



Mercator Berufskolleg Moers

Main Facts of our School

The Mercator Berufskolleg is a vocational college offering a wide range of vocational and general education. We prepare our students to succeed in **commercial and administrative** job environments.

The **name of our School** refers to a famous citizen of the area where our School is located. Gerhard Mercator was a European citizen and cosmopolitan at the same time. We are proud to bear his name because he is perfectly associated with openness and tolerance as well as creativity and vision. This is why he is a role model for our School.

He was the first one to design a maps of Europe already in the 16th century. He worked as a Grammar School teacher between 1559 and 1562, teaching maths, geometrics and cosmology. He became most famous for his world map sized 2x1,31 meters, which was of great benefit especially for sailors. He named his world map "Atlas sive cosmographicae meditationes" and created the term "Atlas". For details see our Website

<http://www.mercator-berufskolleg.de/xoops/modules/news/article.php?storyid=82>

Our College accommodates part-time as well as full-time sections.

As a **part-time co-operative vocational school** we are associate partners of local business companies, offering classes to teach the general theoretical background for all young people who serve an apprenticeship in business companies. We are part of the so called **dual system**, that means students spend one or two days per week at our school, and they practise their theoretical knowledge in local companies for the rest of the week. This dual system department accommodates approximately 1450 students.

Those young people (some 900) who prefer to enrol for general vocational education before their apprenticeship or university course are accommodated in our second department, which offers **classes on a full-time basis**. This includes classes preparing for 'Abitur' (comparable to A-levels), enabling students to enrol for all kinds of university courses, as well as classes for students who aim at vocational certificates (comparable to GNVQ/NVQ – General National Vocational Qualification/ National Vocational Qualification), enabling them to enrol for courses aiming at a kind of HND (Higher National Diploma). But this requires additional apprenticeship or traineeship before enrolment.

Altogether we accommodate a number of 2350 students, the majority of which is in the age range between 16 and 21 years.

Some 125 teachers are working at our School. Most of them work on a full-time basis, whilst a few colleagues are part-time employees. Staff is evenly divided into females and males.

The **part-time co-operative vocational department** which accommodates 1450 students is divided in several sub-departments, of which the departments of Banking, Business Administration, Retail, Insurance, Logistics and Transport, as well as Health Care are the main ones.

Classes on a full-time basis are accommodated by the second main department.

We understand education in the most comprehensive way, including general and vocational education as well as the mediation of moral concepts. Several Committees including students, parents, and staff guarantee a broad acceptance of our educational aims and objectives. To promote our students in the best possible way we are very demanding, but without asking too much of them.

We understand ourselves as an Open School, always open to co-operate with local business, universities, and partner schools, nationally as well as internationally, and we are open to all kinds of projects that enable our students to broaden their view as well as their education. Our aims and objectives are documented in our School Profile which can be found on the Web under

<http://www.mercator-berufskolleg.de/xoops/modules/sections/index.php?op=viewarticle&artid=20>

Our School has a strong **focus on national and international projects**, for example

- The world's greatest charity basar to support SOS children village Bethlehem/Israel. This basar is held in the beginning of December for meanwhile more than 35 years. Nearly €24.000,00 is transferred to Bethlehem every year. During the last years we even were supported by our Comenius partner Schools (i.e. European funded Project for Schools)
- For more than 15 years an apprenticeship bourse is held on a regular basis. More than 80 local employers and several regional colleges and universities present their apprenticeship training positions and their academic courses. Some 5000 students benefit from the greatest job bourse in our area.
- Since 1990 we are involved in several European projects, especially Comenius, covering a wide range cultural, political, social as well as economical topics. Due to our engagement in international projects, we meanwhile communicate with several partner Schools in different parts of Europe (see Website <http://www.mercator-berufskolleg.de/xoops/modules/sections/index.php?op=viewarticle&artid=82>).

For more details on our projects see the following Website:

<http://www.mercator-berufskolleg.de/xoops/modules/sections/index.php?op=viewarticle&artid=157>