

UAMR Liaison Offices

Preamble

The University Alliance Metropolis Ruhr (UAMR) is a close collaboration of the three major universities in the Ruhr area, namely Ruhr University Bochum, TU Dortmund University, and the University of Duisburg-Essen. Founded in 2007, the UAMR currently has more than 100 000 students studying in several hundred different courses at all levels. With about 10.000 academic staff and 5000 doctoral researchers, the UAMR represents one of the biggest and strongest research areas in Germany, offering a unique diversity of research topics. It provides ample opportunities for collaboration in education and research, and has a particular mission to foster the careers of early stage researchers.

Mission

The creation of the University Alliance Metropolis Ruhr was driven by the idea that cooperation and partnership in education and research in the Ruhr area will strengthen the national visibility of the UAMR universities and provide added value to their national competitiveness. In a globalizing world, however, international exposure and global partnership are paramount to leading institutions such as the UAMR universities. Internationalization of academic education and research together with the exposure to foreign languages and cultures are invaluable assets for a professional career, both in the academic as well as in the private sector, and for personal development. Developing international contacts and global networks are hence of vital interest for the UAMR universities. As one element of this institutional strategy, the UAMR focuses on *international* relations, by maintaining liaison offices to

- increase the international visibility of the UAMR universities,
- enhance the research capabilities of the UAMR universities by support of existing and help to initiate new international research projects and institutional contacts, and
- foster international mobility of students and researchers to and from the UAMR universities, extending hereby not only to academic institutions but also to the private sector

Charter

The UAMR universities operate these liaison offices in regions of strategic interest for the UAMR. Currently, three offices are located in New York City, Moscow, and Rio de Janeiro / São Paulo. The main purpose of the offices is to represent the Ruhr area and its universities as one cohesive science area. They equally support the three above-mentioned aims of internationalization at all levels:

- Joint activities of the UAMR
- Initiatives of individual universities and/or their faculties
- Operations of individual researchers from one of the UAMR members

To this end, the offices will directly communicate with the respective partners as appropriate for the success of the project.

Governance

The strategic direction and overall management of the UAMR Liaison Offices is the responsibility of the jointly formed UAMR Council, comprising the presidents and chancellors of the three UAMR universities. Each of the Liaison offices is under the legal responsibility of one of the three UAMR universities, headed by a scientist nominated by the UAMR universities and run by a local representative. An annual report on the activities of each office is provided to all UAMR partners.

Activities

While specific tasks are defined according to the regional differences that apply, the following activities are common to all three UAMR Liaison Offices in support of the goals defined above:

- Building of networks, both at the individual and institutional level
- Support for exchange of researchers and students in both directions
- Recruiting of researchers at every level
- Fostering of joint teaching activities and life-long learning
- Counselling and advice for UAMR researchers and institutions about local opportunities and specialties
- Representation of the UAMR at fairs and functions
- Networking with alumni from the UAMR universities