



Bound by a good reputation

Outstanding doctors and scientists perform research, teaching, treatment and assistance at the Charité in the heart of Berlin, with over half of Germany's Nobel Prize winners for Medicine and Physiology having worked there, including Emil von Behring, Robert Koch and Paul Ehrlich. The university hospital enjoys a high reputation worldwide as a training center of excellence. The campus is spread over four locations, comprising over 100 clinics and institutes clustered into 17 CharitéCenters.

Innovation creates work

With a staff of almost 13,000, the Charité generates an annual turnover of around 1.3 billion Euros, making it one of Berlin's biggest employers. It also indirectly creates many jobs and traineeship positions, as evidenced by the generation of numerous spin-offs.

Tackling health on a global scale

The World Health Summit, held annually since 2009, is an expert conference initiated by the Charité. Under the patronage of the German and French Heads of State, leading international personalities from the fields of science, research and politics develop strategies to solve global health challenges.

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“the building shall be known as the charité”

In 1710, King Friedrich I established the Charité as a quarantine building for people beset by the plague. In the following period it became a military field hospital where patients were treated free of charge.

The founding of the Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität in Berlin in 1810 saw the Charité become a famous hospital and prestigious research and teaching establishment as early as the 19th century.

In 1997, the Charité merged with the Rudolph-Virchow-Krankenhaus as part of the reunification process, and in 2003 the two university clinics from the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU) and the Freie Universität Berlin (FU) joined forces to become the present-day Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. It is a corporate member of both universities, and the focus of the healthcare sector in Berlin and Brandenburg.

The Charité celebrated its 300th birthday in 2010.

From the permanent exhibition “Dem Leben auf der Spur” in the Berliner Medizinhistorisches Museum der Charité.
The Charité, in ca. 1729, (Kupferstichkabinett, Preußischer Kulturbesitz)
“es soll das haus die charité heißen, FW” (Geh. Staatsarchiv, Preußischer Kulturbesitz)

Driveway to the Charité administrative building, 1910 (Berliner Medizinhistorisches Museum der Charité)



Getting to the bottom of things

The Charité is one of the leading life-science institutions in Europe, closely intertwining research, clinical development and application.

Leading the way in research

The Charité raises around 150 million Euros in third-party funds each year, most of which comes from the Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF) and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

The fact that a third of all patents registered in Berlin originate at the Charité clearly demonstrates the key role played by the institution in developing Berlin as a city specialising in health.

With four research projects funded by the excellence initiative, as well as responsibility for nine special research areas, the Charité is the most scientifically advanced university hospital in Germany, which is underlined by the slogan "We bring the forefront of medicine to your bedside". Current research directly benefits patients.

Imparting knowledge, passing on experience

The Charité is the most sought-after medical faculty in Germany, with over 7,000 future doctors and dentists studying here. Some 30 percent of them come from abroad.

Model medicine study course

Since the autumn of 2010, medicine studies at the Charité have been conceptually restructured with the introduction of the model medicine course. For the first time in Germany, basic scientific and clinical knowledge is from the outset taught in a cross-linked manner. Bedside teaching sessions take place from the very first semester.

Scientific cooperation

The Charité is integrated in numerous international co-operations, extending as far as China, Japan and the USA. The ERASMUS exchange programme, the most extensive in Europe, enables students to spend semesters abroad at universities in Australia, South America and China. Every year, summer schools are held for students from all over the world.

Conquering disease with expertise

The Charité provides cutting-edge medical treatment by combining university research with outstanding hospital care. Seriously ill patients in particular benefit from the interdisciplinary involvement of numerous specialist clinics.

Patients from all over of the world

Some 140,000 inpatients and almost 600,000 outpatients are treated at the Charité every year. And they don't just come from Berlin and its hinterland. Patients from all over the world come to the Charité seeking help - this means that doctors possess a wealth of experience even with rare diseases. Complex procedures seldom performed at most hospitals are part of the daily routine here.

Supporting patients with advice and help

Over one hundred years ago, Rudolf Virchow dedicated himself to improving living conditions for the people of Berlin. "Medicine is a social science", stated the researcher at the time.

Today - along with prevention and aftercare -, the Charité also places great emphasis on palliative medicine, improving terminally ill patients' quality of life by relieving them of pain and prolonging their life.

Quality management in care

The Charité's Institute of Health Sciences Education and Nursing Science is committed to caring for patients. It issues an annual report in which reliable data on nursing problems is recorded and analysed. This also includes data from other hospitals and nursing homes, enabling possible shortcomings to be directly identified and rectified - for the good of the patients.

1710

Founded as a quarantine building at the gates of Berlin

1727

Became a military field hospital with training centre, Friedrich Wilhelm I gives it the name »Charité«

1785 - 1797

New Charité building erected

1810

Founding of Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität with medical faculty

1818

University clinic in Ziegelstraße built

1896 - 1917

Charité Campus Mitte built in redbrick

1933 - 1945

Jewish researchers expelled, building destroyed in the war

1945

The Charité is rebuilt

1946 - 1989

Charité becomes a flagship establishment in the GDR

1997 - 1998

The Charité merges with the Rudolph-Virchow-Krankenhaus

2003

Merger with the Universitätsklinikum Benjamin Franklin (FU) to become the »Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin«