Election program 2026

1. Values that sustain us

The RCDS Bayreuth stands for a pragmatic, optimistic and solution-oriented higher education policy. We believe in a university that values its traditions whilst looking boldly to the future. For us, cultural identity, academic freedom and respectful coexistence are inextricably linked. That is why we are committed to preserving the German language in teaching and administration, without restricting the international character of our university. We are equally clear in our opposition to any form of anti-Semitism and discrimination. A university can only be a place of free thought if it is a safe space for everyone.

Our approach to policy is characterised by constructive pragmatism: we do not wish to sensationalise problems, but to solve them. We want to shape the future rather than stand in its way. And we want a higher education policy that brings real improvements for students; from infrastructure and study conditions to cultural diversity on campus. For us, tradition and progress are not a contradiction, but two sides of the same responsibility.

2. A vibrant campus

A vibrant campus does not come about by chance, but through spaces, activities and interactions. We are committed to fostering a campus culture that celebrates diversity and strengthens our sense of community. This includes expanded cultural weeks that incorporate both regional traditions – such as Franconian culture – and international perspectives. Culture should not merely be a supplementary programme, but a defining part of student life. A Christmas tree on campus, themed cultural weeks or events with local clubs are, for us, an expression of a university that knows and nurtures its roots.

At the same time, we want to further develop the campus as a place to live and work. The refurbishment of the natural sciences building is long overdue and must be driven forward with clear priorities. It is equally important to make the campus more functional: The obstructive paving stones in the car parks should be removed so that the spaces can be used more effectively. We would like to create more spaces for socialising and working by making better use of existing areas – such as the RW Café or the Audimax – and by creating additional study spaces. A modern campus needs places where people can work, exchange ideas and simply enjoy spending time.

3. A successful university experience

A strong university thrives on a strong academic culture. This includes academic freedom, good study conditions and an administration that supports students rather than holding them back. We are committed to reducing bureaucracy, for both students and teaching staff. Research and teaching must be able to flourish without being stifled by forms and approval processes.

At the same time, we want to improve the quality of the university experience. This includes adequate funding for marking, so that exams can be assessed more quickly and reliably. We call for more student jobs, fair working conditions and additional staff positions in libraries and faculties. Students need both financial prospects and sufficient space to study. A university that takes its academic culture seriously invests in its students – in their time, their work and their future.

4. A network that makes a difference

A modern university is not an isolated entity, but part of a wider network comprising academia, politics, business and society. We want to actively strengthen these links. This includes collaboration with the German Armed Forces on campus as well as regular dialogue with local and national politicians. Attending public consultation sessions and raising students' concerns directly is, for us, a natural part of responsible higher education policy.

We also prioritise exchange within the student body: we want to expand our collaboration with other student representative bodies in Germany and share best practices. Networking between faculties is equally important to us. The Innovation Centre and the start-up culture should be more closely linked to all degree programmes, so that creative ideas do not falter at faculty boundaries.

For us, internationality is a central component of a modern campus. We would like to attract more European partner universities and expand the Erasmus network. At the same time, we want to establish new partnerships with universities in global cities: from New York to London and Beijing, right through to Seßlach. A university that thinks internationally creates opportunities for all students and strengthens its own academic influence.