



General Information About „Munich School of Philosophy“

The Munich School of Philosophy, which has resided since the fall term of 1971 in Munich, was originally founded as the “Berchmanskolleg” in 1925, in the town of Pullach. Its founder, Augustin Bea, then principal of the Northern German Province of the Society of Jesus, later became Cardinal. The school received accreditation by the Bavarian state government on November 27, 1925. Since 1945, students not belonging to the Jesuit Order have also been enrolled at the school.

The school moved to its present location in the center of Munich in 1971, so as to be able to offer its courses and programs to all students interested in philosophy regardless of their religious affiliation. At present there are approximately 500 students of philosophy enrolled at the school. The majority of students are not members of the Jesuit Order, and now include women and international students. Today the School offers the full range of university education in philosophy and is fully acknowledged by the Federal Republic of Germany's ministry of science to confer the titles B.A., M.A., Dr. phil. and Dr. phil. habil. in philosophy. The school offers its students a dynamic learning environment and has seen substantial growth during the last years: new chairs and research initiatives, new accredited programs and significant funding by third party and governmental institutions. Currently, the following programs and certificates are part of the curriculum at the Munich School of Philosophy:

Programs Leading to Nationally Certified Degrees:

- Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy (1 course Bachelor's program)
- Master of Arts in Philosophy
- Master of Arts in Philosophy with Specialization in Ethics
- Philosophical Doctorate in Philosophy
- Philosophical Habilitation (2nd German Doctorate including “venia legendi”)

Programs Leading to Certificates Awarded by Munich School of Philosophy:

- A Certificate in “Basis of Social Sciences”
- A Certificate in “Educational Sciences of Adults”



- A Certificate in “Philosophizing with Children”

At the moment the faculty of Munich School of Philosophy is comprised of 19 full professors (89% being Jesuits) and 10 full-time lecturers (80% being Jesuits). Additionally, 27 part-time lecturers and professors from other universities are part of the faculty helping the Munich School of Philosophy to maintain a diverse and interdisciplinary learning and research environment. The student/lecturer ratio of the Munich School of Philosophy is one of the best in Germany: While most German philosophy faculties reached a ratio of 17.6-19,1 students per lecturer in 2011, the Munich School of Philosophy has a constant ratio of 13.5.

The Munich School of Philosophy’s research focuses both on philosophical core disciplines, like metaphysics, philosophy of mind, philosophy of religion and ethics as well as interdisciplinary research at the boundaries of philosophy with natural and human sciences, philosophy of science and applied ethics.

The Munich School of Philosophy is a canonically constituted Faculty of Philosophy founded by the Jesuit Order. The School is recognized as such under civil law, and is accorded academic rights and privileges equivalent to those of state universities in Germany. The legal and financial body of the School are the German Jesuits, a corporation under public law. The School has employed much effort to support students not able to afford university fees: In 2011, 24,7% of the students enrolled in the BA program were awarded stipends – accordingly the School has supported these students with a total amount of 105000€.

Prof. Dr. Harald Schöndorf SJ
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