



## Press release No. 100/2012

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## Maximum goal achieved

**In the second funding period of the Excellence Initiative of the German federal and state governments, the University of Konstanz has been successful with its Institutional Strategy, a Cluster of Excellence and two Graduate Schools**

In the second funding period of the Excellence Initiative by the German federal and state governments to promote science and research at German universities, the University of Konstanz has achieved its maximum goal: both the three renewal proposals and the initial proposal have received positive decisions. This means that the Institutional Strategy “Modell Konstanz – Towards a Culture of Creativity”, the Cluster of Excellence “Cultural Foundations of Social Integration” and the two Graduate Schools – the Konstanz Research School “Chemical Biology” and the Graduate School of “Decision Sciences” – have been successful in the competition for the best German universities. From 1 November 2012 to 2017 the University of Konstanz can now count on further funding.

The positive decisions for the four proposals mean that the University of Konstanz now boasts an additional success compared with the first funding phase. In 2006 funding was granted for a Cluster of Excellence; this was followed in 2007 by a Graduate School and the Institutional Strategy of the University of Konstanz. The proposals for the Institutional Strategy “Modell Konstanz – Towards a Culture of Creativity”, the Cluster of Excellence “Cultural Foundations of Social Integration” and the Konstanz Research School “Chemical Biology” are all renewal proposals. An initial proposal was entered for the Graduate School of “Decision Sciences”.

## **Reactions following the announcement of the Excellence Initiative's Grants Committee decision**

### **Professor Ulrich Rüdiger, Rector of the University of Konstanz:**

“We're incredibly happy. For a university the size of ours in Konstanz this level of funding gives an additional boost to development, which is decisive for the future. This puts us in the position to continue the optimal formation of our main focal areas and firmly anchor them in a sustainable research and teaching profile. Thanks to the support of the state of Baden-Württemberg, the sustainability of this strategic approach has been secured for the time following the eventual conclusion of the Excellence Initiative in 2017. In addition to the further expansion of internal networking, this also includes increased regional and international positioning. I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to this outstanding result.”

### **For further information please go to:**

<http://www.aktuelles.uni-konstanz.de/en/modell-konstanz>

### **Professor Andreas Marx and Professor Martin Scheffner, Speakers of the Konstanz Research School “Chemical Biology”:**

“We're extremely pleased to be able to further enhance the attractiveness of our doctoral programme under the superb conditions of the Excellence Initiative, and we thank everyone who has contributed to this success. We particularly want to attract Bachelor degree holders at international level with the successful Life Science Masters course, which will be offered in English in the future. And we want to enable a smooth transition to the Graduate School via the Konstanz fast-track system.”

### **For further information please go to:**

<http://www.aktuelles.uni-konstanz.de/en/korscb>

### **Professor Leo Kaas, Speaker of the Graduate School of Decision Sciences:**

“We will now be putting every effort into recruiting the best qualified applicants, so that doctoral courses can begin as soon as possible. The Graduate School of Decision Sciences will unite an exciting mix of different disciplines ranging from Politics, Psychology and Economics to Computer Science, Sociology and Statistics. I'm extremely pleased both with the creation of the Graduate School and with the resulting strengthening of the focus on Decision Sciences at the University of Konstanz, and I thank everyone who has helped the Graduate School to become reality.”

### **For further information please go to:**

<http://www.aktuelles.uni-konstanz.de/en/gstds>

**Professor Rudolf Schlögl, Speaker of the Cluster of Excellence “Cultural Foundations of Social Integration”:**

“In our scholarly research over the past six years, we have explored new thematic fields and opened them up for future basic research in Cultural Studies. This research will also focus intensely on crucial areas of social conflict in a globalized world. We are extremely happy to have the opportunity to continue this interdisciplinary research with substantial financial support. In addition, during the first funding phase, the Center of Excellence ‘Cultural Foundations of Social Integration’ established itself institutionally as an experimental field within the university, one that has generated innovative, highly networked collaborative research structures. Consequently, it has now become important to address the question of how to sustain the Cluster beyond 2017 – a process that will involve transforming it into a Cultural Studies Research Center at the University of Konstanz. Our present success is the result of long-term collaborative effort. I offer heartfelt thanks to everyone for this dedicated commitment, and my special congratulations to those colleagues in positions at the university financed by the Center.”

**For further information please go to:**

<http://www.aktuelles.uni-konstanz.de/en/exc16>

**Note for editors:**

Photos can be downloaded from our media section for the Excellence Initiative:  
<http://www.aktuelles.uni-konstanz.de/en/presseinformationen/2012/100/>

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