Prof. Katharina Kohse-Höinghaus received her chemistry education with diploma 1975 and subsequent PhD 1978 at Ruhr-Universität Bochum where she worked on atmospheric trace gas chemistry. Stations in her professional life brought her to the German Aerospace Center in Stuttgart; to ONERA in France, supported by a Heisenberg Fellowship, Stanford University and other major institutions in the USA. In 1992 she received her habilitation at Stuttgart University with the late Prof. Jürgen Warnatz. Since 1994 she is a full professor of Physical Chemistry at Bielefeld University.

Prof. Kohse-Höinghaus is a member of numerous prestigious scientific organizations. She is an elected Member of the National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, and appointed by the Federal President as a Member of the German Council of Science and Humanities, the advisory panel to the government and the president. In summary, Prof. Kohse-Höinghaus has performed service of more than 60 years in high-level academic and scientific organizations, including the Senates of the National Science Foundation DFG and of the Helmholtz Association of German National Labs, the Board of Trustees of the Volkswagen Foundation, and the Selection Committee and International Advisory Board of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

She served as President of the German Bunsen-Gesellschaft and is the current President of The Combustion Institute. She was also Editor-in-Chief for "Combustion and Flame".

Her academic service includes a period as Vice Rector for Research at Bielefeld University and she is a current member of the University Council.

Prof. Kohse-Höinghaus' research is centered on combustion chemistry and laser diagnostics. Her work has been published in about 200 papers in leading international journals. She has received numerous awards and recognitions for her work, including most recently the "Distinguished Woman in Chemistry/Chemical Engineering" award presented by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry as well as the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany which she received in 2007 by Federal President Horst Köhler. Prof. Kohse-Höinghaus is also very active in public outreach activities for young people in the sciences.