

European Research Network on Philanthropy

12th International Research Conference

Ruprecht-Karls-University Heidelberg

24-26 September 2025

Practical Information

Conference venue

“Neue Universität” (New University)

Grabengasse 1 - Heidelberg



Today, the New University is the main lecture building for the humanities.

During the Weimar Republic, Heidelberg was considered a stronghold of the democratic spirit, shaped by such professors as Karl Jaspers, Gustav Radbruch, Martin Dibelius, and Alfred Weber. The New University, built with American donations, bore the dedication "Dem lebendigen Geist" ("To the living spirit") as formulated by Friedrich Gundolf.

The Third Reich led to the dismissal of a large number of lecturers in Heidelberg and the expulsion of students for political and racial reasons. Many had to emigrate, two professors became direct victims of Nazi terror. Due to the activities of high-profile supporters of the regime, Heidelberg was discredited as a "brown university"; the "living spirit" was officially replaced by "the German spirit," to which many then paid homage, as they did everywhere.

At the end of World War II, the university was physically undamaged but in need of spiritual renewal. Under Jaspers' leadership, a new constitution was drafted, in which the university pledged to "serve the living spirit of truth, justice, and humanity." The first post-war rector was the surgeon Karl Heinrich Bauer.

Suggested accommodations & hotels

Europäischer Hof

Friedrich-Ebert-Anlage 1 | 69117 Heidelberg

Distance to venue: 500m

Bus/tram: Bismarckplatz

(260€/night)

More information [here](#)

Atlantic Hotel

Europaplatz 1 (directly at the main station) | 69115 Heidelberg

Distance to venue: 2km (bus number 32 from main station to “Universitätsplatz” approx. 12 min)

Bus/tram: Hauptbahnhof

(189€/night)

More information [here](#)

Premier Inn Heidelberg City Centre

Kurfürsten-Anlage 23 | 69115 Heidelberg

Distance to venue: 1,5km (bus number 33 from “Stadtbücherei” to “Universitätsplatz” approx. 10 min)

Bus/tram: Stadtbücherei

(161€/night)

More information [here](#)

Accommodation - Hotels

Premier Inn Heidelberg City Bahnstadt

Czernyring 26-28 | 69115 Heidelberg

Distance to venue: 2km (bus number 33 or tram 22 and bus 32 from “Montpelierbrücke” to “Universitätsplatz” approx. 20 min)

Bus/tram: Montpelierbrücke

(150€/night)

More information [here](#)

Plaza Premium Heidelberg

Sophienstraße 6-8 | 69115 Heidelberg

Distance to venue: 800m (bus number 31/32 from “Bismarckplatz” to “Universitätsplatz” approx. 8 min)

Bus/tram: Bismarckplatz

(160€/night)

More information [here](#)

Ibis Hotel Heidelberg Hauptbahnhof

Willy-Brandt-Platz 3 | 69115 Heidelberg

Distance to venue: 2km (bus number 32 from main station to “Universitätsplatz” approx. 12 min)

Bus/tram: Hauptbahnhof

(117€/night)

Contact: H1447-EL@accor.com, please mention: ERNOP2025

Accommodation - Hostels

Guesthouse Heidelberg

Bergheimer Straße 24 | 69115 Heidelberg

Distance to venue: 800m (bus number 31/32 from “Bismarckplatz” to “Universitätsplatz” approx. 8 min)

Bus/tram: Bismarckplatz

(75€/night, no breakfast, but bakery and cafés very close)

More information [here](#)

Steffi's Hostel

Alte Eppelheimer Str.50 | 69115 Heidelberg

Distance to venue: 2km (bus number 32 from main station to “Universitätsplatz” approx. 12 min)

Bus/tram: Hauptbahnhof

(80€ /night)

More information [here](#)

Travel – Getting to Heidelberg

Heidelberg is too small to have its own airport, but its central location between Frankfurt and Stuttgart makes it easily accessible by train, shuttle, rental car, or taxi.

From Frankfurt Airport

There is regular train service via Mannheim from the long-distance train station. This is the fastest and most convenient connection. The train journey takes approx. one hour. You can find the long-distance train station on the other side of the airport, a few minutes away by foot (see map provided).

It is also possible to travel via Frankfurt Main Station. From there you have IC/EC service directly to Heidelberg. This journey should take about an hour excluding the time to get there from Frankfurt Airport.

You can use the [Deutsche Bahn Website](#) (or the corresponding app “DB Navigator”) to find a connection. Be aware that you have to change trains in Mannheim if you depart from the long-distance station.

From Stuttgart Airport

The S-Bahn leaves the Stuttgart airport from Terminal 1, Level 1.

You can travel to Heidelberg in 1 ½ to 2 hours by train. You will have to change trains at Stuttgart Main Station (Stuttgart Hbf.) From Stuttgart Hbf. there is direct service to Heidelberg (IC/EC) or with ICE via Mannheim.

By Train

The main train station (Hauptbahnhof, Hbf) in Heidelberg is centrally located. It has service to both regional towns and major cities, making it easy to get to Heidelberg. You can look up prices for the different trains and routes on the [Deutsche Bahn Website](#). The Deutsche Bahn also offers “Rail&Fly”, a special package purchased through your airline which adds rail passes to your airline ticket (more information about the package [here](#)).

Getting around in Heidelberg

Public Transport

Public transport in Heidelberg is available via busses and trams. You can use either the website of the regional public transport provider (VRN) or the service of the German railway (DB) to find the fastest connections for bus, tram, or train:

<https://www.vrn.de/>

<https://www.bahn.de/>

Upon arriving at the Heidelberg main station, the most convenient way to get to the venue or your hotel is by taking the tram or the bus. The nearest bus or tram stop is mentioned above in the hotel list.

Taxis

You can call a taxi in Heidelberg either by phoning +49 6221 302030, or online via this [registration form](#). Here you have to fill in your name, your phone number, your email, number of passengers, pick-up date, pick-up time, pick-up address and your destination (in this order). On the website, you can also find a list of all the taxi stations (at “HALTEPLÄTZE”).

You can also use the German-wide taxi number 22456 or use the [app](#).

Getting around in Heidelberg

Cycling

Heidelberg is a relatively small but very cyclist-friendly city. It is easy to go wherever you want in a short period of time using a bicycle. It is said that Heidelberg has more cyclists than motorists.

Most streets or walkways have bike lanes, and there are several places where renting bike is possible. Try this one, for example: VRNnextbike – bike rental in Heidelberg
<http://www.vrnnextbike.de/en/heidelberg/>

E-Scooters

You can also rent electric scooters to get around the city. In Heidelberg, scooters from the companies DOT (formerly TIER), BIRD, Lime and BOLT can be found all around. You will need to download the corresponding app for registration and for activating your scooter via QR code scanner.

Contact Details

For further information, please contact:

Carsten Eggersgluß M.A. -carsten.eggersgluess@csi.uni-heidelberg.de

Dr. Georg Mildenberger- georg.mildenberger@csi.uni-heidelberg.de

Touristic Offers

Guided City Tour, September 25

Visit Old Library, September 24



Other possible activities on demand:

- Guided castle tour with funicular
- Philosophers' Path walk
- Solar-boat trip "Neckarsonne"

Heidelberg and the Region

Heidelberg is a historic city located in the Baden-Württemberg region of Germany, nestled along the Neckar River. Here are some interesting facts about Heidelberg and the surrounding area:

Heidelberg University - Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg

Heidelberg is home of the oldest university in Germany: founded in 1386. It's the oldest continuously existing university in today's Germany and the fifth oldest in Europe. The university has a prestigious reputation and attracts students and scholars from around the world.

Key Facts & Figures about Heidelberg University

Type: Public University

Main Campus: Urban, located along the Neckar River in the historic city of Heidelberg

Total Enrollment: Over 30,000 students

International Students: Around 20% of the student body

Academic Staff: Approximately 7,000 professors, researchers and lecturers

Research & Innovation

Heidelberg University has a central campus, along with several satellite campuses dedicated to specific fields such as medicine, natural sciences, and humanities.

The University Hospital Heidelberg is a major part of the university, offering top-tier medical education and research.

Heidelberg University is renowned for its research in various fields, particularly in the faculties:

- Mathematics, Engineering Sciences, and Natural Sciences
- Liberal Arts
- Law, Economics, and Social Sciences
- Medicine

Research Institutes: The university houses several renowned research institutes, e.g. German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies (HITS), four different Max-Planck-Institutes and many more

Heidelberg and the Region

City of Heidelberg and the Old Town

The city is often referred to as "The City of Romance," partly due to its charming old town and stunning natural scenery. It became a popular subject for poets and artists during the Romantic period in the 19th century. The city's historical and picturesque character still draws couples, tourists, and artists from around the globe.



Heidelberg's Old Town is a maze of narrow, cobblestone streets filled with charming shops, cafés, and historical buildings. It's home to Marktplatz, the main square, and the Church of the Holy Spirit (Heiliggeistkirche), which dates back to the 14th century. The Old Town retains a baroque charm but is also vibrant with modern life and invites one to linger.

Heidelberg was a key location in the Palatinate War of Succession (1688-1697) and suffered extensive damage during the conflict. Despite this, many of its historical buildings, including the castle, were later restored, making them well-preserved examples of German Renaissance and Baroque architecture.



Heidelberg castle was later partially restored, giving it its scenic, ruin-like appearance and making it one of the most iconic landmarks of Heidelberg. Today it towers prominently on a hill overlooking the bustling city below. The castle was built in the 13th century and is a blend of Renaissance architecture.

It was once the residence of the prince-electors of the Palatinate. Today, it's a major tourist attraction and offers a stunning view of the city and the surrounding countryside.

Heidelberg and the Region

The Neckar river flows beneath the Castle and the Philosophers' Path right through Heidelberg and plays a significant role in the region's culture and history. The river is perfect for boat tours and scenic walks. The city's many bridges and waterfront areas are an ideal setting for both locals and visitors alike to relax and enjoy themselves.

Another famous landmark is the Old Bridge, which spans the Neckar River. Built in the 18th century, it connects the Old Town with the Neuenheim district. The bridge offers an incredible view of the city and the castle, and it's often considered one of the most romantic spots in Heidelberg. The Old Bridge is often considered one of the oldest in Germany, with its first wooden version dating back to the 12th century. The bridge was rebuilt in stone in 1788.

Surrounding Heidelberg

The region around Heidelberg is famous for its wine production, especially Riesling and Spätburgunder (Pinot Noir). The Badische Bergstraße wine region, just south of the city, is part of the greater Baden wine region which has been producing wine for centuries. There are plenty of vineyards around the area, and wine-tasting tours are popular.



Baden-Württemberg Region

Heidelberg is located in the federal state of Baden-Württemberg, which is known for its beautiful landscapes, including the Black Forest (Schwarzwald) to the west and the Swabian Jura mountains to the east. The region is also famous for its high-tech industries and innovation, with cities like Stuttgart (home to Mercedes-Benz and Porsche) playing a major role in Germany's automotive industry.

