RECOMMENDING THE RUB? SURE THING!

International students share their opinion of the RUB in the International Student Barometer

In 2013, the RUB has for the fourth time participated in the International Student Barometer (ISB), a worldwide survey among international students. A total of 143,952 students from 170 universities in 13 counties took part in the survey; at the RUB, the number of participating students amounted to 583. All international students at the RUB with a foreign university entrance certificate (i.e. foreign students who came to Germany to enrol in a degree course) were asked to take part. The rate of return was 18%. The largest cohort among the interviewed students came from China, followed by students from the Iran, from Italy and Brazil. The majority of the surveyed students are pursuing a Master’s degree (244).

Top grades for academia and research

In 2013, the RUB was again awarded top grades for research and academia. The surveyed students were particularly happy about the quality of the lectures and seminars, the lecturers’ expertise and the range of subjects covered in the courses.

More than 90% of the students are very happy or happy with the services provided by the International Office, which is responsible for international students and is at hand to provide support during their time at the RUB. The same satisfaction levels were measured among the postgraduates at the Research School. The central student guidance services, the IT centre (Rechenzentrum) as well as student initiatives such as student councils and the General Students’ Committee (AStA) scored just as highly.

Nationwide ranking

Compared with other German universities that participated in the survey, Bochum rates highly for the food served in the Mensa and the cafés as well as for public transport (NRW-Ticket). In Bochum, moreover, postgraduate students are very happy with the opportunities to conduct their own projects.

Still an issue: Integration and housing

Just like in 2012, many of the surveyed students expressed the wish to socialise more closely with German students and to immerse themselves more deeply in German culture. Seeing as this point has been criticised in the recent years, the RUBiss Team at the International Office launched the “Campus Guides” project in 2012. In the course of this project, international students are assisted by RUB students during their orientation phase and have thus their personal student guides. The programme is offered each semester and the feedback has always been positive.

As far as housing is concerned, the survey revealed mixed results. On the one hand, the students are quite satisfied with the cost and quality of their accommodations. On the other hand, there results showed that there is need for improvement in terms of allocation of Akademisches Förderungswerk (AKAFÖ) dorm accommodations.
According to the international students, additional assistance is, moreover, necessary at the threshold between graduation and labour market.

**Recommending the RUB? Sure thing!**

38% of the surveyed students would actively endorse the RUB as a good place to get a degree, and 45% of the surveyed students would recommend studying in Bochum when asked. Accordingly, the RUB would be recommended by an impressive 83% of the surveyed students! This decision was influenced in the first place by the high quality of academia and research and the good guidance and support network.

**Results of ISB 2013**