

Business location Tübingen



The City of Tübingen
and its economy



Wirtschaftsförderung
Tübingen • WIT

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Sources of pictures:

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Technologieparks Tübingen-Reutlingen GmbH · Universität Tübingen (Press and Public Relations Department) · Universitätsklinikum Tübingen
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Welcome



Tübingen, the attractively situated, small city on the river Neckar, is known for its prominent University, its highly specialised clinics and its internationally renowned research institu-

tes. Especially during the last years, Tübingen has become a highly competitive science and research location that knows how to fully exploit its locational advantages – for example its proximity to Stuttgart airport, its first-rate transport infrastructure and its excellent science facilities.

In addition to promoting companies from the classical industrial sectors, the University Town of Tübingen has the objective of supporting the establishment of young, research-oriented companies. Especially for companies active in the area of biotechnology and medical technology, Tübingen offers ideal conditions:

The immediate vicinity of the University, the hospitals and the Max-Planck Research Institutes engender a creative environment that allows innovations to flourish; in addition, the technology park creates optimum conditions for the successful development of small and medium-sized companies.

This brochure documents Tübingen's quality and diversity as a location for science and business. In addition to its efficient infrastructure and economic substance, Tübingen is also known for its excellent choice of educational institutions and childcare facilities, its diverse cultural and social environment as well as its high quality of life.

Brigitte Russ-Scherer
Lord Mayor, University City of Tübingen



Only a few decades ago, a forecast that stated that the University of Tübingen would become the Neckar-Alb region's top-ranking economic factor would have been dismissed as absurd. However, a lot has changed since then. The University Town of Tübingen

that in the post-war period tended to give the cold shoulder to large enterprises that were willing to settle close to the University has fundamentally changed its trade and industry policies.

Tübingen no longer sees itself as a residential city for civil servants or as a republic of scholars, but instead is now inclined to open up to trade and industry. The regions' enterprises are welcome to approach the University of Tübingen as a contact partner for consultations and discussions regarding all professional disciplines, from technological to structural questions, for research and development projects and contract research as well as for co-operation in marketing projects. The regions' companies are keen and regular user of such opportunities for co-operation.

This large degree of strategic unity displayed by the involved parties in the local authority districts, in industry and in science is a refreshingly positive signal and testifies to the amicable collaboration virtually free of problems in any respect. Therefore, the University not only contributes significantly to the region's distinct character, but also provides an additional positive locational factor.

It is important to continue to further strengthen and promote this desirable networking between the University and the region.

Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Eberhard Schaich
President, Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen

A stroll along the boulevard of mind and culture

This is Tübingen: Old, half-timbered houses and narrow lanes, steep staircases and charming squares, the river Neckar and punting boats; professors and politicians, craftsmen and vine dressers, poets and thinkers; the architecturally perfect central marketplace, overlooked by the city hall dating back to the 15th century, with its famous astronomical clock; venerable University buildings in the Neckar valley and the modern clinical centre, as well as the massive scientific faculty buildings on the top of the hill; the medieval castle with its impressive Renaissance portal and the new “French quarter” in the Southern part of town, a modern, lively district for living and working – this ambitious project was presented with the German Urban Development Award in 2001 and the European Urban and Regional Planning Award in 2002.



Tübingen – a provincial town and a cosmopolitan city, a University village and Athens on the Neckar, for some even “the one spot on earth that one searches in vain near and far”. Most definitely, however, it is the “small, big city”, that Walter and Inge Jens monumentalised in their illustrated book. What is to be discovered is a nearly Arcadian, provincial town with a medieval core and a history spanning more than 1,000 years, from the Alemannic village of around the year 1050 to today's modern, international University city. A young, cosmopolitan student's town with a Southern flair characterised by an ambience of learning and teaching, research and science.



Tübingen appeals to visitors and inhabitants with its unique combination of high-profile culture, education and savoir-vivre, and of course the entire range of schools and educational facilities. Two theatres offer a polished programme of classical and modern pieces all year round. The French film festival presents the most recent movies from francophone countries; the CineLatino film festival brings Latin America to the Neckar. Throughout the year, music lovers can enjoy every style of musical entertainment, from classical music to pop and rock music. For instance, the Jazz and Classical Festival as well as the Viva Afrobrasil music festival offer musical highlights. In autumn, the Umbrian-Provençal market offers Mediterranean joys, and the Christmas fair provides an impressive atmosphere and a wide range of attractive products. In turn with the exuberant city festival in Tübingen's squares and narrow streets, the Tübingen Book Festival every other summer explores the world of literature.

Discover the boulevard of mind and culture, full of bubbling life and lively discussions about very old as well as very current subjects. There you go – the small town of Tübingen is actually very big.

“No industry smokestack darkens the sky, no highway carves up the city ...”

In a first all-German comparison of the quality of life in German cities conducted by the news magazine “Focus” in September 1995, Tübingen took first place, ahead of 542 other German cities.



By train:

From and to Stuttgart by national and international train connections in less than 55 minutes.

By car:

From the federal highway (Autobahn) A 8 (Munich - Stuttgart) via the federal road (Bundesstraße) B 27 to Tübingen within 30 minutes, and from Autobahn A 81 (Singen - Heilbronn) via Bundesstraße B 28 within 25 minutes. There are several multi-storey car parks within a short distance of the city center.

By airplane:

The international airport Stuttgart-Echterdingen can be reached via Bundesstraße B 27 within half an hour's car ride (a bus is available).

Good traffic connections are everything

This attractive region entices visitors to stroll in the impressive Schönbuch natural park and hike across the beautiful Swabian Alb, where they can relax on juniper moors, explore caves and marvel at waterfalls. The area is full of castles and chateaus, cloisters and chapels that you can discover by walking, by bicycle or by car.

It takes less than two hours by car to get to the Lake of Constance, just as to Strasbourg in Alsace.

BELGIUM



Optimum starting position

Tübingen forms the geographical heart of Baden-Wurttemberg. Destinations such as Farrenberg on the Swabian Alb, the Hohenzollern castle or the city of Lindau on the Lake of Constance are easy to get to from here.



Tübingen

BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG

SWITZERLAND

AUSTRIA

From tradecraft to high-tech – Trade, change and industry

“Tübingen does not have a University, Tübingen is a University”, is what they say, not without reason. In fact, the University and the medical centre with about 10,000 employees are the biggest employers; in addition, about 30 public authorities with jobs in 2,500 public service. Even if the city is not a business location, there is a series of traditional and young companies active in mechanical engineering and tool production, in medical technology and the textile industry. In addition, over the last years IT companies have developed, some with an international operating range.

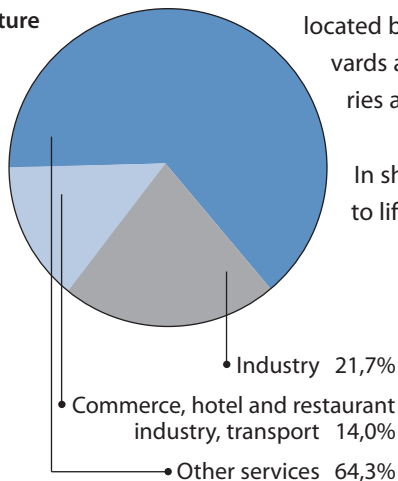
Many long-established crafts enterprises have come together within the craftsmen’s ecological industrial site in the Western part of town under remarkably modern roofs.



Here, as opposed to other cities, shopping centres are not located on green meadows outside the city gates. Here, flourishing retail and specialised trade are located before the backdrop of the medieval city centre. Between boulevards and open-air cafés, there is a diverse choice of small shops, galleries and competent specialist shops, student bars and restaurants.

In short – everything that makes shopping attractive and adds flair to life is available.

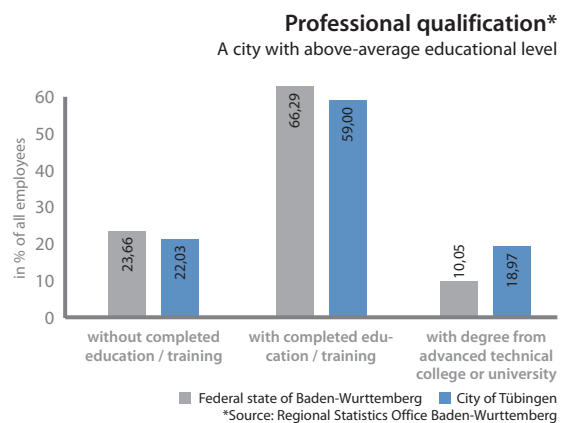
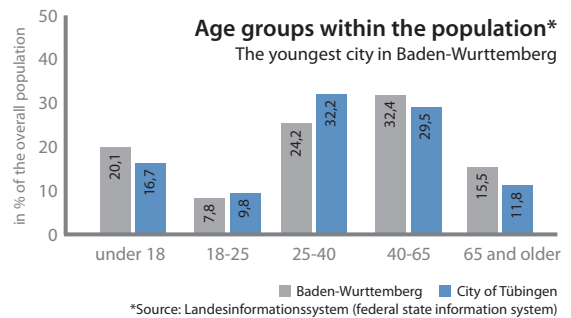
Economic structure
Employees
City of Tübingen
In 2002



* Source: Regional Statistics Office Baden-Württemberg

Above all, a pioneering spirit permeates the IT, biotech and nanotechnology sectors. Starting from the numerous research institutes of outstanding international reputation, more than 20 young Biotech companies have been established and / or have settled in Tübingen over the last years, in addition to approximately 15 such companies in the neighbouring city of Reutlingen.

The city of Tübingen has developed an active concept to support highly qualified scientists and promote the establishment of companies out of University. The inter-municipal technology park Tübingen-Reutlingen offers a total of 15 hectares of office and laboratory space in two locations in the direct neighbourhood of the University and the research institutes.



In and around Tübingen, there are numerous graduates from the University and the technical colleges and applied science universities that are known for their high standards – and many of these graduates are very happy to remain right here.

Tübingen also maintains contact points and operational networks for entrepreneurs and new business founders. The Tübingen Organisation for the Promotion of Trade and Industry offers a comprehensive overview – visit them on www.tuebingen-wit.de.



The Universe of knowledge –

Research and science at the University

They all made research history in Tübingen, wrote poetry or developed revolutionary ideas. Philipp Melanchthon and Johannes Kepler, Lothar Meyer and Adolf Butenandt, Carlo Schmid and Ernst Bloch.

Not to forget the firebrands, poets and thinkers from the famous Protestant monastery: Hegel and Schelling, Hölderlin, Mörike and Hauff.

A virtually inestimable number of illustrious names from all faculties populate the 525 year-old University's Hall of Fame.



Today, fourteen faculties are involved in teaching and learning: Classical humanities and social sciences, law, theology, philosophy, IT and the elaborate range of natural science subjects, ranging from medicine through molecular biology to cybernetics: Life science at its best. Seven of German Research Foundation's (Deutsche Forschungsgesellschaft) Collaborative Research Centres and fourteen graduate schools underscore Tübingen's scientists' top rank in research.

Excellent

The big “whys”, finally explained in an academic context – eight Tübingen professors extended invitations, about 5,000 children attended, and the whole event was awarded a prize by the non-profit science awareness promotion organisation PRO Wissenschaft e.V. as the “most creative PR campaign conducted by a German University”. The accompanying book by Ulrich Janssen and Ulla Steuernagel became a best-seller.



Nevertheless, by no means have big thinkers become extinct: Theologian Hans Küng, president of the Global Ethic Foundation, rhetorician Walter Jens and biologist and Nobel Prize Laureate for medicine and physiology Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard represent scientists and publicists of international prominence.



The environment is ideal for science and research, and this in particular for scientists and life science researchers. On the one hand, there is the highly recognised University medical centre, and on the other hand, there are prestigious research facilities such as the Max-Planck Institutes (Biological Cybernetics, Developmental Biology as well as the Friedrich-Miescher-Laboratory) and the NMI Natural and Medical Sciences Institute at the University of Tübingen. Numerous spin-offs in the area of biotechnology and IT are evidence of the University’s effectiveness.

For the general public, among the highlights in the University year are the extracurricular lectures (called Studium Generale) and the Tübingen poetry lectureship. The University’s “studio for literature and theatre” provides artistic accentuations. The botanical garden offers insights and repose while the University’s archaeological, paleontological and graphics collections offer a tempting insight into alternative disciplines.

Research funds*

Ranking of 40 German universities that received a total of € 3.5 billion subsidies between 1995 and 2001 from the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG). Tübingen now ranks 4th place, up from 13th according to the last DFG ranking (covering the 1991-1995 period).



U = University
 UT = University of Technology
 FU = Free University

(+ 20 additional universities) · *Source: DFG

Where ideas become products

Technology park Tübingen Reutlingen



Tübingen is a key emerging location for science and the high-technology economy, and the Tübingen Reutlingen technology parks are at the core of this growth. The Parks promote the transfer of knowledge into companies and thus helps close the gap between research and applied science.

Just like the companies occupying the park, the City found new ways to plan and run the park operations. In 1999, together with the neighbouring city of Reutlingen, Tübingen founded the Organisation for the Promotion of Technology, the "Technologieförderung Reutlingen-Tübingen GmbH", which has the task of planning, renting and operating the required infrastructure for start up companies in the inter-municipal technology park. Risks and returns are evenly shared between Reutlingen and Tübingen. By involving the Landeskreditbank (L-Bank) as investor and cooperation partner, it was possible to attract the banking arm of the federal state of Baden-Wurttemberg which is also responsible for promoting economic development. Additional financial support for this forward looking project was provided by the federal state of Baden-Wurttemberg.



Tübingen strives to promote young biotechnology companies in particular. This strategic decision is guided by an appreciation of existing strengths and capacities and makes good use of Tübingen's optimum conditions for research, development and transfer of know-how. For this purpose, an area of approximately seven hectares is available for offices and laboratories in the direct neighbourhood of the Max-Planck Institutes in Tübingen.

The neighbouring city of Reutlingen offers an additional area of approximately seven hectares for companies active in the sectors of medical technology, IT and nanotechnology.

Here, company founders find friendly and efficient support on the long way from inspiration to marketable products: The Parks can provide a customised environment ranging from the office to the clean room while with high-tech facilities near by, high synergy effects with local institutions, fair, graduated rents and options for the expansion of the company in the same area.

This combination of custom facilities and sophisticated environment provides start up companies the best possible opportunity to successfully develop their scientific and technological potential.

The main biotechnology focus is supported by the BioRegio STERN network, consisting of six local authority districts and aiming to promote and market biotechnology in the region between Stuttgart and the Swabian Alb. Here, the city of Tübingen is financially involved, and is represented with two seats in the group's supervisory board. BioRegio STERN participated in the "BioProfile" competition organised by Germany's Federal Ministry of Education and Research, and was awarded 18 million Euro until 2006 for the promotion of biotechnology, as one of three regions in Germany. The "Association for the promotion of biotechnology Stuttgart / Tübingen / Neckar-Alb" headquartered in Tübingen determines the allocation of the subsidies.



WIT – hub, network, point of contact

WIT (the Tübingen Organisation for the Promotion of Trade and Industry) was set up by the city together with local business enterprises. It supports and develops Tübingen as an business location and forms the essential hub between industry, science and administration.

WIT is a competent point of contact for companies that are recently founded, or plan on settling in Tübingen. It is the first place to go for procuring office and industrial space.

WIT consults and looks after founders of new businesses, young, innovative companies, and tradespersons. As a partner of Tübingen University's "Attempto" network for the support of entrepreneurs, WIT assists University spin-offs in their development from their initial idea right up to a company that is able to stand on its own feet.

WIT acts as contact broker between the University, research institutes and companies, and provides assistance with respect to all questions in the context of dealing with the city's administration.

WIT supports companies with the objective of developing Tübingen as a high-profile location for science and industry.

WIT has a secondary role contributing to urban renewal via the development of inner-city residential quarters and mixed-use areas. In doing so, WIT fulfils a large variety of tasks including acquisition of the plots, planning and marketing of buildings and building lots.



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Addresses and contacts

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Tel. +49-7071-204-0
www.tuebingen.de

Tübinger Wirtschaft e.V. (Association of Tübingen's industry)

August-Bebel-Straße 18
72072 Tübingen
Tel. +49-7071-1500-0

Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen (Tübingen University)

Wilhelmstraße 7 · 72074 Tübingen
Tel. +49-7071-29-0
www.uni-tuebingen.de

Universitätsklinikum Tübingen (University Hospital Tübingen)

Geissweg 3 · 72076 Tübingen
Tel. +49-7071-29-0
www.medizin.uni-tuebingen.de

Attempto Service GmbH (University network for the support of new business founders)

Albrechtstraße 9 · 72072 Tübingen
Tel. +49-7071-9103-60
www.attempto-service.de

Verein zur Förderung der Biotechnologie Stuttgart / Tübingen / Neckar-Alb (Association for the Promotion of Biotechnology Stuttgart / Tübingen / Neckar-Alb)

Poststraße 12
72072 Tübingen
Tel. +49-7071-917077
www.biotechnologie-verein.de

Kreishandwerkerschaft Tübingen (Tübingen County Chamber of Crafts and Trades)

Haus des Handwerks
Handwerkerpark 1
72070 Tübingen
Tel. +49-7071-22787 oder 26887
www.khs-tuebingen.de

Verkehrsverein Tübingen (Tübingen Tourist Office)

An der Neckarbrücke
72072 Tübingen
Tel. +49-7071-9136-0
www.tuebingen-info.de

Handel- und Gewerbeverein Tübingen (Tübingen trade and industry association)

Holzmarkt 7
72070 Tübingen
Tel. +49-7071- 687536
www.hgv-tuebingen.de

DEHOGA Baden-Württemberg (German association of hotels and restaurants, Baden-Wurttemberg division)

Kreisstelle Tübingen · c/o Willi Röhm
Burgholzweg 102
72070 Tübingen
www.hogabw.de

TüGAST Vereinigung Tübinger Gastlichkeit (Tübingen hospitality association)

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Arbeitsamt Reutlingen (Federal Employment Office Reutlingen) Tübingen Office

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