

Joint Declaration on Values-Based International Cooperation

We, the International Offices of the universities in Baden-Württemberg are guided by these values in our international relations¹:

Academic Freedom

Freedom of research and teaching, as well as freedom of expression in an academic context, are protected in accordance with the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany and the human rights covenants of the United Nations.

Transparency & Accountability

Higher education institutions design their processes to ensure transparency and clarity, particularly when they award scholarships, allocate funds, and determine how research will be applied.

Equitable Access

All members of higher education institutions have equal and fair opportunities to teach, conduct research, and participate in academic self-governance.

Institutional Autonomy

Higher education institutions are governed and administered in ways that enable their members to make independent and effective decisions about teaching and research, without undue influence from third parties.

Social Responsibility

Higher education institutions make an important contribution to addressing societal and global challenges; they do so in accordance with ethical, scientific, and professional standards.

We strive to ensure that the values set out above guide both new and existing international partnerships, exchange and mobility programs, and cooperation in research, teaching, and research management. To this end, we engage in dialogue with members of our university communities and our international partners and advocate for these values.

Konstanz, 20 July 2022

International Office, University of Freiburg
International Relations Division, Heidelberg University
International Office, University of Hohenheim
International Affairs, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)
International Office, University of Konstanz
International Office, University of Mannheim
International Office, University of Stuttgart
Division V – International Office, University of Tübingen
International Office, Ulm University

¹ The statement is based on the guide “Promoting Higher Education Values: A Guide for Discussion” published by the Scholars at Risk Network (https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/SAR_PHV_DiscussionGuide_v20_ONLINE.pdf).