

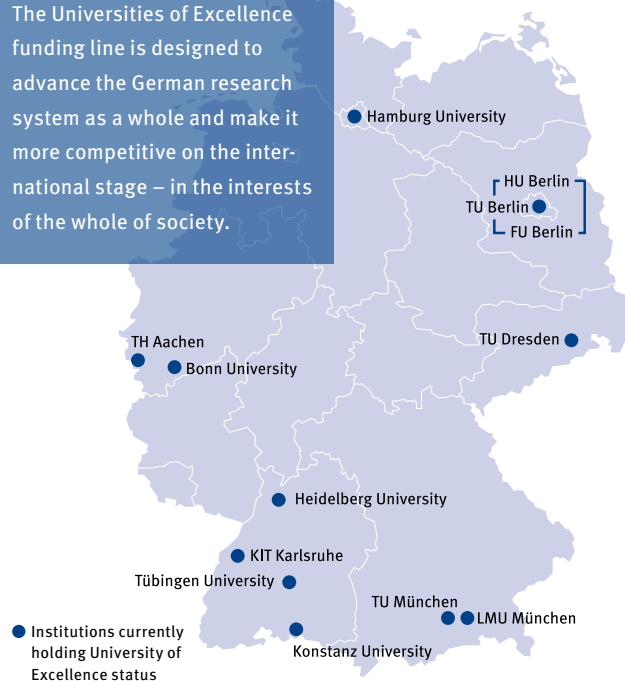
The University of Würzburg is facing a great opportunity: We have the chance to become one of Germany's Universities of Excellence. This title is awarded as part of the Excellence Strategy, a programme by the German federal and state governments designed to foster cutting-edge research in Germany, and comes with millions of euros in funding.

With our application, we are entering one of the toughest competitions for universities in the country: Eleven universities or university consortia were awarded excellence status in 2019. Ten of them are eligible to apply again. They will be joined in the race for the title of University of Excellence by an additional eleven individual institutions or consortia – however, only up to five new places will be available.

We qualify for entering the competition because we secured two Clusters of Excellence: ctd.qmat and NUCLEATE.

EXCELLENCE MAP

The Universities of Excellence funding line is designed to advance the German research system as a whole and make it more competitive on the international stage – in the interests of the whole of society.



PAST SUCCESSES IN THE EXCELLENCE COMPETITION

JMU was successful in previous rounds of the Excellence Competition, too: The Graduate School of Life Sciences (GSLS) received around €18 million in funding in the 2006-2019 period, and the Rudolf Virchow Centre (RVZ) was selected in 2001 for just under 12 years of funding.



JMU ON THE WAY TOWARDS UNIVERSITY OF EXCELLENCE STATUS

‘THE UNIVERSITY OF CHANGE’



Read more: go.uniwiue.de/exzellenz





AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE ENTIRE UNIVERSITY

The central idea behind JMU's campaign is that of a 'University of Change' which helps us raise our research profile and make the environment at our university even more conducive to excellence in research and which highlights our role as the driving force behind societal change. It encompasses all fields of action of the university and will benefit everyone at JMU – our researchers, our administrative and teaching staff and our students.

ON-SITE VISIT IN APRIL 2026

In addition to the proposals submitted by the applicants, the decision for the Universities of Excellence funding line will also be based on on-site visits. During the visit at JMU, a group of internationally renowned experts will examine our university and review our overall strategy.

Scheduled for 14-16 April 2026, the on-site visit will include presentations and intensive discussions that will involve representatives of all status groups at JMU. The focus will be not only on whether we define our goals in a convincing manner but also on whether we pursue them with visible commitment.

We will only have a chance to secure one of the maximum of five available places if both our written proposal and the on-site visit are assessed as excellent.

22 May 2025 Funding decision: the University of Würzburg secures two Clusters of Excellence

MILESTONES

2 October 2026 Decision for the Universities of Excellence funding line

12 November 2025 Submission of our application for University of Excellence status

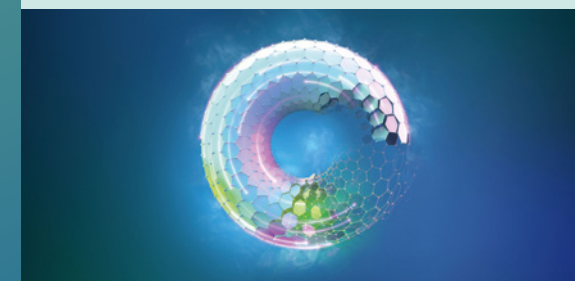
14-16 April 2026 On-site visit by an international panel of reviewers

1 January 2027 Start date of the funding period of the Universities of Excellence

Entering the race for the title of UNIVERSITY OF EXCELLENCE with ctd.qmat and NUCLEATE

JMU secured two Clusters of Excellence – large-scale projects in the fields of quantum materials and nucleic acid research – for the funding period to start in 2026.

ctd.qmat investigates and develops novel quantum materials. Together with their colleagues at TU Dresden, Würzburg researchers work on quantum technologies such as topological lasers or ultra-precise measurement. The Cluster has been funded under the Excellence Strategy since 2019 already.



The **NUCLEATE** project is a collaboration with the two Munich universities LMU and TUM and investigates nucleic acids, essential molecules of life. Its objective is to harness the potential of nucleic acids towards a new understanding of their role in biology and to pave the way into the field of nucleic acid medicine.



»Securing the Clusters of Excellence was a strong start, being awarded University of Excellence status would be a ground-breaking step for our university. The title would make us more visible on the international stage than ever before, it would attract outstanding talent from all over the world and put us in a position to offer them, and our students, an environment in which they can research and learn with the best and excel themselves. Such an opportunity not only changes a university – it changes the course of lives.«

Prof. Dr. Paul Pauli, President