

Canadian Studies

In terms of numbers, 40 German universities offer teaching on or connected with Canada. With regard to the relative distribution of Canadian studies disciplines, English-Canadian studies take the lion's share, closely followed by geography, French-Canadian studies and political science.

Five centres of concentration for Canadian studies with a relative degree of disciplinary specialization exist: Kiel (English- and French-Canadian studies and history), the Free University of Berlin (political science, English-Canadian studies and geography), Augsburg (English- and French-Canadian literature and linguistics and political science), Trier (English- and French-Canadian studies and geography) and Marburg (geography and political science). Visiting professorships are financed by Canada's Department of External Affairs at Kiel, the Free University of Berlin and Augsburg. There are Canadian documentation centres in Kiel, the Free University of Berlin and Augsburg and considerable library holdings at Marburg, Trier, Cologne and Goettingen. In December 1985, an Institute of Canadian Studies was inaugurated at Augsburg University, funded jointly for the first five years by the Volkswagen Foundation and the Government of Canada, with the agreement of the Government of the Free State of Bavaria to assume funding when that period has elapsed.

The Association of Canadian Studies

Since its foundation in 1980, the GKS (Gesellschaft für Kanadastudien) has grown to over 400 members. Membership includes Canadianists from the FRG and Berlin, Austria, Switzerland, Canada, Denmark, France, Britain and Norway. At present, 180 of the members are full or assistant professors actively engaged in teaching Canadian studies in the FRG and Berlin. Since 1976, Canadianists of the German-speaking world have been holding an annual conference on Canadian studies in February.

The Faculty Enrichment Program

These grants, which enable selected German professors to carry out a short program of research in their areas in Canada on the condition that they subsequently incorporate the results into their teaching load, have proved to be one of the main driving forces behind the dissemination of Canadian studies in the FRG. Since 1978, Canada's Department of External Affairs has made a total of 126 grants.