Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University is the first university in Germany to integrate academic studies with workplace training. Founded on 1 March 2009, it is based on the successful ‘dual learning’ concept of studies that was pioneered by the Berufsakademie (University of Cooperative Education) in Baden-Wuerttemberg more than 35 years ago.

With around 28,000 undergraduates, more than 9,000 partner firms and institutions and more than 100,000 alumni, the Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University counts as one of the largest universities in the state. Throughout its various locations, the Cooperative State University Baden-Wuerttemberg offers a broad spectrum of nationally and internationally accredited bachelor degree programmes in the fields of business, engineering and social work. In addition, the university offers practice-integrated part-time Master programmes.

The innovative study concept of the DHBW with alternating theoretical and practical phases is unique in Germany. Students are not only taught theoretical knowledge, but also learn to apply this knowledge in practice.

**UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE DUAL CONCEPT OF THE DHBW:**
- The DHBW closely cooperates with more than 9,000 companies and social institutions all over Germany – the so-called ‘dual partners’
- The dual partners select their students themselves and, as members of the university, they are responsible for the practice-oriented part of the studies
- In the course of their three-year studies, the students regularly switch between university and company/social institution
- The practice-integrated concept ensures that the graduates are highly employable. A very large percentage is taken on by the dual partners

**FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE**
Students at the Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University are financially independent from day one: As employees of the firm or institution that provides their workplace training, they receive a monthly remuneration for the duration of their studies.

**VARIED AND INTENSIVE STUDIES**
All degree programmes at the Cooperative State University take three years. The phases of academic study and workplace training alternate in regular three-monthly intervals, ensuring both pace and variety throughout the programme.

**LECTURERS WITH UP-TO-DATE KNOWLEDGE**
Courses are taught by professors at the Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University, visiting lecturers from other universities and colleges, and freelance trainers, consultants and executives who contribute cutting-edge knowledge and expertise from their professional fields.

**SMALL CLASSES**
Small classes of no more than 30 students ensure close supervision by professors and lecturers, creating conditions that encourage motivation and play an essential part in contributing to successful outcomes.

**NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION**
In 2001, the Central Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation (CAEA / ZEvA) accredited all the degree programmes and in July 2008 validated them as intensive degree programmes with 210 ECTS points. Since 2001, DHBW has been approved by The Open University as an appropriate organisation to offer higher education programmes leading to Open University Validated Awards. In 2011, the DHBW was the first university in Baden-Wuerttemberg that obtained the system accreditation by the Central Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (ZEvA).

**INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND OUTLOOK**
The Cooperative State University maintains numerous contacts with colleges and universities all over the world. This makes it possible for most of the degree programmes to include a period spent abroad.

**EXCELLENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**
Thanks to their sound knowledge and practical work experience, graduates enjoy excellent prospects in the job market. In the last few years, more than 85 per cent of students have graduated with a fixed employment contract under their belts.

“With a qualification that combines academic theory with practical know-how, our graduates are ideally prepared for a successful start to their career.”

Professor Reinhold R. Golschäfer, President