

## Leopoldina



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Editor's note: The masculine form is only used for the purpose of generalization. It is not meant to be gender specific and includes women

#### Dear Readers,



since being appointed German National Academy of Sciences in 2008, the Leopoldina has become a well-established advisory body on society and policy consulting, as well as consolidating international cooperation.

In this advisory capacity, the Academy organises important debates on topics such as energy transition, ebola, individualised medicine, genome editing, plant genetics, engineering, demographics and antibiotics research.

Our office location in the government district of Berlin provides easy access to policy makers, the media and international partners. Our international collaborations are very successful: In cooperation with science academies of the other G7 and G20 states, the Leopoldina helped prepare the 2015 summit in Schloss Elmau and the 2017 summit in Hamburg, submitting its statements to the G7 and G20 heads of state.

This brochure will serve as your guide of the Leopoldina. It describes our work and provides contact information to the reference person on any particular subject. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

Halle upon Saale, December 2017



Jörg Hacker XXVI President of the Leopoldina



Conference Room



Lecture Hall



**Grand Staircase** 



**Grand Hall** 

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A relief of the Leopoldina emblem adorns the front door of the academy building in Halle (Saale).

## Leopoldina – German National Academy of Sciences

The Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina was appointed the German National Academy of Sciences on 14th July 2008. The legal basis for this act was a resolution passed by the Joint Science Conference of the Federal Government and regional states on 18th February 2008. Since then, the Federal President of Germany has been the patron of the Leopoldina. The Academy is independently run and dedicated to the common good.

The idea behind founding a national academy was to create a legitimised scientific institution, operated irrespective of political and economic objectives, which would scientifically review and study future societal issues. Its findings should be conveyed to policy makers, made accessible to the public, and nationally and internationally advocated by the academy.

The Leopoldina was founded in 1652 in Schweinfurt/Germany and is thus the oldest continuously existing academy of natural sciences and medicine in the world. The Academy selects its members among outstanding scientists. Since its foundation over 7,000 individuals were appointed members. These include, among others, Marie Curie, Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Alexander von Humboldt, Justus von Liebig and Max Planck.

#### **Contact:**

Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. Jörg Hacker

President Jägerberg 1 06108 Halle (Saale)

Phone: +49 (0) 345 472 39-914

Fax: +49 (0) 345 472 39-919

E-mail: joerg.hacker@leopoldina.org

## Members, Sections, and Classes

With currently around 1,500 members in more than 30 countries, the Leopoldina has the largest number of members among German academies. The members are organised in specialised sections, which in turn are grouped into four classes.

These classes, which were newly introduced in 2009, integrate the members more strongly than before in the drafting of statements and recom-

mendations and also strengthen interdisciplinary exchange. The classes focus on natural sciences, life sciences, medicine, as well as humanities, social and behavioural sciences. They also form the platform for international exchange and the selection of new members.

The Annual Assemblies provide a forum for the members.

#### The Leopoldina's Classes and Sections

#### Class I: Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Engineering

- Mathematics
- Informatics
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Earth Sciences
- Engineering Sciences

#### Class II: Life Sciences

- Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences
- Physiological and Evolutionary Biology
- Genetics/Molecular Biology and Cell Biology
- Biochemistry and Biophysics
- Microbiology and Immunology
- Human Genetics and Molecular Medicine
- Physiology and Pharmacology/Toxicology

#### Class III: Medicine

- Anatomy and Anthropology
- Pathology and Forensic Medicine
- Internal Medicine and Dermatology
- Surgery, Orthopaedics, Anaesthesiology
- Gynaecology and Paediatrics
- Neurosciences
- Ophthalmology, Oto-Rhino-Laryngology and Stomatology
- Radiology
- Veterinary Medicine

#### Class IV: Humanities, Social and Behavioural Sciences

- History of Science and Medicine
- Epistemology
- Economics and Empirical Social Sciences
- Psychology and Cognitive Sciences
- Cultural Sciences

## Organisation

The Leopoldina is a supranational association of scientists. More than a quarter of its members come from outside Germany. Prospective members are first proposed by an academy member and then election is carried out by the Presidium in a multi-stage selection process. Each member belongs to a specific section in accordance with his or her scientific discipline. Among its members, each section elects a representative to the Senate. Other members of the Senate are notable personalities from other scientific organisations and the public. Election of Presidium members, statement of accounts audit and decisions on the academy's scientific strategy are the responsibilities of the Senate.

The Academy is registered and recognized as a nonprofit organisation funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (80%) and its home state of Saxony-Anhalt (20%). The Executive Board is comprised of the President and four Vice Presidents. The Presidium is additionally complemented by other members and bears responsibility for all Leopoldina's activities. A full-time Secretary General heads the office and is supported by the administration.



#### **Contact:**

#### Prof. Dr. Jutta Schnitzer-Ungefug

Secretary General

Jägerberg 1

06108 Halle (Saale) Phone: +49 (0) 345 472 39-912

Fax: +49 (0) 345 472 39-919 E-mail: leopoldina@leopoldina.org

-man. reopolama@reopol

#### **Dr. Bernd Sperlich**

Head of Administration

Jägerberg 1

06108 Halle (Saale)

Phone: +49 (0) 345 472 39-925 Fax: +49 (0) 345 472 39-930

E-mail: bernd.sperlich@leopoldina.org

Leopoldina members and the city of Schweinfurt/Germany donated this president's chain of office to the academy in 1955.



Chancellor Angela Merkel at the Annual Assembly 2015.

## Advice for Policy Makers and Society

Providing guidance on current scientific and science policy issues to policy makers, society and industry is a central task of the German National Academy of Sciences. These may include topics such as climate change, nutrition, disease control and health, demographic change, global economic systems, conflict research or natural resources. The aim is to deliver valuable statements and recommendations in order to tackle urgent social challenges and to identify arising future issues, where a timely solution without the necessary scientific basis is improbable. It is also a matter of detecting, analyzing and commenting on scientifically indicated developments

that may become of significance to society in the future.

The Leopoldina conducts its policy consultation

activities jointly with the Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities, including the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, and acatech - National Academy of Science and Engineering. The work is guided by a permanent committee, which is led by the Leopoldina. In order to develop recommendations and statements, work groups or adhoc commissions may be formed separately or in cooperation with other academies, scientific institutions or international partners. As a result, statements, recommendations and reports on interdisciplinary or subject-specific topics, longterm developments, and current, day-to-day political issues are formulated. All findings are subject to a peer review by the Leopoldina, and are subsequently submitted to decision makers and interested parties in the political sphere and society to serve as the basis for discussions and

further political measures.

#### **Contact:**

#### Elmar König

Head of the Policy Advice Department Jägerberg 1 06108 Halle (Saale)

Phone: +49 (0) 345 472 39-860 Fax: +49 (0) 345 472 39-839 E-mail: elmar.koenig@leopoldina.org

## International Relations

In the age of globalisation, topics such as energy, climate change or health require supranational political measures. By cooperating with the academies of other countries, the Leopoldina promotes international exchange on these topics. This takes place in various forms, such as joint symposia or the issuing of joint statements. For example, the national science academies of the G7/ G8 member countries – known as the G-Science Academies – make recommendations for solving urgent global challenges to the participating heads of state and government in the run-up to each summit.

In order to address topics of global relevance, the Leopoldina is an active member of international umbrella organisations incorporating other national academies like the Royal Society in London, the Académie des Sciences in Paris, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the National Academies of the United States. Such organisations are for example:

- InterAcademy Council (IAC)
- InterAcademy Medical Panel (IAMP)
- Global Network of Science Academies (IAP)
- Federation of the European Academies of Medicine (FEAM)

Since April 2010, the administrative office of the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC), to which all national academies of the EU member states belong, is located at the Leopoldina. International statements and recommendations of European significance are produced by EASAC and sent to the EU Commission or the EU Parliament.



In 2012, around 40 of the highest-ranking representatives of the international IAP and IAC academy networks met at the Leopoldina, which is a member of both associations.

#### Contact:

#### Dr. Marina Koch-Krumrei

Head of the International Relations Department

Jägerberg 1

06108 Halle (Saale)

Phone: +49 (0) 345 472 39-830 Fax: +49 (0) 345 472 39-839

E-mail: marina.koch-krumrei@leopoldina.org

#### Dr. Christiane Diehl

EASAC Secretariat

Jägerberg 1 06108 Halle (Saale)

Phone: +49 (0) 345 472 39-831 Fax: +49 (0) 345 472 39-839

E-mail: christiane.diehl@leopoldina.org

▲ Member of the Leopoldina and Nobel laureate Bruce Beutler during a lecture at the 2014 Annual Assembly, moderated by Leopoldina Vice President Bärbel Friedrich.

▲ Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, holds the 2013 Leopoldina Christmas Lecture on the topic of sustainability.

### **Public Events**

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Policy advice always includes advising society as well. In order to be able to participate in political discussions, the public should be provided the opportunity to easily access all information about current scientific and science policy topics.

Issues of societal importance, such as demographic change, tackling contagious diseases, and securing energy supply, are therefore presented and discussed in diverse events. Within an array of lectures, talks, exhibitions and various discussion events the participants have the opportunity for an exchange on current topics with one another and with experts.

In order to promote the interdisciplinary discussion between scientists and to disseminate their scientific findings, the Leopoldina co-organises

symposia and meetings with universities, research institutes and other academies. The symposia are interdisciplinary and convey current knowledge beyond the borders of the discipline, while the meetings discuss field-specific problems more extensively.

#### Contact:

#### **Katharina Schmidt**

**Event Management** 

Jägerberg 1

06108 Halle (Saale)

Phone: +49 (0) 345 472 39-928 Fax: +49 (0) 345 472 39-919

E-mail: katharina.schmidt@leopoldina.org



◀ The "Nova Acta Leopoldina" reflects the spectrum of subjects represented in the Leopoldina.



▲ The Leopoldina's illustrated book provides a comprehensive overview of the National Academy.

## **Publications**

The Leopoldina makes its scientific discussions available to the public. Its journal "Nova Acta Leopoldina" reflects the academy's spectrum of lectures, meetings and symposia. This journal represents the continuation of the first medical and natural scientific journal in the world and dates back to the year 1670.

The journal "Acta Historica Leopoldina" is dedicated to the history of science, particularly that of the Academy. The Academy's annual report has been published since 1990 and documents the activities of the Leopoldina during the respective calendar year.

The German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina informs the public about its work in a digital newsletter published every two months. Alongside reports on events and new policy advice statements, the newsletter features interviews with prominent scientists and politicians. The newsletter is published in German and English and currently has around 5,000 subscribers.

The Leopoldina's richly illustrated book gives more detailed information about the work, projects and history of the venerable academy.

You can subscribe to the Leopoldina newsletter at www.leopoldina.org/en/abo.

#### Contact:

#### Dr. Joachim Kaasch and Dr. Michael Kaasch

Scientific Publishing Emil-Abderhalden-Str. 37 06108 Halle (Saale)

Phone: +49 (0) 345 472 39-135/134 Fax: +49 (0) 345 472 39-139 E-mail: kaasch@leopoldina.org

#### **Contact:**

#### Caroline Wichmann

Head of Press and Public Relations

Jägerberg 1

06108 Halle (Saale)

Phone: +49 (0) 345 472 39-800 Fax: +49 (0) 345 472 39-809 E-mail: presse@leopoldina.org

## The Fellowship Programme

Since 1997, the Leopoldina has supported outstanding young post-doctoral students by providing post-doctoral scholarships in its Fellowship Programme. These scholarships are available to German scientists who would like to work abroad (and to scientists from Austria and Switzerland who wish to conduct research in Germany). The programme makes it possible for them to carry out independent research for up to two years at a renowned scientific institution abroad (or in Germany).

The awarding of the fellowships and their financial endowment are based on the guidelines of the German Research Foundation. An awarding committee decides on the basis of peer-reviewed project proposals. To date, over 430 people have been supported in the programme, which is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Since 2009, the state of Saxony-Anhalt has contributed to the funding.

After they have returned from abroad, the academy offers its fellows further support, with the aim of facilitating their integration into the German science environment. This follow-up funding is limited to five years and helps its beneficiaries to present scientific results, maintain and develop contacts, and establish new cooperation projects. All of the fellows are offered a mentoring programme in which the members of the National Academy of Sciences provide expert guidance.

The Leopoldina Fellowship Programme enabled Christine Beemelmanns (right) to undertake a period of study at Harvard Medical School in Boston, USA. Today she conducts research at the Hans Knöll Institute in Jena.



#### **Contact:**

#### **Dr. Andreas Clausing**

Coordinator of the Fellowship Programme Emil-Abderhalden-Str. 37 06108 Halle (Saale)

Phone: +49 (0) 345 472 39-150
Fax: +49 (0) 345 472 39-139
E-mail: stipendium@leopoldina.org

## Honours, Medals, and Prizes

The Leopoldina honours outstanding scientific achievements by awarding medals and prizes. Apart from honorary membership, which is limited to a few individuals, the Cothenius Medal in gold, endowed by Christian Andreas Cothenius (1708-1789), personal physician to the royal Prussian court, is the Leopoldina's most important award. This medal is awarded for the outstanding lifetime achievements of a member of the Leopoldina.

The Carus Medal is based on an endowment in honour of the XIII President of the Leopoldina, Carl Gustav Carus (1789-1869). It is complemented by the Carus Prize, which is endowed by the founding city of the Leopoldina, Schweinfurt/Germany. The prize and the medal are awarded for important scientific discoveries or achievements within a field represented by the Leopoldina.

The Leopoldina awards the Mendel Medal – named after the founder of genetics, Gregor Mendel (1822-1884) – for special achievements in research in the field of molecular biology and genetics. The Schleiden Medal is awarded for significant achievements in the area of cell research. Leopoldina members are honoured for major contributions to the benefit of the Academy by the Presidium's Medal of Merit. The Emperor Leopold I Medal is awarded to public figures who have made a significant contribution to the Leopoldina and to science as a whole.

The Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker Prize, endowed with €50,000, is jointly awarded with the Stifterverband every two years. This prize honours scientists or research teams for outstanding scientific contributions and social commitment. The



Leopoldina Early Career Award, sponsored by the Commerzbank Foundation, is endowed with €30,000 and awarded every two years. There are two further awards, the Georg Uschmann Prize for the History of Science, endowed with €2,000, and the Leopoldina Prize for Young Scientists, which is presently endowed with €5,000.

In 2013, the Leopoldina awarded its member Stefan W. Hell with the Carus Medal for his achievements in the field of microscopy. A year later, Hell has received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

#### **Contact:**

#### Dr. Jörg Beineke

**Senior Coordinator** 

Jägerberg 1

06108 Halle (Saale)

Phone: +49 (0) 345 472 39-954

Fax: +49 (0) 345 472 39-919

E-mail: joerg.beineke@leopoldina.org



A view of the storeroom of the Leopoldina library, which was built in Halle (Saale) in 1903.

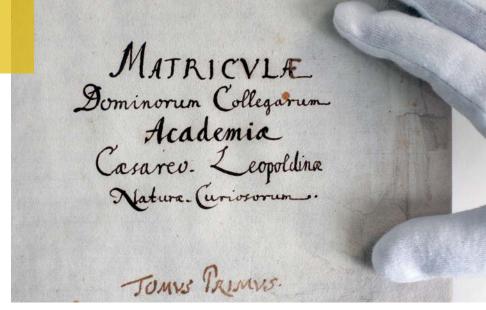
## The Library...

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The Leopoldina library was founded in Nuremberg in 1731. With over 260,000 books, monographs and journals on natural sciences and medicine, it is a rich resource of traditional and modern knowledge. The focus of the collection is on publications about the history of science, particularly of natural sciences and medicine, as well as on publications by scientific societies and associations.

The comprehensive collection of works on natural sciences and medicine on six floors of stacks has accumulated mainly through the exchange of academy publications with partners all over the world and gifts from academy members.

The literature can be viewed or borrowed in the reading room of the Leopoldina in Emil-Abderhalden-Straße 36 in Halle. External users may request materials by interlibrary loan. The electronic catalogue is available at <a href="https://opac.bibliothek.uni-halle.de/LNG=DU/DB=4/">https://opac.bibliothek.uni-halle.de/LNG=DU/DB=4/</a>.



Document from the early days: the Leopoldina's first matriculation book from the year 1652.

### and the Archive

As one of the oldest academy archives in the world, the Leopoldina's archive stores around 1,700 metres of documents dating from over 350 years.

The core collection of the Leopoldina archive includes matriculation records and minute books, curricula vitae, publication lists and portraits of the members, as well as series of correspondence and comprehensive administrative records of the academy. In addition, the archive stores some 50 bequests from important scientists, over 10,000 photographs featuring the history of the Academy and science, and various works of art, such as paintings, drawings and medals.

With its collection on the history of the Leopoldina and its biographical materials, the archive offers science historians excellent research opportunities.

#### **Contact:**

#### **Dr. Danny Weber**

Head of Department Archive and Library Emil-Abderhalden-Str. 35 06108 Halle (Saale)

Phone: +49 (0) 345 472 39-120 Fax: +49 (0) 345 472 39-139 E-mail: danny.weber@leopoldina.org



▲ In autumn 2013, the Centre for Science Studies staged an exhibition of globes that showed how our view of the Earth, the moon, and other planets has changed since the early modern age.



▲ Zoologist Ernst Haeckel was appointed to the Leopoldina in 1863.

### The Centre for Science Studies

The Leopoldina Centre for Science Studies coordinates the Academy's activities relating to the history of science and focuses on fundamental science theory issues of relevance to the subjects represented by the Leopoldina.

The centre offers a good working environment for visiting researchers who wish to make use of the Leopoldina's library and archive. It is also developing its own programmes to process the Leopoldina's library and archive materials and make them available to the public. It also coordinates the Leopoldina's long-term projects, which are funded by the Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities. These include a historical-critical edition of Goethe's writings on the natural sciences, completed in 2011, and the project "Ernst Haeckel (1834-1919): Edition of Letters".

#### Contact:

#### Prof. Dr. Rainer Godel

Head of Department Centre for Science Studies Emil-Abderhalden-Str. 36

06108 Halle (Saale)

Phone: +49 (0)345 472 39-115 Fax: +49 (0)345 472 39-139 E-mail: rainer.godel@leopoldina.org

#### The letters of Ernst Haeckel

The extensive collection of letters by renowned natural scientist Ernst Haeckel is an important primary source of information on the history of biosciences in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and a testimony to the popularisation of the natural sciences around 1900.

The aim of the project is to compile Haeckel's letters, still scattered across the globe, with the inventory in the Ernst Haeckel archives in an online presentation and a 25-volume edition of his selected correspondence. Coordinated by the Ernst-Haeckel-Haus at the University of Jena, the compilation of this comprehensive edition is expected to take 25 years to complete.

For more information, please visit: www.leopoldina.org/en/haeckel



The charter with which Kaiser Leopold I awarded the academy special privileges in 1687 is made of bound parchment with red satin binding and an imperial seal.

# A National Academy with a Long Tradition

The Leopoldina, which was called *Academia Naturae Curiosorum* at the time, was founded by four physicians in 1652 in the Free Imperial City of Schweinfurt. Their aim was to deepen knowledge of the natural sciences and to improve communication between the natural scientists of that era.

In 1677, the independent academy was officially recognised by Kaiser Leopold I and was awarded special privileges in 1687. Since then, it has had the title of *Sacri Romani Imperii Academia Caesareo-Leopoldina Naturae Curosorum*, from which its current abbreviated name, Leopoldina, derives. Since 1878, the Academy has been based in Halle upon Saale.

The period of the Third Reich left its marks on the Academy, too. Both members and directors of the Academy succumbed to the Nazi regime. Academy members who were murdered in the concentration camps are commemorated by a stele on the Academy premises at the Jägerberg in Halle. During the years of the GDR, the Leopoldina largely preserved its independence as a result of the courage and prudence of the members of its presidium. It selected its members, particularly from what was then the Federal Republic of Germany and from other countries in the West, without the exertion of state influence. Following German reunification, it received the status of a registered association.



The Presidium of the Leopoldina in September 2017, first row (from left to right) Martin Lohse, Ulla Bonas, Jörg Hacker, Regina Riphahn, Gunnar Berg, arranged behind (from left to right) Heinz Schott, Thomas Lengauer, Sigmar Wittig, Wolfgang Baumjohann, Jutta Schnitzer-Ungefug, Frank Rösler, Claus Bartram. Other members not pictured here are Bärbel Friedrich, Benno Parthier, Martin Quack, Volker ter Meulen and Hans-Peter Zenner.

## The Presidium

The Academy is run by a Presidium. Members of the Presidium are elected by the Senate. Their term of office is five years and they can be reelected once for a further term. The Presidium usually meets once a month and prepares all of the academy's important decisions.

Presidium



President	Jörg Hacker, Halle (Saale)	Secretary General	Jutta Schnitzer-Ungefug, Halle (Saale)
		(with a consultative vote)	
Vice Presidents	Gunnar Berg, Halle (Saale)		
	Ulla Bonas, Halle (Saale)	Former Council Members	Bärbel Friedrich, Berlin
	Martin Lohse, Berlin	(with a consultative vote)	Volker ter Meulen, Würzburg
	Regina Riphahn, Nürnberg		(XXV President)
			Benno Parthier, Halle (Saale)
Class Secretaries	Claus Bartram, Heidelberg		(XXIV President)
	Frank Rösler, Hamburg		
	Sigmar Wittig, Karlsruhe	Special Representative	Heinz Schott, Bonn
	Hans-Peter Zenner, Tübingen	for Archives, Library and	
		Long-term Projects	
Members	Wolfgang Baumjohann, Graz	(with a consultative vote)	
	Thomas Lengauer, Saarbrücken		
	Martin Quack, Zurich		



▲ Participants of the annual seminar for journalists discuss current topics of science.



▲ Journalists obtain first-hand knowledge during the annual seminar held at the Leopoldina in Halle (Saale).

Here are the participants of the seminar in 2017.

## Journalist meetings at the Leopoldina

Journalists are important partners in our quest to inform the public about developments in science. As multipliers, they reach a broad audience, mediate and comment on the current knowledge of research results, clarify interrelations, and thus initiate social discussions on various topics.

The Leopoldina is conducting a yearly journalist meeting to extend their knowledge base on any particular subject discipline, to deepen their understanding of more complicated subject matters and to provide journalists with contacts to outstanding scientists.

Members of the Leopoldina, but also external researchers and experts, hold lectures and discuss their research with the journalists. In addition, the presenters will take the time for background

conversations and interviews. Invited are journalists, who are connected to the Leopoldina regionally or professionally, as well as alumni of the journalist collegium "Diving into Science" with the Robert Bosch Foundation.

#### **Contact:**

#### **Caroline Wichmann**

**Head of Press and Public Relations** 

Jägerberg 1

06108 Halle (Saale)

Phone: +49 (0)345 472 39-800 Fax: +49 (0)345 472 39-809 E-mail: presse@leopoldina.org

## The Young Academy

The Young Academy was co-founded by the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities and the Leopoldina in June 2000. Its membership is restricted to 50 people. Outstanding junior scientists who have completed a doctorate are elected as members for five years.

The Young Academy's primary tasks are to further interdisciplinary scientific discourse among outstanding young scientists and to promote initiatives at the points of intersection between science and society.

#### **Contact:**

Dr. Marion Schulte zu Berge

Head of Office

The Young Academy Jägerstrasse 22/23 10117 Berlin

Phone: +49 (0) 30 203 70-650

Fax: +49 (0) 30 203 70-680

E-mail: office@diejungeakademie.de

www.diejungeakademie.de

## Friends of the Leopoldina

On the initiative of the Leopoldina Presidium, Friends of the Leopoldina was founded in August 2007 with the objective of promoting the academy's science and research intellectually and materially. Its patron was Dr. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, former Foreign Secretary of the Federal Republic of Germany and an honorary Senator of the Leopoldina. All interested parties are welcome to join the Friends of the Leopoldina.

#### **Contact:**

Dr.-Ing. Horst Dietz

Chairman

Leopoldina Akademie Freundeskreis e.V.

Jägerberg 1

06108 Halle (Saale)

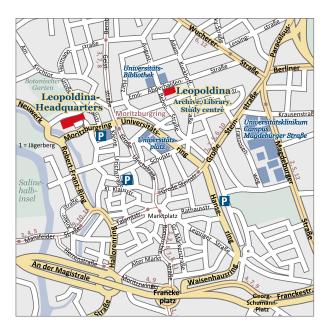
Phone: +49 (0) 345 472 39-600

Fax: +49 (0) 345 472 39-919

E-mail: freundeskreis@leopoldina.org

www.freundeskreis-leopoldina.de

## Leopoldina Locations



All of the Leopoldina's locations in Halle are in close walking distance from the Moritzburgring tram stop. It is served by line 7 from Halle main station.



The Berlin office is located a few minutes' walk from Friedrichstrasse railway station and Oranienburger Tor underground station.

You can find detailed journey descriptions at www.leopoldina.org/en/service/contact

#### Leopoldina Headquarters

Jägerberg 1 06108 Halle (Saale)



Emil-Abderhalden-Str. 35 06108 Halle (Saale)

#### Library

August-Bebel-Str. 50a 06108 Halle (Saale)

#### **Centre for Science Studies and reading room**

Emil-Abderhalden-Str. 36 06108 Halle (Saale)

#### Fellowship Programme and Nova Acta Leopoldina Editorial Office

Emil-Abderhalden-Str. 37 06108 Halle (Saale)















## **Contact Information**

Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina e.V. – Nationale Akademie der Wissenschaften

Jägerberg 1

06108 Halle (Saale)

Postfach 110543 06019 Halle (Saale)

Germany

Berlin Office:

Germany

Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina e.V. – Nationale Akademie der Wissenschaften Reinhardtstraße 14 10117 Berlin Switchboard:

Phone: +49 (0) 345 472 39-600 Fax: +49 (0) 345 472 39-919 E-mail: leopoldina@leopoldina.org

Press and Public Relations:

Phone: +49 (0) 345 472 39-800 Fax: +49 (0) 345 472 39-809 E-mail: presse@leopoldina.org

Berlin Office:

Phone: +49 (0) 30 203 89 97-415 Fax: +49 (0) 30 203 89 97-409

www.leopoldina.org