

Fact Sheet 2019-20



TECHNISCHE
UNIVERSITÄT
DARMSTADT

Exchange | August 2018



1. A leading university of technology

Since its foundation in 1877, TU Darmstadt has played its part in addressing the urgent issues of the future with pioneering achievements and outstanding research and teaching.

TU Darmstadt focusses on selected, highly relevant problem areas. Technology is at the heart of all our disciplines at TU Darmstadt. The Natural Sciences as well as Social Sciences and Humanities cooperate closely with Engineering.

Our outstanding performance makes us one of the leading universities of technology in Germany and has earned us international visibility and renown. At present it is one of the world's top 100 universities for engineering and technology according to both THE World University Rankings and QS World University Rankings.



2. Contact details

University Homepage www.tu-darmstadt.de

International
Relations & Mobility www.tu-darmstadt.de/international/

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3. Six Reasons to study at TU Darmstadt (there are more 😊)

- Excellent teaching and research in engineering (“German Engineering!”), natural sciences and social sciences/humanities
- Four-week German intensive language course free of charge
- Orientation and buddy program: “experience weeks”
- Central location in Europe, very close to Frankfurt Airport
- City of Science: major research institutes in cyber security and computer graphics as well as particle physics (GSI/FAIR accelerator) and the European Space Agency
- Have the best of both worlds: combine the 160,000 inhabitants of save and neatly Darmstadt for an easy everyday life with the bustling 700,000 inhabitants of the nearby city of Frankfurt for culture and social life

4. Eligibility

- Degree seeking student status at a partner institution maintained throughout the students’ study program at TU Darmstadt
 - Completion of 2 years in an undergraduate program
 - Nomination for the exchange through home institutions International Office
 - Applicant must be a student of good standing
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5. Application

Exchange Website www.tu-darmstadt.de/incoming

Application Deadline

- **April 30, for winter semester**
- **November 30, for summer semester**

Application Steps & Required Documents

1. To be submitted by student:
Online application www.tu-darmstadt.de/incoming_application
2. To be submitted by international office of partner university:
 - a. Print out of student's online application
 - b. TU Darmstadt Application Form *
 - c. Learning Agreement * (approved list of courses the student wishes to take at TUD)(*forms provided)

Please compile all the application documents in a single pdf-file (max. 5 MB) and send it by email to:
staerke.pa@pvw.tu-darmstadt.de / tischer.ch@pvw.tu-darmstadt.de

What happens next?

- After receiving the complete application documents by your university, we will issue a letter of admission ("Zulassung") which will be sent via email to you and your home university approx. 4 weeks after receipt of your documents. The admission letter is important for your visa application/residence permit; please bring it with you to Darmstadt.

6. Visa

- **Passport:** Make sure you have a valid passport. It should be valid until at least 6 months after the end of your study program in Germany.
- Students from the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand can enter Germany without a visa. Students who plan to reside within Germany and the European Schengen Area for MORE than 90 days are required to apply for a student visa within 12 weeks after arrival in Germany.
- Students from Mexico and South America, please contact the German embassy at least 3 months before your departure to Germany about the specific visa regulations that apply to your country.

- **Proof of financial means**

All students need the proof that they have sufficient financial means to live in Germany. You will have to show the proof either when applying for a visa in your home country, or if you are from the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand when applying for a residence permit in Germany. The federal government expects you to have at least €720 per month that you reside in Germany. There are several ways to proof that:

1. **Scholarship:** proof of scholarship, stating duration and amount of monthly allowances
2. **Self-financed stay:** With a limited-withdrawal bank account (also known as **blocked account**) you can provide evidence during the visa application process that you have adequate financial resources. A monthly amount of at least €720.00 (e.g. €8,640.00 for a whole year) has to be at your disposal when studying in Germany.

We know of the following providers in Germany who currently offer limited-withdrawal bank accounts for students:

- **Fintiba** (except for persons with US tax status/citizenship)
 - **Deutsche Bank**
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- If you want to open a blocked account with Deutsche Bank, please read this information leaflet carefully: **Blocked Account Opening with Deutsche Bank [pdf, 258.95k]**

3. Financing by a third party (sponsor): Formal Obligation Letter [pdf, 320.33k] issued by a competent German authority (Embassy or consulate general, original and copy).

7. Health Insurance

Exchange students studying at TU Darmstadt for one or two semesters and double degree students **are required to purchase a statutory German health insurance** (Gesetzliche Krankenversicherung) in order to be able to register as a student at TU Darmstadt.

- German Public Health insurance offers 100% coverage for doctor's visits, basic dental repair and hospital treatment.
- The cost is approx. €540 per semester/€90 per month for students under the age of 23. Students over 23 pay a slightly higher rate (approx. €580). Students over the age of 30 cannot purchase the health insurance to student terms.
- The insurance coverage is for one full semester (winter semester: October 1st – March 31st; summer semester: April 1st – September 30th) and will automatically continue if not canceled.
- Every German statutory health insurance charges the same rate for students. TU Darmstadt cooperates with the health insurance “Techniker Krankenkasse”. Their website <http://www.tk.de/tk/faq/s-english/students-from-abroad/199676> is in English and offers information on their insurance benefits and services for exchange students.
- It is possible to sign up for the health insurance in advance if you need a confirmation for the visa application.

Travel Insurance:

- Students have to purchase a travel health insurance to have cover for times and places that are not covered by the health insurance of your home country and the statutory German health insurance.
- Students participating in the Intensive German Language Course are not covered by the statutory German health insurance and therefore must buy additional travel insurance for September (winter semester) or March (summer semester) before the departure to Germany.

8. Academic Year

Winter semester 2019/2020 (October 01, 2019 – March 31, 2020)

- Arrival Day/Move-In Day: September 02, 2019
- First orientation meeting: September 03, 2019, 10:30 (t.b.c.)
- Orientation: during September 2019
- Mandatory placement test for German language course: September 03, 2019, 08:55
- Language Course: September 05 – 27, 2019
first half 08:55 – 13:20, second half 08:55 – 12:25
- Begin of classes: October 14, 2019
- Christmas break: December 23, 2019 - January 10, 2020
- End of classes: February 14, 2020
- Exam Period: February/March

Summer semester 2020 (April 01, 2020 – September 30, 2020)

- Arrival Day/Move-In Day: March 02, 2020
 - First orientation meeting: March 03, 2020 (t.b.c.)
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- Orientation: during March 2020
- Mandatory placement test for German language course: March 03, 2020, 08:55 (t.b.c.)
- Language Course during March 2020 (exact dates t.b.a.)
- Begin of classes: April 14, 2020
- End of classes: July 17, 2020
- Exam Period: July/August/September

Exam periods

In case exchange students leave before the examination period, there are two options:

- The student arranges an earlier (oral) exam with the TU Da professor.
- The student arranges a proctored exam at their home university with the TU Da professor.

9. Arrival/Orientation/German language course

Winter semester arrival day:

- September 02 (t.b.c.) for students taking the Intensive German Language Course
- October 01 for students not taking the language course

Summer semester arrival day:

- March 02 (t.b.c.) for students taking the Intensive German Language Course
- April 01 for students not taking the language course.

German language course

- A 4-week Intensive German language course is offered in September and March, prior to the beginning of classes
- These courses are free of cost for exchange students and offered at three levels.
- Students sign up for the language course with their Student Exchange Application.
- Students studying at TU Darmstadt for two semesters can only sign up for one intensive language course.
- Continuing German language courses are offered throughout the semester (also free of cost).

Orientation

- A 4-week long orientation program “The Experience Weeks” or “X-weeks” is offered in combination with the German intensive language course. The program is run by student tutors and consists of support with getting settled in Darmstadt as well cultural events: www.tu-darmstadt.de/xweeks

10. Accommodation

On-Campus accommodation in dormitories of Studierendenwerk Darmstadt is available but cannot be guaranteed due to limited capacities. The unit in charge of room allocation is the “Welcome and Housing Department” offering assistance to international exchange students in finding adequate accommodation.

- To apply for on-campus housing, simply register with the office by completing and submitting the registration form under the following link: www.tu-darmstadt.de/exchange-housing
 - Please enter the code you receive with the letter of admission or afterwards by email.
 - The allocation of on-campus rooms usually takes place 1-2 months prior to September 01/March 01.
 - Because of high demand, exchange students staying for two semesters or longer might only get a room in a dormitory for one semester.
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11. Costs

Exchange students are exempt from paying tuition but required to pay a fee of approx. €217 per semester. The fee includes free public transport in the larger Rhine-Main Metropolitan area and access to the services of Studierendenwerk Darmstadt (cafeterias, dorms and more).

Estimated Expenses

- Tuition: waived
- Service fee: approx. €217 per semester
- Health insurance: approx. €540 per semester
- On-campus housing: approx. €370 per month
- Off-campus housing: approx. €400 per month
- Food and Personal Expenses: approx. €325 per month

12. Course load, grading, course calendar

Required Course Load (graduate & undergraduate)

A German semester runs 24 weeks – 16 weeks of classes, 4-6 weeks self-study and prep for exams and 3-4 weeks exam period. The regular course load for undergraduates and graduates is 30 ECTS/semester, exchange students (graduate & undergraduate) are recommended to take between 18 ECTS and 30 ECTS per semester.

Grading System

- 1 = very good (a particularly outstanding achievement)
- 2 = good (a considerably better than average achievement)
- 3 = satisfactory (an achievement which fully meets the required standards)
- 4 = sufficient (an achievement which meets the required standards)
- 5 = fail (significant deficiencies)
- a = successful participation in a course, for which no grade is given

Course Calendar

The course calendar for the upcoming semester is published in July for winter and February for summer semester: <https://www.tucan.tu-darmstadt.de>
(Upper right corner for English → Course Schedule) Choose “courses held in English” in the main catalogue.

Course restrictions

Generally none (with a few exceptions for international master programs like ERAMSUS Mundus and subjects like psychology)

13. Language Requirements

A growing number of courses are offered in English at TU Darmstadt, but the main language remains German. We recommend the following language levels for exchange students:

- German language proficiency: A2 according to CEFR
- English language proficiency: B2 (only if students want to take courses in English)

If available, please include language certificates or confirmations of participation in language course for either German, English or both in your online application.

Double Degree/Dual Degree: German language proficiency of B2 is required.

Information about German language levels used at TU Darmstadt according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR):

- A1 CEFR is the beginner's level
- A2 CEFR stands for basic German which will enable you to cope with language in everyday life.
- B1 CEFR as the next level will enable you to communicate within the university.
- B2 CEFR is the minimum for following lectures and writing exams in German
- C1 CEFR is very good German language proficiency
- C2 CEFR mother tongue level

Rainbow over Mensa and Main Library as seen from the central administration building



Updated: August 2018
