WELCOME TO WEIHENSTEPHAN
INFORMATION FOR EXCHANGE STUDENTS
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INTRODUCTION

Dear Student,

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

This information brochure is intended to support you in preparing for your semester abroad effectively and making your stay a complete success. In addition to information on the courses of study offered at HSWT and on the application and admissions procedures, you will also find important information on students’ day-to-day routines as well as on living in and spending your leisure time in and around Freising. Although your studies will take up the majority of your time, you should also use your time in Germany to discover the surrounding region and to learn about our culture, nature and ways of thinking. To make sure you do not forget anything out of excitement, the checklist at the end summarises the most important points.

We look forward to meeting you soon!

The International Office

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 our full range of degree programmes at:
www.hswt.de/en/studies/degree-programmes

HSWT is split across the Weihenstephan (Freising) campus and the Triesdorf (Weidenbach) campus, which are located about 200 km from each 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. During the 2017/18 winter semester, 4,200 students were enrolled at Weihenstephan.

» 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. During the 2017/18 winter semester, 2,200 students were enrolled at Triesdorf.

In Weihenstephan, our 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.

The large student population in Freising, as well as its 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

Freising’s history can be traced back approximately 1,300 years. Despite its considerable age and modest size – it is home to 50,000 inhabitants – this lively little city has a lot to offer. With an average population age of about 40 years, it is the “youngest” city in Bavaria. This is partly due to its large student population. The combination of a modern science campus, nature, culture and leisure is what makes Freising so unique.

Due to its manageable size, you never have far to go – the historic old town, train station, student halls of residence and university campus are all only a short walk from each other.

Scientific teaching and research are brought together on the Weihenstephan campus, the centre for “green” sciences. In addition to Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences, the Technical University of Munich also has a campus here.

Nestled between the university buildings you’ll also find the oldest brewery in the world, the Bavarian State Brewery Weihenstephan. You’ll have the chance to discover Bavarian hospitality and traditions in the brewery’s traditional tavern as well as in Freising’s many other welcoming beer gardens and authentic local restaurants. A weekly market is held on the Marienplatz square in the city centre, which is surrounded by a host of small shops and pleasant cafes. Freising Cathedral on Domberg (Cathedral) hill is well worth a visit; it was here that the future Pope Benedict XVI was ordained as a priest.

During the summer, Freising’s public swimming pool and the nearby lakes and ponds provide ample opportunities for relaxation. The mountains are only a short train journey away and are perfect for hiking. During the winter, you can go ice skating, skiing or take part in indoor sports.

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 20 minutes with the 635 public bus service.

» From Freising train station, Munich is 25 minutes away on the Regionalexpress (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.

» You can reach Freising by car via the A9 and A92 motorways. Please note that parking spaces at the university itself are in short supply.
CONTACTS

We are available to help you with any questions you may have while preparing for, during, or after your stay.

International Office
auslandsamt.weihenstephan@hswt.de
T +49 8161 71-5778, -4532
F +49 8161 71-2230

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

We work closely with the university’s international affairs officers (“Auslandsbeauftragte”) who are responsible for the individual degree programmes. They can help you with questions specific to your course during your stay. You will find out which international officer is responsible for your course shortly after your arrival.

We will also be happy to assign you a student buddy, who will provide support and assistance at the beginning of your stay. They can often meet you when you first arrive at the airport or train station and accompany you to your new accommodation. Your buddy will be able to answer questions on students’ day-to-day routines and student life from their own experience.

INFORMATION ON APPLYING TO HSWT

APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

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 you’ll need for your application. If you have any questions, for example about the range of courses on offer, you can of course also contact us in advance.

If we do not have a cooperation agreement with your home university, you can study with us as a “free-mover” provided that your degree programme corresponds to the courses offered at HSWT. We would encourage you to 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 beginning 1 October)
» 1 December for the following summer semester (courses beginning 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 can take some time.

If your application documents are complete and you fulfil all of the requirements, you will receive an official letter of admission for our university. To complete your enrolment, please send us the documents listed in your letter of admission. We need these to ensure that you receive your student ID card (known as the Student.Card) and access to HSWT’s IT systems shortly after your arrival.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

The majority of the courses offered at HSWT are taught through German. In order to be able to follow the classes and participate as much as possible, we recommend that you have German language skills equivalent to level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). You will only need to submit a language proficiency certificate with your application if you are a student at our partner universities Agrocampus Ouest or Bern University of Applied Sciences and wish to obtain a German-French or German-Swiss double degree.
The International Master of Landscape Architecture is taught in English. The HSWT departments also offer a selection of classes in English each semester. These are centred around the topic of “Sustainable Engineering” and are open to students from any degree programme. International students with English language skills equivalent to level B2 of the CEFR are welcome to attend. There is no need to provide a language proficiency certificate.

For information on the CEFR language levels, see:  
www.europass.cedefop.europa.eu/resources/european-language-levels-cefr

**COURSE CONTENT AND LEARNING AGREEMENT**

Before your stay begins, you should consider which modules you would like to attend at our university. The courses you choose 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 must be signed for each semester. Needless to say, the learning agreement can be modified after your arrival if there are clashes in your timetable or the courses are not what you expected.

In addition to degree-specific modules, you can choose language courses and elective modules. You can also attend English-language modules around the topic of “Sustainable Engineering”.

More detailed information on the individual modules is available in the various module handbooks at:  
www.hswt.de/en/studies/degree-programmes → Your degree programme at HSWT → Modules

Information on “Sustainable Engineering” and the current range of modules is available at:  
www.hswt.de/en/sustainable-engineering

When planning, please note that only modules from the first, third, fifth and seventh semesters are offered during the winter semester. During the summer semester, you can choose modules from the second, fourth and sixth semesters.

We would advise you to take courses with a total of 30 ECTS credits (equivalent to 900 hours of study).

**ACADEMIC CALENDAR AND HOLIDAYS**

Before applying to HSWT, please check that our teaching 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 can be held until the end of July.

» The winter semester starts at the beginning of October. Classes finish at the end of January; examinations can be held until mid-February.

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

Information on statutory public holidays (on which no lectures are held) is available at:  
www.schulferien.org/Feiertage/Feiertage_Bayern (German website)
ACCOMMODATION

STUDENT HALLS OF RESIDENCE

As an exchange student, you can apply for a single room in a student hall of residence in Freising. You can obtain the relevant form from the International Office. Please submit it to us along with the application documents for your study abroad period. If we receive more applications than the number of available rooms, the rooms will be allocated by means of a lottery.

The rooms are usually located in shared accommodation, in which bathroom and kitchen facilities are shared with other students. The rooms are furnished, and you will also receive a “service package” comprising a sleeping bag, pillow and pillowcase, and a bedsheet. You can take these home with you at the end of your stay.

The student residences in Freising are administered by Munich Student Union (Studentenwerk München), which has an office on the Weihenstephan campus. If you are allocated a room, the Student Union will notify you of the exact address and rental amount. You will sign the lease agreement after you arrive. To do so, you will need to provide the student union with your bank details, a photo and a certificate of enrolment from our university (can be submitted at a later date). The first month’s rent and the deposit will also need to be paid at the start of the lease period. Please note that the rent and deposit will be debited from your bank account. You will receive a direct debit authorisation form when you sign the lease agreement. The student union will provide you with the list of countries for which the SEPA direct debit process is possible. If your home country is not on this list, you will need to open a German bank account.

For information on the different student residence halls, see:

www.studentenwerk-muenchen.de/en/student-accommodation

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

You will require an Ethernet cable to use the Internet, as Wi-Fi is not available. If you don’t have a cable with you, you can buy one in an electronics store when you arrive.

Please inform us of your expected arrival (date and time) in good time. If required, we can obtain your room key on your behalf before you arrive. When planning, please note that the earliest you can move in is the first day of the month. If this falls on a weekend or public holiday, this date is pushed back. You should move in to your room by the tenth day of the month at the latest.

PRIVATE ROOMS

If you have not applied for a room in a student hall of residence, or if we are unable to allocate you a room in a student hall of residence, we will of course support you in searching for accommodation on the private rental market.

Unfortunately, finding affordable private rooms or apartments in Freising can be difficult – and for this reason, you should begin your search well in advance.

SHORT-TERM ACCOMMODATION

If you need somewhere to stay for a few days before moving in to your accommodation, or if you’ll be receiving visitors during your stay, the following accommodation options are available:

www.freising.de/tourismus/gastgeber (Hotels, holiday apartments and guest rooms in Freising)
www.boardinghaus-freising.de/en
www.airbnb.com (Private rooms and apartments in Freising and the surrounding area)
www.wg-gesucht.de/en (Flat-share rooms and apartments for short-term lease)

Particularly around the time of 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!
GOOD TO KNOW

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

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.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

RENT AND ASSOCIATED COSTS

Because Freising is a popular student city and is near the Munich metropolitan area, rental costs are somewhat higher than in other German cities.

You should be prepared to pay between €230 and €365 for a room in shared accommodation in a student hall of residence. Apartments in student halls of residence cost between €250 and €500. Private rooms and apartments in Freising are usually more expensive.

You will often be required to pay a deposit when you move in. In student halls of residence this is between €100 and €350; in private apartments it is usually the equivalent of one or two months’ rent. The deposit will be returned to you after you move out and the lease period has expired, provided that the room and living facilities have not been damaged.

You should also note that a distinction is made in Germany between „Kaltmiete“ („cold rent“) and „Warmmiete“ („warm rent“). „Cold rent“ includes only rental of the „cold“ housing space (i.e. excluding utilities). In this case, the tenant must also pay additional costs for utilities. These include costs for waste disposal, water, heat, cable connection, communal power supply or maintenance services, for example. This „cold rent“ plus additional costs for utilities are referred to together as „warm rent“.

In private apartments, additional costs may have to be paid on top of the warm rent, for example for electricity and Internet. Please check before signing the lease exactly how much money you will need to budget per month. The rental prices for accommodation run by the students’ union are warm rents, which include all additional costs.

In both private apartments and student halls of residence, a flat rate is paid for heating and additional utility costs as well as electricity. If, when you move out, 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. The bill is usually settled only once per year, which means that you may not receive the bill until months after you move out.

TV AND RADIO LICENCE FEE („RUNDFUNKBEITRAG“)

A TV and radio licence fee of €17.50 per month (as of July 2018) must be paid for every apartment in Germany, regardless of usage. 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 (for instance, in a shared apartment), only one person is required to register to pay the licence fee. The others can be exempted from registration. You should ask your flatmates which of them pays the licence fee. The cost is usually divided between all of the residents.

You will usually receive a letter from “ARD ZDF Deutschlandradio Beitragsservice” soon after you register at the local citizens registration office, notifying you about the licence fee. Please reply to this letter in order to avoid having to make retrospective payments at a later date.

For more information, see:
www.rundfunkbeitrag.de/welcome/englisch/index_ger.html

**SEMESTER FEE**

All HSWT students – including exchange students – are required to pay a semester fee. For the 2018/19 winter semester at the Weihenstephan campus, this fee amounts to €129.40.

The semester fee comprises the students’ union fee and a solidarity contribution for the semester ticket. The students’ 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

HSWT does not charge tuition fees or administrative fees (exceptions may apply to students in the International Master of Landscape Architecture).

**OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT**

It may prove 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.

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.

**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, i.e. more than 4 hours, are considered as 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 or related to the university (for instance, work as a research assistant or for the students’ union). Please also take account of the information specified in your residence permit and contact the relevant immigration office in case of doubt.

You can find current job advertisements on HSWT’s job exchange. You must login with your HSWT user details for the job advertisements to be displayed:
www.hswt.de/en/alumni-careers/job-exchange

We can also provide you with an information leaflet on searching for jobs, which provides links to other job portals.

The Career Center can provide support for the application process:
www.hswt.de/en/alumni-careers/career-center
STUDENT LIFE

ORIENTATION AT THE UNIVERSITY

Before lectures begin, we will invite you to a series of orientation events. These not only tell you everything you need to know about day-to-day student life at HSWT, but also provide an opportunity to meet other students and employees at the university for the first time. In addition, the programme includes a campus tour. As part of the orientation events, we will be happy to provide support with formalities such as registering at the local citizens registration office or opening a bank account.

We also organise a varied programme of events for exchange students during the semester, with various cultural activities and excursions.

STUDENT.CARD

After you enrol and arrive in Freising, you will receive your student ID card – which is known as the “Student.Card”. This provides proof that you are a student, and also serves as a method of payment in the canteen and for the printers, a library card, and a travel ticket on the MVV public transport network. The Student.Card also gives you access to the university’s IT rooms.

In order to be able to pay with your Student.Card in the canteen, the cafeteria or vending machines, you must first top it up at a designated top-up point. To use printing or photocopying services, you must transfer part of the money from your Student.Card to your printing account at a top-up point.

You will be given more information on using your ID card and where the top-up points are located when you receive your Student.Card.

IT FACILITIES AND USE

You will receive your login details (username and password) for HSWT’s IT systems along with your Student.Card. This will give you access to the internal section of the website, the “Student.Online” online portal, the computers at the university and your HSWT email address, among other facilities.

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. Professors use these drives to make their lecture notes and study materials available to their students.

As well as computers, the IT rooms are also equipped with multifunctional printers and plotters. You can also use the multifunctional printers for scanning and photocopying. In order to use the printing, plotting and photocopying services, you will need your Student.Card and you must also have credit in your print account.

You will receive a HSWT email address for communication within the university. Please only use this email account to communicate with HSWT professors and employees.

If you wish to work on your own laptop, you can use the university’s Wi-Fi networks (“eduroam” and “Irz”). To register, you will need your network ID (“Radiuskennung”) rather than your standard username.
Detailed information on IT facilities and their use is available at:

If you’re having problems with the IT facilities or with setting up Wi-Fi, please contact the helpdesk, who will be happy to help:
www.hswt.de/en/person/helpdesk

TIMETABLE

In order to create your individual timetable, you must first 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 plan on attending lectures in different semesters, you must check the lecture plans for each relevant semester. Please note that modules frequently contain several lectures or classes. In order to complete a module and receive your ECTS 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

You should register for your chosen lectures in the first two weeks of the semester. For Language Centre modules, obligatory elective modules (“Wahlpflichtmodule”) and subjects from the English-language “Sustainable Engineering” programme, you will need to register on the Student.Online portal.
student.online.hswt.de

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. This is the only way to ensure that you will be included in any email distribution lists or e-learning services.

Please note that you must register for examinations for your compulsory modules during the semester. Registration takes place on Student.Online, and you will be informed of the deadlines via email. You will be automatically registered for examinations in elective modules and language courses.

You will be notified of your results at the end of the semester via the Student.Online portal.

INFORMATION SOURCES

Important information about your day-to-day studies – for example, changes to your timetable, examination dates, lecture announcements and information about university events – is often made available in the “Neuigkeiten” (“News”) section for your degree programme on the German HSWT website. You should therefore check this page daily. The information will only become visible to you after you log in to the HSWT site.
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.

LIBRARIES

The following libraries are available to you at HSWT:
» 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 times 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 must activate your Student.Card at the library desk.


In order to obtain a library card for the public library (“Stadtbibliothek”) in Freising, you will need your personal ID or passport as well as your registration certificate (“Meldebescheinigung”) from the citizens registration office.

www.stadtbibliothek.freising.de (German website)

LANGUAGE COURSES

The university’s Language Centre offers German courses for various levels, as well as a comprehensive range of foreign-language courses (for example, English, French, Spanish, Dutch, Chinese and Russian). Please be aware that the courses can only take place if there is sufficient demand.


You also have the opportunity to participate in the multimedia courses offered by the Bavarian Virtual University (BVU) – for instance, German, English and French courses – free of charge.

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

Where there is sufficient interest, we try to facilitate tandem language exchanges. 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:

www.hswt.de/en/international/learning-languages

CATERING FACILITIES ON CAMPUS

The student union canteen provides good-quality, inexpensive meals (including vegetarian/vegan options). Main dishes are available from €1, as well as various side dishes and special offers that change regularly. In addition to the main canteen, the students’ union operates two cafeterias. 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 Garden, as well as a snack bar and an Asian foodstall next to the University Library of the Technical University of Munich.

www.orangerie-cafe.de (German website)

UNIVERSITY SPORTS PROGRAMME

If you would like to participate in sports activities during your stay, you will find a wide selection at the university sports centre (ZHS). Depending on the activity you choose, you will need to buy a semester tag online and you may also have to pay a course fee. You can then obtain a participant ID from the university sports centre’s office. To do so, you will need the booking confirmation for your semester tag, your Student.Card, your personal ID, a passport photo and the signed form for deducting the course fee from your bank account (SEPA authorisation). You will receive this form when you make the booking for the semester tag.

You can find information on the various sports activities, as well as the address and opening times of the ZHS office in Weihenstephan, at:

www.zhs-muenchen.de/en
RESIDENCY-RELATED MATTERS

ENTRY

For citizens of the EU, the EEA and Switzerland, a valid identification document is sufficient for entry to be granted. Students from other countries must enquire at the German embassy or consulate in their home country as to whether a visa will be necessary before travelling to Germany.

REGISTERING WITH THE AUTHORITIES

You must register in the local citizens registration office (“Bürgerbüro”) within the first two weeks of arriving. To do this, you will need a valid identification document, your current lease agreement, and a declaration from the landlord stating that you are moving in (“Wohnungsgeberbestätigung”).

If you are staying in one of our rooms in a student hall of residence, the students’ union will send you the landlord declaration via email a few days after your arrival.
If you have found a room on the private rental market, you must request this confirmation document from your landlord. You can download a copy of this confirmation document, to be filled in by your landlord when moving in or out, from the following location:
www.freising.de/fileadmin/civserv/9178124/forms/Wohnungsgeber_Bestaetigung_ausfuell.pdf (German website)

You can find the address and opening times of the citizens registration office for the city of Freising 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 do not come from an EU or EEA country, you will require a valid residence permit for the duration of your stay in Germany. Remember to apply for this in good time at the Immigration Office (“Ausländeramt”) before your visa expires or before the end of the period for which you are exempt from requiring a visa. You should allow for the fact that the processing of your application may take several weeks.

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

Please note that you must arrange an appointment with the responsible staff member before making your application. You can find the contact details for your contact person at:
https://www.kreis-freising.de/buergerservice/abteilungen-und-sachgebiete/auslaenderamt

ACTIVITIES IN FREISING AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

OUT AND ABOUT IN FREISING

You will soon notice that many destinations in Freising can be reached on foot. 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. You will find plenty of notices for used bicycles in places such as the student halls of residence, the canteen, on the Internet or at flea markets.

However, Freising also has a well-developed bus network. Bus routes such as the 637, 638, and 639 travel from Freising train station to the “Am Staudengarten” and “Weißenstephan” stops which are very close to the university; bus route 639 also stops at „Weißenstephaner Berg“ and „Forstzentrum“. Bus route 638 then travels onwards to the student hall of residence on Giggenhauserstraße; and route 639 to the “Lange Point” hall of residence.
For information on the bus routes in the area, see:
https://www.kreis-freising.de/landkreis-freising/ueber-den-landkreis/bus-und-bahn
(German website)

If you are looking for more information on getting to the university or for a map of the area, go to:
www.hswt.de/en/directions

During the semester, your Student.Card allows you to use public transport across all of the zones served by the Münchner Verkehrs- und Tarifverbund (MVV) 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” (€195,70 for the 2018/19 winter semester), there is no time restriction on when you can use the services. For more information on the IsarCard Semester, additional ticket offers, and the zones covered by the MVV, go to:
www.mvv-muenchen.de/en/tickets-and-fares/frequent-travellers/mvv-semesterticket

WEIHENSTEPHAN GARDENS

The Weihenstephan Gardens belong to the university and are well-known among horticulturists and garden enthusiasts alike. They are also a popular attraction for visitors from Germany and abroad. Students in the Landscape Architecture department and Horticulture degree programme use the gardens for training purposes, but they are freely accessible to the public and are most definitely worth a visit.

The Oberdieck Garden, the Allotment Garden and the famous Perennial Trial Garden are open from 9am to 6pm daily from 1 April to 31 October. The Parterre Garden and Courtyard Garden at Weihenstephaner Berg hill are open all year round, and entry is free.

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

Once a week the members of the Weihenstephaner Musikwerkstatt e.V., which consists of a big band, a choir, and an orchestra, meet up to make music together. A rehearsal studio, a piano, and a double bass are available for club members to practise with. New musicians are just as welcome to join there as they are in the Weihenstephaner Blasmusik (brass band), which is made up of students from Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences and the Technical University of Munich.

www.weihenstephaner-musikwerkstatt.de (German website)
www.facebook.com/pages/Weihenstephaner-Blasmusik/223848164342808

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.
GOING OUT

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.

Bräustüberl Weihenstephan on Weihenstephaner hill:
www.braeustueberl-weihenstephan.de/en

Plantagel beer garden in Freising State Forest:
www.facebook.com/PlantageFreising

In terms of going out at night, Freising also offers an array of cosy restaurants, traditional cuisine, student pubs and friendly bars.

Weißbräu Huber, traditional Bavarian/Austrian-style cooking:
www.weissbraeu-huber.de/en

Restaurant in an old former prison:
www.facebook.com/Altes-Gef%C3%A4ngnis-200569106641475

Furtnerbräu, cozy pub with a varied cultural programme:
www.furtner-freising.de (German website)

CULTURAL LIFE

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.
www.freising.de/tourismus/veranstaltungskalender (German website)

You can also find out about special events for students at:
www.facebook.com/freisingerstudentenleben

SIGHTS IN THE SURROUNDING REGION

Munich
The Bavarian state capital offers numerous cultural and leisure activities.

Nuremberg
City with a world-renowned Christmas market and a medieval castle.

Augsburg
One of the three oldest cities in Germany.

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

Dachau
This memorial commemorates victims of the concentration camp.

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 and was the inspiration for the Walt Disney logo.

Chiemsee
Bavaria’s largest lake; Herrenchiemsee Castle on 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 Brau- neck, is a well-known spot for hiking and skiing.

Garmisch-Partenkirchen
The starting point for the journey 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.

TRAVEL OPTIONS IN GERMANY

Train
There are a number of low-fare ticket options for rail travel in Bavaria, Germany, or cross-border journeys. For journeys within Bavaria, for example, you can opt for the Bayern-Ticket (Bavarian ticket) or the Bayern-Ticket Nacht (Bavarian night ticket). If several people are travelling together, they can split the cost of the journey and save money. For help from Deutsche Bahn’s (DB) online advisor and to use the saver fare function to find the best deals, go to:

www.bahn.de/p/view/angebot/berater.shtml (German website)
**Long-distance Bus Journeys**

Tickets for bus journeys are often significantly cheaper than for train journeys. You can compare prices for journeys within Germany and international journeys on this website:

www.busradar.com

**Carpooling**

Carpooling is a well-loved 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 (Freisinger Studentenleben – Carpooling Freising)

**HELPFUL TIPS**

**BUYING USED GOODS**

The bulletin boards in the canteen or in the student halls of residence have plenty of space for advertisements and offers – whether you’re 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 Facebook groups, for example:

www.facebook.com/groups/108274865963530 (Freisinger Studentenleben – Student Flea Market)
www.facebook.com/groups/169868359814484 (Flea market for Freising and the surrounding area)

**OFFICIAL SHOP OPENING HOURS**

Please note that shops in Bavaria – whether they are supermarkets, clothes shops or stationary shops – are open until 8pm 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 are an exception to this rule. Pharmacies operate an emergency service on a rotating basis. You can also shop on Sundays at Munich Airport and in Munich’s main train station (Hauptbahnhof).

**FOR MOTORISTS: ENVIRONMENTAL STICKERS**

Many cities in Germany, such as Munich, have established “Umweltzonen” (low-emission or “environmental” zones), through which only cars with valid “Umweltplakette” (environmental stickers) may drive. The goal is to reduce pollution from nitrogen oxide and particulate matter. If you drive within these zones without a valid environmental sticker, you run the risk of incurring 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

**MEDICAL CARE**

In the event that you fall ill, your first port of call should be the “Allgemeinarzt” (general practitioner – GP). If necessary, your GP may refer you to a specialist (“Facharzt”) or the hospital. One way of finding doctors in your area is to look up Germany’s business directory, known as the “Gelbe Seiten” (the yellow pages).

www.gelbeseiten.de (German website)

If you would rather visit a doctor who speaks your mother tongue, you’ll often find a list of relevant doctors on the website of your country’s embassy or consulate general.
Once you’ve found a doctor, you should call the doctor’s surgery to make an appointment during official surgery hours. This way, you can avoid long waiting periods. However, in urgent cases, it is also possible to go directly 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 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.

In case of an emergency, i.e. a life-threatening situation, call the emergency number 112. The operator who takes your call can notify search and rescue, police or fire brigade services depending on the emergency. Operators can usually process emergency calls in a variety of languages.

Both over-the-counter and prescription medication are available in pharmacies across Germany. If you take 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.

Important telephone numbers:
European emergency number: 112
Police: 110
CHECKLIST FOR YOUR STAY

Early planning (approx. 3-4 months before your course of study abroad begins)
» Apply for a place abroad at HSWT by 15 June/1 December respectively
» Apply for a place in the student halls of residence by 15 June/1 December respectively (or begin searching for a private 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 course of study abroad 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 registering at HSWT to the International Office
» Get in contact with your student buddy
» Let the International Office know your expected arrival date and time

After your arrival
» If necessary, sign your lease agreement with the students’ union, and submit a photo and a certificate of enrolment.
» If necessary, open a bank account
» Register your arrival in the local citizens registration office
» 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 the Learning Agreement and revise it where necessary
» Register for examinations
» Where necessary, contact the International Office and your home university to extend your stay by a maximum of one semester.

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 apartment or private room; leave your bank details so that the deposit can be refunded to you
» Check that all of your modules and grades appear correctly in Student.Online for the purposes of creating your transcript.

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International Office
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85354 Freising
Germany
www.hswt.de/en/international/io