

Global Exchange Program Fact Sheet for Partner Universities

The University of Bonn

The Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms Universität Bonn (University of Bonn) was founded in 1818. With a student body of about 38,000, the university is one of Germany's largest academic institutions and with more than 6,000 international students from all over the world also one of the most internationally oriented. A wide range of course offerings, an outstanding reputation in teaching and research and a unique location make the University an especially attractive place to study.

Bonn, the former Federal Capital of Germany, is located on the Rhine and a center for the Rhineland's way of life, art and culture. In 1989, the city celebrated the 2000th anniversary of its founding as a Roman settlement. With its 21 UN agencies, Bonn is Germany's UN city and has approx. 150 international organizations.

Furthermore, the city is also the birthplace of Beethoven, has a beautiful historic town center with a daily open market, numerous museums and many other buildings and events of significance and cultural interest. [360 Degree Tour](#) of the University of Bonn



Program Dates

Academic calendar

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Winter semester 2024/25: | October 07 – January 31 Orientation weeks: September |
| Summer semester 2025: | April 07 – July 18 Orientation weeks: March |

Examinations may take place during the week after the lecture period.

Nomination and Application

Nomination

Winter semester: **March 01 – April 14**
 Summer semester: **September 01 – October 14**
 The international office of the home institution nominates students through the online platform Mobility-Online. Links will be sent to the coordinators.

Application

Winter semester: **April 01 – May 31**
 Summer semester: **October 01 – November 30**
 Students submit their online application ([Mobility Online Platform](#)) and dorm reservation.
 The students will be informed within 4 to 6 weeks after the above-mentioned application deadlines about acceptance and will receive further information.

Admission requirements / documents

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|-------------------------------|--|
| GPA | min 3,0 of 4,0 with flexibility if the coordinator of the home university sees potential of the student not meeting this threshold |
| Language requirements | English B2/C1: For English taught courses: min. B2 (preferably C1) according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, no official proof necessary. or German B2: If students wish to follow German taught courses, they should have reached at least level B2. Please note that at undergraduate level, there is only a limited number of courses taught in English. Thus, advanced proficiency in German is highly recommended for undergraduate students. |
| Recommendations | high level of independence, interest in intercultural exchange, openness to different learning environments, generally good mental and physical condition |
| Admission documents requested | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Current transcript of records (English)- Passport copy (valid for the entire period of the planned stay)- Letter of motivation |

Orientation Weeks

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|--------------|---|
| Information | <p>Orientation Weeks are an optional 3-week program that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Pre-Semester intensive German Language Course (A1-B2; Mon-Thu mornings; 4 hrs. per week equal 4 ECTS)- Welcome Days with information sessions on enrollment, city registration, opening a bank account, etc.- various excursions and social activities |
| Arrival date | Orientation begins alternately in March or September |
| Cost | Free of charge |

General Course Information

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|---------------------------------|---|
| Curriculum structure | B.A./B.Sc./M.A./M.Sc./PhD |
| Subject instruction | Depending on their language and academic background, students may choose lectures, seminars, and tutorials from the regular university course catalogue (see www.basis.uni-bonn.de). Specific academic requirements may apply to certain university classes. |
| Primary language of instruction | Undergraduate: mainly German, very limited number of courses in English Graduate: German and English |
| Language Requirements | Undergraduate: mainly German, very limited number of courses in English Graduate: German and English |
| Courses taught in English | Courses taught in English are also available and vary from semester to semester (see www.basis.uni-bonn.de). Additionally, the English seminar series International Classroom Bonn provides students with insights into Germany's structures. |
| Faculties available | All faculties (except medical school) |
| Standard full-time load | Students are recommended to take between 12 and 18 contact hours/semester; approx. 30 ECTS/semester. |
| Grading system | The grading scheme usually comprises five levels (with numerical equivalents; |

intermediate grades may be given):

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Sehr Gut</i> (1) | Excellent |
| <i>Gut</i> (2) | Good |
| <i>Befriedigend</i> (3) | Satisfactory |
| <i>Ausreichend</i> (4) | Sufficient |
| <i>Nicht ausreichend</i> (5) | Non-Sufficient/Fail |

The minimum passing grade is *Ausreichend* (4).

German Course Information

German language course

Students may take part in a [German language course](#):

- everyday language courses from A1.1 to B2.2, 4 hrs. per week equal 4 ECTS
- special topic courses from A2 to C1, 2 hrs. per week equal 2 ECTS
- credits can be included in the transcript of records

Cost

Free of charge

Accommodation

University dorms

Students can apply for a room in the university dorm through the online application page. The [Studierendenwerk Bonn](#) is the owner of the dorms. The lease contract will be sent via email to the students and has to be signed approx. 6 weeks before arrival.

For (PhD-) students who want to stay less than one semester: Please get in touch with our International Office.

Monthly rent

€300 – €560

Cancellation policy

The Studierendenwerk Bonn's cancellation policy applies. According to the lease contract, a cancellation fee of up to three months' rent can be charged.

Latest move-out date

Winter semester: February 28

Summer semester: July 31

Move in / Move out is only possible Monday through Friday!

Is university housing available during the vacation period?

Yes

Dorm basic set

In all dorms, a [starter kit](#) with basic necessities is available for purchase. It is equipped with bedlinen, a pillow and duvet, towels, LAN-cable and basic kitchenware, costs: €60.

More information

More information on living in Bonn and private housing is available [here](#).

Visa

What is the procedure for obtaining a visa?

All participants are requested to check the page of the [German Foreign Office](#) to see whether they need a visa.

USA, Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea, New Zealand:

Students from these countries do not have to apply for a visa prior to their departure from their home country, but must apply for their electronic residence permit (visa) within three months after arrival in Germany.

The following documents will be required: an application form (to be filled out by the student), proof of insurance, a confirmation letter of enrollment (supplied by our office), biometric photos and the application fee of approx. €100 to €130 (to be paid by the student).

Other countries:

We will send out a letter of acceptance to the students prior to their departure. This is required by the students to apply for their visa in their home country.

Passport

Students need a passport valid for the entire period of their stay and six months beyond.

Insurance

Health insurance

Students need to provide proof of a sufficient [health insurance](#) which covers the whole study abroad period for their enrolment at the University of Bonn.

a) Private insurance: students can take out an insurance abroad that covers the European area. Please contact one of the statutory German health insurance companies with the sender number H0001178 to check if your insurance cover is sufficient to be exempted from the statutory German health insurance.

b) Statutory insurance: if no private insurance has been taken out or if there is insufficient cover, students can take out statutory German health insurance, which cost approx. €120 per month. Please contact one of the statutory German health insurance companies with the sender number H0001178 to get insured and request an insurance number.

Please be aware that **students who are older than 30 years have to take out a private health insurance.**

Liability insurance

We also recommend that students take out a third-party liability insurance to cover any accidental damages caused to other persons or property during their stay.

Accident insurance

The [social contribution fee](#), which students have to pay when enrolling, includes an insurance for accidents that might occur on the way from the university to your place of residence or on university grounds.

Financial Matters

Monthly cost of living during semester

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|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Housing (on-campus) | €300 – €560 |
| Food | €200 |
| Laundry, clothing, sanitary products | €80 |
| Health insurance | €120 |
| Books, etc. | €40 |
| Telephone, hobbies, sports, etc. | €90 |
| Approx. costs per month | €850 – €1,000 |

University social fee

[Social contribution fee](#) incl. public transport, to be paid once per semester

Visa application fee

Approximately €100

Welcome and Social Activities

Welcome days

[Welcome days](#) for international students will be offered before the beginning of each semester (September/beginning of October and April). Attendance is highly recommended as individual support for late arrivals is very restricted by the International Office. The exact dates are communicated online.

Study Buddy Program

The [Study Buddy Program](#) matches newly arrived international students (mentees) with a “buddy”, i.e. a student from Bonn who helps with matters around the taking up of studies and life in Bonn. Student volunteers from Bonn give international students advice and assistance and help them get off to a good start at university and in Bonn.

Erasmus Student Network

The [Erasmus Student Network](#) at the University of Bonn organises a lot of events during the term and helps Erasmus students settle down in Bonn. Students can join their Facebook group "[Erasmus Student Network Bonn](#)".

International Club

The [International Club](#) of the University of Bonn is a meeting place for German and international students as well as PhD students of the University of Bonn. During the lecture period, the club offers exciting and diverse events where students can make new contacts as well as get to know other cultures.

BONNews

The bi-weekly Newsletter for international students includes current info on event tips, excursion destinations, job offers and career related information ([subscribe](#)).

International Office Contacts

International Office

Poppelsdorfer Allee 53
53115 Bonn – Germany

Incoming students:

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