

University of Hohenheim awarded European University status

The University of Hohenheim becomes a European University through the EuroLeague of Life Sciences Universities (ELLS). The European Commission has decided to award the alliance funding of just under €7.2 M in the next two years under the European Universities Initiative. For ELLS, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, this marks the beginning of a new chapter. The decision will provide students, researchers and staff at the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart with increased opportunities to study, work and collaborate with partner universities across Europe.

Climate instability, geopolitical tensions, and fragile food sovereignty: Europe faces existential challenges. ELLS builds on a long-standing collaboration within the EuroLeague of Life Sciences Universities, where European universities with strong expertise in life sciences, sustainable food systems, agriculture, forestry, environment and natural resources have worked together for 25 years.

“As we shape the future of ELLS, our mission remains clear: to provide excellent learning conditions for tomorrow’s changemakers”, said Maria Knutson Wedel, Vice-Chancellor of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) who leads for the EUI proposal. “We join forces for our students to gain power to transform agri-food systems, strengthen food security, foster resilient rural communities, and protect and regenerate our natural environment for the generations to come.”

“Since 2001, ELLS has evolved from a network into an alliance”, said Christoph Schneider, President of the University of Hohenheim and current ELLS Chair. “It has created opportunities, advanced collaboration, and strengthened excellence across life sciences in Europe. These achievements are rooted in a shared spirit of openness, and a willingness to learn from one another. As we look ahead, this spirit will continue to guide our joint efforts to address the future challenges and opportunities of the European life sciences.”

New opportunities for teaching and research

European Universities is the EU’s initiative to support long-term alliances between higher education institutions across Europe. The aim is to strengthen the European Education Area through increased mobility, joint programs, innovative learning environments and deeper cooperation between universities.

For students at the University of Hohenheim, membership will offer more opportunities to study at partner universities, participate in joint courses and build international networks. For researchers, lecturers and other staff, it creates new opportunities for professional development, exchange of experience and collaboration in education, research and innovation.

ELLS Universities bring together 10 joint master's programmes, 15 summer schools each year, and a Scientific Student Conference that has drawn more than 300 participants annually since 2009. The alliance includes 11 member universities across Europe:

- BOKU University in Austria
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
- University of Hohenheim in Germany
- Wageningen University & Research in the Netherlands
- Czech University of Life Sciences
- Warsaw University of Life Sciences in Poland
- Norwegian University of Life Sciences
- Estonian University of Life Sciences
- Institut Agro in France
- University of Lleida in Spain
- Università degli Studi della Tuscia in Italy

European Universities:

The European Universities Initiative is a flagship program of the European Union for higher education. Through long-term alliances between universities, students, teachers, researchers and other staff are enabled to collaborate more closely and move more freely across European institutions. The aim is to enhance the quality of education and research, while strengthening Europe's competitiveness and supporting sustainable development.

Press release

10-Jul-2026

Source: University of Hohenheim

Further information

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