

Mission | Strategy | Objectives

The School of Veterinary Medicine at Freie Universität Berlin



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»Veritas, Iustitia, Libertas Truth, Justice, Liberty«

FOUNDING PRINCIPLES OF FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN

True to the founding principles of Freie Universität Berlin, the School of Veterinary Medicine meets societal challenges in research and academic teaching with this mission statement in mind. It is these principles that guide the School's identity and the integration into all endeavors of the university.

Our students and staff are the key resources which contribute to our level of performance. Together, we maintain excellent standards in teaching, research and provision of services and ensure their sustained development.

All are invited to be actively involved in this endeavour.

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Uwe Rösler
Dean



About Freie Universität Berlin

Freie Universität Berlin is one of the eleven German universities that have been designated as outstanding within the framework of the Initiative for Excellence. In keeping with its self-conception as an International Network University, Freie Universität Berlin seeks to promote international cooperations, strategic alliances and academic networks. The university sustainably supports junior scholars and scientists, as well as the successful acquisition of external funding for research and teaching.

Freie Universität is a full-spectrum university, comprising twelve departments and three Central Institutes that together offer more than **170 different academic programmes** in a broad range of disciplines.

The **system accreditation** is implemented at Freie Universität Berlin to assure quality in the various study programmes.



The School of Veterinary Medicine at Freie Universität Berlin





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About the School of Veterinary Medicine

The School of Veterinary Medicine looks back on a long, successful and rich history of veterinary medical training, which extends back to 1790. There have been numerous changes, most recently the merger between the years 1992 and 1997, of the School of Veterinary Medicine at Freie Universität Berlin and the Agricultural and Veterinary Faculty of Humboldt-Universität of Berlin. As one of the five German training establishments for veterinary medicine and related professions, the School is a renowned centre for veterinary medical training, research and veterinary services. We have a strong research focus, especially in the fields of infection medicine, resistance research and animal welfare as well as safe and high quality food production. The School is currently located at three sites in Berlin (Düppel, Dahlem and Mitte). Each contains different specialized institutions. The research activities of the 18 scientific institutions, including the 3 clinics and the Centre for Veterinary Clinical Services, are tied into a world-wide network of veterinary expertise and related disciplines.

With more than 540 employees, our activities include all areas of contemporary and progress-oriented veterinary medicine. This follows the »One Health« concept, in other words, **the inseparability of the welfare of animals, humans and the environment**. It is bound to current scientific advances. In particular, the School count amongst its research and teaching the following specializations:

- » Optimized patient care grounded in evidence-based veterinary medicine
- » Safety and sustainability in the production of high-quality food of animal origin
- » The health and well-being of people through the control of infectious diseases (zoonoses) and antimicrobial resistances and through the study of basic disease and resistance mechanisms (»One Health« approach)
- » Animal protection in the complex realm of interactions between animals, humans and the environment



The School of Veterinary Medicine is also a teaching institution, educating more than 1,600 students, including doctoral candidates, who are distributed amongst **three major degree programmes:**

- » State examination degree programme for veterinary medicine
- » Bachelor degree programme in equine science
- » Dahlem Research School (DRS) doctoral studies in Biomedical Sciences

In addition, we offer a variety of training and advanced education opportunities in veterinary specializations. These include many opportunities for earning academic degrees, additional qualifications, as well as life-long training. The training of veterinary specialists is integrated into the National System of Specialization as well as into the college systems of the European Board of Veterinary Specialization (EBVS).

In addition to an extensive range of patient care on our campus in Düppel, the School offers a wide spectrum of laboratory examinations for veterinary practitioners, for clinics and for the public. Our activities are monitored by professional quality management systems. We are linked across disciplines with regional, national and international authorities and organizations and non-university research institutes, with established colleagues, as well as companies and industry.



»The School of Veterinary Medicine qualifies«

We are an excellent training and research facility. In 2018, the School was positively evaluated by the EAEVE (European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education) in light of its state examination degree programme and was included in the list of recognized training institutions. Freie Universität Berlin, of which we are a part, is system-accredited. Furthermore, our bachelor degree programme in equine science was awarded the German Accreditation Council's seal of quality, one of the first of Freie Universität's programmes to do so since the end of 2016. In addition, the DRS doctoral programme in Biomedical Sciences was given the highest award in 2017.

We would like

- » to train outstanding veterinarians and ensure their training and application of their specializations in various areas of expertise,
- » to enable students to engage in interdisciplinary scientific and clinical endeavours, to think in a performance-oriented manner, as well as to make ethical decisions,
- » to prepare our students for their professional fields of activity and provide them with the necessary professional knowledge, practical skills and methods,
- » to advise our students in all phases of their degree programmes,
- » to offer attractive training and advanced education opportunities,
- » to contribute to the replacement, reduction and refinement in the use of animals in biomedical research
- » to support our employees in their personal development as well as
- » to promote junior scientists and thereby increase the proportion of women in scientific carriers.



We will

- » adapt our curriculum and our learning objections to meet specialized and societal challenges, through constant dialog with students, teachers and the profession,
- » improve academic success, through targeted and degree-related offers (mentoring), as well as improving the development and offers of modern forms of teaching,
- » closely interlink teaching and research through the integration of students working on research projects with one another,
- » teach »Day One Competences« according to international standards,
- » continuously improve the qualification of our teachers by sharing appropriate training in university teaching,
- » facilitate the transition from university studies to career development by providing a wide range of information events, as well as
- » effectively provide support for technical specialization needs by supplying appropriate training and further education programmes.

»The School of Veterinary Medicine leads in research and generates new knowledge«

We are

- » a leading research school with an outstanding research profile. Research-related performance indicators show our results are placed at the highest international level.
- » a school well supported by external funding.
- » a networked school. Our veterinary and biomedical competences are seen in the firm integration in knowledge alliances between other departments at Freie Universität Berlin and the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. Integration fields include health and quality of life, biomedical principles, material and human-environment interactions.
- » an established member of high-performance networks outside Freie Universität Berlin. Due to its integration with large research associations, its launching of joint research projects as well as appointments for outstanding professors, the School is regionally, nationally, and internationally networked.

We would like

- » to provide a creative development environment for existing and new research and innovation,
- » to maintain our success in the acquisition of external funding and our high level of publication,
- » to promote application-oriented research and knowledge transfer through increased cooperation with stakeholders from business and politics,
- » to promote current knowledge in disease prevention and the treatment of animals through basic, applied and clinical research,
- » to further optimize, through research, the quality and safety of animal-based food, as well as their production in relation to animal welfare and animal health,

- » to tackle challenges in all interactions between animals and humans through innovative approaches, including infectious diseases and the emergence and spread of resistance in pathogens, as well as
- » to help in the replacement, reduction and refinement in the use of animals in biomedical research (the 3R principle).

We will

- » meet contemporary challenges by future-oriented academic structural developments,
- » further expand infection medicine with its focus on resistance research and
- » strongly and structurally interlink areas of expertise along the production of healthy and safe food of animal origin (food chain).





»The School of Veterinary Medicine is a gateway to the world«

We are

- » a host institution for foreign scientific researchers as well as for foreign students,
- » a participant in numerous international exchange programmes in the fields of study and research for students, research associates and other employees,
- » highly involved and committed to a number of projects for international development aid in veterinary medicine,
- » proud to be a school of internationally sought-after partners for all levels of teaching, research and services and
- » are aware of the societal challenges of increased migration of veterinarians from non-EU countries.

We would like

- » to be a model for cultural diversity, integration, openness and tolerance with a high proportion of international employees and students,
- » to expand existing international university partnerships and thereby promote a lively exchange of students, employees and knowledge between partners,
- » to facilitate the development of international contacts with our students and to refine their appreciation of international societal responsibility as well as
- » to support migrant veterinarians in their qualifications for working in the German labour market.

We will

- » further strengthen and expand our existing central and international university partnerships within the framework of cooperation agreements,
- » reinforce the portfolio of our international partnerships, exclusive of existing cooperation partnerships and
- » additionally support international and national student mobility.



»The School of Veterinary Medicine promotes junior scientists«

We are

- » the initiator of the structured doctoral programme in Biomedical Sciences at the Dahlem Research School (DRS), which trains our junior scientists to the highest international standard,
- » involved in various other structured doctoral programmes, such as with the Centre of Infection Biology and Immunity,
- » a school that annually guides approximately 70 doctoral candidates to qualify with Dr. med. vet. degrees and approximately 20 doctoral candidates to graduate with Ph.D. degrees (Doctor of Philosophy) and the recently introduced option of qualifying for a Dr. rer. nat. degree offers scientists further interesting postgraduate opportunities,
- » providers of a wide range of specialization programmes at national and European levels, including a number of European Diplomate programmes which are certified by European colleges as well as
- » a school which annually mentors young scientists to complete their habilitation degrees.

We would like

- » to further promote scientific work of the highest quality in accordance with the rules of good scientific practice,
- » to lead junior scientists to successfully achieve the highest qualification levels,
- » to support and promote young scientists, in particular female scientists and clinical researchers,
- » to comply with and advance the rules of good scientific practice in all our activities.



We will

- » expand the targeted recruitment of junior scientists from amongst our students,
- » further increase the proportion of students in structured doctoral programmes,
- » support junior scientists on their academic career path,
- » further encourage experienced and trained junior scientists in their function as mentors and motivators and in particular,
- » we will significantly improve the compatibility of scientific careers with active family lives.

»The School of Veterinary Medicine promotes lifelong learning and specializations«

We are

- » proud of our structured small animal and equine medicine programmes for lifelong learning and specialization, developed by our specialists from the Small Animal Clinic and Equine Clinic, which are partly offered together with our partner, the German Veterinary Medical Society (DVG), in the format »DVG VET-Progress« at the continuing education centre of the School.
- » Organizers and hosts of numerous qualification programmes and training courses for all professional areas of veterinary medicine. We have optimally equipped structures and premises which are specially designed for veterinary needs.

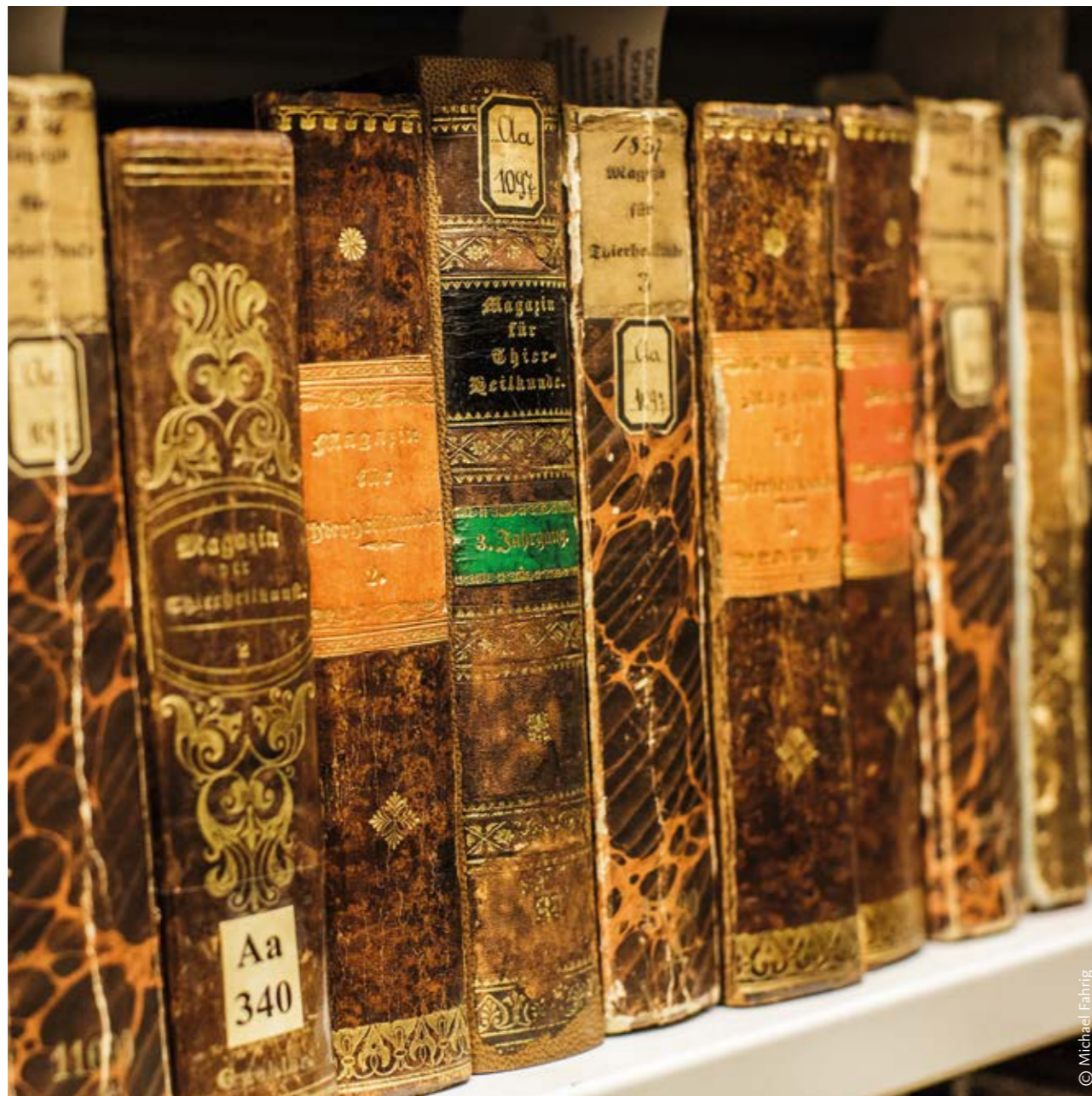
We would like

- » to further expand the importance of training of veterinary specialists within the college system of the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS) and set up more certified training programmes for this purpose,
- » to regularly offer internationally recognized internships and residency programmes in all clinics and paraclinical institutions as well as
- » to promote and support life-long learning in veterinarians, as well as in our employees.

We will

- » continually upgrade the equipment in our facilities for educational events and thereby ensure that our offer of high-quality training and further education remains attractive,
- » advertise and promote our activities for professionals and the public,
- » work with our continuing education commission to identify and implement new and promising fields of action in the area of training and continuing education, and finally,
- » continue to provide all relevant specializations in the School.





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»The School of Veterinary Medicine preserves knowledge and appreciates the history «

We are

- » providers of a modern library which contains >170,000 volumes, including >3,000 journals and periodicals,
- » proud of our extensive rare collection which houses veterinary historical works, some of which date back to the 16th century. We host the Gurlt's Veterinary-Anatomical Collection comprising unique skeleton and wet preparations of malformations of animals and anatomical wax models. We also display the historic horseshoe collection. Both collections can be traced back to the »Berlin Royal Veterinary School« (1790).
- » aware of our responsibility to archive continuously generated digital knowledge for future generations and make it available to the wider public.

We would like

- » to offer our students the possibility of using current literature to acquire knowledge and to examine learned information, abilities and application competencies through the preparation of original material,
- » to make our existing knowledge easily accessible to all interested parties through the use of appropriate databases and
- » to make the achievements of the School clearly visible for an interested public by using publications and research databases.

We will

- » continually transfer our publication, research, cooperation and doctoral databases to the latest state-of-the-art technology and interlink them.
- » promote open access publications and financially subsidize them through publication funds,
- » support the sustained digitization of archive material,
- » collaborate with the libraries and archives of national veterinary training institutions, so to develop joint concepts of data processing and digitalization,
- » expand the textbook collection in consultation with the Education Commission and provide enough copies at all times.



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»The School of Veterinary Medicine develops the campus«

We are

- » a school with over 34,000 m² in more than 50 buildings spread over three locations in Berlin,
- » both occupants of a protected estate with historical facilities dating from 1835, as well as recently completed state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities,
- » users of the newly established Veterinary Centre for Resistance Research (TZR) that will have a major impact on the interdisciplinary research, teaching and translational outreach in the field of microbial resistance against antibiotics and other anti-infectives,
- » certified by EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) due to our careful use of natural resources and are committed to energy efficiency and sustainability in all construction and utility issues.

We would like

- » to advance the concentration of our infrastructure on the Düppel campus,
- » to develop animal keeping and laboratory facilities to modern standards in relation to (animal) disease hygiene, work safety and animal welfare, as well as
- » to create a flexible work space in an attractive environment, which fits the needs of all.

We will

- » establish a new building for state-of-the-art teaching and research of food safety and hygiene.
- » build a new veterinary hospital for farm animals with state-of-the-art facilities for teaching and research for all types of farm animals, which also meets the highest animal welfare standards.

- » plan our new buildings in accordance with the Evaluation System for Sustainable Building (BNB certificate).
- » regularly evaluate and prioritize repair measures and new construction measures at the School together with the University.





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»The School of Veterinary Medicine provides services«

We are

- » a veterinary competence centre with comprehensive clinical and medical treatments which are carried out according to the latest findings and with state-of-the-art technology,
- » operators of the Veterinary Hospital Freie Universität Berlin which treats over 20,000 animal patients each year. The Veterinary Hospital unites a Small Animal Clinic, an Equine Clinic, a Farm Animal Clinic covering ruminant, swine and poultry diseases, and a Centre for Veterinary Clinical Services for overarching diagnostic questions, some of which are open 24/7,
- » providers of a broad spectrum of laboratory tests for veterinary practitioners, clinics, businesses and the public and
- » a team of competent experts for all legal and forensic issues.

We would like

- » to ensure the care of all animal patients in Berlin and the wider region 24/7, and optimally integrate them into the training of young veterinarians and in veterinary research,
- » to be a competent partner for the public in all matters pertaining to animal health, to animal and consumer protection, to food safety and to animal disease control.

We will

- » dynamically shape our service portfolio in accordance with the current state of scientific knowledge and future demands of animal and comparative medicine, primarily to promote optimal research and teaching.



»The School of Veterinary Medicine creates a positive work environment«

We are

- » an employer in all areas of veterinary medical teaching, research and services,
- » a training facility for four skilled professions (trained veterinary assistants, animal keepers, horse owners and animal owners, specialist beekeepers) and therefore
- » proud of highly qualified employees.

We would like

- » to assure gender equality and diversity in religious, ethnic and national origin, reflecting the world outside,
- » to facilitate fair and equal access to higher education,
- » to engender a healthy and satisfactory environment in which all employees can actively participate in our activities,
- » to optimize the personal qualifications of each employee in the institutional and personnel health and safety measures,
- » to assure planning security for our employees, especially for young scientists and researchers in their qualification phases and
- » to ensure the compatibility of family and work in all terms and conditions of employment.



We will

- » implement the personnel development concept of Freie Universität and continue the Berlin plan for the professional promotion of women,
- » enter into appropriate employment contracts with young scientists and researchers in accordance with their individual qualification goals,
- » develop a concept for the introduction of new employees to the School as well as
- » further optimize workplace protection measures and risk assessments, especially in regard to pregnant staff members and students as well as those with specific needs.



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»The School of Veterinary Medicine considers itself as a learning organization«

We are

- » a school with an open communication culture and transparent decision-making processes,
- » an organization, willing to learn, that continuously seeks to improve and develop itself and
- » engaged in various national and international organizations and networked in all relevant professional and political bodies.

We would like

- » to create efficient processes and structures that are orientated to our core objectives and tasks in research, teaching and services,
- » to achieve a steady improvement of our services through the establishment and use of modern methods of quality assurance as well as
- » to actively integrate member organizations of the school in decision-making processes and
- » to further contribute to the development of all veterinary and related professions throughout Germany.

We will

- » regularly review our degree programmes by consulting external expertise on the direction of their content, teaching methods and training results, as well as
- » periodically examine our fields of action by internal and external evaluation, disclose these rules and implement them consistently.



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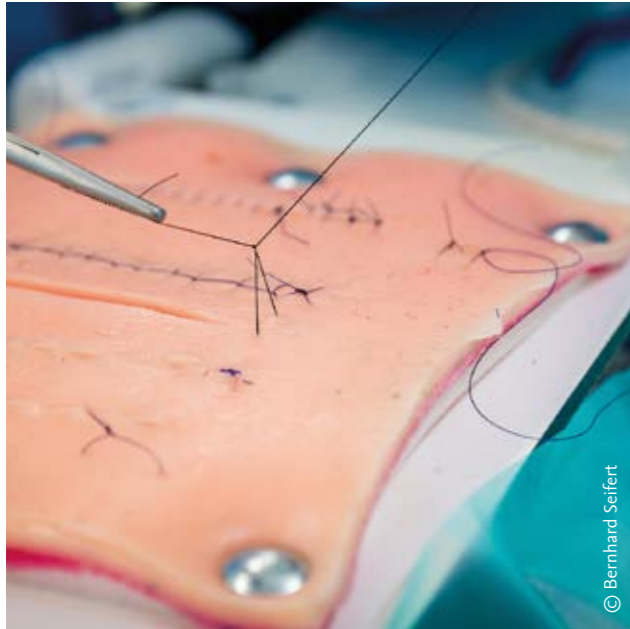
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