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Universität Heidelberg and Harvard university mark the launch of their strategic partnership

With a strategic partnership, Heidelberg and Harvard University are expanding their academic relationships, strengthening transatlantic networks and promoting excellent research. Heidelberg University is hosting the official launch of the Heidelberg | Harvard Cooperation on Wednesday 18 November 2026.

Participating – besides Rector Prof. Dr. Frauke Melchior and Prof. Dr. David E. Golan, Dean for Research Initiatives and Global Programs at Harvard Medical School – will be Petra Olschowski, Minister of Science, Research and Arts of the state of Baden-Württemberg. The event, which is open to the university public, will feature a presentation of the first joint projects.

"Last year we established the strategic partnership with Harvard. Now scientists and scholars from our two universities are filling it with life and collaborating on a host of cutting-edge research projects," Rector Frauke Melchior explains. Minister Petra Olschowski underlines: "Science thrives on international exchange and the freedom to conduct research across borders. Particularly at a time when both are under pressure, we are sending out a signal that is not only clear but, above all, effective. Through our 'Global Partnership in Science' program, we are taking concrete steps to strengthen international collaboration between outstanding scientists. In this way, we are creating spaces and opportunities for excellent research."

The Heidelberg | Harvard Cooperation rests on a time-honored foundation: Harvard University has for decades been the U.S. university with which Heidelberg University has the most extensive relations. In the context of the science ministry's future-focused package "Global Partnership in Science", the state of Baden-Württemberg funds the partnership to the tune of ten million euros. 22 joint initiatives, which were selected for funding in the first call for proposals in spring 2026, are already bringing together over 200 researchers from the two universities. At present the second call is underway.

After the Rector's welcoming address and a greeting from the science minister, the next speaker will be David Golan from Harvard Medical School. Then participating researchers from both universities will present two cooperative projects: "TAP – Transcending Asian Paradigms" and the cooperation between the Medical Faculty Heidelberg and Harvard Medical School.

Press release

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Further information

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