



finally there

Information brochure for international students

h_da

Willkommen
Welkom Salaam
Dobre doshli
Shagatom
Benvingut
Huaning
Dobrodosli
Vitame Vas
Velkommen
Welcome
Tere Tulemast
Aloha
Tervetuloa
Bienvenue
Isten Hozott
Velkomin
Selamat Datang
Fàilte
Bienvenido
Benvenuto
Irasshamase
Härzleñh
wëllkomm
Merhba
Namaste
Velkommen
Bem-vindo
Dobro Pozhalovat'
Välkommen
Hoşgeldiniz

Impressum

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Layout und Druck:
Service Print Media, Hochschule Darmstadt

This brochure has been produced with the support of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD - Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst).

Stand February 2019

„Und jedem Anfang wohnt ein Zauber inne“

Hermann Hesse

Dear Student,

Have you just arrived in Germany or recently moved to the Rhine-Main area? We are delighted that you have chosen the Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences (h_da) and would like to wish you a warm welcome!

A new chapter in your life now begins with lots of new experiences. Enjoy it, even if you have to deal with weather that takes some getting used to, different food, a new everyday routine as a student and, in particular, a foreign language. Communicating in German is not always easy at the beginning, but in a relaxed environment and with friends, speaking a foreign language doesn't need to seem so 'foreign'.

The Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences offers a wide range of opportunities to get to know other students, for example via your course, sports, excursions, parties, etc. Make the most of these opportunities and also discover Darmstadt and its surrounding area, with all of the exciting destinations, cultural highlights and the delightful countryside. With your CampusCard you can not only travel around large parts of the state of Hessen free of charge, but also benefit from other discounts for students.

This brochure has a lot of tips for the start of your studies and thereafter. We want to support you as well as possible when you start your course.

We are also here for you in person and will answer any questions you may have – whether you need information or find yourself in a difficult situation. Come by the Student Service Center, we look forward to seeing you!

We wish you a successful start!

Your team of the Student Service Center.

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1. ARRIVAL

Registering in the city

Have you just arrived in Germany or are you relocating within Germany? Then you have to register your new residential address, within 14 days, with the registration authorities (the registration office/citizen's advice center/town hall) where you live.

Necessary documents:

- Passport with a visa or residence permit
- For Darmstadt: for each new registration and each change of residence, a fully completed and signed confirmation of residence from your landlord
- In other cities: The rental contract or a confirmation from the landlord may be necessary

It may be the case that you require further documents. Please therefore make sure you contact the responsible authorities for foreigners before your visit.

Changes to your visa/residence permit

Changes are to be made directly from abroad to the Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences

All foreign students who do NOT come from an EU/EEA country, must apply for a valid residence permit with the office for foreigners after your arrival, and before the expiry of your visa, within three months (§ 16 German Residence Act - *Aufenthaltsgesetz*).

Please be prepared that you will probably have to bring the following documents for registration:

- Certificate of registration from the residents' registration office
 - Proof of private or legal health insurance
 - CampusCard (certificate of matriculation)
 - Where applicable, proof of financing (if this was not already checked when the visa was issued)
-

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- A valid passport, where necessary with a visa
 - A health certificate, if necessary
 - A confirmation of residence from your landlord or a rental agreement, if necessary
 - (Biometric) passport photos, if necessary
 - Money to cover the fee for issuing the residence permit

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

Before visiting the office for foreigners, find out what documents need to be submitted.

Change of university to h_da

If you have already studied in Germany and only want to switch university to h_da, you have to enter this change directly after matriculation on your residence permit. Approval of a change of field of study after the third semester must be applied for with the office for foreigners.

Where can you do this?

At the office for foreigners in the city/administrative district you live in.

Necessary documents, e.g.:

- Certificate of matriculation
- Registration with the registration authorities
- Proof of financing
- Valid health insurance

Office for foreigners, Darmstadt:

Town Hall (Stadthaus)
Grafenstraße 30
64283 Darmstadt

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

The foreigners' registration office in Darmstadt will normally contact you once you have registered your place of residence with the registration office. It will give you a deadline for converting your visa, which you must make sure you meet. If you live in another town, find out from your responsible foreigners' registration office (Ausländerbehörde) how the deadline is handled, so that you can amend your residence permit.

Insider tips:

If you have any questions about this topic or similar ones, please contact the student advisory service of the Student Service Center (SSC) at www.h-da.de/studienberatung. In particularly complex or difficult situations concerning residence, we recommend that you contact the legal advice service of the General Student's Committee (AStA) of the Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences at www.asta-hochschule-darmstadt.de/projekte-angebote/beratungsangebote.

Opening a bank account

In Germany it is normal for payments like rent, health insurance, tuition fees and so on to be made via a bank account. It therefore makes sense to open a bank account in the very first week after arriving in Germany. To open an account, you usually need the registration certificate from your place of residence, your passport with a valid visa or a valid residence permit and the student ID card, or your admission letter from the Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

For students aged 18 to 30, banks often offer free current accounts. This means that there are no fees for running the account and using cash machines. However, not all banks are obliged to open an account for students. You normally also receive a debit card (EC card) when opening a bank account.

Insider tip:

Ask friends about their personal experience with banks. Check whether the bank you have chosen has a branch office or even a cash machine close to where you live, so that you will be able to withdraw cash or handle other banking matters.

Searching for an apartment

In Germany it is normal for students to stay either in student accommodation/halls of residence or private apartments (normally shared apartments). In Darmstadt and the Rhine-Main region, it is difficult to find good-value accommodation close to the University. Student accommodation is also very scarce in Darmstadt and Dieburg, and you have to expect long waiting periods to get a room there.

It is therefore very important to start looking for accommodation early, both in Darmstadt and the surrounding area.

In Darmstadt, for example, the following accommodation options are available for students:

a) (Furnished) apartments and dormitories

A room in a student dormitory of one of the student's associations is often the best-value solution, although the prices on the private accommodation market are getting closer and closer. The Darmstadt Student Association (Studierendenwerk Darmstadt) offers furnished and unfurnished apartments and dormitories. The Protestant Student and University Association (Evangelische Studierenden- und Hochschulge-

meinde): www.esg-darmstadt.de) and the Catholic University Association (Katholische Hochschulgemeinde): www.khg-darmstadt.de) also offer dormitories.

Pros: Fully or partially-furnished/normally close to the University

Cons: Long waiting periods

b) Individual room in a shared apartment (Wohngemeinschaft, WG)

Individual rooms in shared apartments of the Darmstadt Student Association or the private accommodation market are another option. For shared apartments the following applies: new applicants are normally chosen by the residents of the apartments.

Pros: You get to know other students and can speak German, slightly cheaper, the communal costs (such as for the washing machine or furniture) are shared.

Cons: Not much privacy, long waiting periods, communal rules for the use of the apartment.

c) Private apartments

Private apartments are rented directly from the owner or a property management company.

Pros: Sufficient privacy

Cons: Documents are normally required in advance, e.g. about your income situation, the rent is higher, it is more difficult to get an apartment as a student, you are by yourself, often it is necessary to purchase all the furniture and appliances yourself.

d) Dormitory rooms and apartments in private dormitories

In recent years many new dormitories have been built, such as the FIZZ opposite the h_da office tower or other private student dorms in the direct vicinity of the h_da. They are offered furnished or unfurnished, although often at a higher price than the accommodation of the Darmstadt Student Association.

Insider tips: Websites and other options to find an apartment

- Online: "Wohnungsmarkt Darmstadt" on Facebook and adverts on eBay
- Offline: The AStA bulletin board of h_da in the office tower, as well as the bulletin board of specialists/personal recommendations of friends
- Found your own living community with friends or other students.

In the event of an emergency or if time is short: Lists containing, for example, dormitories of HEAG Wohnbau GmbH and other offers at studierendenwerkdarmstadt.de/wohnservice/tipps-wohnungssuche/.

2. RIGHT OF RESIDENCE AND RIGHT TO WORK

Basic information about the right of residence

The residence right of international students from non-EU countries is governed in Section 16, German Residence Act. Non-EU students or EU students have maximum ten years to complete their studies, including the time needed to complete a language training course.

Students from EU Member States, the EEA and Switzerland do not need a separate residence permit. They must, however, prove that they have health insurance and that they are able to finance their studies.

A residence permit for study purposes is normally issued for two years, and must be extended before this period of time expires. The extension of a residence permit is often made dependent on regular proof of financing for the duration of the course. Progress of studies must also be evident for the foreigner's registration office.

- In the middle of the studies, the foreigner's registration office will check whether the student is completing their studies in accordance with the regulations using a student status survey (often with a form which has to be completed by the university).
 - The progress of studies is deemed to be in accordance with the regulations if exams are regularly passed, or credits are being obtained, and the duration of the course is no longer than three semesters more than the average duration of the degree program. The average duration of the course is calculated statistically by universities.
 - If you exceed the afore-mentioned period of time, the course is deemed to NOT be completed in accordance with regulations. In this case, the respective university ideally has to justify the extension of your studies, taking into account your personal situation.
-



- Please note: A change of course after the third semester is only possible with the consent of the foreigner's registration office. Please find out about this from the international student advice service at the Student Service Center.

Insider tips:

- Status reports about student progress: Confirmation that the studies are being completed properly or not are issued by the Student Service Center.
- "Emergency help", general information in the form of qualified consulting: If you have questions about the residence law, please contact the international student advice service of the Student Service Center (www.h-da.de/internationale-studienberatung) or the social counselling service of the Darmstadt Student Association (www.stwda.de).
- Legal advice about the foreigners' law by AStA: If you find yourself in an extremely difficult residential situation and need legal support, please contact the legal advice service of AStA at h_da. It offers initial consultation with a lawyer for students of h_da. For further free consultation, you can request a legal advice aid form from the district court (Amtsgericht). More information: www.asta-hochschule-darmstadt.de.

Basic information about the right to work

Foreign students who have a residence permit as per Section 16, German Residence Act, are allowed to work for 120 full days or 240 half days per year. A half day comprises a maximum of four hours. Both the employer and the student are obliged to provide information about the hours worked. In addition, foreign students with the afore-mentioned residence permit are allowed to work at scientific institutions (such as universities) as student or science assistants with no time limit. This only applies, however, as long as it does not affect the degree course. More details:

www.internationale-studierende.de/fragen_zur_vorbereitung/finanzierung/jobben/.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT PLACEMENTS!

- A mandatory placement required by the study or examination regulations does not require a work permit, and has no influence on the 120 full or 240 half days.
- A voluntary placement, on the other hand, is counted against the 120 days. Students from NON-EU States do not require special permission for this, provided the scope of 120 full or 240 half days is not exceeded by any work they perform.

Free and confidential consultation about this issue is provided by the international student advice service of the SSC: www.h-da.de/studienberatung, Social counselling services of the Darmstadt Student Association: studierendenwerkdarmstadt.de/beratung-und-soziales/sozialberatung-2/.



3. FINANCING

Before you receive a residence permit, you have to prove that you are able to finance your studies. German authorities assume that a figure of approx. 8,700 Euros is required for a full year of studies. There are various ways to provide proof of financing. It is important to discuss which of the options you could use with the office for foreigners.

Proof of financing: Blocked account/declaration of support

Blocked account: The blocked account is a special account which you only have limited access to. A maximum amount of 720 Euros per month can be withdrawn or transferred from a blocked account. This is set by law.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

Only a few banks (including Sparkasse and Deutsche Bank) offer this service in Germany. They charge a fee of 50 to 150 Euros to open a blocked account. These banks are under no obligation to open an account for anyone.

Declaration of support: For a declaration of support, you need someone who will be responsible for supporting you financially for the whole duration of your course. This person must have a regular place of residence in Germany and have sufficient funds to bear the maintenance costs incurred, such as health insurance fees, tuition fees, accommodation etc. For this purpose, the person's credit rating is checked.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

It is possible to cancel a declaration of support if you find someone else who can act as a guarantor for you or if you can prove that your living costs are covered in another way. If you do not submit sufficient proof of other financing, the guarantor shall remain responsible for the costs incurred.

Proof of financing: Grants and jobs?

Grants

According to Section 16, German Residence Act, other sources of income are also accepted as proof of financing for studies. For example, this could be a grant from your home country or from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD - Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

Take the proof of financing very seriously, as otherwise you may have difficulties with extending your residence permit. Make sure that you have access to financial support beyond the first year of your studies, i.e. until the end of your studies.

Jobs as proof of financing?

According to the German Residence Act, student jobs are not intended to be used as proof of financing to extend an international student's residence permit. In practice, however, some offices for foreigners take a different approach. Student employment with a monthly wage of approx. € 720 can be accepted as temporary proof of financing. However, this depends on the respective office for foreigners and the person in charge. You should therefore not rely on this practice. Discuss the issue with the contact person at your office for foreigners.

Basic information about jobs and placements

a) Searching for jobs and placements

Different rules may apply in Germany when it comes to searching for a job or a placement, compared to your home country. We recommend getting personal advice and taking part in the seminars held by the Careers Center. This will help you understand how to find jobs and placements and what you have to take into account when applying for a position.

Insider tips:

- The contact details and the central job portal of h_da can be found on the website of the Careers Center: www.h-da.de/jobportal.
- Jobs directly at the University are ideal. They are the easiest to combine with your studies, even during semesters. Student assistants and tutors can usually fit the working hours of their part-time jobs very flexibly into their schedule.

b) Jobs – Legal regulations

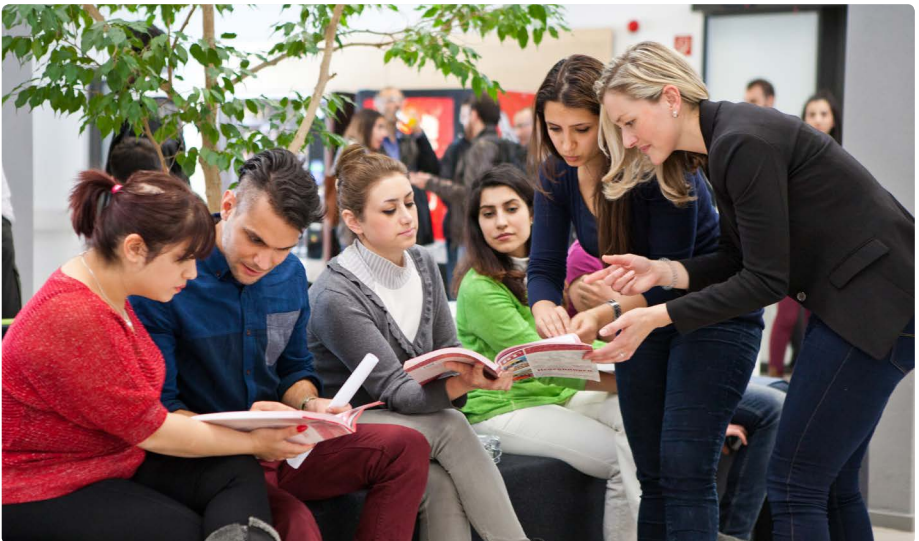
Students are allowed to work 20 hours per week, alongside their course, during term time –otherwise students are classified as employees. In this case, however, you may incur much higher monthly health insurance contributions. Outside of term time and on weekends, the 20-hour rule does not apply. For more information you can visit the Campus Office of AStA (www.asta-hochschule-darmstadt.de) or the website www.studis-online.de.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

Students are allowed to earn max. 450 Euros per month on a part-time job. A tax card is usually not required for this. You should, however, be careful if you decide to take on several part-time jobs. If you have more than one part-time job, you should be careful not to exceed the 20-hour limit.

c) Placements

Normally, each student of the Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences has to provide evidence of a study-related mandatory placement. If you want more work experience, you should complete extra placements during the semester holidays, so as not to prolong your course too much. You can find information about the labour law regulations for placements in the section “Basic information about the Labour Law”.



d) Documents and tax classes

If you work in Germany as a student, you will also have to deal with income tax. The tax law regulations on the calculation of wages are usually very complex. We would only like to mention a few key terms here. You are notified of your tax identification number in writing by the Federal Central Tax Office as soon as you have received your residence permit. The number, consisting of eleven digits, does not change, even if you move. The number is valid for your whole life. You will receive an income tax statement at the end of the year from your employer. It is normally provided with the first pay slip in January or February by the employer. In Germany there are different income tax classes. If you are single and only have one job, you are normally assigned to tax class I. If you have several jobs, you will be classified in tax class VI by one of your places of work and you will be charged taxes. As a consequence, state the job which you earn the most at as tax class I. If you have to pay income tax, you can receive a rebate from the responsible Tax Office at the end of the year. For this purpose, you will need to submit a tax statement.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

For more information about this and other labour law issues such as salaries, holiday entitlement, termination, employment contract, the validity of a collective bargaining agreement etc., please contact the Campus Office of AStA in cooperation with the DGB - Students@Work (www.asta-hochschule-darmstadt.de).

Grants and emergency support in Germany

a) Grants

International students can apply for a grant with various institutions in Germany. They could be political foundations, religious institutions or scientific organisations. Financial support for studies is usually possible from half-way through the course. A long-term grant, from the DAAD for example, is usually only granted if the application has already been made in the home country. Please be aware that there is no general claim to receive a grant!

Helpful websites:

Grants of organisations supporting young talent: www.stipendiumplus.de
The grant database of the DAAD: www.daad.de
Other grant databases: www.stipendienlotse.de, www.mystipendium.de and www.stiftungssuche.de.

Insider tips:

At the Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences, grants are awarded for the final phase of studies via the international student advice service of the Student Service Center. Students from NON-EU States, who are studying a Bachelor's, Diploma or Master's course and are close to handing in their thesis, can apply for these grants.

More information, advice about grants and contacts to grant holders can be obtained from the international student advisory service: www.h-da.de/studienberatung.

b) Emergency financial aid

Due to difficult life situations such as family or health problems, or the loss of employment, you may find yourself in an emergency financial situation. In Darmstadt and at h_da there is a range of institutions who provide support to students in these stages of their life. Normally you have to submit an application for financial aid and have a personal meeting with the institution.

Subsidy institutions and links:

- The Association for the Support of Students in Need at the Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences (Verein zur Förderung in Not geratener Studierender der Hochschule Darmstadt e.V.): www.foerderverein-fuer-in-not-geratene-studierende.de – e.g. financing of rent, health insurance (no cash provided or transfers made to the student's own account)
- University Catholic Community (KHG): www.khg-darmstadt.de – Please enquire yourself about the help offered
- Protestant Student and University Community (ESG): www.esg-darmstadt.de - e.g. financing of rent, health insurance (no cash provided or transfers made to the student's own account)
- Social counselling service of the Darmstadt Student Association: www.stwda.de (free and confidential)

4. INSURANCE AND FEES

Health insurance

Proof of health insurance – ideally legal health insurance – is mandatory for enrolment at h_da and for the whole duration of studies for every student. It also has to be proven to extend the residence permit. The legal health insurance funds charge a monthly fee of around 80 Euros if you are under the age of 40 and have not yet completed the 14th semester of studies. Then the membership fee rises to at least 160 Euros per month.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

If you stop paying your health insurance contribution, the Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences is notified and is then obliged to block you. As a consequence, you will not be able to pay your tuition fees and will be expelled from the university.

Insider tip:

The AStA, in cooperation with a health insurance fund, offers a consultation meeting at Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences. More information at: www.asta-hochschule-darmstadt.de.

Liability insurance

Private liability insurance protects the insured party from the financial consequences of damage it causes, and takes on compensation claims asserted against the insured party. It is highly recommended that you conclude liability insurance. The slightest lack of attention on your part could cause considerable damage, for which you may have to pay very large monetary fines.

Insider tip:

You can see which types of liability insurance are recommended and good value at the consumer protection office in Darmstadt (www.verbraucherzentrale-hessen.de/beratungsstellen/darmstadt) or at the AStA of h_da (www.asta-hochschule-darmstadt.de).

Broadcasting licence fee

Once you have registered at your place of residence, you will normally receive an invoice by post to pay the broadcasting licence fee (Rundfunkbeitrag). The broadcasting licence fee is the charge for using public television and radio in Germany, and has to be paid by every household. It is mandatory by law and currently costs 17.50 Euro per month for students. The fee is paid for a three-month period. Only one fee has to be paid per household. In shared accommodation therefore, only one person has to pay the fee. It does not matter whether you have a TV or radio, as you can also use the services of the public TV/radio broadcaster on your laptop or smartphone.

More details: www.verbraucherzentrale.de/rundfunkbeitrag.

5. TIPS FOR DOCTOR'S VISITS, THE HOUSEHOLD AND SHOPPING IN GERMANY

Doctor's visits

In the event of illness, you should first visit your family doctor or a general practitioner, who will refer you to a specialist if necessary. It is best to agree a visit by phone. You have to take your insurance card (health insurance card) with you. At weekends or evenings doctors are available on an "emergency service" basis. Hospitals only offer outpatient emergency care in Germany.

Important telephone numbers in case of emergency!

110 - Police – Not for medical emergencies, but, for example, for crimes and traffic accidents.

112 - Fire brigade and emergency medical services – e. g. for severe accidents, strokes, poisons and burns, acute pain.

Medicine

In Germany there are prescription and non-prescription medicines. For prescription medicines you receive a prescription from your doctor. You have to take this note to the pharmacy and there you will receive the medicine upon paying a fee of around five to ten Euros. The rest of the fee is covered by the health insurance company.

Drinking water

Tap water in Germany is drinkable. It is of excellent quality and is therefore perfectly suitable for drinking.

Deposit return system

When you buy drinks you normally pay a deposit for the bottle or can (usually between 8 and 25 cents). They can be returned back to the shop you purchased them at (often using a machine). The deposit fee is refunded when you return empty bottles or cans to the shop. More information available at: www.dpg-pfandsystem.de.

Waste segregation

In Germany, great emphasis is placed on waste segregation. The reasons are primarily environmental, because the waste is recycled. Waste is segregated in both residential buildings as well as public buildings such as train stations or airports. You can find out more about the categories of waste at www.zaw-online.de. Waste segregation has already been introduced at the University in Dieburg.

Discounts for students

A large range of discounts are available for students. At theatres, museums, opera houses, cinemas and other institutions you can receive discounted entry by showing a valid CampusCard.

Insider tips:

- On the AStA website of h_da you can find the latest offers for students of the university: www.asta-hochschule-darmstadt.de/projekte-angebote/guenstiger-fuer-studierende.
- Every year the Darmstadt Student Association issues and distributes the booklet “*Bonbons für Studierende*” (goodies for students). The booklet is usually received by all new students at the welcome event for first semester students, at the start of the winter semester.

6. START OF STUDIES

Initial information about the degree course: ESE event

The first semester introduction event (Erstsemestereinführung, ESE) is one of the most important events at the start of your course. At the event, you receive an introduction to the process of your degree program and get to know your fellow students. You also find out which courses you have to complete and what your schedule looks like. Participation in the ESE event is voluntary, but highly recommended. You can find information about the ESE on the website of your degree program and when enrolling at the Student Service Center.

Recognition of credits

If you bring study credits from your home country with you, you can try to get them recognised for your course at h_da. The recognition process is usually done by the chairperson of the examination committee of the respective course. The current list of contact persons can be found at:

www.h-da.de/studium/studienangebot/bewerbung/studienplatz-in-einem-hoeheren-fachsemester/

QIS

The university information systems such as HIS, HIS-QIS, QIS/LSF or OBS are IT systems which are self-operated. You can use these systems to complete a variety of study-related tasks online. For example, you can view the university schedule and sign up for courses, manage your schedule, view your notes, print course certificates and much more. In most specialist departments you can also register or deregister for exams using the system.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

If you have questions about specific schedules, please contact the student advisors of your degree program (contact details: www.h-da.de/studium/beratung/studienberatung/studentische-studienberatung).

Moodle

Moodle is the online learning platform of h_da. For many lectures and courses, learning material and media (e.g. PDFs, images, audio files and videos) is available here for students. Students can communicate via chats, forums and wikis. More information: lernen.h-da.de.

Stud-Mail

Stud-Mail is your personal student e-mail address. It is set up for you straight after your enrolment and is valid until the end of your studies. You receive the login credentials by post. This allows you to log into all the systems of h_da, including Moodle and, if desired, to also change your password. Via Stud-Mail you will also receive important information about lectures, other information about lectures, jobs, etc. You can view your e-mail account at webmail.stud.h-da.de.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

If your e-mail address does not work or you have other problems with your student e-mail account, please contact the IT Service at h_da:
Tel. +49 (0)6151-16 38888 or it-service@h-da.de.



CampusCard

The CampusCard has a range of functions. For example, it is used as a student ID, semester ticket for public transport in the Rhine-Main (RMV) region, as an electronic wallet in the canteens, a library card, and it can also be used to get free tickets at the Darmstadt State Theatre. The CampusCard is issued shortly after you enrol for the course and is sent to you after approx. one week by post. To receive the card, however, you first have to pay the tuition fee for the semester. The card is already activated for the first semester and can be used straight away. From the second semester, the CampusCard has to be revalidated at one of the revalidation machines on the campus, once you have paid the tuition fee for the semester. Detailed information: www.h-da.de/campuscard.

Media center (libraries)

During the whole course of their studies, students of h_da can use the media center with its central library in Darmstadt (Schöfferstrasse 8) as well as the three branch libraries, with their CampusCard:

- Branch library Dieburg (building F25)
- Branch library for Design (building E31, room 10)
- Branch library for Social Education (building E10, room 10).

You can also use the study rooms in the libraries. Before you can use the libraries, the CampusCard has to be activated so that it can be used as a library card. This activation can only be applied for in person at one of the h_da libraries. The media center also offers links to online services, databases and remote access to electronic media on its website. Detailed information is available at bib.h-da.de and in the course companion brochure.

Language courses

If you want to learn another language while at university, or if you have to take a language course as mandatory module, h_da is the right place for you. Courses are offered in ten different languages at different levels. You can also take courses in German for scientific writing as well as phonetics and grammar. You can find detailed information in the QIS and at sprachen.h-da.de.

7. CONTACT PERSONS ON THE DEGREE PROGRAMS AND IN THE SPECIALIST DEPARTMENTS

Faculty advisors for international students

In many situations it can be helpful to talk to students on the same course as you from later semesters about problems you experience or questions you have about the course. They may have a range of tips from their own experience. Don't be shy to contact the student advisors for international or domestic students, and ask them the questions you have about your course. The contact details for the student advisors can be found at: www.h-da.de/studium/beratung/studienberatung/studentische-studienberatung/.

Councils of student representatives

The students elected to the councils of student representatives represent the interests of the students in the respective department. The councils usually consist of six people. The members organise, for example, the welcome events for first semester students, parties, excursions and can also organise computer labs or learning centers. If you work with the council, you will get an insight into many of the processes of the department and can also have an active impact on student life. There is also an intensive exchange with professors of the respective degree program. For more information see: www.asta-hochschule-darmstadt.de/asta-hochschulpolitik/fachschaftsraete/.

8. LEISURE TIME AND MEETING PEOPLE

Studying does not just mean going to seminars and learning. A healthy balance is important. You can make friends not just on your course, but also, for example, through your hobbies. But where can you meet people at h_da and outside of the university and play sport, or get involved in extracurricular activities? Here is a brief insight we have prepared for you.

Sport

h_da offers a wide range of sports programs for students. The courses are free for all students of h_da, or are offered at good-value prices. Details about the courses, offers and registration periods can be found at: hochschulsport.h-da.de/. There is a university sports office in both Darmstadt and Dieburg. If you want to use the sports facilities of TU Darmstadt (Darmstadt Technical University), you have to pay a small fee per semester as a h_da student. Independent fitness studios are normally more expensive and often require that you conclude contracts for several months.

h_da and the Student Association: Parties, excursions etc.

Events are organised on a regular basis at Darmstadt University and by the Darmstadt Student Association where you can meet other students in Darmstadt. We have the following recommendations:

- 1) Parties organised by councils of student representatives: Parties by the councils of student representatives are organised by the respective department council and are often open to all students. Here you can meet students from other faculties. The latest party posters can usually be found in Café Glaskasten or on the bullet board of the C10 board.



- 2) Events during term time: Football tournaments, bowling events, parties, information meetings or site visits of the AStA are an opportunity to get out, find out things or simply have fun.
- 3) The event program of the international tutor team (ITT) of the Darmstadt Student Association also provides leisure time activities for all students in the city of Darmstadt, such as hikes, city tours, visits to Christmas markets or karaoke parties (www.stwda.de/interkulturelles/itt/).

Going out in Darmstadt?

Darmstadt is a student city with lots of good places to go out. Whether you want to dance, go to the theatre or a concert, you can find all the latest events at a glance here: www.partyamt.de. It is also worth checking out the pub guide in the student guide-book. There you will find the classic places to go in Darmstadt such as “Krone” (www.goldene-krone.de) or “Centralstation” (www.centralstation.de).

Music and Theatre in Darmstadt

Do you play a musical instrument and want to join a band or orchestra? At www.darmstadt.de/darmstadt-erleben/kultur/musik/ you can find a range of musical institutes, orchestras and music clubs. If you also like plays and the theatre, and are looking for student initiatives in Darmstadt, then it’s worth heading to the Auerbach music group (www.mga-darmstadt.de). The state theatre of Darmstadt (www.staatstheater-darmstadt.de) is an absolute “must” for theatre fans. With your CampusCard you can visit the plays of the Darmstadt Theatre for free. Check out how it works here www.asta-hochschule-darmstadt.de/projekte-angebote/theaterticket-staatstheater.

Associations for students from around the world

The IGM (International Generations Meeting) puts people from the region in contact with international students and postgraduates from Darmstadt. "The focus here is on personal meetings in everyday situations, joint undertakings or support with learning German", say the association. More information is available at www.igemda.de/. Do you want to meet students from your home country? In Darmstadt there are various international student associations, such as the Tunisian Academic Society (www.tag-hessen.org) or the Darmstadt Indian Association (DIA) (www.dia-darmstadt.de). More information about the associations can be obtained from the international student advice service of the Student Service Center (www.h-da.de/studienberatung).

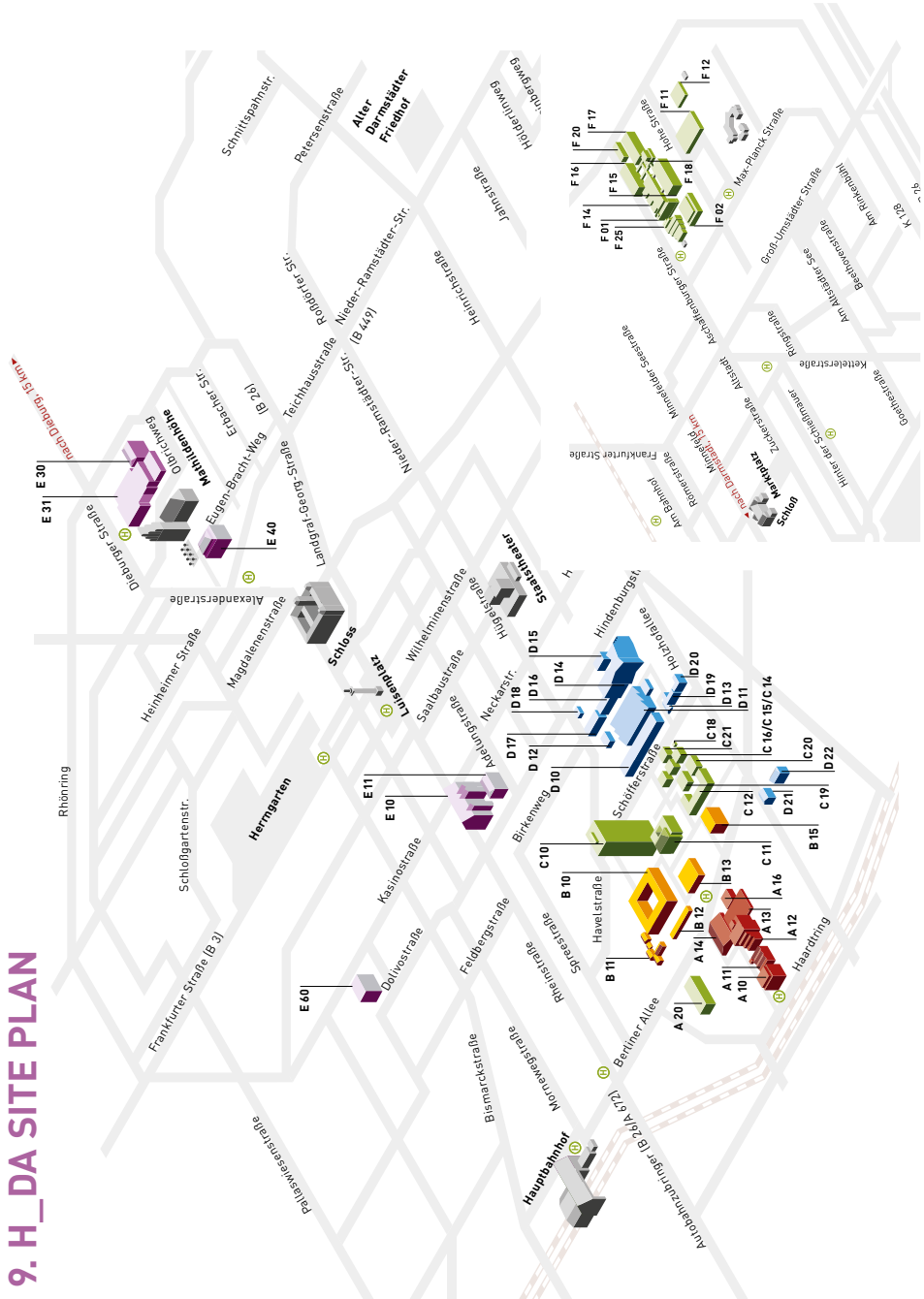
Religious life in Darmstadt

Are you religious and looking for a community where you can meet other students and talk about your faith or other issues? Darmstadt has both Protestant (www.esg-darmstadt.de) and Catholic university communities (www.khg-darmstadt.de), which also offer a wide range of events about issues related to studies, in addition to church services. Furthermore, there are also various Christian university groups, like CampusConnect (<http://darmstadt-campus-connect.de>) or the student mission in Germany (SMD) (<https://www.smd-darmstadt.de>), who have diverse spiritual offers and leisure activities. You can enquire about other religious communities at the Office for Intercultural and International Affairs: www.darmstadt.de/standort/interkulturelles-und-internationales.

"Seeing the bigger picture"

At STUBE Hessen you can meet international Students from Africa, Asia and Latin America, who are studying in the State of Hessen. At the extra-curricular seminars, academies and events, you can take a look into political-developmental issues and get to know students outside of the lecture halls of h_da. There are no costs for this. The costs for accommodation and board are covered by STUBE Hessen. More information available at: www.wusgermany.de/de/auslaenderstudium/stube-hessen or www.facebook.com/STUBE.Hessen.

9. H_DA SITE PLAN



MY NOTES:

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www.h-da.de