province. In 1869 Hannover Polytechnic was granted the right to offer the corresponding higher level courses and to conduct the state exams for Regierungsbauführer and Regierungsbaumeister (government foreman and government architect).

Although the transition to a Polytechnic had been relatively rapid, the further development of the college between 1854 and Karl Karmarsch’s retirement in 1875 was rather slow. The general trend at technical colleges towards placing engineering on a more scientific footing was not pursued under the aegis of Karmarsch.

Towards the end of Karmarsch’s incumbency, a growing disparity could not be overlooked between Hannover and most other similar German technical institutions, where an understanding of the term scientific as seen by the universities was becoming increasingly accepted.

Apart from educating officers for the State Technical Service, the college in Hannover provided practically relevant training for engineers who could quickly apply their skills in trade and industry.
The greatest discrepancy between Hannover and the more advanced institutions lay in the college's constitution, which had hardly been altered since its foundation. There was no division into departments, and the teaching staff played no part in the management or administration of the college. The director was not elected; the school was headed by a “permanent director”.

The Christuskirche near the Welfenschloss is one of the many red brick gothic works by Conrad Wilhelm Haase, founder of the Hannover School of Architecture, from 1849 teacher and from 1878 Professor of Architecture at Hannover Polytechnic.

Karl Karmarsch’s 44-year period of office ended in 1875. After his successor, civil engineer and economist Wilhelm Launhardt, took office, concerted efforts were made to expand the school into a College of Technology.
Conrad Wilhelm Hase

* 02.10.1818 | † 28.03.1902

Architect, teacher, and restorer: there were several sides to Conrad Wilhelm Hase’s career. He played a decisive role in the Hannover School of architecture. Several thousand churches, factories and dwellings in Northern Germany were designed in the style created by Hase and his pupils. Hase worked mainly with elements of medieval red-brick Gothic architecture. Even today one can see examples of his architecture in such buildings as the Künstlerhaus and the Christuskirche in Hannover and the Royal Palace of Marienburg near Nordstemmen.

Hase spent most of his life in Hannover: he studied architecture at the Higher Trade School there, and taught architecture and the history of architecture from 1849. As well as this, the famous restorer was appointed to the position of Konsisterialbaumeister (church architect) of the Hannover Landeskirche in 1863, and put in charge of all the Lutheran sacred buildings.

He received a variety of honours such as the freedom of cities and the establishment of a scholarship fund bearing his name. In 1894 Hase retired from his professorship.
The number of subjects taught doubled between 1875 and 1897. New areas such as shipbuilding were introduced. The academic staff grew accordingly. On 1st April 1879 the Polytechnic was awarded the official title “Hannover Royal Institute of Technology.”

With the Institute of Technology’s constitution, which came into force in 1880, one of the major differences between Hannover and the other German technical institutions was removed. The radically new constitution re-organised the Institute of Technology into five specialised departments: Architecture, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Chemistry and Electrical Engineering, as well as General Sciences. Management and administration of the Institute of Technology was in the hands of the departmental staff committees and departmental superintendents; the Senate and the Rector were responsible for the Institute as a whole. The Rector was elected for a three-year term of office.

The departmental staff committees as a whole received the right to nominate three candidates for the office of Rector to the Minister. With the right to confer the Habilitation and the title of Privatdozent, the Institute received the full status of an institute of higher education on an equal footing with the universities. This was a crucial step for the institutes of technology on the road to equality with the universities.

On the Way to Becoming an Institute of Technology

Hannover Institute of Technology moved into the Welfenschloss, the former Royal Palace, on 6th October 1879.
further crucial step on the road to the emancipation of engineering was the enhanced status that the institutes of technology enjoyed when responsibility for them was transferred from the Department of Trade to the Department of Education, which was also responsible for the universities.

From purely technical colleges under the Department of Trade, the institutes of technology, like the universities, became part of academic research and teaching in the context of society as a whole.
Wilhelm Launhardt

* 07.04.1832 | † 14.05.1918

Wilhelm Launhardt worked as a civil engineer, economist and the first Rector of Hanover Institute of Technology. Launhardt studied civil engineering. He then designed streets, bridges and railways for the Hannoverian state building authorities. During this time he was already interested in the economic dimension of technical topics. Launhardt combined transport technology, mathematics and economics. He is regarded as one of the founders of technical and economic transport science.

In 1869, Launhardt was appointed to a chair for the construction of streets, railways and bridges at the Polytechnic. Six years later he took up a further office: after an incumbency of over 40 years, Karl Karmarsch stepped down as Director in his favour. During Launhardt’s term of office, specialised studies were developed further and the Abitur or an equivalent qualification was introduced as an entrance requirement. At the same time as moving into the Welfenschloss in 1879, the Polytechnic could thus be awarded the title of Royal Institute of Technology. Launhardt was the first Rector of the Institute of Technology until 1886. The Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of what is now Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität Hannover awards the Wilhelm-Launhardt Prize for excellent master’s theses.
The transfer of responsibility for the institutes of technology from the Department of Trade to the Department of Education paved the way for transition from a specialised institute to a broader scientific institution. Institutes of technology did not yet possess such crucial attributes as the right to confer doctorates, which would put them on an equal footing with the universities.

The 1880s and 1890s were marked by a rapid expansion of technology and industry. The institutes of technology were faced with the problem of modifying their curriculum in order to keep pace with fast-changing technical developments in industry. The result was an expansion, differentiation and specialisation of subject matter and teaching methods. The training of engineers had to be adapted to the practical needs of industry, while a more theoretical and scientific approach was required to do justice to the increasingly academic nature of the institutes of technology. For the students, increasing specialisation and differentiation of the curriculum meant that they had up to 50 compulsory class hours per week.

The institutes of technology were faced with the task of using specific experimental methods as a basis for developing a scientific profile that would be comparable to that of the universities. At Hannover Institute of Technology.
Technology, laboratories were set up as an important step towards systematic technical and scientific experiment-based teaching: from 1884 the mechanical engineer Hermann Fischer set up a Technological Laboratory for the Investigation of Fibrous Materials, and the electrical engineer Wilhelm Kohlrausch began to set up an electronics laboratory. In 1896, Franz Frese's Machine-Engineering Laboratory was built, and further laboratories were to follow.

By the end of the 19th century the institutes of technology had created their own profile in the scientific world and had found general recognition.

On the occasion of the centenary of Berlin Institute of Technology, Kaiser Wilhelm II granted the Prussian institutes of technology the right to confer the academic degrees of Doktor-Ingenieur and Diplom-Ingenieur. This was the final step towards acquiring equal status with the universities.

On 18th August 1908 the Prussian Department of Education opened up first the universities and on 14th April 1909 also the state's institutes of technology – Berlin, Danzig, Aachen and Hannover – to women as fully matriculated students, not without drawing attention in an additional remark that "on registration for the Diplom examination they are to have fulfilled the requirements of the examination regulations in their entirety."
Wilhelm Kohlrausch

* 14.05.1855 | † 16.04.1936

Wilhelm Kohlrausch worked as an electrical engineer and Rector in Hannover. He became famous for his theory of the lead accumulator. Kohlrausch studied physics, mathematics and chemistry, and then worked as a research assistant in Strasburg. In 1884 he was appointed to a lectureship in electrical engineering at Hannover Institute of Technology. Two years later the Institute of Electrical Engineering was created and Kohlrausch became a full professor. He was the author of several textbooks.

One of his research achievements, apart from the lead accumulator, was the determination of the electrochemical equivalent of silver, which he ascertained together with his brother, Friedrich. In 1928, The Association of German Electrical Engineers made him an honorary member. For his work, Kohlrausch received the Karmarsch Medal, an honorary doctorate from Berlin Institute of Technology and the Freedom of Hannover Institute of Technology. He worked at Hannover Institute of Technology until 1927.
The mechanical engineer and physicist Ludwig Prandtl is seen as the founder of modern hydro- and aero-dynamics. He studied the movement of liquid and gaseous substances, gaining important insights especially for aeronautics. After studying mechanical engineering in Munich he worked as an engineer from 1900 in the Maschinenbaufabrik Augsburg und Nürnberg.

In the following year Prandtl was appointed to a chair in mechanics at Hannover Institute of Technology. There he developed his boundary layer theory. Boundary layers are created on the surface of moving objects when they rub against liquid or gaseous bodies. To prove his theory, Prandtl developed and built a water channel, which was shown in an exhibition to mark the 150th anniversary of the University of Hannover in 1981.

He left Hannover in 1904 to take up a position, initially as an associate professor, in Göttingen. In 1908 Prandtl – for the first time in Germany – had a wind channel built. He developed the aerofoil theory, which was to become important for aircraft construction, and the Prandtl tube to measure flow rates. The Prandtl number was also named after him, a dimensionless number referring to fluids.
Reform of Higher Education in the Weimar Republic

When the First World War broke out, 910 out of 998 students at Hannover Institute of Technology signed up for military service in the first year of the war. Almost a quarter of these were to die in the course of the war. Since several generations of young people were not able to study during this time, soldiers returning from the war crowded into the Institute of Technology after the war was over. Student numbers rose dramatically and peaked in 1921 at 3,000 students. After 1925, student numbers decreased steadily, reaching 1,500 in 1930.

To ease the economic hardship that many students found themselves in after the war, the Hannoversche Hochschulgemeinschaft, Vereinigung von Freunden der Technischen Hochschule e. V. (Friends of Hannover Institute of Technology) was founded in 1921. One year later the Studentenhilfe, today’s Student Services, opened a refectory.

After the First World War, the status of the institutes of technology in state and society and their relationship to
universities became one of the central issues of higher education reform in the Weimar Republic. The division of higher education into universities and institutes of technology that had been drawn up in the 19th century was seen as a mistake. The aim of the reform of higher education was to unite the different universities and institutes into one joint institute of higher education, a new universitas.

Here students of the different disciplines were to work alongside and with each other. The sciences and the arts were to complement and stimulate each other.

A step in this direction was to introduce the same organisational structures to the institutes of technology and the universities. For the institutes of technology this meant dissolving the departments that had existed so far and setting up faculties. The following three faculties were introduced on 1st July 1922 at Hannover Institute of Technology:

- Faculty of General Sciences (including Chemistry)
- Faculty of Construction (Architecture and Construction)
- Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (Mechanical Engineering, including Electrical Engineering)

In view of its key role in the reform of the institutes of technology, the Faculty of General Sciences had moved to first place. Further development of General Sciences was not, however, pursued. Professorships were not set up here and lectures were held by Privatdozente (private lecturers).

The aim of the Weimar Reform of Higher Education to create a new universal educational institution including the institutes of technology was not realised until after the end of the Weimar Republic.
**Radicalisation of the Student Body**

From the mid 1920s, the Hannover student body was becoming more and more radical, led by nationalistic ideology and culminating in the notorious “Lessing case”.

From 1908 the JewishPrivatdozent (private lecturer) for Philosophy, Theodor Lessing, held lectures in the Department of General Sciences. With the reform of higher education he became an associate professor without the status of a civil servant and received a lectureship for Philosophy and Natural Sciences. His reporting on the Haarmann trial and his article on Hindenburg, in which he warned of the possible political consequences of Hindenburg being elected Chancellor of the Reich, led to a massive boycott of his lectures from 1925 onwards by students at the Institute of Technology, who mainly subscribed to right-wing conservative and nationalistic ideology. Due to public pressure, the Department of Education saw itself forced to intervene. Disciplinary measures were introduced against the students. On 18th June 1926 Lessing stopped lecturing and was given a permanent research contract on the philosophy of history and culture in lieu. When the National Socialists came to power, his research contract was withdrawn.

Theodor Lessing was assassinated in exile in Marienbad by Nazis on 31st August 1933.

In the student council elections at Hannover Institute of Technology in 1929/1930, with a turnout of 75%, the Korporation, or Fraternity, List received a majority of 88.9%. The Science List, representing students who were not members of a fraternity, received 5.4%. The National Socialist Students List received 5.8%. In 1930 the National Socialist Students List received 11.8%. In winter semester 1932/1933 70 students at Hannover Institute of Technology were members of the Nazi Students Association, which corresponds to 3.7% of all students. After the National Socialists came to power, almost half of the students joined the Nazi Students Association by July 1933.
Fraternity students chase Theodor Lessing in the Georgengarten | 1926
The philosopher and educationalist Theodor Lessing, who was murdered in exile, was an early victim of Nazi violence. From 1908 he worked as a Privatdozent (private lecturer) for philosophy and education at Hannover Institute of Technology. In 1922 he became an associate professor. During this time Lessing established the Volkshochschule (Adult Education Centre) Hannover together with his wife, Ada. The couple, who advocated progressive teaching methods, were honoured posthumously when the Volkshochschule was named after them in 2006.

Lessing was allowed to teach at Hannover Institute of Technology only until 1925. In 1924 Lessing had reported on the trial against the serial killer Friedrich Haarmann. He classified his deeds as a problem of society as a whole, thus provoking wide conservative circles. Their opposition to him grew all the more through his critical article on Paul von Hindenburg, who was elected Chancellor of the Reich in 1925. Many students of the Institute of Technology were outraged at this and demanded Lessing’s dismissal. The anti-Semitic smear campaign supported by the Nazis led to Lessing resigning his position. After Hitler came to power, he emigrated to Czechoslovakia. Only a few months later, Theodor Lessing was assassinated by Nazis in Marienbad.

Theodor Lessing
* 08.02.1872 | † 30.08.1933
In 1933 the Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service came into force, creating the instruments to remove non-Arians and other undesirables from office. At Hannover Institute of Technology only few cleansings are known, as hardly any non-Arians had been appointed.

On the initiative of the Institute of Technology, the only full professor to be dismissed was the Professor for Mechanics Otto Flachsbart, who was sent into retirement in June 1937 at the age of 39. His wife was of Jewish origin. Some other teaching staff without the status of civil servants also had to leave, for example the Honorary Professor for Railway Bridge Construction Hugo Kulka, the Chemist and Privatdozent Günther Schiemann, the Associate Professor for Art History Alexander Dorner and the lecturer Richard Woldt, former Ministerialrat in the Prussian Department of Education.

In 1934 the Führerprinzip was introduced. The Rector and Deans were no longer elected, but nominated. The Rector acted as a trustee of the Minister. Student self-government was dissolved; a student body and a body of lecturers were created.

Increasing Nazification of the Institute of Technology can be seen in the appointments made and the relationships of the scientists and academic teachers to the NSDAP and
other Nazi organisations like the Nazi Association of German lecturers Nationalsozialistischer Deutscher Dozentenbund (NSDDB). This reached a climax in the context of research relevant to the war effort. The issue of foreign or forced labour has not yet been fully addressed. Research is currently being carried out here.

From the outbreak of war in 1939 lecturers and the majority of students were called up for military service or war work.

Leibniz Universität is conducting a detailed review of this specific chapter in its history. In accordance with the moral and ethical objectives of its mission statement and its position in a democratic, constitutional state, Leibniz Universität Hannover is committed to a full and thorough investigation of the darkest chapter in its history in the years of National Socialist tyranny. In the meantime, doctoral theses and a Master’s thesis have been written to investigate the role played by the university in the Nazi era. A Working Group of the Senate set up in 2011 investigated the impairments that occurred at Hannover Institute of Technology between 1933 and 1945 – in particular with regard to academic positions, degrees and honours for ideological reasons based on the Nazi ideology of political, “racial” or other forms of discrimination. In May 2012, the Senate and Presidential Committee

Otto Franzius is installed as Rector. Gymnasium of Hannover Institute of Technology | 1933

From the outbreak of war in 1939 lecturers and the majority of students were called up for military service or war work.
of Leibniz Universität passed the resolution to rehabilitate those persons whose academic titles had been withdrawn. On 20th November 2013, Leibniz Universität Hannover held a commemoration ceremony to honour those who had been subjected to impairments and vilification during the Nazi era at what was then Hannover Institute of Technology. The event was based on the findings of the Senate Working Group, which had drawn up a report entitled “Awarding and revocation of academic titles during the National Socialist era at the then Hannover College of Technology”. At the commemoration event, the report was presented for the first time to relatives of those who had been affected, members of the university and the public. A second report by the Senate Working Group will address privileges awarded during the Nazi period. An inscription commemorating the members of the university and their relatives who fell victim to Nazi injustice at Hannover Institute of Technology from 1933 onwards was erected in the atrium of the Main Building of Leibniz Universität at the end of 2015 (see below).
Johannes Stark

* 15.04.1874 | † 21.06.1957

The physicist Johannes Stark was and is a controversial figure: the Nobel Prize winner of 1919 was an advocate of so-called German Physics and an early supporter of National Socialism. From 1894 he studied physics and mathematics at the University of Munich, gaining his doctorate in 1897.

After his Habilitation in Göttingen, Stark was a lecturer in practical physics at Hannover Institute of Technology from 1906 to 1909. The experimental physicist made two outstanding discoveries in his research. In 1909 he proved the optical Doppler Effect in canal rays and in 1913 the Stark Effect named after him, the splitting of spectral lines in electric fields. For these two discoveries he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1919.

Stark was an opponent of theoretical physics. For this reason and because of his anti-Semitism he argued vehemently against the awarding of the Nobel Prize in Physics to Albert Einstein. In 1922, Stark, who was largely isolated among German physicists, withdrew from science and worked for a while in private industry. When Hitler came to power in 1933 he became President of the Imperial Physics and Technology Institute (now Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB)) and in 1934 President of the German Research Council. In both offices he spread aggressive propaganda against theoretical physics, calling it Jewish physics. Stark advocated what he called German Physics. Difficulties with the National Socialists led to his retirement in 1939.
Destruction and Reconstruction of Hannover Institute of Technology

During the Second World War, major parts of the Institute of Technology were destroyed in air raids. More than half of the Welfenschloss lay in ruins. Of the remaining more than 20 separate buildings, only five were complete and the rest destroyed to a greater or smaller extent.

Clearing and rebuilding after the war was possible only with the active participation of the students. Prospective students had to contribute 600 hours and later 1,000 hours of rebuilding work before they could be admitted as students. The reconstruction of many of the lecture theatres was supported by donations from members of Hannover Hochschulgemeinschaft. Some lecture theatres still bear the names of the patrons who financed their reconstruction. For the anniversary celebrations in 1956 the Lichthof, a covered atrium in the main building, was inaugurated.

During denazification after 1945, eleven full professors at Hannover Institute of Technology were dismissed in 1945 and 1946; five of them were temporarily interned.
In the following years, however, academics who had had a successful career in the Nazi era were also appointed to the Institute of Technology, such as Konrad Meyer. Otto Flachsbart and Günther Schiemann, who had had to leave the Institute of Technology in the Third Reich, were rehabilitated. Flachsbart received his chair back in 1945. Schiemann became a supernumary professor at Hannover Institute of Technology in 1946, and in 1956 he was appointed Director of the Institute of Chemical Engineering.

The German citizenship of the German-Jewish chemist Walter Dux was revoked in 1940, and he was also stripped of the doctorate that he had held since 1913. Although Hannover Institute of Technology conferred a doctoral title on him once again in 1963, he was only officially rehabilitated after a Senate Commission hearing at Leibniz Universität in 2012.

The field of activity at Hannover Institute of Technology expanded in 1951 with the creation of a Department of Shipbuilding in the tradition of the former Danzig Institute of Technology, and in 1952 with the integration of the College of Horticulture and Land Culture as the fourth faculty. In 1954 there were ca 2,900 students at the Institute of Technology. Among them were 103 women and 85 international students from 21 different countries.
Wilhelm Treue

* 18.07.1909 | † 18.10.1992

The historian Wilhelm Treue was a leading representative of economic and technical history research. Treue studied history and biology in Berlin, taking his doctorate there in 1932. Four years later he took his Habilitation, but did not acquire the right to teach until 1945 as he was not a member of the NSDAP. From 1943 he worked as a teacher of the history of naval warfare at the naval school Flensburg-Mürwik. After the end of the Second World War, Treue campaigned for apolitical science and the integration of political Mitläufer of the Nazi regime. In 1948 he was appointed associate professor and in 1954 full professor of history at Hannover Institute of Technology. There he was essentially involved in setting up the History Department.

On retirement in 1976 Treue was a visiting lecturer at the University of Salzburg, which awarded him an honorary professorship. He was also active as the Head of numerous academic societies such as the Gesellschaft für Unternehmensgeschichte (Society for the Promotion of Research in Business History). In 1980 he was awarded the Bundesverdienstkreuz (Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany).
As Rector from 1947 to 1950, the civil engineer Otto Flachsbart secured the continued existence of Hannover Institute of Technology. The plan had been to amalgamate with Braunschweig Institute of Technology. Hannover was repeatedly at the centre of his professional life. He studied civil engineering here and was appointed to a chair in mechanics in 1932. Flachsbart’s interests covered several different areas of civil engineering. In his doctoral thesis he investigated the history of water resources management in the town of Goslar, and later played a role in research into aeroplane wings. His work on the aerodynamics of buildings was particularly successful: in 1938 his insights led to a change in DIN regulations concerning the wind loads of buildings.

In 1937 Flachsbart, whose wife had Jewish ancestors, lost his professorship under the Nazi racial laws. Until 1945 he was in charge of the research department of Gutehoffnungshütte in Oberhausen. When the war was over he was reappointed to a chair in mechanics in Hannover. In addition, he was elected President of the recently founded German Research Council in 1951. He was, however, unable to take up the office due to ill health. In 1953 Flachsbart was awarded the Karmarsch Medal.
From the Institute of Technology to the Technical University

After a general agreement had been passed in 1964 on the reorganisation of teaching in the sixth forms of Gymnasien, teacher training became the key issue of all further university expansion plans. Student numbers, which had remained almost constant at 4,000 to 5,000 until 1967, rocketed. In 1978/79 there were 18,000 students at the Institute of Technology. In 1968, the College of Education for Technical Schools was incorporated. In the same year, the Institute of Technology was renamed Technical University. At the same time a fifth faculty, Humanities and Political Science (later Social Sciences), was founded.

In March 1968 the Technical University gave itself a "provisional constitution", which remained valid, apart from certain temporary adjustments, until the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act came into force in 1978.

In the 1970s the curriculum of the Technical University was extended. In 1973 the sixth faculty, Law, was created. In 1974 came the seventh faculty, Economics and Business Administration.

At the end of the 1960s the German student movement also hit Hannover Institute of Technology, although Hannover did not play a major role compared to other German cities such as Berlin or Frankfurt am Main.

Such slogans as "legitimize the political mandate for student bodies" or "democratize university and state" were typical features of the higher education policies of the student council ASTA. This was essentially supported by the Sozialdemokratischer Hochschulbund (SHB), the Social Democratic university association, which was in favour of reform, and the Sozialistischer Deutscher Studentenbund (SDS), the Students Association of the German Socialist Party, and their sympathisers. Apart from the SHB, the Sozialistischer Deutscher Studentenbund (SDS) was the second relevant left-wing university group. Its members showed increasingly revolutionary tendencies from the middle of 1968 onwards.
The death of Benno Ohnesorg, who came from Hannover, in West Berlin on 2nd June 1967 and his funeral in Hannover led to a wave of solidarity on the part of the students. 7,000 students took part in a funeral procession, waving black flags as they passed through the city centre; wreaths were laid in the Lichthof of Hannover Institute of Technology. After the silent protest march, the congress “Conditions and Organisation of Resistance” held in Hannover received nationwide attention. Virtually all of the people who played a crucial part in the student movement took part, including Knut Nevermann, Wolfgang Abendroth, Rudi Dutschke and Jürgen Habermas.

The best known and most successful campaign within Hannover’s student movement was the red point action in June 1969 against fare increases for public transport in Hannover. Student and school student organisations together with trade unions and other groupings blocked buses and trams while providing alternative, essentially privately-organised public transport in the form of private vehicles marked by a red point on the windscreen.
Wilhelm Speckmann

* 11.10.1911 | † 07.02.1991

Wilhelm Speckmann helped to reform the training of vocational school teachers in Hannover. After studying architecture he worked from 1947 in Braunschweig and Wilhelmshaven. Finally he moved to the College of Education for Technical Schools in Hannover, which was an independent institution like the Institute of Technology, the College of Education and the School of Veterinary Science. He became a professor there and was the Rector for part of the time. Speckmann contributed to reform in the training of vocational school teachers by urging a one-step course specialising in experimental teaching. At the same time he actively supervised the construction of a new building for the College of Education for Technical Schools in Hannover-Limmer.

In 1968, the College of Education for Technical Schools was integrated into Hannover Institute of Technology. Here, Speckmann successfully achieved the integration of the training of vocational school teachers in the new Institute of Technology. As a professor at the Technical University he taught working methods and teaching methodology for the wood and plastics trade until 1980. In addition he was the Director of the Institute of Working Methods and Teaching Methodology for the Building Trade.
The lawyer and political scientist Jürgen Seifert was an active campaigner for civil rights. After an apprenticeship as a toolmaker, Seifert studied law, political sciences and philosophy in Münster, Bologna and Bristol. After working as an assistant in Darmstadt he was a stand-in professor in Saarbrücken. In 1971 was appointed to a professorship at the Institute of Political Science at the Technical University of Hannover. In 1976 and 1977 Seifert was the Chairman of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, and initiated their continuation as a joint commission of three Departments. Seifert was for many years a member of the University Senate.

Seifert combined scientific analysis and political practice by campaigning for civil rights and keeping a critical eye on political developments. He spoke out against nuclear armament and emergency laws, and was actively involved in the 1968 movement. He was for many years the Chairman and Federal Head of the Humanist Union, which is committed to the protection of civil rights. In addition, Seifert worked as the editor and publisher of the journal Kritische Justiz. He was involved in constitutional reform at both federal and state level.
When the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act came into force on 1st October 1978, the College of Education for Lower Saxony / Hannover was incorporated, and the Technical University changed its name to the University of Hannover. With the College of Education, the university gained an educational establishment with a long tradition reaching back into the 18th century and associated with the name of Ernst Christoph Böttcher, the founder of the teacher training college in Hannover. The integration of the College of Education meant that teacher training in Hannover had at last acquired the status that the teachers associations had been calling for since the 19th century: the incorporation of all teacher training programmes into the university.

The university elected its first president on 30th May 1979. One year later the university was restructured according to the Organisation of Higher Education Plan of 1980: 17 departments, 2 faculties and 12 central facilities were created. In summer 1982 the university’s charter was approved by the Ministry of Science and Culture.
For the first time, in winter semester 1990/91 there were more than 30,000 students registered, 37.4% of them women. In 1995 the university took over the former administration building of the company Continental at Königsworther Platz, the Conti-Campus. With a floor space of 20,000 m², the Departments of Literature and Languages, Law and Economics and Business Management and their departmental libraries could be housed there. The new chemistry building was opened in 1997, and for the engineers the Underwater Technology Centre was inaugurated in Garbsen in June 1997. In autumn 1999 Technical Informatics received a new building.
In 1997 the Senate passed the university's Mission Statement. This emphasises the fact that the distinctive character of the university lies in its broad spectrum of disciplines ranging from engineering and natural sciences, aesthetics and planning, law, economics and management, humanities and social sciences and the potential for cooperation that has arisen from this.

In 1997, five Collaborative Research Centres (CRCs) were established at the university, with participation in two further CRCs. In 1999 it was involved in ten CRCs. In this year, third-party funding accounted for 24.5% of the entire university budget. 70 per cent of third-party funding came from engineering.

Also in 1997, an innovation offensive was signed by the State of Lower Saxony and the State Rectors Conference, in which the state government committed itself to not making any further cuts in the higher education budget for the next five years. The innovation offensive itself was to be funded in equal parts by the state and the higher education institutions in Lower Saxony. Ten innovation projects were set up at the University of Hannover with the emphasis on science and engineering. In 1999 the Wissenschaftliche Kommission Niedersachsen (WKN) initiated a state-wide procedure to evaluate research.
For universities in Lower Saxony, 2000 was dominated by discussions concerning the draught of the Gesetz zur Hochschulreform in Niedersachsen, the Lower Saxony University Reform Law. Both Council and Senate delivered opinions on this. The new bachelor’s and master’s degrees could soon be taken in many subjects. The university started the accreditation of new degree programmes. A new degree programme in industrial engineering was established jointly by the Departments of Economics and Management, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Information Technology.

Since 1st January 2001, the University of Hannover has been run as a state business and receives a block grant. State and university regulate their relationship through target agreements according to the principles of new public management. As the first building block of Corporate Design, the university adopted a new Logo.

In October 2002 a new state university law, the Niedersächsisches Hochschulgesetz (NHG) was enacted. It was modified in 2007 and 2011. The university remains a public corporation with the right to self-government. The Council was dissolved. Central organs are the Presidential Committee and the Senate. The Hochschulrat, or...
University Council, was also established at this time as an advisory body for the Presidential Committee and the Senate. The Presidential Committee is responsible for running the university. It is accountable to the Senate in all matters of self-government within its decision-making competence.

The President is nominated or designated on the advice of the Senate. The Senate submits its proposal together with a statement from the University Council to the Lower Saxony Minister of Science and Culture.

In October 2003 the State government passed the Hochschuloptimierungskonzept (HOK). This optimization concept led to far-reaching restructuring of higher education in Lower Saxony. Apart from budget cuts and economy measures for the university, there were drastic changes for the University of Hannover’s Department of Education: teacher training for primary schools, Haupt-
and Realschulen was transferred to Hildesheim. The Department of Law remained as a legal training institute but without the social science specialisation. The Department of Romance Studies was phased out in its then form and reopened in 2012 with Spanish Studies. The Diplom and Magister degrees were replaced by bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

In August 2005 the new university constitution came into force. Leibniz Universität is no longer divided into departments but into nine faculties.

In 2006, Universität Hannover celebrated its 175th anniversary and was given the name Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität Hannover. The Leibniz endowed professorship created in 2010 bears witness to the special commitment to the universal scholar by both university and city of Hannover. The many events organised by incumbent Prof. Dr. Wenchao Li address a wide audience in the city and the region.
1st January 2009 saw the birth of the Niedersächsische Technische Hochschule (Niedersachsen Institutes of Technology, NTH) - an alliance of the three universities Technische Universität Braunschweig, Technische Universität Clausthal and Leibniz Universität Hannover. Its aim was to consolidate existing strengths, thereby increasing efficiency in research and teaching.

However, after an evaluation by the Wissenschaftliche Kommission Niedersachsen, on 14 October 2014 the Ministry for Science and Culture of Lower Saxony made it known that it wished to dissolve the Niedersachsen Institutes of Technology as of 1 January 2015. The reason the ministry gave was that the top-down structure such as the Niedersachsen Institutes of Technology could not effectively harness the expected advantages. In its place, research collaborations should occur in the future “as they develop according to scientific needs” and the autonomy of the individual institutions should be considered. In December 2015, the points of the “Braunschweig-Hannover Master Plan” were dropped.
Buildings and People

At the heart of Hannover’s many university buildings lies the Welfengarten. The main building of the university, the former Royal Palace Welfenschloss, is the focal point of a series of ensembles such as the extension with the Audimax, (the main auditorium), or the library building from 1965.

With the construction of the chemical institutes in Callinstraße and Schneiderberg, the campus began to expand at the beginning of the 20th century. Here we also find the red brick building of the Franzius Institute in Nienburger Straße from the 1920s and the new Mensa, or refectory, from 1981. After 1945 further university buildings, mainly for engineering, were erected on a former military site between Callinstraße and Appelstraße.

A third ensemble of buildings was built at Königsworther Platz, comprising the architecture building and the Villa Simon, with the later additions of the factory König & Ebhardt and the former Continental office block.

A fourth ensemble was developed in Herrenhäuser Straße after 1949, with the “Green Faculty” and next door the former Werkkunstschule, or Art College. All of these sites are linked by the traffic artery of Nienburger and Herrenhäuser Straße. By taking the tram along this route one reaches the fifth ensemble in Marienwerder and Garbsen with the Production Technology Centre and in future the new building for the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (Construction due to begin in 2014). In the south of the city was a sixth ensemble: the former College of Education complex, which the university gave up in 2011 – as previously former sites in the city centre, in Linden and in Wunstorfer Straße.
Historical Buildings Path

Cartography: Institute of Cartography and Geoinformatics, Leibniz Universität Hannover, Base data: ATKIS-Basis-DLM of LGN-Landesvermessung + Geobasisinformation, Hannover
1. Leibnizhaus, Holzmarkt 5
2. Bornemannsches Haus,
   At the corner of Schmiedestraße/Grupenstraße
3. Polytechnische Schule,
   At the corner of Kröpcke/Georgstraße
4. ÜSTRA Building, Am Hohen Ufer 6
5. Conti-Campus, Königsworther Platz 1
6. Schloßwender Straße Complex 1-5
7. German National Library of Science and Technology and University Library Hannover (TIB/UB), Welfengarten 1b
8. Marstallgebäude, Welfengarten 1a
9. Former Bürgerschule, Am Kleinen Felde
10. New Building Technical Informatics,
    Appelstraße 4
11. Former Barracks
    Appelstraße/Callinstraße
12. Laboratory of Nano- and Quantum Engineering
13. New Main Mensa, Callinstraße 23
14. Chemistry Building, Callinstraße 3-9
15. Brick Building Nienburger Straße 1-4
16. Theodor-Lessing-Haus, Welfengarten 2
17. Welfenschloss, Welfengarten 1
18. Parkhaus, Nienburger Straße 17

19. Horticulture, Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning Complex, Herrenhäuser Straße 2/2a

20. Architecture Building, Herrenhäuser Straße 8

21. Student Hostel, Dorotheenstraße 5-7

22. Hannover Production Technology Centre, An der Universität 2, Garbsen
23. Former College of Education, Bismarckstraße 2

24. Hanomag Building, Hanomagstraße 8
Leibnizhaus
Holzmarkt 5

Contrary to what one might expect, the Leibnizhaus on Holzmarkt 5, was built in 1983 as an academic meeting place. The name and design of the facade are reminiscent of the dwelling of Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, the universal scholar after whom the university is named. Until his death in 1716, he lived in a house in Schmiedestraße. The building was destroyed in an air raid in October 1943. The facade of Leibniz’ house was reconstructed on Holzmarkt – to complement the historic state parliament and old town. Plans, photos and fragments of the old building were used to reconstruct a facade similar to that of the original. As in the building from 1652, there are for example scenes from the Bible and ancient history on the bay window.

The reconstructed Leibnizhaus has a dual function for the university and other higher education establishments in Hannover: First of all it is the central guest house, with flats extending also across the two neighbouring buildings, and secondly a wide variety of academic activities are held here. A meeting room, seminar and conference rooms were set up in the Leibnizhaus for this purpose.
Eduard Pestel

* 29.05.1914 | † 19.09.1988

Eduard Pestel was a professor of mechanics, a co-founder of the Club of Rome and from 1977 to 1981 Lower Saxony Minister of Science and the Arts. He started to study civil engineering in Hannover in 1935. After his Diplom, Pestel continued his studies in the USA, taking the degree of Master of Civil Engineering in 1939. The outbreak of the Second World War meant that he was unable to return to Germany. He thus worked first for the German Embassy in Washington. Between 1942 and 1947 he worked as a technical manager in Japan. From 1957 to 1977, Pestel was a full professor and Director of the Institute of Mechanics in Hannover, and 1969/70 Rector of the Technical University of Hannover.

Pestel was also involved outside his own university. He became Vice President of the German Research Council. Pestel took over an important function as a member of the Executive Committee of the Club of Rome, which engages in the global exchange of ideas on a variety of international political issues. In 1975 he founded the Institut für angewandte Systemforschung und Prognose e. V. (Institute for Applied Systems Research and Forecasting) in Hannover. After Pestel’s death the institute was renamed Eduard Pestel Institut für Systemforschung e. V. During his term as Lower Saxony Minister of Science and the Arts he was involved in the reconstruction of the Leibnizhaus as a guesthouse for the universities in Hannover.
The Bornemannsches Haus was the first site of the Higher Trade School. It no longer exists, having been destroyed in an air raid in the Second World War. The building was in a central location in the historic centre of Hannover opposite the Marktkirche and city hall in Marktstraße 60/61. This is where Grupenstraße starts today, built after the war as part of the urban redevelopment of Hannover.

The Bornemannsche Haus was originally two buildings. A joint early-classical facade was added in the 18th century. When the Higher Trade School was founded in 1831, the buildings were owned by Johann Friedrich Bornemann. The school was located on the second floors of the buildings, and 123 students were taught here. From the very beginning there was a shortage of space, and rooms had to be rented on the first floors as well. When a new building was erected in Georgstraße in 1837, the Higher Trade School moved out. The rooms were returned to private use.
The first building to be erected for the Higher Trade School and taken over by it in 1837 was where the Kröpcke Centre stands today. It was destroyed in the Second World War. The Hannoverian architect Ernst Ebeling designed the college in the Rundbogen style, using rounded arches. The side wall of the building was on Georgstraße. At that time Georgstraße was at the heart of the new ErnstAugust-Stadt, which was later to become Hannover’s commercial centre between the station and the old town.

From 1847 the educational establishment and thus also the building bore the name Polytechnic. Due to increasing numbers of students and the large collections, space was at a premium. The coming of the railways to Hannover caused the number of students of engineering and architecture to rise rapidly. In 1854 the building was extended towards what is now Karmarschstraße. Further extensions and new buildings followed. In 1872 the building contractor Ferdinand Wallbrecht proposed a new college building in Humboldtstraße in the Calenberger Neustadt. The plan behind this was to build a thoroughfare from the Leineschloss to the main station across the college site. The new building was however turned down in favour of the college moving to the Welfenschloss, which was vacant due to the annexation of the Kingdom of Hannover by Prussia. A hotel moved into the college premises in Georgstraße.
Wilhelm Jordan

* 01.03.1842 | † 17.04.1899

Wilhelm Jordan held the first chair in surveying at Hannover Institute of Technology. He studied civil engineering and geodesy at Stuttgart Polytechnic from 1858. From 1865 to 1868 he was an assistant there for plan and terrain drawings and practical geometry. After a professorship in Karlsruhe, he was appointed in 1882 to a chair in Hannover for geodesy and practical geometry.

Personal experiences often led Jordan to scientific research. In Winter 1873/74 for example, he took part in an expedition across the Libyan Desert, where he measured the height of areas of depression. After the journey he developed the barometric height formula, to gain more precise measurement results. Jordan also carried out surveying work for the towns of Hannover and Linden. In addition, he created new formulae for measuring the earth. Based on research results of Carl Friedrich Gauß, he developed the Gauß-Jordan Algorithm. He published the results of his work in numerous papers and books. Jordan showed great interest in improving the training of surveyors. Among other works, he wrote the standard textbook on surveying, Lehrbuch der Vermessungskunde.
For a short time, the building Am Hohen Ufer 6 housed the Humanities and Social Sciences Institutes of Hannover Institute of Technology. Designed by Dieter Oesterlen, it had been built for the administration of the Hannover tram system in 1963. In 1965 the Chairs of German Literature and Language, Social Sciences and Political Sciences moved from the Welfenschloss into the ÜSTRA Building. While the latter soon moved out again, the History and Humanities Departments also came here.

It was in the building Am Hohen Ufer 6 that the first lectures were held by the famous literature scholar Hans Mayer, who had just moved here from the GDR. When the multi-purpose building at Schneiderberg 50 was completed in 1970, several institutes moved there from the ÜSTRA building. Others took over rooms in the Welfenschloss.
Hans Mayer

* 19.03.1907 | † 19.05.2001

Hans Mayer is considered to be one of the most important German literature specialists of the 20th century. He studied law, history and philosophy. To protect himself as a Jewish Marxist from Nazi persecution, Mayer emigrated to France in 1933 and later to Switzerland. During this period of emigration he devoted himself increasingly to the study of literature.

After the Second World War, Mayer returned to Germany. He first received a professorship for the history of literature in Leipzig in 1948. In 1963 he moved to the Federal Republic of Germany and was appointed to the newly established Chair of Modern and Contemporary Literature in Hannover. Here he was active in establishing full degree programmes in German, history and modern languages, and also ran the Literary Colloquium. For this he invited famous German-speaking authors like Siegfried Lenz, Erich Kästner and Martin Walser to Hannover. On his retirement in 1975, the widely honoured Mayer received an honorary professorship in Tübingen. In honour of Hans Mayer, since 2015 a renowned German Studies expert has given the annual Hans Mayer Lecture, held in the summer semester.
The name of the university complex Conti-Campus at Königsworther Platz 1 is a reminder of the previous use of the building. It was constructed in 1952/1953 according to a design of the Hannover professor of architecture Ernst Zinsser as the head office of the Continental Tyre Company. Previously there had been barracks on the site. The 65-metre-high tower block, which is now under a preservation order, is an eye catcher. It has been a landmark on the new ring road since the 1950s. The directors' wing with its curved roof over the entrance area was right on Königsworther Platz. When the headquarters of the tyre company moved to another location in the early 1990s, the University of Hannover took over the complex and, after major conversion work, reopened it for the Faculties of Law, Economics and Management, Languages and Literature.

This meant that the university was able to concentrate many of its rooms in one location. Continental's data processing centre built in 1966 was converted into the libraries of the three faculties. The garages on Schloßwender Straße were turned into a refectory. A lecture building was added. The outdoor area received a facelift with plants, seating areas and art installations.
On the 14th floor of the tower block there was a cafeteria, which has since been turned into a study area for students. In good weather there is an extensive view from up here over Hannover Region. At the end of 2007 the new refectory Contine opened on the campus. In summer 2013, the Conti-Campus quad was renovated: driveways were repaved, new paths were laid down, and student study areas were built.

Now Conti-Campus is the southern gateway to the development axis of university buildings between the centre of Hannover and Garbsen.
The economist and sociologist Leopold von Wiese und Kaiserswaldau investigated topics from the point of view of both economic and social science. Together with Georg Simmel he is regarded as the founder of formal sociology. Von Wiese und Kaiserswaldau took his doctorate in 1902 and his Habilitation in 1905 in Berlin. He then worked at the Royal Academy in Posen, until he was appointed to the first chair in economics and business economics at Hannover Institute of Technology in 1908. He later worked in Düsseldorf and Cologne. In 1919 he became a full professor at the University of Cologne. He retired in 1949.

Von Wiese und Kaiserswaldau, who published many papers, advocated applying insights from social science to economics. Until 1933 he also worked as the Secretary of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziologie (DGS), the German Society for Sociology. After the society was re-founded, he was its President from 1946 to 1955. He was also the Vice President of the International Society for Sociology. For his work, von Wiese und Kaiserswaldau was awarded honorary doctorates by the Universities of Mainz and Cologne.
The Institute of Technology began to use the buildings at Schloßwender Straße 1-5 in 1937, when the Department of Architecture moved into some of the rooms. The buildings had been erected at the end of the 19th century for the account book factory and printer's König & Ebhardt. A fitting reminder of this is the monument to Johannes Gutenberg at the corner of Schloßwender/Nienburger Straße, to commemorate the invention of printing. After the Second World War a second floor with striking copper cladding was added to the part used by the university to provide space for student study areas and additional rooms for the Department of Architecture.

At the end of the 1970s the company gave up the entire Schloßwender Straße complex. The university took over the whole site and set up rooms for the then Regional Computing Centre for Lower Saxony, now known as Leibniz Universität IT Services (LUIS), the Institute of Production Engineering and the Faculty of Architecture. The former factory boiler house in the inner courtyard was converted into lecture rooms. When the Faculty of Architecture moved to Herrenhausen in 2003, the space that had become vacant was renovated and has been used by the Institutes of Education since 2007. The institutes of the Faculty of Humanities are thus now concentrated in the core area of the university.
Welfenschloss

Welfengarten 1

The Welfenschloss at Welfengarten 1 has been the centre of what is now Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität since 1879. The palace was first designed as the seat of the Kingdom of Hannover. In front of the building the bronze statue of a horse, the Sachsenross, still a symbol of the power of the Guelphs, serves as a reminder of this. With the annexation of the kingdom by Prussia in 1866, construction work came to a halt. The palace had no function and it was suggested that the Polytechnic could make use of it. Conversion finally began in 1876 according to plans by Hermann Huneus.
A constantly growing need for more space meant that the development of the inner courtyards and the construction of the side wings became necessary soon after the Polytechnic moved there in 1879. Thus the still young Institute of Electrical Engineering was given a new building on the west side of the main building in 1895. Further extensions and conversions were to follow.

During the Second World War, major parts of the building were damaged in air raids. The reconstruction of the palace building was made possible through donations and the – compulsory – manpower of the students. In 1956 the Lichthof, a covered atrium designed by the Hannoverian professor Ernst Zinsser, was built in place of an originally open inner courtyard and has been in use ever since as a central venue for events. The construction of a lecture building (Audimax etc.) on the east side of the Welfenschloss in 1958 provided more space. This was the site of the palace chapel, which had been largely destroyed in the war.
The use of the Welfenschloss changed gradually after 1945. The available space no longer sufficed to meet the growing needs of the departments. For this reason, departments such as Architecture and Civil Engineering, the library, and Human Resources moved into other buildings, some of which were built specially for them.

Other departments such as Mathematics, Electrical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering are still partly located in the Welfenschloss. Important facilities for students, for example lecture theatres, the Student Advice Office and the Centre for Applied Linguistics and Special Languages also remained in the main building or moved there. A large part of the administration and the university management are also to be found here.

The refurbishment of the Sprengelstube cafeteria and the creation of a centrally located Service Center helped make the main building of the university more attractive, in addition to the new LeibnizSHOP with official merchandise, and the Leibniz Exhibition in the English basement.
1715 model of the “Royal George”

The model of the “Royal George” in the atrium of Leibniz Universität Hannover displays the ship with its entire rigging; the hull was produced in sandwich construction.

The model was described in detail for the first time in Pütter’s history of Göttingen University written in 1765. The model came to Göttingen in 1744 as a gift presented to the University by the Prince of Wales. It was donated to Hannover College of Technology in 1882. During the war, it was packed into boxes and stored in the basement of Hannover College of Technology, where it withstood the turmoil of war unharmed. Following the new opening of the University and the creation of the Ship Engineering Department in 1951, the model was once again displayed in its old cabinet. The model underwent restoration for the first time in 1942/43; it was restored a second time in 1953 by Horst Anders at Hannover College of Technology.

After being exhibited in a prominent place at Hannover Museum of History for almost 30 years, the model returned to Leibniz Universität Hannover on 8 October 2012. It can be viewed in a display case at the Service Center.
To the south of the Welfenschloss at Welfengarten 1 B stands the prominent 1960s style main building of what is now the German National Library of Science and Technology (TIB). It was built in 1965 to house the University Library, which had been located until then in the Welfenschloss, and the Library of Science and Technology. Plans for a separate library building had existed since 1959, when TIB was founded. TIB continuously expanded over the years to become the German national library of technology, architecture, chemistry, information technology, mathematics and physics. The new building meant that both libraries had the same organisation and were housed in the same place close to the main building of the university. The complex has a floor space of over 14,000 square metres. The closed stacks are in the basements and at the TIB Rethen site. On the upper floors there are several reading rooms. The library complex was rounded off in 1991 when the Wilhelm-Grunwald-Haus, which is also home to the International Office, was built west of the Marstall, or former royal stables. The library buildings are connected underground.
New user demands and altered learning habits necessitated a modernisation of the library, which was implemented step by step between 2008 and 2014 while the library continued operating. The first refurbishment took place in the foyer, which now houses the new circulation desk and Information Desk. In 2011, this was followed by the conversion of the catalogue hall into a communication and advisory centre featuring modern research and multimedia workplaces for users. The modernisation was completed following the conversion of the reading rooms between 2012 and 2014. A total of 179 individual workplaces were created (previously: 165), each featuring its own power connection and individual workplace lighting, as well as 156 group workplaces (previously: 92), which are equipped with a smartboard or a display, meaning they can also be used for training sessions or workshops. Eleven study cabins are a new feature of the library: these lockable workplaces can be reserved for a period of up to three months by members of the university who need to prepare scientific work.
The German National Library of Science and Technology (TIB) was transformed into a public-law foundation of the Federal State of Lower Saxony on 1 January 2016 following the merger of the German National Library of Science and Technology (TIB) and Leibniz Universität Hannover University Library (UB). The foundation bears the additional designation Leibniz Information Centre for Science and Technology and University Library. As a central specialised library, it is also a national infrastructure facility for the provision of scientific information whose national tasks lend it importance for the country as a whole.

TIB is a member of the Leibniz Association. Its remit is to preserve recorded knowledge and to provide the latest information for research and industry, both now and in the future, irrespective of the time and the place. The aim of TIB is to provide its customers with innovative, efficient and smooth access to data, information and knowledge, and to make large information spaces available to them in a structured, suitable manner.
Marstallgebäude

Welfengarten 1A

The listed former royal stables, the Marstallgebäude, at Welfengarten 1a is part of the German National Library of Science and Technology and University Library Hannover (TIB/UB). It was built at the same time as the Royal Palace Welfenschloss in the mid 1860s to house the horses and carriages of the King of Hannover. When Prussia annexed Hannover in 1866, the Marstallgebäude with its four wings was first used as stables for the Prussian army. In 1913, the rear part of the buildings was demolished to make space for new university buildings such as the heating and power station, and the Mechanical Engineering Laboratory. The remaining rooms housed the Institute of Vehicles, the Vehicle Laboratory, and the Refectory.

After the Refectory had been demolished in 1960 to make way for the new University Library, the remaining, now asymmetric-looking part fell into disrepair. From the early 1980s, the Marstallgebäude was restored step by step and made available for library purposes. The Entrance Wing is used for offices. The former Stable Wing, which has been largely restored to its original state of a hall with an arched ceiling, houses the reading room for patent documents. A glazed staircase extension on the east side widens the possible uses of the Marstallgebäude.
Theodor-Lessing-Haus

Welfengarten 2C

What is now known as the Theodor-Lessing-Haus at Welfengarten 2c was built in 1953 as the main refectory of the Institute of Technology, and now serves a variety of university facilities. In the 1960s and 1970s the number of students increased rapidly and gradually overstrained the capacity of the refectory. When the main refectory was built in Callinstraße in 1981, the Departmental Library for Social Sciences moved into the building at Welfengarten. This had been housed in the multi-purpose building at Schneiderberg. The Social Sciences Institutes remained to the greater part at Schneiderberg 50.

On the first floor of the low building are the rooms belonging to the university’s student’s council (AStA). The Centre for Psychological-Therapeutic Counselling for Students is also to be found here. Also in the 1950s, a student residence hall was also built behind this building; since 2006, this is where the university’s Staff Council has been located. In 1982, the structure was one of the first 1950s-style buildings in Hannover to be restored according to monument protection guidelines. The year after, on the initiative of Hannoverian social scientists and by Senate decree, the Theodor-Lessing-Haus was named after the Hannoverian philosopher, who was murdered in exile by Nazis in 1933.
Chemistry Building

Callinstraße 3–9

A fine example of North German Neorenaissance can be seen in the building erected in Callinstraße 3–9 between 1906 and 1909 by State Building Inspector Friedrich Ebel for the Institutes of Chemistry, and celebrated by the press at the time as the *Palace of Chemistry*. The importance of chemical sciences increased rapidly at the beginning of the 20th century, and the Institutes of Inorganic Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Electrochemistry and Chemical Engineering found a new, spacious home here.

The building consists of a long main section with two wings branching off towards the Welfengarten. An impressive lecture building was erected on the west side of the complex. Due to the rapid development of the chemistry institutes, several additions were made to the complex. Physical Chemistry received its own building in 1930, and Organic Chemistry in 1968. The Chemistry Annex, built to replace the boiler house demolished in 1992, was inaugurated in 1995. A historical entrance gateway rebuilt in the forecourt serves as a reminder of this time.

The building was renovated in several stages from 1995 onwards. In 2008 to 2010 a major part of the Chemistry Building was extensively renovated both inside and out in close consultation with the Office for the Preservation of Monuments. In particular the ornately decorated *Kali-Chemie-Hörsaal*, a prime example of Historicism, once again gives an impression of what this lecture theatre must have looked like at the turn of the century.
Following two years of redevelopment, the building of the Institute of Physical Chemistry and Electrochemistry at Cal-linstraße 3A reopened in June 2015. The new light installation in the main staircase is a distinctive feature of the interior. The ceiling is a replication of the diffraction pattern of a quasi-crystal, for which its discoverer – physicist Daniel Shechtman – won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2011. Crystal structure analysis using diffraction methods is essential for chemical materials research. Sir Harald Kroto developed the artistic template. Not only has the British chemist with German-Jewish roots recently won a design award – as one of the discoverers of fullerenes, creating the starting point for nanochemistry, he and his fellow researchers were awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1996.

Another new feature is the Walter-Dux-Hörsaal seating 45 – named after the German-Jewish chemist Walter Dux – as well as laboratories and a modern workshop area. The redevelopment of the 80-year-old building, which got underway in July 2013, was subject to the preservation and protection of building groups, which meant that the character of the building had to be preserved. Consequently, the façade was extensively refurbished. Merely a glass staircase with a lift system was added and barrier-free access created.
Wilhelm Biltz

* 08.03.1877 | † 13.11.1943

Wilhelm Biltz played a major role in the development of inorganic chemistry, devoting his attention especially to solid state chemistry. From 1921 until his retirement in 1941 he was a full professor and head of the inorganic chemistry laboratory in Hannover.

Biltz studied and took his doctorate in Greifswald. He worked as a scientific assistant first there, and from 1900 in Göttingen. He received his first professorship at the Bergakademie Clausthal in 1905. Biltz investigated the electric conductivity of molten salts, the chemistry of solids, and the properties of intermetallic compounds. As far as teaching is concerned, he campaigned for the introduction of intermediate exams in laboratory practicals and wrote textbooks on the practical training of chemistry students. In addition, he was on the editorial board of the journal Zeitschrift für Anorganische Chemie. He was awarded honorary doctorates and the title of honorary professor of the University of Göttingen.
New Main Mensa

Callinstraße 23

The main mensa, or refectory, in Callinstraße 23, patronized by more than some 3,000 guests per day, was built in 1981. The generously proportioned plaza in front is a public space between the university and the Nordstadt. The green tones of the building and a bridge at the side form a transition to the nearby Welfengarten. The entrance area houses a variety of facilities and shops for students. On the mezzanine, the Leibniz Café can seat around 70 guests. Upstairs is a dining room seating 1,440.

The building had become necessary after student numbers had increased rapidly in the 1960s. The new building had to meet several requirements: first of all an underground car park was built for university staff to ease the parking situation in the Nordstadt, and secondly the kitchen was designed so that meals could be supplied to the other university refectories in Hannover. With this building, Student Services created a main refectory for the university at the heart of the university sites Nordstadt and Herrenhausen.
Hannover Institute of Technology (HITec), located in Callinstraße 30-36, is being planned by Leibniz Universität Hannover as a research infrastructure that, for the first time in Europe, will unite basic research, applied research and technological development in the area of quantum physics and geodesy under one roof. The foundation stone was laid at the end of January 2015. The research building should be completed by 2016/2017. Between 100 and 120 scientists from the fields of physics and engineering are expected to work here in the future. At HITec, fundamental issues of physics will be investigated in interdisciplinary cooperation with geodesy and engineering experts. The aim of the new construction, financed by the state and federal governments, is to develop high-precision measuring technologies and, consequently, quantum sensors.

The research building is designed to have an experiment set-up on the roof, which will enable scientists to operate free beam laser connections and gain a direct view of satellites. The use of three large-scale facilities is also envisaged: the most striking facility will be the so-called freefall simulator, a 30 metre high tower for conducting experiments in weightlessness. Another special feature will be a plant for developing and producing glass fibres and fibre lasers for applications suitable for use in space, for example. The third large-scale facility envisaged is a very large baseline atom interferometer (VLBAI), which can be used to research, test and develop high-precision measuring technologies on the basis of matter waves.
The brick building at Nienburger Straße 1–4 designed by Franz Kassbaum and completed in 1931 is home to several engineering institutes. In the 1920s, the existing space in the Welfenschloss became insufficient to meet the needs of the expanding Civil Engineering Department. Plans were drawn up for a new building on the site of a former military riding ground, which would also be able to house mechanical engineering institutes. Finally, in 1931 institutes devoted to vehicle technology, flying, surveying and civil engineering moved into the building.

A variety of architectural styles characterize the building. In the centre of the complex are the operation and machine halls of individual institutes. Extensions built in the 1940s and in 1985 changed the appearance of the site. The north-west side is home to the Franzius Institute for Hydraulic, Estuarine and Coastal Engineering, behind which a waterways hall and a wave channel was built for the institute. Original plans to build a Schneiderberg Centre with an auditorium and a large lecture room seating 1,000 were not, however, realised.
Otto Franzius was an important hydraulic engineer. After completing his studies in 1895 he worked for several years as a Marinehafenbaumeister (naval port architect) in Kiel. In 1909 Franzius became a scientific assistant in Berlin, before being appointed to a chair in mechanics at Hannover Institute of Technology in 1913. There he founded the Institute of Foundation and Hydraulic Engineering, which was renamed Hannoversche Versuchsanstalt für Grundbau und Wasserbau (Hannover Experimental Station for Foundation and Hydraulic Engineering) in 1927. Franzius also championed the foundation of a society for the promotion of the Experimental Station. In addition he held the office of Rector of the university from 1933 to 1934.

Otto Franzius, after whom the experimental station “Franzius Institute of Hydraulic, Waterways and Coastal Engineering” in Nienburger Straße was named, is seriously compromised due to the stance he took during the National Socialist era. At that time, Franzius was actively involved in transforming the College of Technology to suit national socialist dogma and in removing ‘undesirables’.

As a result of Leibniz Universität’s efforts to come to terms with the National Socialist era, an addition was made to the name of what used to be called the Franzius Institute of Hydraulic, Waterways and Coastal Engineering, sharpening its profile. In 2013, it became the “Franzius Institute for Hydraulic, Estuarine and Coastal Engineering”. The addition to the name of the Franzius Institute refers largely to the north German hydraulic engineering dynasty, particularly to Ludwig rather than Otto Franzius. In fact, the brothers Ludwig (1832-1903) and Georg Franzius (1842-1914) are considered to be pioneers of 19th century
estuarine hydraulic engineering, paving the way for the continuous economic rise of the Hanseatic Cities of Bremen and Hamburg as globally operating seaport locations on important shipping routes. The other overarching element that links the Franzius brothers to Hannover is the fact that they both studied Hydraulic Engineering at Hannover Polytechnic or Institute of Technology.
In the early 1960s, the university acquired a large site between Callinstraße, Schneiderberg and Appelstraße to erect new buildings for engineering institutes. The tower block at Appelstraße 9a built by Gerhard Graubner in 1972 is particularly striking. The Institutes of Civil Engineering and Electrical Engineering moved in here. The corridors and storerooms are located in the centre of each floor, which means that there is daylight only in the offices. The roof terrace, which is not open to the public as an observation deck, is used for measuring exercises and signal transmissions. The lecture theatres are located on the ground floor and in the basement. There is also a cafeteria in the entrance area.

The whole area was the site of a former barracks, which indicates the importance of Hannover as a garrison city. Buildings still in existence on Callinstraße, which served as a squad house (No. 34), a utility building (No. 30a), an officers’ mess (No. 30) or stables for sick horses (No. 30b) were integrated into the plans together with the former stables at Appelstraße 7. Primarily engineering institutes were housed there. So the Institutes of Fluid Mechanics, Plasma Physics, Materials Science, Mechanics and Automatic Control, Thermodynamics and Materials Handling made use of the existing buildings or received new buildings.

Further purchases of land followed: in 1967 a site on the north side of Appelstraße was acquired and new buildings erected for Physics Institutes (No. 2) and Technical Informatics (No. 4). In 1987 the research Laboratory for Information Technology was completed at Schneiderberg 32.
The physicist Harald Schering is considered as an early representative of high-voltage engineering. After his studies he worked from 1905 at the Imperial Physics and Technology Institute (now Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB)) in Berlin-Charlottenburg. In 1927 Schering became a professor of general electrical engineering, theoretical electrical engineering, and high-voltage engineering at Hannover Institute of Technology. At the same time he was Head of the Institute of General Electrical Engineering and High-voltage Engineering. On appointment he was promised a new building for an Institute of High-voltage Engineering at Schneiderberg, which could not be completed until 1947, due to the war. In his honour, the institute founded by him was renamed in his lifetime Schering Institute of General Electrical Engineering and High-voltage Engineering.

Schering developed different measuring methods and devices for high-voltage engineering. In 1920 he successfully developed the Schering Bridge. With this, even very low power losses can be measured. The bridge circuit was developed further by him and his co-workers and received worldwide acclaim in the production and testing of high-voltage devices.
Technical Informatics is a new branch of science which received its own new building in Appelstraße 4 in 1999.

Four institutes from the Department of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology, which had been in cramped conditions and spread over several buildings, were brought together here. These plus further institutes from the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science formed the basis of the new Department of Computer Science in 2002. With its own bachelor’s and master’s programmes, the new department was able to cater for the sudden increase in prospective students.

A focal point is the multimedia lecture theatre at the back of the building. It can easily be recognised from outside by its semi-circular shape. The room seats 160. The new building is linked by a bridge to the Physics Building next door.
The building Am Kleinen Felde 30 erected as a Bürger- schule, or Higher Grade School, in 1898 housed mac- romolecular chemistry, part of mechanical engineering, and civil engineering at Leibniz Universität Hannover for many years. The meanwhile listed building was extensively renovated from 2007 to 2011. The Institute of Food Science was the first to move into rooms on the 1st and 2nd floors. When work was completed in 2011, it was joined by the Institute of the Teaching of Natural Science and the Niedersächsisches Studienkolleg, a central facility of Leibniz Universität, which prepares international applicants for studying in Lower Saxony.

The building designed by the architect Otto Ruprecht was erected in 1898 in the Historicism style with elements of Gothic and Renaissance. During renovation, the work on the large roof presented a particular challenge. Special straight-cut tiles were used to combine the best possible storm resistance with the historical architecture. The natural stone elements of the facade were cleaned and repaired, and all the rooms, the technical equipment and the grounds were restored and refurbished.
A new research building was erected on the site belonging to Leibniz Universität at Schneiderberg 39 in 2008 and 2009. The keys were handed over to the users of the new Laboratory of Nano- and Quantum Engineering (LNQE) in November 2009 after a two-year construction period.

With LNQE, a unique centre for interdisciplinary research in nanotechnology has been created in this central location. Here, scientists from different fields work together on interdisciplinary projects. Apart from research, particularly in the core areas of nanomaterials, mechanics/magnetics, nanoelectronics, optics and quantum systems, the training and support of young scientists in this field is a key concern at LNQE. Nine laser, chemistry and measurement laboratories (435 square metres in total) a research cleanroom with an extremely small proportion of dust particles in the air (409 square metres), and offices for more than 40 people (509 square metres) provide excellent working conditions for researchers. The construction of LNQE was supported by the State of Lower Saxony and the Federal Government.
The Centre of Biomolecular Drug Research (BMWZ) was inaugurated in the Nordstadt part of Hannover on 11th September 2014. The centre, nominated a national flagship by the German Council of Science and Humanities in a nationwide competition, is funded jointly by the state and federal governments. The research building, with an effective area of 2,018 square metres, hosts a total of 13 research groups from the areas of biology, chemistry and medicine. These groups collaborate in order to further develop medicinal and natural products such as argyrin, ensuring their more effective use for medical applications. These products play a central role in fighting cancer and infectious diseases.

The cooperation partners involved in BMWZ include Hannover Medical School, the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research in Braunschweig, the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Foundation, the Centre for Experimental and Clinical Infection Research (Twincore) as well as several Leibniz Universität faculties.

BMWZ is of great importance to Leibniz Universität Hannover. The Life Sciences – featuring degree programmes in “Life Science” and “Medicinal and Natural Product Chemistry” – represent an important pillar in the University’s research concept.
The Parkhaus at Nienburger Straße 17, which was built as a restaurant in 1895, now houses several university departments. The Institute of Technology rented part of the building – initially as a temporary solution – in 1963 and bought it three years later. The Institutes of Measurement Science and Automatic Control, of Geobotany, and parts of the Institutes of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, and High Voltage Engineering moved in. The name and the proximity to the Herrenhausen Gardens still reflect the previous function of the Parkhaus as a popular restaurant for people on a day out.
The red brick complex at Bismarckstraße 2, which is no longer used by Leibniz Universität, was used for teacher training from its completion in 1935. The building was designed for the then independent Academy of Education. It was thus not necessary to be close to the Institute of Technology. On completion, the College for the Training of Schoolmistresses founded by the National Socialists was housed here, as the Academy of Education had been closed in the meantime. From 1946, the newly founded College of Education, which was integrated into the university in 1978, had its seat here. The building was mainly home to Institutes of Education, which moved into the complex at Schloßwender Straße 1-5 and other university buildings in the summer of 2007.
The architect Franz Erich Kassbaum designed the modest complex in the then widespread style Neues Bauen. On the west side we find a ten-storey tower where music lessons took place, among other things. The separation from the seminar rooms meant that other classes were not disturbed. The seminar rooms were semicircular and were located on the south side of the building. In contrast to conventional lecture theatres, these semicircular rooms aimed to create a community between professors and students.

The huge increase in teacher training programmes meant that the complex was extended several times from the 1960s onwards. These extensions on the east side of the main building were built in different architectural styles, which led to the eclectic appearance of the complex.

As parts of the Faculty of Humanities relocated to Schloßwender Straße, in 2007 Leibniz Universität began a gradual exit from its Bismarckstraße premises. At the end of 2011, the building was handed over to the State Property Management (LFN), although Leibniz Universität continued to use individual rooms until mid-2015.
The philosopher and educationalist Gustav Heckmann was Director of the then independent Hannover College of Education from 1956 to 1958. He was committed to including philosophy in education. Heckmann studied mathematics, physics and philosophy. He first worked in a state school. From 1927 he was able to put his interest in education based on philosophy into practice in a private Landerziehungsheim, or country boarding school. In 1933 the school was closed by the Nazi authorities. Heckmann emigrated.

In 1946 he returned to Germany and became a lecturer at Hannover College of Education. In the following year he received a professorship in philosophy and education, which he held until his retirement in 1966. Here also he cultivated Socratic Dialogue, where knowledge is to be imparted through philosophical discussions. Heckmann was also politically active: He was Chairman of the Lower Saxony Teachers Association and of the human rights organisation Amnesty International.
The Hannover merchant Ernst Christoph Böttcher endowed a college for the training of rural school teachers in 1751. This was the beginning of teacher training in Hannover, which has continued to the present day. As a cloth merchant, Böttcher amassed a considerable fortune. He deplored the general lack of school and teachers for a large proportion of the population. The School Foundation financed by him built a school for poor children at Hundemarkt near Aegidientorplatz. Lessons started in 1751. At the same time, future teachers attended the lessons and were also allowed to teach as part of their training. In 1752 the teacher training college was officially recognised by the government of Hannover and gradually also given financial support.
Hanomag Building
Hanomagstraße 8

The newly founded Faculty of Law of the university started up in 1974 in rooms no longer used by the university at Hanomagstraße 8. The distance to other university facilities soon proved to be problematic. It was only in 1995 that the lawyers were able to move into the former rooms of the Continental administration on Königsworther Platz.

The building in Linden-Süd was erected for the administration of Hannoverschen Maschinenbau AG (Hanomag) in 1921. It is part of a larger complex which was built and constantly altered from 1835 onwards for the Egestorffsche Maschinenfabrik – later called Hanomag. When production essentially ceased in the second half of the 20th century, part of the premises became free for other uses. We thus find here a variety of architectural styles with an eclectic mix of older factory halls and spacious retail shops.
The complex at Herrenhäuser Straße 2 was built for the College of Horticulture and Land Culture founded in Sarstedt near Hannover in 1947. In 1952 this became an integral part of Hannover Institute of Technology. The oldest building, completed in 1949, stretches along Herrenhäuser Straße. The main building immediately to the east consists of three wings grouped around an inner courtyard. This is divided off by a green covered walk. Several natural science institutes use the building, where there are also two lecture theatres.

Next door, several buildings for further institutes were erected on the extensive site of the Herrenhausen Campus between Herrenhäuser Straße and Haltenhoffstraße. In between are gardens and fields where experiments are carried out, as well as in the many greenhouses. In 1985 the university took over the church headquarters building, next door to the east at Herrenhäuser Straße 2a. The elaborate former boardroom is used as a lecture theatre. The low buildings in the whole complex fit in well with the park surroundings and especially the neighbouring Berggarten, which is also of professional interest to some of the institutes. Herrenhäuser Straße 2 is also home to Leibniz Kids, the childcare facility set up by Leibniz Universität in 2010.
The new Research Institute of Molecular Plant Sciences was completed in 2014. The new construction offers some 2,500 square metres of space for five professorships at the Institute of Microbiology, the Institute of Plant Nutrition and the Institute of Plant Genetics, with a total of around 100 employees and students. At this location, research is conducted into the symbiosis of plants in interaction with soil microorganisms, as well as into plant energy metabolism, the nutrient supply of plants and the transport of proteins in microorganisms.
The agronomist Konrad Meyer was one of those who were closely connected to the Nazis and yet continued their career after the Second World War. Meyer studied agriculture and political science. In 1934 he received a position in Berlin, and at the beginning of the war was commissioned to draw up a plan for the resettlement of Germans in Eastern Europe. Together with planning specialists, Meyer drafted the Generalplan Ost (Master Plan East). Admittedly, the expulsion and extermination of the Eastern European population was not explicitly mentioned as a requirement of the colonisation by German settlers. However, it mentioned a reduction of the local population. Meyer was not only involved in the planning but also in its realisation. On several occasions he inspected the new settlements in the occupied Eastern European regions.

After 1945 Meyer came up before the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg. The court found him guilty only of being a member of the SS. In 1954 he received his first lectureship at Hannover Institute of Technology. Two years later he was appointed Professor of Regional Planning and Spatial Research. Meyer was also active in the Academy for Spatial Research and Planning founded in Hannover in 1946. He retired in 1968.
The building at Herrenhäuser Straße 8 has been owned by the university since 2003 and is used by the Faculty of Architecture and Landscape Sciences. The design is reminiscent of the Bauhaus style, forming a contrast to the baroque park surroundings. The three wings of the building embrace a spacious forecourt. In the entrance hall of the central building there are regular exhibitions or design models on display, which can be produced by students in the university studios.

The building was erected in 1965 for the Werkkunstschule, or Art College, which was integrated into Hannover University of Applied Science in 1971. After this had moved to the former Expo site and various rebuilding measures had been taken, the architects moved in in 2003. A major advantage was that the faculty could now be brought together under one roof on the development axis of university buildings.
Student Hostel

Dorotheenstraße 5–7

The student hostel at Dorotheenstraße 5–7, which can house 500 students, was built in the mid 1960s. The land was provided free of charge by the City of Hannover. Three tower blocks were built, with two sets of eight rooms sharing communal facilities on each floor. In addition there are some self-contained flats. The residential blocks were refurbished in the 1990s. In the centre of the complex is the Karmarsch-Haus, where central facilities can be found and where the famous Silo-Parties are held. This community centre was built with the support of the Hannover Hochschulgemeinschaft, today’s Friends of Leibniz Universität Hannover.

The spacious hostel had become necessary after student numbers had risen sharply in the 1960s. There have, however, been student hostels in Hannover since the early 20th century. The first 15 places were to be found from 1921 to 1935 in what is now the Wilhelm Busch Museum. After successful renovations and a new construction on Lodyweg in 2015/2016, today Hannover Student Services is able to offer around 2,400 places in 16 residence halls, the largest of which is the residence hall on Dorotheenstraße.
Hannover Production Technology Centre (PZH) built in Garbsen in 2004 is home to six mechanical engineering institutes devoted to production technology. Through the creation of an open centre at the heart of the complex, the architecture reflects the networking of industry and university and the cooperation of teaching, research and applications. Around the centre are grouped buildings for the institutes, seminar rooms, lecture theatres and laboratories. Adjacent to this are three production halls, where experiments are carried out. The PZH also has a library and a cafeteria. The development of this new university complex was funded jointly by state and industry. The aim was to establish more intensive cooperation between private industry and university production technology institutes. Some companies specialising in production technology now work there.
The complex is located on a development site of the university in the town of Garbsen. Before the PZH was created, Hannover Underwater Technology Centre (UWTH, Lise Meitner-Straße 1), with its striking architecture, was built in 1997. Among other things it houses several water tanks for testing underwater robots.

The construction of the Campus Mechanical Engineering Garbsen (CMG) and the research building Dynamics of Energy Conversion (DEW) directly next to the PZH is steadily progressing. The ground-breaking ceremony for this second construction phase took place in December 2015. Here, seven new buildings are being constructed on an almost 21,000 square metre site, costing some € 143 million: three institute buildings, a research building (DEW), an auditorium building, a canteen, a seminar and communication building with work rooms (SEKOM) for students and a service room for the campus. Work is expected to be completed by winter semester 2019/2020. Eleven institutes of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering that are currently located in the Nordstadt will then move in. Around 5,300 students and employees will then be able to learn, teach and conduct research there.
After almost two years of construction, Leibniz Universität Hannover opened its new Test Centre for Load-Bearing Structures in Marienwerder in autumn 2014. In the new construction for interdisciplinary research into onshore and offshore wind turbines, researchers from a number of Leibniz Universität institutes collaborate with the Fraunhofer Institute for Wind Energy and Energy System Technology in a bid to imitate conditions on the high seas. Thus the 20 metre high test hall primarily enables scientists to conduct experimental investigations into the load-bearing structures and foundations of onshore and offshore wind turbines. Offshore wind turbine components are tested in a pit filled with water and sand. The stress to which wind turbines are exposed during offshore operation is imitated by hydraulic systems.
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