



Freshman-Institute

The ideal gateway to studying in Germany

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Welcome

The Freshman Institute was established in the year 2000 at the Aachen University of Applied Sciences.

Since then, we have been striving to continually improve and expand our program. We believe that in the meantime we have found a virtually ideal way to make it possible for young people from all over the world to begin their university studies in Germany. Our unique program has met with a lot of success over the years; already over 3 000 students have begun their studies through the Freshman Program.

Aachen is situated in the heart of Europe; in terms of science, culture and business, it is one of the most international regions of the world and as such, offers every opportunity to young people to build the foundation for future success in a world where globalization has never been more important.

In future, we aim to continue our efforts to make the transition from your home country to the wider world even more accessible.

The Freshman Institute: *thinking globally, acting locally.*



Prof. H. J. Buchkremer

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Freshman Program

The ideal entrance to study in Germany

Would you like to study in Germany, even though you don't speak German?

Basic knowledge of English is sufficient!



Normally, it is not easy to begin studying at a German university if you have graduated from secondary school in a non-European country.

The FH Aachen - University of Applied Sciences is authorized to help make your admission to the German university system significantly easier.

Our model is as follows:

- > We require an "Entrance Test" based on what you wish to study either in English or in German - which you can take in your home country.
- > Our testing persons come to your country and give you the entrance test or the entrance test will be scheduled for you with the assistance of German organizations (DAAD, TestAS or others).
- > If you pass our entrance exam or already meet the admission requirements to German „Studienkolleg,“ according to www.anabin.de, you can join our Freshman Program.
- > For this program you do not need to meet any additional requirements.
- > We will assist you in getting a student visa for Germany.
- > You will then spend a year (the Freshman Year) further training your language, technical and practical skills, in line with your future field of study, living and learning on one of our freshman campuses.
- > After your successful completion of the Freshman Year, you can continue your studies at a university in North Rhine-Westphalia in one of the Bachelor's programs for which we have prepared you.
- > In the state of North Rhine-Westphalia there are a number of English-taught and, of course, a large number of German-taught Bachelor's degree programs.
- > The Freshman Institute may grant scholarships to the best graduates at the end of the Freshman Year.
- > We will help you with your application to universities in Germany.



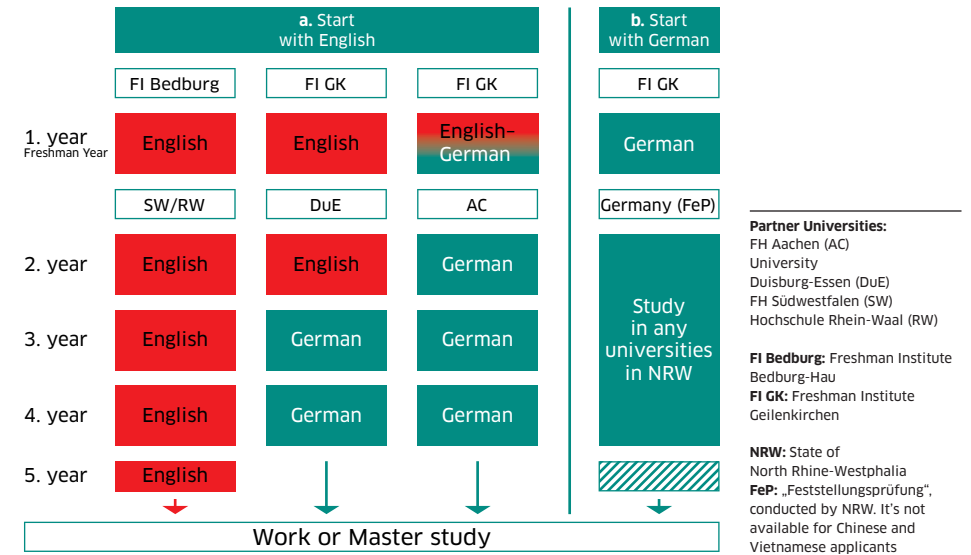
Advantages

- > **Time saving** | University study in your home country is not necessary. You can finish your Bachelor degree in four years!
- > **Guaranteed study place at one of our partner universities** | You will be automatically enrolled on successfully finishing the Freshman Program.
- > **Prior knowledge of German not necessary** | All you need is a good working knowledge of English. You will learn German in Germany!
- > **Choice of languages** | You can begin the Freshman year in English and finish in German, or study entirely in English or German.
- > **Choice of study options** | We offer a total of 3 study focuses, Engineering, Business and Medicine. Over twenty fields of study come with guaranteed study places at our 4 partner universities.



Requirements | Freshman Program

- > Freshman entrance test or TestAS
- > Graduation: secondary school
- > English: IELTS 4.5 for preparation in English a.
German: B2 for preparation in German b.
(a. and b. see top right of the diagram)
- > No university entrance exam necessary in home country
- > No university-experience in home country is required



The Freshman Program is your fast track to a Bachelor's program in Germany, even when you have no prior knowledge of German. You can simply start your studies in English!

For some fields of study, you can even finish it in English too! Most Freshmen begin studying in English but during the time, the language of instruction changes to German.

- > For students choosing to study at the University of Duisburg-Essen, the language transition occurs after the end of the second year of study. During the Freshman year, the language of instruction is English. Proficiency in both English and German is tested at the end of the Freshman year.
- > Students choosing to study at the FH Aachen will study German intensively. The language of instruction will change early on to German and linguistically, only their proficiency in German is tested at the end of the Freshman year.

We guarantee successful students a place at the FH Aachen or our partner universities.

However, if you already have a good grasp of German, you can begin the Freshman year in German, sit the German university entrance exam (Feststellungsprüfung) at the end of the Freshman year, and then apply to a suitable course at any university in Germany.



Wu Ziyi M.Eng.

DAAD (German academic exchange service) prize winner 2013
 When I came to Germany through the Freshman Program for the first time, I could merely speak 3 sentences in German. Since then, I have been able to make uncountable experiences and now I see the world from a new perspective. I now realize how happy I was when my parents organized my life and took care of me. And I now realize that in life, children leave their parents at a certain point and start their own lives. I have learned to be independent, to master difficulties, to ask for help when needed and to solve my problems. Today I am working as a research associate in the biggest European energy society and interview people from

different European countries in English and German. To students who are just as lucky as I was to have the possibility to study in Germany through the Freshman Program, I have the following advice: Develop a plan if you shouldn't have one yet because it is never too late. Improve your language skills, stay true to your principles, learn to be optimistic and motivate yourself. Then you will definitely succeed!



Suvansh Srivastava B.Eng.

Post graduate FH Aachen now master student of the RWTH Aachen

I am a student of Electrical Engineering at the FH Aachen, Campus Jülich. I passed my Freshman Year in 2009 and I believe the Freshman program is a great opportunity to pursue studies in Germany in an international environment. It helped me adjust in a multicultural environment, which was a little difficult at first, but as time passed the experience became very enjoyable.



Felicia Primadita B.Eng.

Post graduate FH Aachen pursuing a career in Germany

The Freshman Institute makes something that sounds impossible become possible: to start studying in Germany without any knowledge of the German language. I was impressed and felt so welcome that people greet each other, no matter where they come from!

Possible study focuses in English or German

- > **Engineering** | Natural sciences and engineering
- > **Business** | Economics, Business Administration and social sciences
- > **Medicine** | Medicine, dentistry, biology and veterinary medicine
(Currently only offered in German language)

Freshman Institute at the FH Aachen

The Freshman Institute (FI) is an organization within the FH Aachen, authorized to make access to the German university system significantly easier for overseas students. More than 450 Freshmen start their studies every year. The FI prepares students for a number of degree programmes taught in English or in German, or in a combination of both languages.

One of the many advantages of the Freshman year is that it offers training in a wide range of skills, from language proficiency through to technical knowledge and practical know-how. Another great advantage is the fact that the Forschungszentrum Jülich, one of the largest interdisciplinary government-funded research centres in Europe, has its campus nearby; students of the FH Aachen benefit from this international research environment and often write their degree thesis and make use of the excellent libraries and research facilities there.

Germany, bordered by a total of nine countries, is highly influenced by its intercultural and international surroundings; the area around Aachen is situated in the heart of Europe, right next to the Netherlands and Belgium. The region also boasts one of the highest concentrations of scientific facilities in the world.

The **FH Aachen** - Aachen University of Applied Sciences -, founded in 1971, is one of the biggest Universities of Applied Sciences in Germany with roughly 11,000 students, 230 professors, 290 contract lecturers, and 700 assistants. It specializes in the areas of engineering, business and design. The FH Aachen has a split-site campus in Aachen and another in Jülich.

Among the German Universities of Applied Sciences, the FH Aachen ranks as number one in the field of engineering.

(Source: Hochschulranking 2012 Befragung unter 507 Personalverantwortlichen in Deutschland, Feb./März 2012)



How things work at the Freshman Institute

„There is no easier way to learn German“

Jean Gabin Fosso Guemaleu | Freshman Student

Freshman option for the FH Aachen Removing language hurdles

The German language is the third most popular foreign language world-wide and the second most popular in Europe. The ability to understand and speak German plays an indispensable role when studying and living in Germany.

The Freshman Program for the FH Aachen will help you to rapidly achieve fluency in German even with no prior knowledge of the language.

Our professional team of language teachers offers intensive training in German, enabling you to follow basic scientific courses, such as mathematics and physics, directly in German.

If you intend to study at the FH Aachen after the Freshman year has ended, you can concentrate solely on learning German, as:

- > in terms of languages, you will be tested only in German in the Freshman final exams, and
- > you will continue your studies at the FH Aachen directly in German.

The Freshman Program has two semesters. Every semester has basically 20 weeks with 36 hours of lectures per week. Engineering students take part in a practical training/internship trimester.

Subjects studied during the Freshman Year depend on the program selected and the individual study focus.

The Freshman Institute has a team of experienced language teachers offering intensive language courses. At the same time, students receive a solid introduction to scientific subjects during the year, such as mathematics and physics for engineering students, and business mathematics, and economics for Business Studies students.

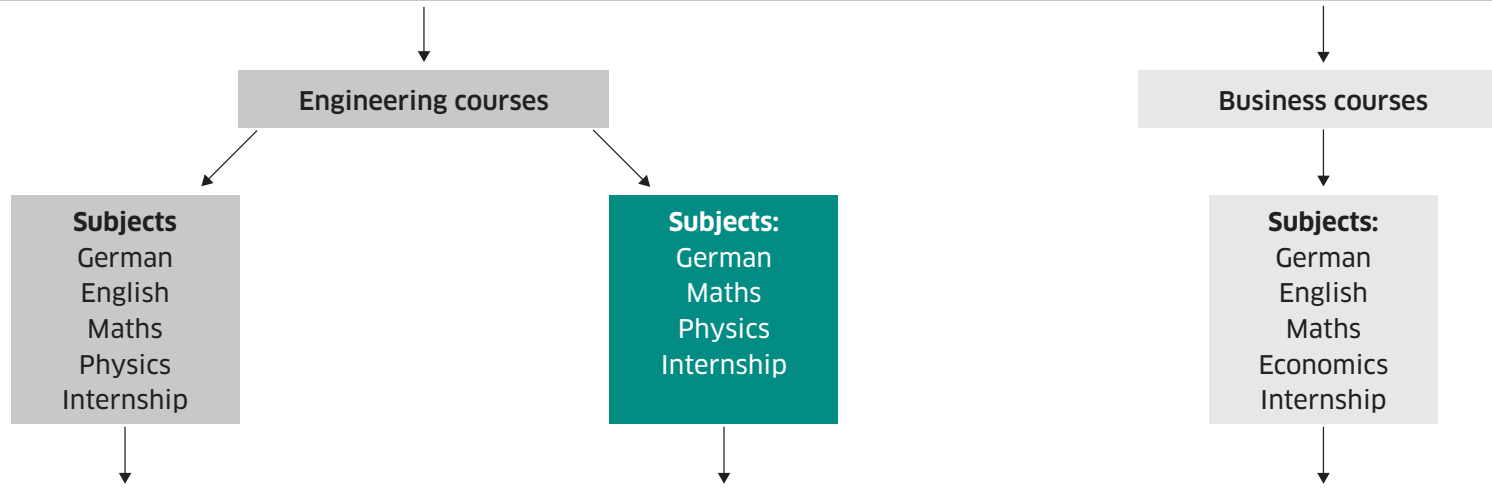
At the end of the Freshman Year the students will sit their final examinations. All the Freshman students must pass these examinations to continue their studies.

Overview of Freshman Program

- Requirements:**
- > Freshman entrance test in Maths & English or German or Test for Academic Studies (Test AS)
 - > Graduation: secondary school
 - > English IELTS 4.5

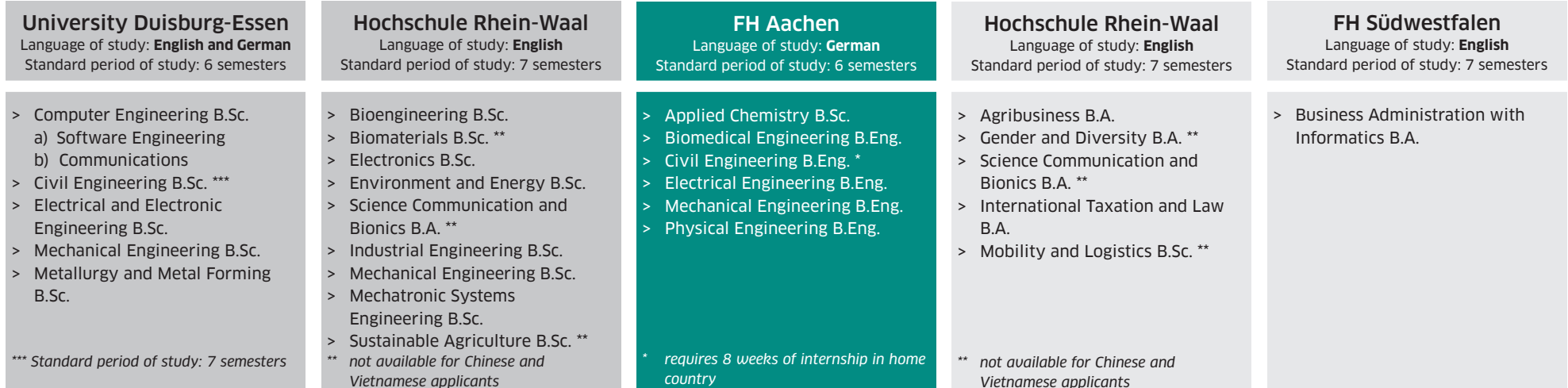
Freshman intake each October at the Geilenkirchen and Bedburg-Hau campuses

Freshman Year



Freshman final examination (guaranteed study places)

Bachelor's Program



Overview of Freshman Program *NRW*

- Requirements:**
- > Freshman entrance test in Maths & English or German or Test for Academic Studies (Test AS)
 - > Graduation: secondary school
 - > German B2

Freshman intake each October at the Geilenkirchen campuses

Freshman Year

Engineering courses

Business courses

Medicine courses

Subjects

Maths
Physics
German
Chemistry

Subjects:

Maths
Economics
German
English

Subjects:

Physics
Biology
German
Chemistry

Feststellungsprüfung (FeP) – German University Entrance Exam

Bachelor's programs at all universities in NRW

Examples of the subjects taught during the Freshman Year

Freshman Program

Starting in English		Starting in German		
Engineering	Business	Engineering	Business	Medicine
German	German	German	German	German
English	English	Mathematics	English	Biology
Mathematics	Mathematics	Physics	Mathematics	Physics
Physics	Economics	Chemistry	Economics	Chemistry
Internship	Internship			

Internships at the Freshman Institute

Nearly all universities in Germany require engineering applicants to have completed several weeks of basic internships before starting their studies. In order to fulfill these requirements, the Freshman Institute offers 12 weeks of internships, which can be done either at the FH Aachen or at Forschungszentrum Juelich (the research centre in Juelich). The internships offer training in various laboratories and workshops, such as the mechanical and electrical workshops, chemistry laboratories as well as Business Administration, etc. This allows all Freshman to start their studies at the university of their choice without any further delay.

Living and learning with socio-cultural care

Our Freshman Campuses are situated in quiet small towns of about 20.000 people with green environments and surrounded by beautiful landscapes and sceneries. Shopping facilities - such as supermarkets and clothing stores-, doctors and pharmacies are within walking distance. Furthermore, many larger cities such as Cologne, Düsseldorf or Aachen can be reached free of costs by public transportation with the student semester ticket.

The students are accommodated with furnished apartments in our student dormitories. The bedrooms are equipped with a bed, a desk, chairs and a wardrobe for clothing. We also offer fully furnished kitchens with a refrigerator sink, stove with burners and oven. Additionally, washing machines, tumble dryers and drying rooms are provided for the students.

Campus Geilenkirchen





With the support of our social team, the students can get settled in quite easily in Germany. All necessary administrative issues such as: opening a bank account, registering at the city hall, medical care, dealing with the health insurance are taken care of in accompaniment of our team.

Since most students live independently for the first time when they arrive in Germany, our team also provides information regarding a variety of important social skills. The new country and unfamiliar culture can seem somewhat daunting to the new students. We try to make the transition from the student's native country to the new country easier. Therefore, the first week of the Freshman Year is an introductory week. They have time to get to know the campus and their new environment and attend courses and lectures concerning significant facts about life in Germany, such as: learning about German behavioral codes e.g. dress codes and communication skills, cultural differences between Germany and other countries and many more.

Additionally, during the introductory week, we also offer a so called "housekeeping license". Here our students learn how to keep their rooms tidy and clean, how to do laundry and they learn about the waste disposal system in Germany as well as how to save energy. It is extremely important to our team to convey these competences to our students since they are essential for their future life in Germany.

A multi-faceted cultural program is also an important part of the Freshman Year. Our team offers a variety of social activities for the students. The activities range from sport activities to social events and artistic activities, such as

- > Badminton
- > Basketball Tournament
- > Excursions to major European cities e.g. Hamburg or Paris
- > Football Tournament
- > Game evenings
- > Holiday events e.g. the Santa Claus Celebration, Intercultural Training, Karaoke-Parties
- > The so called „Tag der Begegnung“, which is an open house of our Freshman Institute

Photographs at Page 18: First row: The Big Bear Cup; German Lesson | Second row: Physics Class | Third row: Student Dormitory; History Class | Fourth row: Welcome Meeting | Fourth/Fifth row: Graduation | Fifth row: Tag der Begegnung



New Student Dormitory

Furthermore, our Institute offers a mentor program, the so called "Patenprogramm" to the students. This is a very special, long-term program, which aims on making students feel even more comfortable and well-adjusted in Germany by connecting them with German families. Over the past years of the "Patenprogramm" we have made the experience, that this program is extremely helpful and a wonderful project for students as well as for their mentors. They do not only make new friends but they also learn about each other's home countries, traditions and cultures. the memories stay with the students all their lives!

In order for our students to succeed during the Freshman Year we offer extra classes in e.g. Mathematics and Physics or Phonetical Trainings. By offering this, we try to meet our students' individual academic needs.

Our social team also stands for personal points of contact. So, whenever problems occur of e.g. personal nature, the students can turn to our well trained staff at any time and in any situation. In cases of e.g. medical emergencies, our team can be reached constantly, even at night or at the weekend, via our emergency mobile phone.

It is our main goal that the students feel welcome in Germany and at our Freshman Institute. We do our best to create an exciting, interesting, and safe environment for our students and to integrate them into a well-functioning social structure. So someday, they may see Germany as a "home away from home".

Feedback

First impression about the Freshman Institute

By Yusuf Abbas

What a great feeling it is to be part of the freshman institute family, under which I've felt like home isn't only where you come from or where you grew up but also where you don't feel like a stranger, surrounded by special people making sure you are not left alone and trying their best to provide you with everything you need. **As an international student living in Germany and studying at the freshman institute I must say that this is so far the best choice I've made regarding insuring my future.**

Ever since the first day arriving I haven't seen anything but kindness, care and friendliness from each and every staff member and most important the devotion the social team has shown towards a lot of students. Besides the unlimited services and activities they have been arranging and helping us with, they do all they can to solve even the smallest problem a student faces without his family being there for him. **It must be said that the freshman institute faculty do an excellent job making this transitional sensitive phase**

for us as we leave our homes and come to a new country as smooth as possible due to their years of experience dealing with such phases.

As the days go by I started getting to know the students around more and more until they've become friends that seeing them on a daily basis has become part of my day. Despite the fact that a lot of students come from the same countries but somehow that hasn't changed the need to meet, socialize and welcome with open arms others from different places. I for example have friends from each and every country we have here which enables me to connect to their cultures and traditions and at the same time they do from mine which removes any kind of cultural barriers between us, hence brings us closer as one family. We share many activities together such as football, which has always been a great way to meet people. Cooking has also helped in meeting others as we invite others to our place for dinner and vice versa. I have actually learned a lot of new Indian, Chinese and Vietnamese recipes through friends.

The year still hasn't passed and I've already started feeling like leaving this place will definitely be hard. It is an experience that I wish each and every capable student should live as the road to building a successful study in Germany isn't that easy and that is something the Freshman Institute understands and works hard to make things much simpler for students.



Studying in Germany made us independent

By Zahra Shadman Haghighi

Maybe you ask why I chose Germany to study. As all of us know Germany is one of the best countries in the engineering field. As I wanted to study Mechanical Engineering I've chosen Germany and I'm very happy and satisfied due to my previous choices.

The Freshman Year was one of the best years of my life. In fact the Freshman Year is the year, in which all students will learn how to live with other people from different countries and they will learn how to cope with the problems that they will meet every year. Of course the beginning is a little bit difficult, because you will leave your parents, friends and all the other things and you will come to a country that you don't know anything about. But later when you find more friends all the problems will be solved. You can go out together you can study together and many more things can be done together.

While being at home things are done and organized by your parents. **In the Freshman Year you will learn how to be independent and how to do your own things and solve your problems by yourself.** Especially, you will learn how to cook.

Some people say that studying in Germany is very difficult, because you need to know the language after one year. I believe that studying in Germany may be difficult, but you should know that after one year you can talk and understand English and German very well. I study Mechanical Engineering and at the beginning it was difficult for me at the university, but after one month you have adjusted and studying will get easier. Of course you should study hard, and the result will be what you want.



„My name is Zahra Shadman Haghighi. I come from Iran and now I'm an international student in Germany. I feel really happy. And I want to continue my studies here in Germany and find a good job.“

Study in Germany

Germany

A beautiful country with boundless possibilities

- > Germany has a very high standard of living and a comprehensive system of social benefits.
- > Historically, it has been the birth place of many renowned scientists and inventors, artists and musicians.
- > Today, it offers excellent business and career opportunities.
- > Furthermore Germany ranks amongst the safest and most peaceful countries in the western world today.



Germany has the world's fourth largest economy after the U.S., China and Japan and the fifth largest in terms of purchasing power parity. It is the second largest exporter and third largest importer of goods. From cars to machinery and industrial equipment, from pharmaceuticals to household goods, German businesses and their products are highly regarded in the global market. The country exports more high-tech products than any other country except the U.S. With 81.8 million inhabitants, Germany is the most populous member state and has the largest economy in the European Union. As one of the most significant political powers of the European continent and a nation committed to research and development, Germany is on the front line of new technologies. Two-thirds of the world's leading international trade fairs take place in Germany.

The most significant reason for pursuing an academic career in Germany is the excellent reputation of German universities all over the world. Research and science are given great importance and have a very long tradition.

There are more than 360 outstandingly equipped universities in Germany. These universities offer an extremely wide range

of study fields and subjects. Furthermore, many degrees are internationally-oriented and guarantee a successful education in a globalized world.

The practical and high-quality training and education in engineering fields, for example, is valued internationally and is integrated into a multifaceted network of businesses and research institutes producing pioneering results and new innovations. The many international master's and doctoral programs give students a variety of possibilities to specialize and work in different research or industrial fields.

Furthermore, Germany is not only a country which is democratic and safe, but also one of striking beauty that offers many cultural and touristic opportunities. Learning German also holds many advantages since it is the third most popular foreign language taught worldwide and the second most popular in Europe and Japan, after English. Regarding future job perspectives, knowledge of German is essential when it comes to working in multinational businesses in the European Union and Eastern European countries.

(Source: CIA World Factbook. Accessed on February 16, 2012.)

Low cost - high quality

According to an international survey by the HSBC. Germany has extremely low costs with regard to study fees and living expenses for students studying abroad. This is remarkable since the German education system is renowned all over the world for its high academic standard.

The Freshman Year as a preparatory year requires an additional fee for the first year in Germany. Nonetheless the overall costs until completion of a Bachelor Degree are by far lower than in most other countries.

Average annual cost of studying abroad for international students

Country	Annual fees (USD)	Annual cost of living (USD)	Annual total (USD)
Australia	25,375	13,140	38,516
United States	25,226	10,479	35,705
United Kingdom	19,291	11,034	30,325
United Arab Emirates	21,371	6,004	27,375
Canada	18,474	7,537	26,011
Singapore	14,885	9,363	24,248
Hong Kong	13,182	9,261	22,443
Japan	6,522	12,642	19,164
Russia	3,131	6,310	9,441
China	3,983	4,783	8,766
Taiwan	3,270	4,987	8,257
Spain	1,002	6,004	7,006
Germany	635	5,650	6,285

Source: www.hsbc.com/news-and-insight/2013/study-costs-most-in-australia



North Rhine-Westphalia – The Innovation State

Our program focuses on the most populous state of Germany, North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW). NRW's powerful economy has attracted more than 14,300 foreign companies, which have European company headquarters in North Rhine-Westphalia. The region offers a multi-faceted and powerful research and industry infrastructure with nationally and internationally-networked scientific communities.

The Rhine-Ruhr Area is one of the largest metropolitan areas in Europe. It even accounts for about 22% of the GDP of the German economy. It is located near the heart of the European „blue banana“, which is well connected to other major European metropolitan areas.

It is not just international enterprises that are active in North Rhine-Westphalia; 73 universities and universities of applied sciences are located in the region, which

gives NRW the greatest university density in Germany. More than 600,000 students are enrolled in these universities, and 11% of them are international students from 175 countries.

Furthermore, there are approximately 100 non-university research institutions such as the Max Planck and the Fraunhofer Institutes, along with the Helmholtz Association (Forschungszentrum Jülich), which network with the universities.

North Rhine-Westphalia is not only famous for its research, educational and industrial success, but also for its extraordinary cultural sites. The cathedrals in Cologne and Aachen, for instance, are two of four North Rhine-Westphalian UNESCO World Heritage sites. NRW has a big variety of theaters, museums and international festivals.

(Source: www.nrw.de | www.destatis.de | www.nrwinvest.com)

Imprint

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