

WELCOME TO WEIHENSTEPHAN INFORMATION FOR EXCHANGE STUDENTS



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INTRODUCTION

Dear Student,

At Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences (HSWT), we are delighted to welcome exchange students. You can spend one or two semesters with us, for example within the Erasmus+ or SEMP programme or outside the framework of a cooperation agreement.

This information brochure is intended to support you in preparing for your semester abroad and making your stay a success. In addition to information on the courses of study offered at HSWT and on the application and admission procedures, you will also find important information regarding student life at our university as well as on spending your leisure time in and around Freising. Although your studies will be the first priority, you should also use your time in Germany to discover the surrounding region and to get to know the local culture, nature and mind-set. To make sure you do not forget anything, the checklist on the last page of this brochure summarises the most important points.

We look forward to meeting you soon!

The International Office at HSWT



„I chose to study at HSWT because it seemed to be highly involved in sustainable practices. All staff and mentors were unbelievably helpful at the college. I loved that everyone is so friendly and the international program is highly organized, I felt like I fit in from day one. Visiting Germany has changed my view on the world!“

Madison, USA, Landscape Architecture



„I always wanted to study in Germany. HSWT enabled me to follow courses in a wide range of life science subjects. I am surely planning to keep a connection to Germany or HSWT in my future work life.“

Tim, Netherlands, Management of Renewable Energies



„I studied for one full year at HSWT to obtain a double-degree. I'm very satisfied with the assistance provided by the International Office, and also with the excursions and the courses. I especially enjoyed the group projects and taking breaks with a view of the Alps. There was nothing I didn't like.“

Agathe, France, Landscape Architecture

ABOUT WEIHENSTEPHAN-TRIESDORF UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

HSWT's roots date back to the beginning of the 19th century. Over the course of its history, HSWT has become Germany's largest "green" university. Our degree programmes cover everything to do with nature, food, and the environment in the very broadest sense, with approaches ranging from scientific to artistic. In all of our degree programmes, the focus is on managing and using natural resources both efficiently and sustainably.

You can find an overview of all our degree programmes at:
www.hswt.de/en/studies/degree-programmes

HSWT comprises two campuses in Bavaria, the Weihenstephan (Freising) campus and the Triesdorf (Weidenbach) campus, which are about 200 km apart from one other:

- » Weihenstephan, a district of Freising, is about 30 km north of Munich. The departments of Bioengineering Sciences, Horticulture and Food Technology, Landscape Architecture, Sustainable Agriculture and Energy Systems, and Forestry are located here. Approximately 3,800 students are enrolled at our Weihenstephan campus.
- » Triesdorf is approximately 60 km from Nuremberg, Bavaria's second-largest city. The departments of Agriculture, Food, and Nutrition and Environmental Engineering are located here. About 2,100 students study at our Triesdorf campus.

In Weihenstephan, students live and learn on the largest green campus in Germany. Show gardens, experimental farms, laboratories, and a biotechnology centre all provide an excellent learning environment. Exchange students receive individual support from HSWT's International Office.



CONTACT

We are available to assist you with any questions you may have before, during, or after your stay.

International Office, Funding and Career Service
international-office@hswt.de
T +49 8161 71-5778, -2293 | F +49 8161 71-2230

Manager and Erasmus+ coordinator:
Ms. Michaela Ring
michaela.ring@hswt.de

At the departments, the International Affairs Officers (departmental coordinators) are the contact persons for exchange students regarding all study-related questions. You will meet your departmental coordinator soon after your arrival.

We will also be happy to assign you a “student buddy”, who will provide assistance when arriving and at the beginning of your studies. Your buddy can also answer any questions regarding student life from their own experience.

INFORMATION ON APPLYING TO HSWT

ACADEMIC CALENDAR AND HOLIDAYS

Before applying to HSWT, please check that our lecture and examination schedules are compatible with those of your home university.

- » The summer semester starts in mid-March. Classes finish at the beginning of July; examinations are held until the end of July.
- » The winter semester starts at the beginning of October. Classes finish at the end of January; examinations are held until mid-February.

Detailed information on semester times including lecture and examination periods can be found at:
www.hswt.de/en/studies/planning-your-studies

Information on public holidays (and thus lecture-free days) is available at:
www.schulferien.org/Feiertage/Feiertage_Bayern (German website)

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

If you are a student at one of our partner universities, your university's International Office will usually nominate you for a study period with us. As soon as we have received this nomination, we will send you all the information regarding the application. If you have any questions, e.g. regarding the study programmes, you can of course contact us in advance.

If we do not have a cooperation agreement with your home university, you can study with us as a “Freemover” provided that your degree programme corresponds to the courses offered at HSWT. Please contact us as early as possible so that we can discuss all of the details with you.

Please allow sufficient time to submit all required application documents to us by the following dates:

- » 15 June for the following winter semester (courses begin 1 October)
- » 1 December for the following summer semester (courses begin 15 March)

If you require a visa for your stay in Germany, we recommend that you submit your application to us as early as possible. Reviewing your documents may take some time.

Once your application documents are complete and you fulfil all of the requirements, you will receive an official letter of admission and further information regarding enrolment at HSWT.



CURRICULUM AND LEARNING AGREEMENT

When planning your stay, you should consider which modules you would like to attend at our university. Your choice of modules will be listed in a Learning Agreement that is signed in advance by you, your home university and HSWT. If you study with us for two semesters, a separate Learning Agreement will be signed for each semester. The Learning Agreement can be modified after your arrival in case there are clashes in the timetable or the courses are not what you expected. In addition to subject-related modules, you can also choose language courses.

We advise you to take courses up to 30 ECTS credits per semester (1 EC is equivalent to approx. 30 hours of study workload).

English-taught Courses and Language Courses

The various departments at HSWT offer a range of English-taught modules and projects. These modules are aimed at international exchange students in particular and allow you to gain about 30 ECTS credits per semester.

A list of English-taught modules and projects as well as language courses is available at:
www.hswt.de/en/international/programmes-and-projects.html

Module Handbooks for German-taught Courses

Information on the modules of the degree-programmes (German-taught) is available in the various module handbooks at:

www.hswt.de/en/studies/degree-programmes → Your degree programme → Modules

Please note that in the Bachelor degree programmes, only modules from the first, third, fifth and seventh semesters are offered during the winter semester. During the summer semester, modules from the second, fourth and sixth semesters take place.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

The majority of courses offered at HSWT are taught exclusively in German. In order to be able to follow and participate in classes, we recommend that you have German language skills equivalent to level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). A language proficiency certificate is only necessary if you are a student at our partner universities Agrocampus Ouest and wish to obtain a German-French double degree.

To participate in English-taught lectures, including the study programme International Master of Landscape Architecture (IMLA), we strongly recommend English language skills equivalent to level B2 of the CEFR. Submitting a language proficiency certificate is not required.

For information on the CEFR language levels, see:

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/table-1-cefr-3.3-common-reference-levels-global-scale>



ACCOMMODATION

STUDENT HALLS OF RESIDENCE

There are four student halls of residence in Freising which are administered by the Studentenwerk München (Munich student union). Exchange students can apply for a room directly with us. You will receive the necessary form from the International Office. Please submit it to us along with the application documents for your study abroad period.

The rooms must be rented for periods of six months (September until February or March until August). It is not possible to switch rooms or change the fixed lease period.

All rooms are furnished single rooms in student apartments, where bathroom and kitchen facilities are shared with other students. You will also receive a "service package" comprising a sleeping bag, a pillow with pillowcase and a bedsheet. At the end of your stay, you may take these items home with you.

About 10 weeks before the semester starts, we will notify you whether a room in one of the student halls of residence is available for you. In this case, the Studentenwerk will send you a room offer, which you will have to accept within a few days. The first three months' rent, a deposit plus a surcharge will have to be transferred up front. A rental agreement will be sent to you by e-mail. The remaining rent will have to be paid in another instalment only after your arrival in Germany. Should you not arrive in Freising to claim the room, one month's rental payment will be retained, the remaining prepayment will be refunded. The Studentenwerk will send you further details on the rental conditions.

The earliest possible move-in date is the first day of the month. Should this day fall on a weekend or public holiday, the move-in date is pushed back. Please inform us of your expected arrival (date and time) to organise the handing over of the room key.

Important: You will require an Ethernet cable to use the Internet in the hall of residence. Wi-Fi is not available. If you do not have a cable, you can purchase one after your arrival.

For information on the different student residence halls, see:
www.studentenwerk-muenchen.de/en/student-accommodation

PRIVATE ROOMS

If you are not moving into one of the student halls of residence, you can find a room on the private housing market. We will of course support your room search. Finding affordable private rooms or apartments in Freising can be difficult. Therefore, you should begin your search well in advance.

Rooms in shared apartments (known as a "Wohngemeinschaft" or "WG") or flats:
www.wg-gesucht.de/en

Facebook group where students sublet apartments or rooms to other students:
www.facebook.com/groups/162903487151913



SHORT-TERM ACCOMMODATION

If you need a place to stay for a few days before moving into your accommodation, or if you will receive visitors during your time in Freising, the following accommodation options are available:

Hotels, holiday apartments and guest rooms in Freising (in German)
<https://tourismus.freising.de/unterkuenfte.html>

Private rooms and apartments in Freising and the surrounding area:
www.boardinghaus-freising.de
www.airbnb.com

Particularly around the time of the Oktoberfest (end of September/beginning of October), hotels and hostels are booked out well in advance and room rates are much higher than usual. You should not arrive during this period without having booked a room in advance!

The exact dates for the next Oktoberfests are published here:
www.oktoberfest.de/en

GOOD TO KNOW



Electronic devices operate at a mains voltage from 220 to 230 volts and a frequency of 50 Hz. Type C and F plug sockets are used (see photo at the top of the page). If the plugs in your home country conform to a different standard, you will need an adaptor.

Tap water in Germany is considered safe to drink and can be used for cooking and drinking without reservation.

Cooking, showering and doing laundry cause increased humidity in closed rooms. To avoid the development of mildew, it is very important to air the apartment by opening the windows three to four times per day for 5-10 minutes – also in winter. Please do not heat and air the room at the same time, but turn off the heater before opening the windows. Once the windows are closed, you can turn up the heater again.

In Germany, household garbage is separated for environmental protection. Usually there are designated bins for recyclable materials (e.g. plastics, packaging, cans, plastic bags and foils, beverage cartons), for kitchen waste (e.g. left-over food, tea and coffee remains, egg shells, old flowers), for paper (e.g. newspaper, cardboard packaging) and for all residual waste (general waste that does not go in any of the other bins). Separate containers for glass are usually located outside housing areas. Batteries may be disposed of in designated boxes for example in drug stores or electronic stores.



FINANCIAL MATTERS

According to a survey in 2016, students in Germany spend on average € 820 each month on rent, clothing, food, health insurance, learning resources, travel and leisure activities. Of course, the actual amount of expenses depends on the individual's lifestyle.

RENT AND HOUSING-RELATED COSTS

For a room in a student hall of residence, you should plan between € 250 and € 350 per month. Private rooms in shared flats are usually more expensive. You often have to pay a deposit when you move in.

In the student halls of residence the deposit is € 350, in private rooms it is usually equivalent to 1-2 months of rent. You will get this deposit back at the end of your tenancy, provided that the room and furnishings are not damaged.

Cold Rent and Warm Rent

In Germany, a distinction is made between "Kaltmiete" (net monthly rent or "cold rent") and "Warmmiete" gross monthly rent including utilities or "warm rent".

Additional costs may be added to the warm rent. Please check before signing the lease exactly how much money you will need to budget per month.

The rent for accommodation run by the student union is a warm rent, which includes all additional costs.

A flat rate is paid every month for heating and additional utility costs as well as electricity. If it turns out that you have used more than you have paid for, you will have to pay the difference. If you have used less than you have paid for, you will get money back. Utility costs are usually only settled once a year, so you may not receive the difference until a few months after you have moved out.

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Cold rent} \\ + \\ \text{Utilities} \\ \text{(heating, water, waste disposal,} \\ \text{communal power supply, cable} \\ \text{connection, maintenance services)} \\ = \\ \text{Warm rent} \\ + \\ \text{additional costs} \\ \text{(e.g. electricity, internet)} \end{array}$$

TV and Radio Licence Fee

A TV and radio licence fee ("Rundfunkbeitrag") of € 18.36 per month is charged for every apartment in Germany. The money collected from this fee is used to fund public radio and TV channels. The licence fee is not included in accommodation rental costs.

If several people are living together (e.g. in a shared apartment), only one person has to pay the licence fee. The costs are usually split between all of the residents. Please ask your flatmates, who pays the licence fee.

After registering with the local registration office, you will receive a letter from "ARD ZDF Deutschlandradio Beitragservice" with information about the licence fee. Please reply to this letter in order to avoid having to make retrospective payments later on. For more information, see:

- » www.rundfunkbeitrag.de/welcome/englisch/index_ger.html
- » https://www.rundfunkbeitrag.de/welcome/englisch/students_and_apprentices/index_ger.html



SEMESTER FEE

All HSWT students – including exchange students – are required to pay a semester fee. For the summer term at the Weihenstephan campus, this fee amounts to € 152,30. Exchange students do not pay tuition or administrative fees at HSWT.

The semester fee comprises a fee for the student union and a solidarity contribution for the semester ticket. The student union uses the money to fund the canteen and student halls of residence, among other services. The university forwards the solidarity contribution to the Münchner Verkehrs- und Tarifverbund (MVV), the organisation responsible for public transport in Munich and the surrounding area.

More information on the semester fee and semester ticket can be found at:

www.hswt.de/en/studies/planning-your-studies/financial-information/fees-and-contributions

OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

Regular payments such as rent, electricity or health insurance payments are usually done via direct debit in Germany. Thus, it may be useful or necessary to open a German bank account, particularly if you do not have a bank account in a European country that participates in the SEPA system for cross-border transfers and direct debits.

To open a bank account, you will need your personal ID or passport, registration certificate (which you received when you registered your residence) and enrolment certificate. In some cases, you will need the bank's app to use online banking.

Opening a current account is often free for students and there are several banks in Freising that offer this service. If you need further information on this matter, we will be happy to help and assist you in making an appointment with a bank.

EMPLOYMENT

If you come from an EU/EEA country or Switzerland, you may not work for more than 20 hours per week during lecture periods. Exceptions are possible if, for example, you only work weekends, in the evenings or at night.

Students from other countries may work a maximum of 120 full days or 240 half-days per year in Germany. Working days on which more than half of the standard working hours are worked (more than 4 hours), are considered full days. Any employment that exceeds this limit must be approved in advance by the immigration authorities. This restriction does not apply to part-time student work at the university (for instance, work as a research assistant or for the student union). Please also take account of the information specified in your residence permit and contact the relevant immigration office in case of doubt.

Job advertisements can be found on our online job platform:

<https://jobboerse.hswt.de/index.php/en>

We can provide you with an information leaflet on searching for jobs and links to other job portals.

The Career Center can provide support for the application process:

<https://www.hswt.de/en/alumni-careers/career-service.html>



RESIDENCY-RELATED MATTERS

ENTRY / VISA

International students from the EU, the EEA or Switzerland, require only a valid identification document to enter Germany. Students from other countries should check the website of the German Federal Foreign Office whether it is necessary to apply for a visa in advance:

www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/-/231148

In case you need a visa, you have to apply for it at the German embassy or consulate in your country of residence before travelling to Germany. The contact information for the German embassy or consulate in your country can be found here:

www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/ReiseUndSicherheit/deutsche-auslandsvertretungen/03-webseitenav

To study at a German university, you will need a “national visa for the purpose of a study trip” (Nationales Visum zum Zwecke des Studienaufenthalts).

Exception for Non-EU Students from Partner Universities in the EU

- » You are studying at one of our partner university in the EU (except Ireland or Denmark)
- » You do not hold an EU citizenship
- » You have a residence title for studies in the country where you are currently studying

If all three conditions apply to you, you do not need a visa for Germany. You will also not have to apply for an additional German residence permit.

In the context of EU mobility programmes, students are permitted to study in another European state for up to 360 days. In this case, HSWT is responsible for contacting the authorities to request a special confirmation for you.

Should this regulation apply to you, please contact the International Office at HSWT as early as possible.

RESIDENCE REGISTRATION

Within two weeks of your arrival, you will need to make an appointment in order to register at your local citizens' registration office (“Bürgerbüro”). The address and opening hours of registration offices are available online.

When registering, you will need to present a valid identification document and a declaration from your landlord confirming that you have moved in (“Wohnungsgeberbestätigung”). If you are staying in a student hall of residence, the student union will send you this confirmation via email. If you have rented a private room, you will need to ask your landlord to provide this form when moving in.

The address, opening hours and a link to make an appointment in Freising's registration office can be found here:

www.freising.de/rathaus/buergerbuero (German website)

If you arrive in Freising shortly before the semester begins, we can help you with the registration process as part of the orientation activities.



RESIDENCE PERMIT

If you are not from an EU/EEA country, you need to apply for a residence permit at the Immigration Office during your visa term (or your visa exemption period). You can find the address and opening hours on your local authority's website.

It takes several weeks to issue the electronic residence permit, so make sure you apply early. You can only apply for the residence permit after you have registered at the citizens' registration office (see "Residence registration").

The address of the Immigration Office (Ausländeramt) in Freising is: Landshuter Straße 31, 85356 Freising. You will need to book an appointment. Contact the staff member responsible for your surname to arrange an appointment.
www.kreis-freising.de/buergerservice/abteilungen-und-sachgebiete/auslaenderamt.html

Exception for Non-EU Students from Partner Universities in the EU

Special regulations apply to exchange students from partner universities who already hold a residence permit in another EU member state (refer to page 9 "Entry/ Visa").

GOOD TO KNOW



You can only register once you have moved into a permanent residence. Registration with the address of a hostel or hotel is not possible.

In case your name is not written on the mailbox please add "c/o name of main tenant" to your mailing address. If you live in the dormitory, make sure that your room number appears on your registration certificate. Otherwise you may not receive important mail.

If your address changes during your stay, you have two weeks to inform the registration office of your new address.

Inform the Immigration Office if you change your address (if applicable).

Even though Swiss students enjoy freedom of movement within the EU, they must apply for a declaratory "Swiss residence permit" (Aufenthaltserlaubnis-Schweiz).



STUDENT LIFE

ORIENTATION AT THE UNIVERSITY

Before lectures begin, we will organise a series of orientation events, where we inform you about everything you need to know regarding student life at HSWT. You will also have the opportunity to meet other students and staff of the university for the first time. A campus tour is part of the programme as well. In addition, we will be happy to assist you with formalities such as registering at the local registration office or opening a bank account.

During the semester, we also coordinate a varied programme of events for exchange students with cultural activities and excursions.

You can also get in touch with other student at HSWT, for example via two Facebook-groups

- » www.facebook.com/groups/1707870866200245 ("HSWT International Students")
- » www.facebook.com/groups/HSWTincomingstudents ("HSWT Incoming Students" – exchange students only)

STUDENT.CARD

After your enrollment and arrival in Freising, you will receive your HSWT student ID card or "Student.Card". The card verifies your student status and serves as a method of payment in the canteen and for the printers, as library card, and travel ticket on the MVV public transport network. The Student.Card also gives you access to the university's IT rooms.

Along with your Student.Card, you will receive all necessary information on the various functions and on how and where to top-up your account.

LIBRARIES

The following libraries are at your disposal at our Weihenstephan campus:

- » Weihenstephan Main Library (Zentralbibliothek)
- » Forestry Library (Teilbibliothek Wald und Forstwirtschaft)
- » Language Centre Library (Teilbibliothek Sprachenzentrum)

Your Student.Card serves as your library card. The libraries' addresses, opening hours and loan periods can be found at:

www.hswt.de/library

You can also use the university library of the Technical University of Munich in Weihenstephan. To do so, you have to activate your Student.Card at the library desk.

www.ub.tum.de/en/branch-library-life-sciences

To obtain a library card for the public library ("Stadtbibliothek") in Freising, you will need a personal ID and your registration certificate ("Meldebescheinigung") from the citizens' registration office.

www.stadtbibliothek.freising.de (German website)



MYCAMPUS

After your arrival, you will also receive the login details (username and password) for the IT system at HSWT. They will give you access to our online portal for students "MyCampus", the internal section of the website, the computers at the university and your HSWT email address.

Please only use this email account to communicate with HSWT professors and employees.

IT FACILITIES AND USE

The computers in the IT rooms have Internet access, standard software programs (Microsoft Office) and some specialist programs (CAD, Photoshop, etc.). You will also have external access to some of the drives, so that you can conveniently work on student projects at home. Lecturers use these drives to make study materials available to their students.

The IT rooms are equipped with multifunctional printers and plotters, which can also be used for scanning and photocopying. In order to use the printing, plotting and photocopying services, you will need your Student.Card and credit in your print account.

WLAN ON CAMPUS

If you wish to work on your own laptop, you can use the university's Wi-Fi networks ("eduroam" and "lrz"). To register, you will need your network ID ("Radiuskennung") rather than your standard HSWT username.

Detailed information on IT facilities and their use is available at:
www.hswt.de/en/about-us/central-facilities/computer-centre

If you are having problems with the IT facilities or with setting up Wi-Fi, please contact the helpdesk:
<https://www.hswt.de/en/person/helpdesk.html>

TIMETABLE

In order to create your individual timetable, please check the online lecture plans. To access these, log on to the HSWT website and go to:

www.hswt.de/en/studies/degree-programmes → Your degree programme → Lecture plans

If you are attending lectures of different study programmes or semesters, you must check the various lecture plans. We will assist you with this.

Please note that modules often consist of more than one lecture component. In order to complete a module and receive credits, you must successfully attend and complete all of the associated module components. To find out what these are, please refer to the relevant description in the module handbook in the section on lectures ("Lehrveranstaltungen").

www.hswt.de/en/studies/degree-programmes → Your degree programme → Modules



REGISTERING FOR MODULES AND EXAMINATIONS

Registration at the beginning of the semester

For so-called obligatory elective modules (“Wahlpflichtmodule”), elective modules (“Wahlmodule”) and language courses, you need to register at the beginning of the semester via the MyCampus portal. This means that you are also automatically registered for the module’s examination.

Registration during the semesters

For compulsory modules (“Pflichtmodule”), which are a fixed component of degree programmes at HSWT, online registration is not possible at the beginning of the lecture period. You should therefore talk to the relevant professor during one of the first classes to ensure you will be included in any mailing list or e-learning services.

The examination registration for compulsory modules takes place during the semester in MyCampus. You will be informed of the deadlines via email.

Examination results are announced at the end of the semester via the MyCampus portal.

INFORMATION SOURCES

Important information regarding your day-to-day studies, such as changes in your timetable, lecture announcements, examination dates and information about university events, is often made available in the “Neuigkeiten” (“News”) section of your degree programme on the German HSWT website (visible after log-in). Please check this page daily. However, as this information is not available in English, please do not hesitate to ask others for help, if you have trouble understanding the announcements.

www.hswt.de/studium/studiengaenge → Your degree programme → „Neuigkeiten“ Section

For information about upcoming events, check the flyers or posters on notice boards in the university, the canteen or the student halls of residence.

LEARNING LANGUAGES AND ONLINE COURSES

HSWT’s Language Centre offers German courses for various levels, as well as a comprehensive range of foreign-language courses (e.g. English, French, Spanish, Chinese and Russian). Please be aware that these courses can only take place if there is a sufficient number of interested students.

<https://www.hswt.de/en/international/language-centre.html>

If you are interested, we will try to arrange a tandem language exchange for you. This involves meeting up regularly with a student who is a native speaker of the language you wish to learn, and helping each other to improve your respective language skills. The relevant registration form is available at:

<https://www.hswt.de/en/international/language-centre/self-study-options.html>

You also have the opportunity to participate in online courses offered by the Bavarian Virtual University (BVU) at no charge. Apart from subject-related modules, BVU offers modules that train key competencies (e.g. communication skills, intercultural skills) as well as various online language courses. Credits for BVU courses may be recognised after consulting your HSWT coordinator.

www.hswt.de/en/studies/services/bavarian-virtual-university

LEISURE TIME ON CAMPUS

CATERING

The student union canteen provides good-quality, inexpensive meals (including vegetarian and vegan options). Main dishes are available from € 1, as well as various side dishes and special offers that change regularly. Next to the main canteen, the student union operates cafeterias on campus. Payment is made with your Student.Card. You can find the current menus at:

www.studentenwerk-muenchen.de/mensa/speiseplan/index-en.html

There is also the "Orangerie" bistro close to the Trial Gardens, as well as a snack bar and an Asian food stall next to the University Library of the Technical University Munich.

www.orangerie-cafe.de (German website)

UNIVERSITY SPORTS PROGRAMME

The university sports centre (ZHS) offers a wide range of sports activities. Depending on the activity you choose, you will need to buy a semester tag online; for some courses, additional fees apply. You can then obtain a participant ID from the university sports centre's office. To do so, you will need the booking confirmation of your tag, your Student.Card, your personal ID, a passport photo and the signed direct-debit form, so that the fees can be deducted from your bank account (SEPA authorisation). You will receive this form when you make the booking for the semester tag.

Information on the various sports activities, as well as the address and opening times of the ZHS office in Weihenstephan can be found here:

www.zhs-muenchen.de/en

WEIHENSTEPHAN GARDENS

The Weihenstephan Gardens are part of the university and are a popular attraction for visitors from Germany and abroad. The Landscape Architecture and Horticulture departments use the gardens to train students, but they are freely accessible to the public at no charge.

www.hswt.de/en/weihenstephan-gardens

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY (HOCHSCHULGEMEINDE – HSG)

The ecumenical University Community offers activities such as hikes, tours, theme nights, film nights, meditation, and religious services to students of all faiths and nationalities. Once a month, students and researchers from all over the world meet for the "Campustreff International" (International Campus Meet-up). The University Community building and its garden are open to everyone and provide a space for celebrations, discussions, and enjoyable times together.

www.hsg-freising.de (German website)

MAKING MUSIC

New musicians are just as welcome to join the Weihenstephaner Musikwerkstatt e.V., which consists of a big band, a choir, and an orchestra, as they are in the Weihenstephaner Blasmusik (brass band), which is made up of students from HSWT and Technical University Munich.

www.weihenstephaner-musikwerkstatt.de (German website)

<https://www.facebook.com/blasmusikweihenstephan/>

If you have your own instrument, but are unable to practise at home, you are more than welcome to practise at the University Community. There is a piano available to pianists.



FREISING

Freising's history can be traced back approximately 1,300 years. It may be old, but this lively little town has a lot to offer. With an average population age of about 40 years, it is the 'youngest' city in Bavaria. Not least because many of its approximately 50,000 inhabitants are students.

Due to its manageable size, you never have far to go. For example, it is only a ten or fifteen-minute walk from the university to the student halls of residence or the city centre. It is quicker by bike, the primary means of transport for many students.

Freising also has a well-developed bus network:

www.freisinger-stadtwerke.de/de/Stadtbus-Parkhaeuser/Stadtbus (German website)

The combination of a modern science campus, nature, culture and leisure is what makes Freising unique. Scientific teaching and research are brought together in Weihenstephan. The proximity to Munich and the mountains and lakes of the Alpine foothills make it a wonderful place to live and spend your leisure time. Freising also offers a variety of festivals and events – including the open-air 'Kino am Rang' cinema week or the Freibierfest (summer beer festival organised by brewing students) on campus, the Altstadtfest (old town festival) and the free Uferlos festival, including concerts and a market.

You are sure to find plenty of reasons to feel at home here:

www.freising.de (German website)

GETTING THERE AND TRANSPORT CONNECTIONS

Freising is very well served by transport services and is the ideal starting point for trips in the vicinity and further afield.

- » Munich Airport (MUC), which operates international flights, is around 10 km from Freising. It can be reached in 15 minutes with the regional train (RE) or in 20 minutes with the 635 public bus service.
- » From Freising train station, Munich is 25 minutes away on the RE or alex (ALX) regional trains.
- » You can make the same journey on the S-Bahn suburban rail (S1 line) in around 40 minutes, as there are more stops along the S-Bahn route than on the train.
- » The S-Bahn will also take you to Munich's central bus station (Zentraler Omnibusbahnhof or ZOB) in Munich, which is served by national and international bus companies.
- » If you are travelling by car, please note that the university has limited parked spaces.

During the semester, your Student.Card allows you to use public transport across all of the zones served by the Münchner Verkehrs- und Tarifverbund (MVG) free of charge at the following times:

- » Monday to Friday from 6pm to 6am the following day
- » All day on Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays and on 24 and 31 December

If you also purchase the "IsarCard Semester" (€ 209.30 for the 2023 summer semester), there is no time restriction on using public transport. For more information on the IsarCard Semester, additional ticket offers, and the zones covered by the MVG, go to:

www.mvg-muenchen.de/en/tickets-and-fares/frequent-travellers/mvg-semester ticket

ACTIVITIES IN FREISING AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

There's something on offer all year round in Freising. Check out the city's event calendar for information about upcoming festivals, concerts, plays, film screenings, or exhibitions.

<https://veranstaltungen.freising.de/freising/> (German website)

You can also find out about special events for students at:

www.facebook.com/freisingerstudentenleben

During the summer, Freising's public pool and the nearby lakes and ponds provide opportunities for relaxation. The mountains are easily accessible by train, and they offer great opportunities for hiking.

During the winter, you can go ice-skating, skiing or take part in indoor sports.

Gastronomy

Beer gardens are part of Bavaria's cultural heritage and are a much-loved meeting spot during the summer months. Local tip: Bavarian beer-garden regulations allow guests to bring their own snacks with them – only drinks must be bought on the premises. In terms of going out at night, Freising also offers an array of cosy restaurants, traditional cuisine, student pubs and friendly bars.

Bräustüberl Weihenstephan on Weihenstephan hill:

www.braeustueberl-weihenstephan.de/en

Plantage! beer garden in Freising State Forest:

<http://www.plantage-freising.de/>

Lindenkeller serves food from breakfast to dinner in its Stadtcafé, as well as in the Stadtgarten beer garden or the Eishaus. It is also a venue for events:

www.lindenkeller-freising.de (German website)

Samma Mera; pub run by former Brewery students for students in Freising

www.isarkindl-bier.com/sammamera (German website)

Weißbräu Huber, traditional Bavarian/Austrian-style cooking:

www.weissbraeu-huber.de/en

Furtnerbräu, cozy pub with a varied cultural programme:

www.furtner-freising.de (German website)

Q-Bar combines an Italian espresso bar with a Cuban Havana bar:

www.facebook.com/qbarfs/info (German website)

Sights in the Surrounding Region



Munich

The Bavarian state capital offers numerous cultural and leisure activities



Regensburg

City on the Danube, whose old town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Augsburg

One of the three oldest cities in Germany.



Nuremberg
Bavaria's second largest city with a medieval castle and the world-renowned Christmas market



Memorial site Dachau
This memorial commemorates victims of the concentration camp in Dachau.



Andechs Abbey
The monastery near the Ammersee lake is the oldest place of pilgrimage in Bavaria and has its own brewery.



Landshut
The "Landshuter Hochzeit", which takes place once every 4 years, is one of the biggest historical festivals in Europe.



Schleißheim palace complex
The Schleißheim palace complex is home to three palaces connected by a grand baroque garden.



Neuschwanstein Castle
The Castle in Hohenschwangau was built by King Ludwig II in 1869 and was the inspiration for the Walt Disney logo.



Chiemsee
Bavaria's largest lake; Castle Herrenchiemsee on the island Herreninsel was inspired by the Palace of Versailles.



Tegernsee
Lake in the Bavarian Alps where you can enjoy swimming, mountain climbing, and hiking.



Lake Constance
The lake in the region between Germany, Austria and Switzerland is one of the largest in Central Europe.



Lenggries
The town's local mountain, the Brauneck, is a well-known spot for hiking and skiing.



Garmisch-Partenkirchen
The starting point for hikes, and for journeys to the Zugspitze, the highest mountain in Germany.



Wallberg
The 6.5 km-long natural toboggan run is one of the longest and most challenging in Germany.



HELPFUL TIPS

TRAVEL OPTIONS IN GERMANY

Train

There are a number of low-fare ticket options for rail travel in Bavaria, in Germany, or cross-border journeys. Within Bavaria, for example, you can opt for the Bayern-Ticket (Bavarian ticket) or the BayernTicket Nacht (Bavarian night ticket). If several people are travelling together, they can split the cost of the journey and save money. To find the best deals, go to:

- » <https://www.bahn.de/angebot> (German website)
- » <https://www.bahn.com/en/booking-information/best-price-finder>

Long-Distance Bus Journeys

Bus journeys are often significantly cheaper than train journeys. You can compare prices for journeys within Germany and international journeys on this website:
www.busradar.com

Carpooling

Carpooling is a popular and affordable way to travel in Germany. You can use an online portal to search for drivers who are travelling along a specific route on a specific day and will take passengers for a small fee. Sometimes people also search the portals looking for other passengers to share train journeys with, as some train tickets are cheaper when travelling in a group.

- » www.blablacar.co.uk
- » www.facebook.com/groups/126605287433093 (Carpooling for students in Freising)

For Motorists: Environmental Stickers

Many cities in Germany, such as Munich, have established “Umweltzonen” (low-emission or environmental zones), where cars need a valid “Umweltplakette” (environmental stickers). If you drive within these zones without a valid environmental sticker, you risk a fine of at least € 80. Environmental stickers are not required in Freising. You can find detailed information on the low-emission zones at:

www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/topics/air/particulate-matter-pm10/low-emission-zones-in-germany

SHOPPING

Official Shop Opening Hours

Please note that shops in Bavaria – whether they are supermarkets, clothes shops, hairdressers or stationary shops – are open until 8 p.m. at the latest Monday to Saturday. Smaller shops often close earlier.

All businesses are closed on Sundays and public holidays. Bakeries, which open for a few hours on Sundays, and restaurants, cafes or beer gardens are an exception to this rule. Flee markets are often held on Sundays as well. You can also shop on Sundays at Munich Airport and in Munich’s main train station (Hauptbahnhof).

Pharmacies

On weekdays, pharmacies often close before 8 p.m., on Saturdays earlier. They operate an emergency service on a rotating basis. This information is usually displayed outside on pharmacies.

Buying Used Goods

The bulletin boards in the canteen or halls of residence have plenty of space for ads and offers – whether you are looking to buy a bike, need furniture for your room, or are on the hunt for a part-time job.

Flea markets also provide a good opportunity to find reasonably priced, used items. A flea market takes place at the 'Sauwiese' car park directly in front of the campus once a month from March until October.

www.sauwiese.de (German website)

You can find out about offers online using the following websites, for example:

- » www.ebay-kleinanzeigen.de (German website)
- » www.facebook.com/groups/108274865963530 (Freising student flea market)
- » www.facebook.com/groups/169868359814484 (Flea market for greater Freising area)

MEDICAL CARE

Adequate health insurance is required when studying in Germany. A travel insurance is not enough. We will inform you about the options during the admission process for your studies at HSWT.

If you are ill, you should first consult a general practitioner ("Allgemeinarzt"). Call the doctor's surgery to make an appointment. This way, you can avoid long waiting periods. However, in urgent cases, it is also possible to go to the doctor's surgery without making an appointment. Remember to bring your health insurance card with you (EHIC or another document that is valid in Germany). If necessary, your GP may refer you to a specialist ("Facharzt") or the hospital.

Doctors who speak your native language are often listed on the website of your country's embassy or consulate general. The International Office can also give you an overview of doctors in Freising who speak foreign languages. You can find doctors in your area here:

www.gelbeseiten.de (German website)

Should you get sick in the evening, on weekends or holidays, you can consult a doctor on call. You can find the practitioner on call in your area under:

www.116117.de/bps/web/index.php/de/search (German website)

If you have health insurance in your home country and are unsure of which medical costs will be covered in Germany, ask your health insurance provider directly.

Medication is available in pharmacies. Some medication is only issued on presentation of a doctor's prescription. If you take regular medication or nutritional supplements for your health, you should check whether these are available in Germany before leaving your home country. If necessary, bring a sufficient amount with you to last for the duration of your stay. It is not permitted to send medicine by post to the EU; parcels containing medication will be confiscated by customs.

GOOD TO KNOW



In the event of a life-threatening situation, call the emergency number 112. The ambulance service, police or fire brigade services will be notified depending on the emergency. In general, the staff speak several languages.

You can contact the police directly by calling 110.

**EMERGENCY
NUMBER 112**

POLICE 110



THE CORONA PANDEMIC IN BAVARIA

Restrictions of public and social life (opening hours, contact restrictions, etc.) due to corona protection measures are possible at any time. These are not taken into consideration in this brochure.

Please check the current regulations at:

- » <https://landkreis-freising.de/aktuelle-informationen-zum-coronavirus-covid-19.html>
(Information regarding Freising, in German)
- » <https://www.stmgp.bayern.de/coronavirus> (Coronavirus in Bavaria, in German)
- » <https://www.hswt.de/hochschule/coronavirus.html> (HSWT's FAQs on the coronavirus-crisis)

Last update: January 2023



CHECKLIST FOR YOUR STAY

Early planning (approx. 3-4 months before your study abroad period begins)

- » Apply for exchange studies at HSWT by 15 June (for the upcoming winter term) / by 1 December (for the upcoming summer term) respectively
- » Apply for a place in the student halls of residence by 15 June/ 1 December respectively (or begin searching for a private room or apartment)
- » Check the validity of your personal identification or passport
- » If necessary, apply for a visa

Shortly before your arrival (approx. 1-2 months before your study abroad period begins)

- » Submit proof of health insurance, e.g. EHIC or a recognised health insurance (we will advise you)
- » Transfer your semester fee (remember to keep the receipt)
- » Send documents for enrolment at HSWT to the International Office
- » Get in contact with your student buddy
- » Let the International Office know your expected arrival date and time
- » Arrange pick-up (e.g. at Freising train station) and handing over of keys with the International Office

After your arrival

- » If necessary, sign your lease agreement with the student union and submit a certificate of enrolment.
- » Register your arrival in the local citizens' registration office
- » If necessary, open a bank account
- » If necessary, make an appointment with the Immigration Office to apply for a residence permit
- » Register to pay your TV and radio licence fee or notify the authorities that you are exempt

During the semester

- » Register for HSWT modules during the first two weeks of the semester
- » Check your Learning Agreement and revise it where necessary
- » Register for examinations
- » Contact the International Office and your home university to extend your stay (if applicable)

At the end of your stay

- » Have the confirmation of the duration of your stay signed in the International Office
- » De-register at your local citizens registration office
- » If necessary, cancel your radio and TV licence
- » If necessary, close your German bank account
- » Return the keys to your room or apartment; leave your bank details so that the deposit can be refunded to you after your departure
- » Check that all of your modules and grades appear correctly in Student.Online for the purposes of creating your transcript

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Germany
www.hswt.de/en/international/international-office