# The Institute for Work, Skills and Training

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The Institute for Work, Skills and Training (IAQ) was founded in 2007 as a research institute in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Duisburg-Essen. It conducts interdisciplinary and international comparative social science research in the fields of work and employment, social protection, education, and training.

## The work of the IAQ is organised in four research departments:

- Employment Integration Mobility (AIM)
- Working Time and Work Organisation (AZAO)
- Learning and Education in Structural Change (BEST)
- Flexibility and Security (FLEX)

The distinctive feature of the Institute's research profile is the combination of basic and applied research on the sustainable design and organisation of employment, wage, social protection, and education systems considered against the background of social and technological change. The IAQ is affiliated with multiple national and international researchers, research institutes and networks, and carries out projects with the support of national and international funding sources. The IAQ's research provides support and advice for businesses, policymakers and civil society. It develops the evidence base for important decision-making; and evaluates various real-world projects.

### **Address and Location Plan**

### Postal Address:

Universität Duisburg-Essen Institut Arbeit und Qualifikation 47048 Duisburg Germany

### Street Address:

Duisburg Campus Building LE, 5th floor Forsthausweg 2 47057 Duisburg Germany

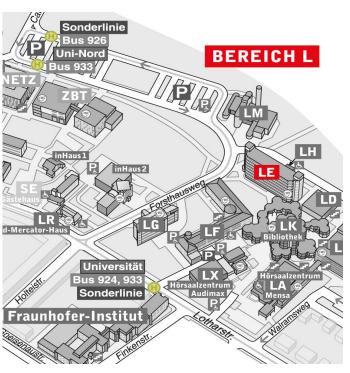
### **Directions for Visitors**

### From Duisburg Railway Station

Bus 933 and 924 to University bus stop Bus 926 to Uni-Nord bus stop

### By Car:

A 40 Exit 14 Kaiserberg Interchange



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www.iaq.uni-due.de



**Open-**Minded





Institute for Work,
Skills and Training
University of
Duisburg-Essen

# Working Time and Work Organisation (AZAO)

Director: Prof. Dr. Thomas Haipeter E-Mail: thomas.haipeter@uni-due.de

The Working Time and Work Organisation research unit (AZAO) investigates the design, organisation, and regulation of work and working time. The ultimate aim of the unit's analyses is to strengthen socially and economically sustainable working and employment conditions. AZAO seeks out opportunities to improve employees' operational resources, to maintain and further develop individuals' capacity for work, and to use and promote the employment potential within society. At the establishment level, the unit investigates

the factors that facilitate efforts regulate working conditions that and good health emphasis on the



either hinder or
to organise and
and employment
foster learning
with a particular
implications of

digital technologies. At the meso level of the collective bargaining system, the unit examines employment regulation and the system actors who grapple with the conflicting trends of erosion and renewal. Finally, at the macro level of the state and society, AZAO analyses the social institutions and state regulatory mechanisms that play a significant role in employment policy.

## Current research topics:

- Sustainable HR management and work organisation arrangements in digitalised working environments;
- Individualised working time decisions, welfare state institutions, and new forms of working time regulations over life course;
- The opportunities for action of collective actors in national and transnational industrial relations.

# Learning and Education in Structural Change (BEST)

Director: Prof. Dr. Sybille Stöbe-Blossey E-Mail: sybille.stoebe-blossey@uni-due.de

The education system is facing a twofold structural change. On the one hand, it is regarded as a key factor in social and economic development: learning and education are supposed to strengthen competiveness as well as social cohesion and individual participation, to help to overcome society's demographic challenges, and to create the conditions

for exploiting digitalisation. On the educational constantly react to and adapt its



the potential of the other hand, system must these challenges own structures

 its governance and organisation, its educational programs as well as its employees' qualification and working conditions. It is against this background that BEST analyses problems concerning the whole chain of lifelong learning.

## Current research topics:

- Company-based, school-based and academic vocational education: developments in the post-secondary sector;
- Career paths and transitions in education and learning biographies;
- The role of networks and integrated services for children, youth, and families in preventive social policies;
- Migration and integration as challenges for the education system.

# Employment – IntegrationMobility (AIM)

Director: Prof. Dr. Martin Brussig E-Mail: martin.brussig@uni-due.de

The focus of AIM's research is labour market mobility. Thus, various forms of labour market transition and their consequences for employability, employment opportunities, and social protection are the principal areas of investigation. Individuals move

into and out of the or from one job but transitions by institutions. opportunities and



labour market
to another,
are shaped
In addition,
risks in the

labour market are shaped by labour market policy. The level and the degree of risk varies depending on the institutional framework. One of AIM's research priorities is analysis of those institutional frameworks, including an international comparative perspective. Critical analysis of active labour market policies is a characteristic element of the unit's work.

## Current research topics:

- Labour market policy: instruments, organisations, actors and the causes, manifestations and consequences of activating labour market policies;
- Older workers and the transition into retirement: opportunities and risks associated with longer working lives;
- Mobility processes in the labour market and in firms: analysis of the dynamics and stability of employment relationships and the facilitation of transitions.

### Flexibility and Security (FLEX)

Director: Dr. Claudia Weinkopf

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lexibility and Security (FLEX) research seeks to identify the factors that influence change in the world of work and to ascertain where the options for establishing a new balance between the needs for flexibility and

for flexibility and lie. The tension and security starting point for questions on the

social equity might between flexibility is a fruitful empirical research development of

employment systems. This tension also serves as a normative category by means of which changes in institutional and corporate framework conditions and their effects can be captured and evaluated. Of particular interest in this regard are the reasons for and consequences of the increase in low pay and precarious employment and the points at which leverage can be exerted in order to improve working and employment conditions at various levels (firms, industries, institutions).

### Current research topics:

- The statutory and collectively-negotiated regulation of and compliance with minimum working and employment conditions;
- Institutional leverage points for improving the practical implementation of minimum wages and labour standards;
- Changes in low-skill activities in the wake of the increased demand for skilled labour and digitalisation, including the challenges facing firms, collective actors and social protection systems.