



# SERVICE FOR FAMILIES

33<sup>rd</sup> Newsletter | June 2023



UNIVERSITÄT  
HEIDELBERG  
ZUKUNFT  
SEIT 1386

Service for Families /  
Children's Centre of  
Heidelberg University

Andrea Steinmann  
Hauptstraße 126  
69117 Heidelberg

Phone (0 62 21) 54-39 23  
Fax (0 62 21) 54-72 71

kinderhaus@uni-heidelberg.de

Dear colleagues,  
Dear parents at the university,

With this newsletter we would like to inform you about some news at the university and exciting offers for children during the holidays at and outside the university.

The former Equality Office, which includes the Service for Families, was renamed UNIFY – Unit for Family, Diversity and Equality in July 2022.

This year, the university was awarded the “audit – family-friendly university” certificate for another three years.

A new conflict management system was recently adopted in the Rectorate.

At the beginning of May, UNIFY launched a comprehensive participation process with the aim of developing a new diversity concept for the university.

The news about the closure of the day care centre Im Neuenheimer Feld 159 has probably reached some of you. You can find more detailed information here.

The MOVINGkidz summer holiday programme is entering its third round with the theme „A journey around the world“. We would also like to draw the attention of you and your family to places in Heidelberg and in the region where you can experience and experiment.

If you have any questions about the individual topics, please feel free to contact us. A final note: For data protection reasons, it is not possible to include employees with children separately in the university mailing lists, so please: If the newsletter does not interest you – just click it away.

Have a nice summer!  
Andrea Steinmann from Team UNIFY

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## 1 | Renaming of the Equality Office to UNIFY

Since July 2022, the former Equal Opportunities Office has been called “UNIFY – Unit for Family, Diversity and Equality” under new management of Charlotte von Knobelsdorff. UNIFY is the central institution at Heidelberg University for the topics of compatibility, diversity and equality. Goals, tasks, measures, and activities correspond to the legal mandate as well as the strategic goals of the university. UNIFY aims to foster a fair, equal, and participatory interaction, which is reflected in all areas of the university. If you are interested in learning more about the UNIFY team and topics, please feel free to visit our ► [WEBSITE](#).

## 2 | Re-audit 2023: “Audit – family-friendly university”

Since May, Heidelberg University has been re-audited and thus continues to hold the “family-friendly university” certificate. The aim of the re-audit is to confirm the value of “family orientation” for the university. With the “audit family-friendly university”, the university is actively working towards its goal of making study and working conditions family-friendly. In the course of this, your help is always needed. Which services could help you? Which services could be added to the university’s offer? You can find out about everything the university is already doing in this area on the UNIFY ► [WEBSITE](#).

## 3 | Conflict management system adopted in the Rectorate

With the aim of professionalising the handling of conflicts and misconduct (sexual, harassment, mobbing, stalking and discrimination) and creating transparency, a comprehensive system for dealing with conflicts and misconduct was developed in a participatory process and adopted by the Rectorate. Affected persons as well as counselors should find offers and clear contact structures and find their way around these structures quickly and safely. An independent central contact point guides through the system and, in addition to counselling and steering, is primarily responsible for training all university members as well as for intervention/supervision and monitoring.

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## 4 | Participation process on the diversity concept

At the beginning of May, UNIFY launched a participation process with the aim of developing a new diversity concept for the university, which will provide the basis for the strategic direction and focus of diversity work in the coming years. All university members are invited to participate. [► MORE](#)

If you wish to communicate concerns and needs by email, write to: [beteiligung.unify@uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:beteiligung.unify@uni-heidelberg.de)

## 5 | Closure of the day care centre INF 159

The INF 159 day care centre will close on 31 December 2025. Heidelberg University has 20 nursery places for its employees in this facility. These places will not be discontinued when the day care centres closes, but they will be transferred entirely to the Humboldtstraße 17 day care centre from 1 January 2026. The university will retain all its nursery places. There will be no admission freeze. All affected parents and employees have already been informed. The Studierendenwerk and the Family Service will accompany and advise all parents individually during this transition. During this transition, new contracts for the Kita INF 159 will initially only be concluded until 31 December 2025. For children who are still in kindergarten beyond this period, the UNIFY Family Service will work with the Studierendenwerk to find a good solution for continued care until they start school.

## 6 | "GO FUTURE!" project for pupils

As part of heiSCHOOL, the "GO FUTURE!" project addresses the Sustainable Development Goals set by the member states of the United Nations over a period of three years. One component of "GO FUTURE!" is a lecture series that focuses on a different area of sustainable development each semester. Using examples from Heidelberg University, the students learn what science can contribute to overcoming current societal challenges. In addition, 17 short films have been produced in which Heidelberg scientists present themselves and their research and how it relates to the Sustainable Development Goals. [► MORE](#)

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## 7 | MOVINGkidz – the university's own summer holiday programme

This summer, Heidelberg University is once again organising a holiday sports programme for children (6-10 years) of university staff. MOVINGkidz offers a varied programme of games, fun and exercise. Two weeks (31 July – 4 August and 7 – 11 August) are themed "Journey around the world". The focus is on a mixture of movement, games, and fun in and through sport.

► **REGISTRATION**

## 8 | Science and technology – places to experience and experiment

### New at EMBL: Interactive Museum for Life Sciences

Since March 2023, you can discover the world of molecular biology at EMBL on a booked guided tour and go on a journey through research from genes to ecosystems. The lively, interactive discovery space in the new EMBL Imaging Centre is aimed at the public and also school groups, in particular.

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### MS Science Ship – the floating science centre

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has been organising the Science Years together with Wissenschaft im Dialog (WiD) since 2000. The theme of this year's Science Year is "Our Universe". The exhibition is designed to be suitable for children aged 12 and over, young people and adults. But younger children accompanied by a guide can also experience many exciting things on board. The ship will also stop in Mannheim and Heidelberg in August. Admission is free of charge.

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### Experimenta – Experience creates knowledge

The experimenta is a science centre in Heilbronn. Natural science and technology are to be made comprehensible for people of all ages. In a unique combination of planetarium and theatre, experimental shows, experimenting in well-equipped laboratories, a place for experience and knowledge is created.

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### KLIMA ARENA Sinsheim

The KLIMA ARENA in Sinsheim is a place that presents climate change in a clear and tangible way for all ages. Numerous interactive and digital areas enable individual, age-appropriate engagement with the topic. In the indoor exhibition and the theme park outside, different areas of life are shown in connection with climate and climate change. Admission is free for children under six years of age.

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Whether regularly or spontaneously, in off-peak hours, in the evenings or overnight, by the hour, in emergencies, for congress care or to help with children's birthdays. The babysitter exchange lists a wide range of pupils, students, and senior citizens from all districts of Heidelberg, who can assist with childcare.

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