IBM

DB2® Information Management Software

Furtwangen University builds students' career skills with IBM DB2 software.

Overview

■ **Application**
  Database concepts curriculum
  based on IBM DB2® Universal
  Database™

■ **Business Benefits**
  For students: Enhanced employment
  opportunities following graduation;
  superior career skills as a result of
  hands-on training with leading
  information management system
  For University: Significant savings
  in software and instructional
  materials; strengthened ability to
  attract new students by offering
  industry-relevant training

■ **Software**
  IBM DB2 Universal Database

■ **Services**
  IBM DB2 Scholars Program

Located in the heart of Germany's Black Forest region, the University of Applied Sciences, Furtwangen, attracts students from all over Europe.

When the Duke of Baden founded the University of Applied Sciences, Furtwangen, in 1853, the idea was to train students for the exploding field of clock-making. One hundred and fifty years later, the school continues its tradition of preparing students for the job market—but now the focus is on IT.

"DB2 Universal Database is widely used in the German marketplace. By focusing on DB2 training, we can provide students with an edge in the workforce."

−Professor Monika Frey-Luxemburger,
Head of Business Informatics, University
of Applied Sciences, Furtwangen

Today, the German university, with 3,500 students, is one of Europe's most distinguished technical institutions, with seven academic departments offering 25 different programs. Its Business Informatics department is ranked number one in excellence by the German news magazine Stern, attracting students from throughout Europe.

"Our computer science curriculum offers both bachelor's and master's degree programs, and many of our students secure jobs soon after they graduate," explains Professor Monika Frey-Luxemburger, head of Business Informatics at Furtwangen University.

IBM DB2 Universal Database plays a key role in the computer science program, serving as the core focus in a curriculum covering a broad range of database concepts. "DB2 Universal Database is widely used in the German marketplace," Frey-Luxemburger explains. "By focusing on DB2 training, we can provide students with an edge in the workforce."

As a result of the IBM Scholars Program, university students have access to the latest versions of DB2 software.

IBM Scholars Program seeds universities

The IBM Scholars Program provides higher education institutions with a wealth of academic and research resources. For example, faculty members receive complimentary and convenient access to the IBM software and middleware portfolio, servers and hubs, tutorials and other educational material, and technical support.

"The IBM Scholars Program allows us to accomplish our goal of helping students acquire industry-relevant skills," says Frey-Luxemburger. "At the same time, the program enables us to keep our training costs down."
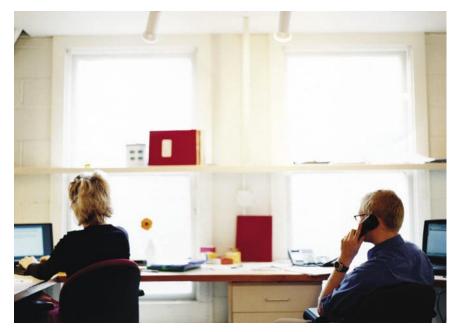
The university's four-year curriculum includes two database concepts courses. One covers database fundamentals such as relational frameworks and structured query language. The other course introduces more advanced topics, including ways to leverage DB2 as a back-end system for e-commerce sites.

"The university stands to save thousands of dollars annually in software, services and other resources, thanks to the IBM Scholars Program."

—Professor Monika Frey-Luxemburger

Real-world training proves valuable in the workplace

Each student has an opportunity to experience hands-on training and develop his or her own information management solution. "With DB2, our students get a complete, easy-to-use development environment," says Frey-Luxemburger. "In fact, they recently designed a data model for a flight booking system, then transferred it into our DB2 system."

In addition to the classroom instruction, many of the students and faculty have been attending complimentary database management seminars provided by the IBM Boeblingen Lab. In fact, Frey-Luxemburger has used the knowledge gained from IBM to develop a new self-study course for students wanting to take the exam to become a DB2 Certified Database Administrator in parallel with their regular coursework.

"It's a very popular course," says Frey-Luxemburger. "With everything else they have going on, many students still make time to take the DB2 certification course — which shows the importance students place on having a DB2 skill set as they enter the working world."

Academic studies emphasizing hands-on experience with DB2 technology are instrumental in securing post-graduate database management job opportunities.

When they graduate, the students enrolled in the computer science programs can seek high-paying careers at such nearby companies as Daimler Chrysler and Hewlett-Packard, both of which use DB2. "Local companies aggressively pursue graduates with DB2 expertise," says Frey-Luxemburger. "By offering DB2 to our students, we fill what would have been a big gap in their education."

Oracle's heart not in to education

Previously, the university's database concepts coursework was based solely on Oracle, but Frey-Luxemburger jumped at the chance to participate in the IBM Scholars Program. "The support we received from Oracle was virtually non-existent," says Frey-Luxemburger. "IBM, on the other hand, provides considerable resources. If our students have technical questions they can personally contact a consultant at the IBM Lab in Boeblingen for help. The continuing technical support from IBM is critical to the success of our degree programs."

In fact, Frey-Luxemburger had a few questions herself, because she hadn't worked with DB2 before being introduced to the program. But following the installation at the university, she attended an intensive, two-day course through the IBM Scholars Program, which covered everything from the basics to the underlying technology of DB2. "I was able to get up to speed on DB2 immediately as a result of IBM's intensive training resources," says Frey-Luxemburger.

In addition to technical support, the IBM Scholars Program provides Furtwangen University with the latest upgrades immediately, at no charge. Frey-Luxemburger and her students can download the new releases and get started on research all in the same day. "The university stands to save thousands of dollars annually in software, services and other resources, thanks to the IBM Scholars Program," she says. "It's simply not within the school's budget to do this on our own."

Moving forward, Frey-Luxemburger will continue to monitor emerging software trends and adjust her classes accordingly. She believes that the most prevalent trend of tomorrow will be data warehousing. With that in mind, her department's future plans call for introducing more comprehensive data warehousing courses, based on DB2, with a special focus on online analytical processing functions.

"With our DB2 systems, we feel like we have greatly enhanced our ability to provide the most leading-edge information management system to our students," says Frey-Luxemburger. "Without question, our curriculum is a lot stronger today because of DB2 and the support we receive from the IBM Lab in Boeblingen. When our students graduate, I'm sure that what they've invested in their studies will pay dividends quickly as they apply their DB2 skills in the marketplace."

For more information

Please contact your IBM marketing representative, IBM Business Partner or IBM Direct at: 1 800 IBM-CALL.

Visit our Web site at
ibm.com/software/data

For more information about the IBM Scholars Program, visit:
ibm.com/software/info/university

For more information about the University of Applied Sciences, Furtwangen, visit:
www.fh-furtwangen.de

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