

## Tradition

The founding of the Academy in 1751, roughly twenty years after the University, was an unusual act. In 18<sup>th</sup> century Europe, research institutions could be counted on the fingers of one hand. At the University of Göttingen, too, the priority was teaching. But "an Academiste must invent", demanded Albrecht von Haller (1708-1777). The famous Swiss naturalist served as the first head of the "Royal Society of Sciences", as the Academy was originally called. Making new scientific discoveries and discussing them in the circle of the great minds of the time was the cause for the society's success. Georg Christoph Lichtenberg, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Wilhelm and Alexander von Humboldt, Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, Karl Friedrich Gauss, and later Felix Klein, Otto Hahn, Albert Einstein, Friedrich Hund, Werner Heisenberg, Stephan Hell and many other renowned scholars, among them 74 Nobel Prize winners, were or are members of the Academy.

## The Göttingen Academy in numbers (as of 2026)

- 11,75** million euros funding volume
- 15** long-term research projects
- 13** third-party funds projects
- 370** Full and Corresponding Members currently
- 74** Nobel laureates historically / currently
- 161** employees
- 17** workplaces in four federal states of Germany
- 90** honorary project managers
- 5** research commissions

## Where to find us

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## The Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities of Lower Saxony



## Who we are

"The Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities of Lower Saxony? What do you do? Are you part of the university?" We often hear these questions. True, the Academy has always been closely linked to the Georgia Augusta University at Göttingen. Sometimes it is even referred to as its "little sister". However, we are a non-university research institution under public law, the largest for long-term research in the humanities in northern Germany. Funded by the state of Lower Saxony, our Academy has had an impact far beyond its borders. Students and scholars in philology, history, German studies, law, historical linguistics, philosophy or theology depend on editions, digital and in print, and similar works produced by our various research groups. This applies even more to smaller fields such as Islamic studies, Turkology or Egyptology. As a learned society, the Academy consists of excellent professors from the humanities, the social and natural sciences as well as from mathematics. Elected as full or corresponding members, they are committed to maintaining diversity in the academic landscape and strengthening interdisciplinary exchange.

## Networking

To this day, our Academy is not only a non-university research institution, but also a learned society. It continues to achieve what other institutions are unable to do: regular interdisciplinary discussion and research. This applies also to its seven sister academies, many of them much younger, under the umbrella of the Union of German Academies of Sciences and Humanities. Our Academy brings together outstanding academics across disciplinary and national borders, and our plenary sessions take place every second Friday during terms. With around 160 full members from northern Germany and 210 corresponding members from all over the world, the Göttingen Academy has an exceptional network of expertise.

## Research

As a research institution, our academy fulfils tasks that are often sidelined in our fast-paced society: long-term humanities projects of international importance, which sometimes last for more than a generation of researchers. As part of the so-called "Academy Programme", which is funded by Germany's federal and state governments, we currently supervise 15 such long-term research projects. In addition to several large digital dictionaries our research groups explore, edit and digitize highly complex material, among others, the "Greek Psalter", the "Coptic Old Testament", the "Prize Papers of the English and British navy from 1652-1817". In addition to this long-term programme, the academy manages 13 externally funded projects. Since 2019 the Academy has also been involved in the Centre for Digital Lexicography of the German Language (ZDL), which is developing a comprehensive research-based online dictionary.



## What we offer

"Fecundat et ornat" – it fertilises and adorns: our Academy remains committed to its motto from 1751. In addition to our diverse research activities, we reach out to the public in numerous events, addressing socially relevant issues or offering in-depth insights into special fields of knowledge. Regular public events include the lecture series in cooperation

with the university, participation in the Union's Academy Day, events outside of Göttingen. Moreover, the Academy pays special attention to young and older researchers by honouring their outstanding achievements every year with scholarships and prizes

## Digitalisation

The Academy embraced the digital revolution in the humanities early on and has done pioneering work in many areas such as the development of online databases. The "Göttingen Digital Academy", founded in 2020, seeks to make as much research data as possible digitally usable and secure in the long term. In close cooperation with the State and University Library (SUB), the "Gesellschaft für wissenschaftliche Datenverarbeitung Göttingen" (GWDG), and the other academies in the Union, our Academy is constantly working on new solutions for the often very specific requirements of research projects. At the same time, we plan to integrate their material into the National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI). As early as 2010, the Academy set up its own DINI-certified digital library with the "res doctae" platform. This provides all its members, as well as associated participants in its research commissions and projects, with the organizational and technical framework for the electronic publication of their research and data.

