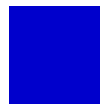




Living and Learning in Bonn



**An International Students' Guide to the
Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-University of Bonn**



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PREFACE

Congratulations on your decision to attend the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms University of Bonn! We welcome you warmly to the city and our university. This brochure was compiled to provide concise and useful information, as well as to help you adjust quickly to the new environment.

It will help you handle the errands and administrative tasks related to your stay and your studies in Bonn – thus ensuring that you will soon be able to fully concentrate on your education and your life in our city.

In addition, we would like to provide various other useful suggestions, helping you to take full advantage of the many social and cultural opportunities the “University City” of Bonn offers to its students.

We wish you success in your educational endeavours at the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-University of Bonn and a pleasant stay in Germany.

Your International Office

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I. BONN AND ITS UNIVERSITY

I.1. "Federal City" on the Rhine

"Castra Bonnensia", a Roman camp built between the years 13 and 9 A.D., marks the beginning of the city's history. The city's cathedral ("*Münster*"), a martyrs' church dating back to the year 400, was at the centre of the 8th century's medieval settlements that became a fortified town in 1244. Along with the *Godesburg* Castle, built in 1210, Bonn belonged to the electors and archbishops of Cologne and became their state capital in 1601.

The legacy of the glamorous electors – first and foremost Joseph and Clemens August of the Wittelsbach dynasty – can still be seen throughout the city. Even today, Baroque edifices, such as the university's main building and the Poppelsdorf Palace, are the unrivalled highlights of any sightseeing tour, their architectural splendour fitting in perfectly with the rest of the city.

In 1786, the last elector, Max Franz of the Habsburg dynasty, founded the forerunner of today's university and promoted Godesberg to a spa. In 1794, Bonn and the left bank of the Rhine became a part of France. Following the Congress of Vienna in 1815, Bonn and the entire Rhineland were incorporated into the Kingdom of Prussia.

The Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-University of Bonn, founded in 1818, as well as the region's beautiful landscape, made Bonn into a famous university town, and an intellectual venue. As the wealthy favoured its moderate climate ("Rhenish Riviera"), Bonn also became the richest city in Prussia.

The Parliamentary Council's decision on May 10, 1949, to make Bonn the provisional capital of the newly established Federal Republic of Germany,

The City's History up until 1601

The Elector, Clemens August

The University



opened an important chapter in the city's history. During the 40 years that followed, the little town on the Rhine river gained international prestige. The city of Bonn symbolises Germany's successful return to democracy, functional federalism and European unification, a process that German governments have decisively helped to promote. All this has fostered Bonn's importance for Germany and Europe's past and present, the decision to re-establish Berlin as the German capital notwithstanding. On June 20, 1991, the German Bundestag decided to move its seat as well as "the government's core functions" to Berlin.

Bonn was given a new role: The city is becoming an internationally renowned scientific and cultural centre as well as a centre for Development Policy, hosting the International Scientific Forum Bonn (IWB) that includes the Centre for European Integration Research (ZEI) and the North-South-Centre for Development Research (ZEF).

1.2. The University's History

On October 18, 1818, the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-University was founded by the Prussian King Friedrich-Wilhelm III, who had ruled over the Rhineland since 1815. Previously, there had been an academy founded in 1777 by the last elector of Cologne and turned into a university in 1786. However, after only ten years, the French invasion and the political upheavals triggered by the French Revolution in 1789 had destroyed this institution.

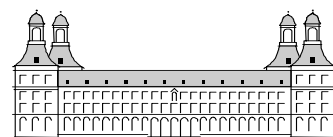
The newly established Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-University was oriented along the lines of the Prussian cultural policy of Wilhelm von Humboldt. Idealism and enlightenment characterised this era, which also led to the foundation of the universities of Berlin (1810) and Breslau

Germany's Capital

City of Science

**ZEF/ZEI (International Scientific Forum Bonn),
Walter-Flex-Str. 3,
53113 Bonn,
Tel: +49-(0)228-731846/731899**

Foundation



Wilhelm von Humboldt

of the universities of Berlin (1810) and Breslau (1811). Thanks to the liberal spirit of the times, the university thrived, attracting famous scholars like August Wilhelm Schlegel, Ernst Moritz Arndt, Berthold Georg Niebuhr, Friedrich August Kekulé, Johannes Müller, Friedrich Argelander, and Heinrich Hertz.

The University of Bonn has always had two faculties of Theology in addition to its faculties of Law, Medicine and Philosophy. In 1928, the Philosophy Faculty's Department of Political Science was incorporated into the Law Faculty. In 1936, the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences became a Faculty in its own right. The former College of Agriculture in Bonn-Poppelsdorf, that had been founded as a School of Agriculture in 1847, was integrated into the university in 1934, thus becoming its Faculty of Agriculture.

In 1980, the Bonn section of the Rhineland's Teacher's College was incorporated, too, as the university's Faculty of Education, but was closed as early as 1988.

Today, the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-University of Bonn is one of Germany's major institutes of higher education. With an enrolment of approximately 38,000 students, it ranks as the third-biggest university in the federal state of North-Rhine/Westphalia.

About 5,200 international students from 130 countries across the globe, numerous visiting professors as well as scholars, many of them on programmes sponsored by the Humboldt Foundation or the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), contribute to creating a truly international atmosphere in research and education. International students and scholars are offered a wide range of exchange programmes (e.g. SOCRATES, European Semester, Junior Year) as

Famous Scholars

The Faculties' Development

The University Today

⇒ www.uni-bonn.de

Internationality

⇒ www.uni-bonn.de/Internationales.html

⇒ www.daad.de

well as an International Summer School in August.

Students can choose from almost 100 different subjects (majors or minors) in various fields of study. The University of Bonn's excellent reputation is also due to the commitment of its 600 professors, 3,000 faculty and 1,700 non-academic staff members.

The Friedrich-Wilhelms-University of Bonn plays a decisive role in the city, as its institutes, seminars and clinics can be found in various parts of town. The main building, which houses the two faculties of Theology, the Faculty of Philosophy and the administrative body is situated in the city centre, along with the Law Faculty and the University Library. Most institutes belonging to the Faculty of Natural Sciences and the Faculty of Agriculture, however, have their premises in the municipal districts Endenich and Poppelsdorf. The University of Bonn's Botanical Garden in Poppelsdorf is one of the oldest in the world boasting an extraordinary number of species. Its eleven greenhouses, called the "living museums", feature plants such as water lilies with leaves able to carry as much as 80 kilograms of weight.

The Faculty of Agriculture uses various farms in the area of Bonn for experimental research. Most of the clinics belonging to the Faculty of Medicine are situated in a hospital complex on a hill called Venusberg. In the Eifel region, the Max Planck Institute operates a 100-metre-radiotelescope.

⇒ www.avh.de

Wide Range of Disciplines

⇒ [www.uni-bonn.de /Studium/Studiengaenge_und_Abschluesse.html](http://www.uni-bonn.de/Studium/Studiengaenge_und_Abschluesse.html)

Location of Premises

The Botanical Garden

⇒ www.mpifr-bonn.mpg.de

II. STUDYING IN GERMANY

II.1. Academic entrance requirements

All German universities have similar requirements for admission of foreign students.

The most important prerequisite for being admitted to a German university is that you qualify for admission to higher education in your home country. This means that if after completing secondary school in your home country you are expected to pass an additional test before being admitted to university, in Germany you will also have to prove you passed this test.

However, there are exceptions to this rule, which is only valid for applicants who are citizens of a country belonging to the European Union or the European Economic Area, (Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein), or international applicants who qualified for higher education at a recognised secondary school in Germany or at a German school abroad. They are put on an equal footing with German applicants. After having passed a German language proficiency test, they can register directly for courses without admissions restrictions, i.e. courses that are not subject to a local or nation-wide admissions procedure.

Admission to disciplines with a limited intake (*Numerus clausus* or *NC*) is subject to a special allocation and distribution procedure. You can apply for this at the *Zentralstelle für die Vergabe von Studienplätzen (ZVS)*, or Central Admissions Agency in Dortmund. If the NC was imposed by a single university, you need to apply directly to this university.

As far as international applicants (Non-EU citizens and stateless persons) are concerned, the university needs to check whether their diploma is recognised in Germany. Only if it is, can they directly apply for admission. The university's In-

General rule:

You can only apply for admission to a German university if you qualify for admission to higher education in your home country.

**European Union,
EEA,
Domestic Certificate Holders**

**NC: Fields of Study
with Limited Intake**

**ZVS
Sonnenstr. 171
44137 Dortmund,
Germany
Tel: +49-
(0)231/1081-0
⇒ www.zvs.de**

**Non-EU-Citizens,
Stateless Persons**

ternational Office (*Akademisches Auslandsamt*), the University Secretariat (*Studentensekretariat*), the German Academic Exchange Service (*DAAD*), a Goethe Institute or a German Consulate will provide you with more details. You can apply directly to the German university of your choice (applications generally have to be in by January 15th for the summer semester and July 15th for the winter semester).

International applicants whose diploma is not recognized as being equivalent to the German "Abitur", e.g. because of less than 12 years of school attendance, have two possibilities to qualify for admission to a German university (i.e. to be entitled to apply for entry). They either need to prove they have successfully studied the same subject they want to enrol in for at least one or two years at a university in their home country ("subject-related academic eligibility"). They can also take an assessment test, a so-called "*Feststellungsprüfung*", in which their German language proficiency as well as their knowledge in 3 to 4 different subjects which are relevant for the field of study they intend to enrol in is tested. Exams can be taken at the Colleges of Preparatory Studies for International Students (*Studienkolleg*), which are affiliated to the German universities. Special preparatory courses take one year, but you can also try to take the exam without attending the college. However, it is highly advisable to enrol at a *Studienkolleg*, because the higher your grades, the better your chances are of gaining entry. Before being admitted to a *Studienkolleg*, you need to take a test showing that you can follow classes held in German. Applications for admission to a *Studienkolleg* need to be addressed to the local authority *Bezirksregierung Düsseldorf* (by May 15th for the winter semester and by October 31st for the summer semester). More details as well as

**Information:
International Office
Tel:
+49-(0)228-
732676/737694**

Application

Qualifying for Admission

College of Preparatory Studies for International Students (*Studienkolleg*)

⇒ [www.uni-bonn.de
/studienkolleg/stu
dienk.htm](http://www.uni-bonn.de/studienkolleg/studienk.htm)

application forms are available from the University's International Office (*Akademisches Auslandsamt*), the College of Preparatory Studies for International Students (*Studienkolleg*), or at the University Secretariat (*Studentensekretariat*). All international or stateless applicants and applicants with a foreign diploma need to take a DSH language proficiency test for admission to higher education or *Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang (DSH)* before enrolling. However, they might be exempt from this requirement if they hold one of the following certificates:

- Assessment test (*Feststellungsprüfung*) passed at a *Studienkolleg*
- Leaving certificate of a German-language secondary school (in Germany or abroad)
- German Language Diploma of the Culture Ministers – Level II (*"Deutsches Sprachdiplom"*)
- The Goethe-Institute's *"Großes Sprachdiplom"* (GDS) or *"Kleines Sprachdiplom"* (KDS)
- The Goethe-Institute's Certificate *"Zentrale Oberstufenprüfung"* (ZOP)
- Final degree from a German-language university.
- Final degree of the *"Test-DaF"*. The four Examination-parts have to be past with level 5 (*"Stufe 5"*) at least.

Detailed information on the requirements for the test *"Deutsch als Fremdsprache"* (DaF) to be recognised is available on request from the International Office (*Akademisches Auslandsamt*).

Further exemptions from the DSH test apply to:

- Applicants intending to enrol in a discipline that periodically offers its main lectures in English during the period of advanced study

**Bezirksregierung
Düsseldorf:
Postfach 30 08 65
40408 Düsseldorf
Germany**

**DSH Language
Proficiency Test**

Equivalents

Exemptions

(*Hauptstudium*) and also offers the possibility to take the final exam in English, according to its examination regulation (Proof of excellent English language skills necessary!);

- Applicants receiving a scholarship and able to prove their German language proficiency according to the requirements of the scholarship programme;
- Applicants for admission to a special academic programme at the University of Bonn that lasts no longer than 2 semesters and does not entitle the successful applicant to take an intermediate or final exam. Applicants must be able to prove their language proficiency according to the requirements of the programme;
- Applicants having already obtained a first degree abroad and wanting to continue their studies at postgraduate level, who can prove their German language proficiency according to the requirements of the postgraduate course of study;
- Doctoral students having already obtained a first degree abroad and applying for participation in a doctoral/Ph.D. programme, subject to the competent faculty's confirmation that language proficiency at DSH level is not necessary for this programme and that the doctoral thesis can be written in a foreign language;
- Students enrolled at a foreign university who apply for no more than two semesters and who will not be entitled to take any intermediate or final exams can be admitted after having passed an oral assessment test.

Doctoral Students

II.2. Course structure

At German universities, the academic year is divided into two semesters or terms, a winter semester and a summer semester. The winter semester (WS) usually runs from October 1st to March 31st, the summer semester lasts from April 1st to September 30th. Lectures usually start about 2 weeks after the beginning of the semester and end in mid-February (for the winter semester) and mid-July (for the summer semester). During the time away from the lecture halls you are expected to write research papers, work on presentations, prepare for exams and gain practical experience through internships.

There are some courses you can only begin in the winter semester (in Bonn e.g.: Biology, Mathematics, Information Science, Psychology etc.). – Further information is available from the Students' Secretariat (*Studentensekretariat*) or the *Zentrale Studienberatung* (Academic Affairs Support).

German university education is usually divided into two parts, a period of basic study (*Grundstudium*) and a period of more advanced study (*Hauptstudium*). After having successfully completed the *Hauptstudium* you can continue your studies at postgraduate level, e.g. by pursuing a doctoral degree.

The Academic Year

Courses Starting in the Winter Semester only

II.3. Preparing yourself for a German university and its methods

German universities do not have fixed timetables dictating which courses should be taken in which semester. In many disciplines, there are no rules whatsoever concerning the number of lectures students need to attend per week. There are

some classes for which attendance is compulsory, but students are largely free to determine their course of studies themselves. Performance is tested by presentations, written examinations or tests, as well as intermediate exams. More details can be found in the individual subject requirements and examination regulations (*Studien- und Prüfungsordnung*). In most disciplines, it is advisable to write your own schedule, one for the semester and a general one for your studies. You should plan when to complete your general studies (*Grundstudium*) in order to know which lectures and seminars you have to attend and which course certificates ("*Scheine*") you need.

The *Grundstudium* should generally be completed after 4 semesters. Please note that in some disciplines you are expected to pass special language tests by the end of the first (*Grundstudium*) or second part (*Hauptstudium*) of your studies. Please check individual requirements as early as possible, in order to be able to prepare yourself in time. Upon enrolment at the University of Bonn, you should also check language requirements e.g. Latin, Ancient Greek, Sanskrit, Classical Japanese etc. In many disciplines (particularly the Humanities/M.A. courses) you need to have passed a special proficiency test in Latin or Ancient Greek (*Latinum/Graecum*) before being admitted to the intermediate examination.

Further information can be found in the individual subject requirements and examination regulations (*Studien- und Prüfungsordnung*) and your department's information office or individual counsellors (*Fachstudienberater*) will be glad to answer any questions that may arise.

The Course Catalogue (*Vorlesungsverzeichnis*) provides information on the individual lectures and courses you may want to attend. You can

Regulations

Self-reliance and Initiative are Prerequisites for Success

Language Proficiency

Latinum/Graecum

Course Catalogue can also be found on the individual seminar's website

buy the Catalogue for approx. € 3.50 in local bookshops. It includes a list with the names and addresses of all faculty members as well as of the various university bodies (institutes, examination committees etc.)

You should also make sure to buy a copy of your discipline's "Annotated Course Catalogue" (*kommentierte Vorlesungsverzeichnis*). It gives you more details on the individual courses, e.g. the topics that will be discussed, literature you are expected to read prior to the course, the requirements for course certificates or *Scheine* (presentation, research paper etc.). A *kommentiertes Vorlesungsverzeichnis* is available at the departmental students organisation (*Fachschaft*) or the department's secretariat. It costs approx. € 1.

The individual study and examination regulations set the requirements regarding course certificates (*Scheine*) or tests necessary in order to complete the period of basic study (*Grundstudium*) or to be admitted to the final exam. They list the requirements counted in *Semesterwochenstunden* (credit hours), i.e. the weekly number of classes students are expected to attend during lecture periods to be able to fulfil the course requirements. An example: A one-hour lecture held on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays is listed as comprising 3 *Semesterwochenstunden* (*SWS*); a seminar taking place on Wednesdays 14—16 p.m. results as comprising 2 *SWS*. By adding up the number of *SWS* of all courses you have attended, you get the number of *SWS* necessary for the individual course of study.

We strongly recommend that you participate in the student orientation (*Einführungswoche*) offered by your department's staff members or the departmental student organisation (*Fachschaft*)

Examination Regulations Online:

⇒ [www.uni-bonn.de
/Studium/Studieng
aenge_und
_Abschluesse/
Ordnungen. html](http://www.uni-bonn.de/Studium/Studiengaenge_und_Abschluesse/Ordnungen.html)

Student Orientation

at the beginning of the lecture period. It will provide valuable information on the structure of your course of study as well as answers to questions you might have. In order not to miss this event, please check the department's notice-board regularly for announcements!

For some courses (e.g. seminar courses, tutorials, work experience – not lectures) you might have to register in time because they have a limited intake. The registration procedures vary in each course of study, e.g. in some you need to register with the individual lecturer, in some you need to sign up for the individual course, while in others participants will be determined by lot. Therefore, we advise you to get the necessary information as soon as possible to make sure you register in time! If the registration deadline ended prior to your arrival in Bonn (i.e. the previous semester), there might still be a possibility of being admitted. You should talk to the individual faculty member to find out.

Registering

II.4. Course Types

- Einführung/Propädeutikum (induction/ preparatory course): In some disciplines you are expected to attend these courses during the first semester (or longer) to inform yourself on curriculum and methods.
- Übung (exercise courses): During exercise courses you get the academic basis you will require for independent research later on in your studies.
- Proseminar. You attend *Proseminars* during the period of basic study (*Grundstudium*). It usually introduces you to a field of study and its academic methods. The *Proseminar* usually deals with a specific topic.
- Tutorium/Arbeitsgemeinschaft (tutorials/study

Induction

Exercise Course

Proseminar

Tutorial

groups): Tutorials are usually given by older students or research assistants. They provide an excellent opportunity to review the subject matter of lectures, seminar courses or exercise courses.

- Hauptseminar: Having completed the *Grundstudium* (in some courses of study subject to passing an intermediate exam, e.g. *Vordiplom/Physikum*), students begin the period of advanced study (*Hauptstudium*) and attend *Hauptseminare*. These courses usually focus on independent research. Students work on a specific aspect of the overall topic, give a presentation and write a research paper. All students are expected to actively participate in discussions.
- Kolloquium (Colloquium): Lecture series with subsequent discussion at advanced academic level. Doctoral students usually participate upon personal invitation by the professor.
- Vorlesung (lecture): You can attend lectures throughout your studies and should actually do so on a regular basis. During lectures, the faculty provides students with a sound basis of the subject matter. There are usually no discussions during lectures.
- Praktikum (work experience): During work experience, students learn how to work on independent research projects in laboratories. Work experience can also refer to external internship programmes that are compulsory in some disciplines and need to be completed either prior to or during your studies according to the study requirement regulations.
- Repetitorium (revision course): Course that covers the major topics law students need to prepare for written and oral examinations, especially the German State Examination, providing a valuable review of lectures and seminar courses. The courses are offered by a

Hauptseminar

Colloquium

Lecture

Work Experience

Revision Course

so-called *Repetitor*. Some of the courses are held at university (attendance is free of charge), but there are also commercial offers outside the university system.

A course certificate or *Schein* proves that you have successfully participated in a course (in particular a seminar course). You can be awarded certificates without grades (*unbenotete Scheine* or *Sitzscheine*/audit certificates), e.g. for simply being present or for giving a presentation, and you can also earn graded certificates (*benotete Scheine*), e.g. by giving a presentation and writing a research paper. Course certificates need to be presented to the Examination Board (*Prüfungsamt*) upon registration for your intermediate or final examination.

Course Certificates

At German universities, courses usually start 15 minutes after the time listed, or *c.t.* (*cum tempore*). This is also called the "academic quarter (of an hour)". Otherwise, you will find a note saying *s.t.* (*sine tempore*), showing that the event starts at the actual time listed.

s.t./c.t.

II.5. Degree-duration

The time required to complete a degree depends on the individual field of study. The average degree is supposed to take four years, i.e. eight semesters, to complete. You generally need to allow additional time for writing a thesis as well as an extra semester for the final examination. Please note that as an international student you might need to attend a preparatory German language proficiency course (which can take up to two semesters) and will consequently prolong your studies (see information on DHS language proficiency test). You might also need to attend a *Studienkolleg*, a College of Preparatory Studies

for International Students for a year.

II.6. Degrees

The University of Bonn awards the following degrees, depending on the subject:

- Diplom: in Natural Sciences, Engineering, Economics and Social Sciences. The course of study generally focuses on one subject. **Diploma**
- Magister/Magistra Artium (Master of Arts): **M.A.**
Especially for Humanities; usually includes a major course and two minor courses.
- Staatsexamen (German State Examination): **German State Examination**
Especially for aspiring teachers, lawyers, medical doctors, pharmacists and food analysts.
- Promotion (Doctoral Degree/Ph.D.): **Doctoral Degree**
After having completed your degree at a German university, you can acquire a doctoral degree (Ph.D. etc.), i.e. a degree proving your ability to conduct research at a particularly advanced academic level. Requirements for being awarded a doctorate degree include a doctoral thesis or *Dissertation*, which will generally take 2 to 3 years to complete, and which needs to be assessed by at least two referees, as well as final oral examinations in your major and minor courses (called *Rigorousum*). After successfully completing your doctorate degree you may use the title *Doktor* (Dr.).

II.6.1. Doctoral Degree – Admission

It takes at least three years to complete a doctoral degree, i.e. a degree you acquire after already having finished a course of study in the same discipline, and which qualifies you to call yourself a doctor (Dr.). If you intend to acquire a doctoral degree at the University of Bonn, please

contact the individual department or the *Zentrale Studienberatung* (Academic Affairs Support), as requirements vary significantly among the different faculties. As a first and decisive step, you need to find a professor who agrees to act as your supervisor. Only then will you be able to apply for admission to candidacy using the regular application form (*Antrag auf Zulassung*).

Please note that some disciplines require additional language proficiency tests or practical training that need to be completed for admission to the period of advanced study (*Hauptstudium*) or for admission to the final examination. The Faculty of Philosophy, in particular, requires students of almost all subjects to prove their proficiency in Latin. There are also special courses (lasting 3 semesters) where you can gain the knowledge necessary for passing the test.

On the *Zentrale Studienberatung* (Academic Affairs Support) website you will find a sample form that you need to submit with your application for admission to candidacy for doctoral degrees.

The various regulations for doctoral degrees (*Promotionsordnungen*) are available from your faculty's secretariat (*Dekanat*) as well as on the respective websites.

The *Zentrale Studienberatung* also provides detailed information on the various degrees and possible subject combinations.

A summary of almost all courses of study offered at the University of Bonn, outlining subject matter, structure, requirements and degrees is available from the International Office (*Akademisches Auslandsamt*).

Research is paramount for the University of Bonn. Therefore, many faculties feature so-called special research departments (*Sonderfor-*

⇒ [www.uni-bonn.de
/Studium/Zentrale
_Studienberatung.
Html](http://www.uni-bonn.de/Studium/Zentrale_Studienberatung.Html)

⇒ [www.philfak.uni-
bonn.de](http://www.philfak.uni-bonn.de)

⇒ [www.uni-bonn.de
/Studium/Bewerbu
ng_und_Einschreib
ung.html#bew_
ausl](http://www.uni-bonn.de/Studium/Bewerbung_und_Einschreibung.html#bew_ausl)

schungsbereiche) and doctoral programmes (*Graduiertenkollegs*) working on highly specialised issues.

Check out the website indicated on side for accurate and up-to-date information on the wide range of offers and respective requirements.

⇒ [www.uni-bonn.de
/Studium
/Forschung.html](http://www.uni-bonn.de/Studium/Forschung.html)

The website of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research provides valuable and comprehensive information on research institutions in Germany.

⇒ www.forschung.bmbf.de

II.7. Academic recognition

Academic degrees or credits you earned abroad before coming to Bonn can be partly or entirely recognised. It is the Examination Board (*Prüfungsamt*) or the individual Faculty's Dean (*Dekan*), in co-operation with your department's Study Counsellor (*Fachstudienberater*), who make this decision. You need to apply for academic recognition presenting proof of your previous achievements.

Examination Board

The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) works with credits that provide a way of measuring and comparing learning achievements, and transferring them from one institution to another. It has been developed and tested over a period of six years in a pilot scheme involving 145 higher education institutions in all EU member states. Thanks to ECTS, students can study abroad without losing time in completing their degree, as their home university will recognize their achievements. The University of Bonn has introduced ECTS in the following courses of study: English Language and Literature, German Language and Literature, History of Art, German as a Foreign Language (DaF), Political Science,

ECTS

Romance Philology, Law, Political Economics, Geography, Agricultural Science, Food Chemistry, Food Science and Technology, Physics, Pharmaceuticals, Biology, Medicine. There is an agreement on the content of study programmes between students and their home and host institutions before students go abroad.

Detailed information for international students on higher education and research in Germany is available from DAAD, the German Academic Exchange Service: Kennedyallee 50, 53175 Bonn/Germany, Tel: +49-(0)228-882-0. The leaflet "**Studieren in Bonn (Studying in Bonn)**", available from the University Secretariat (*Studentensekretariat*) in the university's main building (An der Schloßkirche, 53111 Bonn) or from the Academic Affairs Support (*Zentrale Studienberatung*, Franziskanerstr. 4, 53113 Bonn, Tel. 73-7080), provides information on courses of study offered by the University of Bonn as well as on admission. Similar information can be found in the "**unihandbuch**", issued by the Student Union AStA (AstA Uni Bonn, Nassestr. 11, 53113 Bonn/Germany).

⇒ [**www.daad.de**](http://www.daad.de)

⇒ [**www.uni-bonn.de /Studium/Studiengaenge_und_Abschluesse.html**](http://www.uni-bonn.de/Studium/Studiengaenge_und_Abschluesse.html)

⇒ [**www.uni-bonn.de /Studium/Bewerbung_und_Einschreibung.html**](http://www.uni-bonn.de/Studium/Bewerbung_und_Einschreibung.html)

II.8. Student parents

If you come to Germany with a child, you will first need to find a placement in a kindergarten or school. Going to kindergarten is optional in Germany and children usually start going at age 3. Kindertagesstätten are run by the Protestant and the Catholic Church as well as by the municipalities and private institutions. Unfortunately, there is not enough availability and you will have to face long waiting lists. Most kids go to kindergarten from 8 a.m. to 12 noon or from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., but there are also day-care centres for dif-

Kindergarten

Day-care Centres

ferent age groups. Annual fees usually depend on parental income. Please contact your municipality's Youth Welfare Office (*Jugendamt*) for further information (in Bonn, Tel. +49-(0)228-77-3139 or 677351). You will also get a leaflet with relevant addresses. Many universities have their own day-care centres: in Bonn, there is one run by the Catholic Chaplaincy (Tel. 9144522) as well as private day-care organised by parents (Tel. 237495, 254488, or 639959). The *Studentenwerk* (Student Services Agency) provides detailed information and also has its own facilities (Tel. 73-7187 or 3771974). The AstA's *Sozialreferat* (ASTA-Office of Social Affairs) offers an advisory service for students with children: (in Bonn) Nassestraße 11, 1st floor, room 15, Tel. 73-7043.

The Youth Welfare Office (*Jugendamt*) also offers to find private child-minders, so-called "day mums" (*Tagesmütter*). A day mum's monthly fee is approx. € 300–400. Under certain circumstances the Youth Welfare Office will cover part of this! Private child-minders can also be contacted through the *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Netzwerk Familiäre Tagesbetreuung* (Network of Family Day-Care) that includes the following institutions: Caritas Association: Tel: 108-249; *Deutscher Kinderschutz* (German Child Protection) Bonn: Tel: 766040; *Familien- und Nachbarschaftszentrum* (Community and Family Centre): Tel: 265517; *Katholisches Bildungswerk* (Catholic Education Centre) Tel: 22804-50; *Katholische Frauengemeinschaft Deutschlands* (German Catholic Women's Community): Tel: 22804-61, *Werkstatt Friedenserziehung* (Workshop Education for Peace): Tel: 220604.

Schooling is mandatory for all children living in Germany from age 6 to 16. It starts with elementary school (1st–4th grade). Children then pass on to one of the three types of German

"Day Mums"

School

Secondary School, according to their abilities: choosing *Hauptschule*, they will leave after the 9th or 10th grade, depending on the federal state, and pass on to vocational training. *Realschule* ends after 10th grade and with the graduation certificate called "*Mittlere Reife*". *Gymnasium* ends after 13th grade with the German "*Abitur*", necessary for university entrance. There are also comprehensive schools (*Gesamtschulen*), day-schools that incorporate the three types above. German schools do not charge tuition. The School Authority (*Schulamt*) provides information on the different schools in your neighbourhood (in Bonn, call Tel: 77-5755 or 77-5784).

Only international students and visiting academics holding a valid residence permit (*Aufenthalts-erlaubnis/-berechtigung*, not an *Aufenthaltsbe-willigung*!) are entitled to receive child benefit (mostly EU citizens or those married to German citizens).

As a prerequisite, the children have to live in Germany during the parents' period of study or research. In order to receive child benefit, you need to file an application to the Child Benefit Office (*Kindergeldstelle*) at your local Employment Office (*Arbeitsamt*), in Bonn: Villemombler Str. 101, 53123 Bonn, Tel: 924-0).

Child Benefit

⇒ www.arbeitsamt.de/bonn/information/Kindergeld1/index.html

III. YOUR FIRST DAYS IN BONN

Upon arrival in Bonn, you should cut through the red tape by following the steps listed below. Try to stick to the chronological order, as some procedures are dependent on others.

1. DSH German language proficiency test
2. Registration at the Residents' Registration Office (*Bürgeramt/ Einwohnermeldeamt Bonn*)
3. Medical Insurance

4. Registration at University
5. Registration at the Aliens Authority (*Ausländermeldebehörde*).

III.1. DSH language proficiency test for admission to higher education

All international students who intend to enrol at a German university (to matriculate, "*sich immatrikulieren*" in German) need to prove their German language skills by passing the DSH language proficiency test or *Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang*. This test can be taken twice a year before the beginning of each semester.

1. EU citizens or citizens of a European Economic Area (EEA) Member State: please contact the International Office (*Akademisches Auslandsamt*) upon arrival in Bonn (Tel: 73-7708) and ask when the next DSH test is due. You will also receive detailed information on test requirements etc.
2. Non-EU/EEA citizens: the University Secretariat (*Studentensekretariat*) will enclose information on the DSH test, the date of your examination as well as an application form when sending the notification of admittance (*Zulassungsbescheid*).

EU and EEA

Non-EU/EEA

Please fill in the form and send it to the International Office: Akademisches Auslandsamt, Popelsdorfer Allee 53, 53115 Bonn/Germany). At the University of Bonn the DSH test costs □ 110. You can also apply for a preparatory course prior to taking the DSH test. Courses are held by the Association "Pro Integration", that charges a fee for attendance. The preparatory course takes a minimum of 5 months and can be repeated only once if you fail the test.

Preparatory Course

The test focuses on the academic use of German language. It has a written and an oral part. You can use monolingual dictionaries. It is up to the head of the examination board to decide whether or not you need to take the oral test if sufficient proof of your oral communication skills has been displayed during your attendance of the preparatory course. If you fail the written exam, you cannot take the oral one. The written test is divided into the following parts:

⇒ Listening Comprehension Test

(Candidates need to prove they can easily follow academic lectures, take notes and review the material.)

⇒ Reading Comprehension Test

(Candidates have to prove they can read and understand a text and use it as a basis for their studies.)

⇒ Essay

(Candidates have to prove their ability to independently write an essay on a given topic following certain guidelines.)

⇒ Understanding and Use of Academic Language Structures. You are expected to analyse a text outlining certain key features of academic language and using them appropriately.

In the oral test, you need to prove that, after some preparation, you are able to participate in a conversation on an academic topic linked to your discipline.

Written Test

Oral Test

III.2. Registration at the Residents' registration office

Once you have found a place to stay, you have to register at the competent Residents' Registration Office (*Bürgeramt/Einwohnermeldeamt*). Your landlord or landlady will tell you where the closest *Bürgeramt* is located.

***Bürgeramt/* Residents' Registration Office**

You will need a registration form, which you can get at the *Bürgeramt* free of charge. You can also buy it in a stationery shop. Your landlord/landlady (or the administrator of the hall of residence) has to confirm the rental agreement before you can register. When registering, you need to hand in the form and show your passport. You have to inform the *Bürgeramt* of any changes in address and also before leaving Bonn for good.

⇒ www.bonn.de/rathaus



The competent authority in Bonn is the *Bürgeramt im Stadthaus*, Berliner Platz. Opening hours: Monday and Thursday 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. The municipal district of *Bad Godesberg* has its own *Bürgeramt* at the town hall: Kurfürstenallee 2; in *Bonn-Beuel*, the *Bürgeramt* is located at the town hall, too: Friedrich-Breuer-Str. 65 (opening hours: see above).

The earlier you get there in the morning the better your chances of avoiding queues. If you just need the registration form, you can ask for it at the information desk. Later on, when registering, you have to take a number upon arrival at the *Bürgeramt* and wait for your turn. The clerk will put a stamp on the form you filled in and will give you a copy of it. You need this copy for your registration with the Aliens Authority (*Ausländerbehörde*) as well as for getting a library card at the public library etc.

III.3. Medical and Nursing Care Insurance

In Germany, all students are legally required to have medical insurance and nursing care insurance. The latter pays for people needing care after major accidents and ailments as well as for the elderly.

When registering at university you need to supply proof of your medical insurance. There are two possibilities:

1. EU citizens studying in Germany or students from one of the following countries that have signed a social security agreement with Germany can take out medical insurance in their country of origin which will be recognized in Germany:

Belgium, Bosnia Herzegovina, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Great Britain, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Croatia, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Macedonia, the Netherlands, Norway, Austria, Portugal, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia, Montenegro), Sweden, Switzerland, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, and Hungary.

You need to check with the insurance company in your country of origin as well as with your local *Allgemeine Ortskrankenkasse* (AOK) in Germany whether you are sufficiently covered. Please provide proof of your medical insurance policy and bring an application form (E 111 for EU citizens). If the cover is sufficient, the insurance company will issue a certificate showing that you are exempt from taking out a policy with the statutory German medical insurance scheme. You will need this certificate in order to register at university.

2. If, according to German law, you do not have valid or sufficient medical insurance, you have to take out a policy with a company of your choice.

There is the statutory medical insurance scheme (*gesetzliche Krankenkassen*) and there are also private insurance companies. You will find relevant addresses in your telephone directory.

The following are companies that are located in the Bonn city centre:

⇒ AOK Bonn: Heisterbacherhofstraße 4,

Tel: +49-(0)228-5110

⇒ Barmer Ersatzkasse: Welschnonnenstr. 1,

Tel: 5170

Social Security Agreement

Medical insurance scheme

⇒ Deutsche Angestellten Krankenkasse: Berliner Freiheit 36, Tel: 7252-0
⇒ Techniker-Krankenkasse: Endenicher Allee 19, Tel: 96382-3019

Important:

When taking out a policy with the insurance company make sure to show the certificate of admission to the University of Bonn or the preparatory course of German language! All students are legally required to have medical insurance until they reach the 14th semester or their 30th birthday, whichever is sooner. Their medical insurance premium stands at around € 53 per month, independent of their income. This amount includes approx. € 8 for their nursing care insurance. The premium is more or less the same for all insurance companies, even the private ones, as student premiums are subject to rather strict federal laws.

However, if you have passed your 30th birthday or your 14th semester, the situation changes, as you can only take out an insurance policy with a private company. Please note that there are major differences regarding premiums as well as benefits, and you should get sufficient information first. Generally speaking, the premiums of private insurance companies depend on your health and your age when taking out the policy, i.e. the risk factors the company needs to take into account. You are therefore recommended to get comprehensive information and to really pay attention when comparing premiums and benefits offered. If you can prove to have held an insurance policy for at least 2 years during the last 5 years or until at least 1 year prior to applying you can take out a policy with the statutory company *AOK*, becoming a so-called "voluntary member".

International students taking preparatory

Compulsory Insurance until the 14th Semester or the Age of 30

Private or Statutory Medical Insurance

courses (e.g. German language course, College for Preparatory Studies/*Studienkolleg*) are not legally required to have medical insurance. If they wish to be covered while studying in Germany, they need to take out private policies.

There are special conditions for scholarship holders. For more details, please contact the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD, Tel: +49-(0)228-882-0) or one of the aforementioned insurance companies.

The *Studentenwerk* provides further information on medical and nursery care insurance: Nass-estr. 11, 53113 Bonn, Tel: 73-7191, as does the AStA-Office of Social Affairs (same address, 1st floor, room NR 15, Tel: 73-7043).



III.4. Registration at University

On passing the DSH language test, you obtain a special certificate which you need in order to register at the University of Bonn.

Before doing so, you have to take out a medical insurance policy and get a certificate of your insurance company proving your policy is regarded as sufficient by German law.

The University Secretariat (*Studentensekretariat*) is your next stop:

It is located in the University's main building (An der Schloßkirche). Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9 a.m.–12 noon, Thursday also 1:30 p.m.–3 p.m.;

During the registration period: Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m.–12 noon, Thursday 1:30 p.m.–3 p.m. and in urgent cases Monday to Wednesday, Friday 1:30 p.m.–2 p.m. The contacts for international students are (in alphabetical order): Ms. Pesch (letters A–Ha), Tel: 73-7275; Ms. Reinarz (letters He – Ol), Tel: 73-3915, and Ms. Göbbels (letters Om – Z), Tel: 73-7655.

University Secretariat

Ms. Pesch
(letters A - Ha), Tel:
73-7275,

Ms. Reinarz
(letters He - Ol),
Tel: 73-3915 and

Ms. Göbbels (Buch-
stabe Om - Z), Tel.
73-7655.

You will need the following documents for registration at the University Secretariat:

⊗ Your university admissions certificate (leaving certificate of secondary school or similar, detailing the grades of your graduation). Bring along the original document – reproduced copies cannot be recognised!

⊗ Certificate issued by your German Medical Insurance Company (or certificate of exemption);

⊗ Notification of admission to University (*Zulassungsbescheid*) and additional documents if listed;

⊗ Passport

⊗ Curriculum Vitae (in German, English or French);

⊗ At least two passport-size photos;

⊗ Grade report listing all credits of annual examinations or intermediate examinations earned at your home university (original documents);

⊗ Certificate of any degrees previously earned (original documents);

⊗ Certificate of DSH German language proficiency test, if necessary.

At the University Secretariat (*Studentensekretariat*), you will get a registration form (*Antrag auf Einschreibung*), which you have to fill in and submit.

You will also get a transfer form for payment of the registration fee (so-called "social contribution", as it also includes other benefits) of approx. € 106. Payment can be completed by transfer or directly at a bank or post office. This fee is mandatory and has to be paid at the beginning of each semester, i.e. twice a year.

Upon registration, you will receive a preliminary certificate proving you are regularly enrolled at

⇒ [www.uni-bonn.de
/Studium/Studentensekretariat
/Formulare/bilder/
Imma_Antrag.pdf](http://www.uni-bonn.de/Studium/Studentensekretariat/Formulare/bilder/Imma_Antrag.pdf)

⇒ [www.uni-bonn.de
/Studium/Bewerbung_und_Einschreibung.html](http://www.uni-bonn.de/Studium/Bewerbung_und_Einschreibung.html)

Student ID

the University of Bonn. You can use this as a ticket on public transport from the first day of the semester and until you receive the "real" Student ID (a print-out comprising several certificates).

At the University Secretariat, you will also be handed your "study documentation" (*Studien-Dokumentation*), which you should take good care of as you will need it for admission to final examinations or when officially leaving the University of Bonn (so-called *Exmatrikulation*).

In some disciplines, you also have to register with your individual department's secretariat. On showing your Student ID (and submitting a passport-size photo in some cases) you will be issued with a seminar card (*Seminarkarte*) that entitles you to use the institute's library. The card has to be renewed each semester. For further information, please contact your department or the Academic Affairs Support (*Zentrale Studienberatung*)!

At the Faculty of Philosophy, the Faculty of Law and Political Science, the Faculty of Theology and the Faculty of Agriculture you are required to enter your name in the Faculty Album at the individual faculty's secretariat.

Three to four weeks after receipt of your registration fee, the university will send you your personal data sheet for the semester, with certificates of matriculation as well as your Student ID. The number (so-called *Matrikelnummer*) you will be given upon registration is valid throughout your studies at the University of Bonn. Make sure to always quote this number when carrying out oral or written inquiries at the University Secretariat. Please take your time to check the print-out carefully. Make sure there are no errors regarding your personal data, your course of study and the semester you are in!

The Student ID entitles you to a Reader's Card

Seminar Card

⇒ [www.uni-bonn.de
/Studium/Schueler
/Semesterticket.
html](http://www.uni-bonn.de/Studium/Schueler/Semesterticket.html)

(*Codekarte*) issued by the University Library. You may use public transport in the area of Bonn free of charge (except for some trains with supplementary fares), and you also get a students' reduction of up to 50 % on tickets for theatres, opera houses and museums etc.

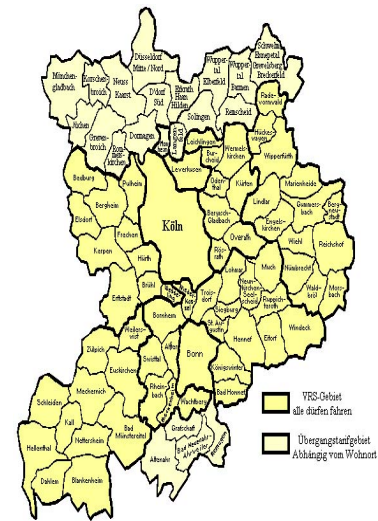
We recommend that you always keep the Student ID with you.

Once enrolled at the University of Bonn, you will have to re-register (*Rückmeldung*) for each of the following semesters. There is always a re-registration deadline by which you need to transfer the registration fee (*Sozialbeitrag*). (Please contact the University Secretariat or check the Course Catalogue for details.)

If you miss this deadline, you will be fined approx. € 10!

By paying the registration fee you also gain insurance cover against accidents. In case of an accident, please contact the *Studentenwerk* to find out about potential legal claims.

"Studi-Ticket" – Public Transport Free of Charge



III.5.Registration with the Aliens Authority

☒ All international students (also EU citizens!) planning to stay in Germany for more than three months need a valid residence permit.

Exception:

Students who already have a visa in their passports which is valid throughout their stay in Germany (e.g. those enrolled in a specific study programme) do not have to report to the Aliens Authority (*Ausländerbehörde*). They just need to register at the Residents' Registration Office (*Bürgeramt/Einwohnermeldeamt*).

☒ The residence permit is issued by the Aliens Authority (*Ausländerbehörde*) in Bonn-Beuel, Königswinterer Straße 54. Office hours: Monday to Friday 8 a.m. – 12 noon, Thursday also 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. (closed on Wednesdays)

p.m.–6 p.m. (closed on Wednesdays!).

To get there, take bus NR 537 at *Friedensplatz* or *Hauptbahnhof* and get off at "*Beuel Ausländeramt*". Again, try to be there as early in the morning as possible to avoid endless queues. The following documents are necessary for obtaining a residence permit:

**Aliens Authority
(*Ausländerbehörde*)
Bonn-Beuel,
Königswinterer
Straße 54
Tel. 73- 6300**

- ☒ Valid passport
- ☒ Notification of admission (*Zulassungsbescheid*) or proof of registration (*Studienbescheinigung*) of the University of Bonn
- ☒ Proof of registration from Residents' Registration Office (*Bürgeramt/Einwohnermeldeamt*);
- ☒ Proof that you can support yourself financially;
- ☒ Student Visa – *Studienbewerbersichtvermerk* (EU citizens do not need this);
- ☒ Proof of sufficient medical insurance

A health certificate (*Gesundheitszeugnis*) can be obtained from the Public Health Authority (*Gesundheitsamt*, Engeltalweg 6, next to *Beethovenhalle*) or any medical doctor. You have to use the official form as it will not be valid otherwise. The certificate costs approx. € 50. Your German medical insurance company will not pay for this.

IV. ACCOMMODATION AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

IV.1. Accommodation

It can be difficult to find affordable accommodation in Bonn, especially for international students arriving at the beginning of a new semester when many newcomers are looking for a place to stay.

However, the *Studentenwerk* has more than

1,000 rooms on offer for international students. You can apply directly to the *Studentenwerk* or contact the International Office (*Akademisches Auslandsamt*). The *Studentenwerk* has 34 student dorms to house 4000 students of the University of Bonn and the Polytechnic (*Fachhochschule*) Rhein-Sieg. For details, write to the following e-mail addresses: wohnen@stw-bonn.de, loedorf@stw-bonn.de. An additional 500 inexpensive rooms or apartments are offered by various other student dorms, some of them private, others run by religious institutions. There is also the private housing market: offers for apartments or rooms can be found on the university's bulletin boards or in local newspapers. If this does not help either, or if you only need a room for a very short time, you can also contact a so-called *Mitwohonzentrale*, an agency offering private rooms or apartments for short-term rental.

Studentenwerk
Nassestr. 11, stair-
case 1, 2nd floor,
Ms. Loedorf, Tel:
73-7165

⇒ **[www.uni-bonn.de](http://www.uni-bonn.de/studentenwerk)**
[/studentenwerk](http://www.uni-bonn.de/studentenwerk)

IV.1.1. Accommodation for the First Days

Upon arrival in Bonn and as long as you do not have a permanent place to stay, you can opt for a hotel or the Youth Hostel, a cheaper alternative. Please note that the Youth Hostel has restrictions on the number of days you can stay there.

Youth Hostel: Jugendgästehaus Venusberg,
Haager Weg 42, 53127 Bonn, Tel: +49-(0)228-
289970, 28997-14, e-mail: [jh-bonn@djh-](mailto:jh-bonn@djh-Rheinland.de)
[Rheinland.de](mailto:jh-bonn@djh-Rheinland.de)

The Tourist Information Centre will help with booking a hotel room or bed-and-breakfast:
Tourist Information Centre: Windeckstr. 2/am
Münsterplatz, 53111 Bonn, Tel: +49(0)228-

Youth Hostel:
Jugendgästehaus
Venusberg,
Haager Weg 42,
53127 Bonn, Tel:
28997-0/28997-14

19433, Fax: 0228-775077, e-mail: bonninformation@bonn.de

IV.1.2. Short-time rentals

There are private agencies, the so-called *Mitwohnzentralen*, that offer short-term rentals of fully equipped private rooms or flats (for several days, weeks or months, depending on availability).

For more details, contact

Mitwohn-Agentur, Bonn, Tel. +49-(0)228-229370

Mitwohn-Agentur (Westerhoff & Partner), Tel. +49-(0)228-19430,

Büro: Ölbergring 16, 53639 Königswinter, Tel. +49-(0)2223- 911920

Mitwohn-Centrale, Thomas-Mann-Str.40, 53111 Bonn, Tel. +49-(0)228-19445

Mitwohn-Zentrale, Bonn, Tel. +49-(0)228-7668991

Mitwohn-Zentrale im Rheinland, Bonn, Tel. +49-(0)228-9659697

Tourist Information Centre:

Windeckstr. 2/am
Münsterplatz,
53111 Bonn, Tel:
0228-19433

⇒ www.mitwohnenzentrale.com

IV.1.3. Private rooms or flats

If you want to share an apartment or rent a private room or flat, check out the local newspapers, *General-Anzeiger* and *Bonner Rundschau*. Adverts are usually published on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The city magazine, *Schnüss*, published on Saturdays might also be a good source, especially for rooms in shared flats (so-called *Wohngemeinschaften* or *WGs*).

You can also try to post an ad yourself, provided that you have a telephone number where you can be reached. The advertiser, *Annonce*, published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays usually has a lot of rooms and flats on offer, too. Rental agents charge a commission fee of up to 3 months' rent, which has to be paid when signing the rental agreement (do not pay before signing it).

⇒ www.general-anzeiger-bonn.de

⇒ www.rundschau-online.de

⇒ www.Studentenwg.de

⇒ www.annonce-online.de

signing!).

IV.1.4. Private rooms for students only

The *Studentenwerk* and other university institutions also provide accommodation offers for private rooms or flats.

Matriculated students can check out offers at the *Studentenwerk* (Nassestraße 11, 53113 Bonn, Tel: 73-7165) Monday–Friday 10 a.m.–12 noon or the AStA Office of Social Affairs (Nassestr. 11, Tel. 73-7043), 12 noon–2 p.m.

⇒ www.uni-bonn.de/studentenwerk/wohnen.html

⇒ www.uni-bonn.de/Unileben/Wohnen.html

⇒ www.asta.uni-bonn.de/wohnen/

IV.1.5. Student dormitories run by the Studentenwerk

All students regularly enrolled at the University of Bonn (as well as those planning to enrol in the forthcoming semester) can apply for accommodation in one of the *Studentenwerk's* dormitories. This gives newcomers the chance to find an affordable place to stay. You just need to fill in the application form provided by the *Studentenwerk*. It is possible to file a general application for all of the dorms, but you can also give a ranking of your preference among the dorms. Application forms have to be submitted by 20th February for the summer semester and 20th August for the winter semester.

⇒ www.uni-bonn.de/studentenwerk

As dorm rooms are very popular and applications always exceed availability, a random selection draw will take place. At present, students are generally allowed to stay in the dorms for a maximum of 6 semesters. For further information on the individual dorms and on the application procedure, contact the Student Services Agency:

**20th February
20th August**

Studentenwerk Bonn AÖR, Dept. For Student Accommodation (*Studentisches Wohnen*): Nassestr.11, 53113 Bonn, Ms. Lödorf, Tel: +49-

⇒ www.uni-bonn.de/studentenwerk/wohnen/sw_liste

(0)228-737165, Fax: 737192, e-mail: loe-dorf@stw-bonn.de, Monday–Friday 9 a.m.–12 noon (closed on Wednesdays). You can also obtain a useful information leaflet by sending an e-mail to wohnen@stw-bonn.de.

All student dormitories are either in walking-distance to university or well connected by public transport. Monthly rents depend on location, equipment and state of dorms, and range between approx. € 113 and € 243 . The majority of dorms cost approx. € 130 a month.

When signing the rental agreement, you have to pay for the first month as well as a security deposit of 2 months' cash. When you move out again, the deposit refund check will be sent to your home address 4 to 6 weeks after you left – assuming that there are no damages arising from your occupancy.

Furnishing of dorms varies. Some have furnished singles with the showers, bathrooms and kitchens being shared with the others living on the same floor. Others provide furnished apartments with their own showers and bathrooms, some even with an own kitchen included. As an alternative to single rooms and apartments, some offer shared flats as well as apartments for couples, families or single parents. All student dorms have shared common rooms, facilitating the contact with other students.

The dormitory Tannenbusch II features 20 specially equipped apartments for students with disabilities. They are accessible for wheelchairs and are tailored to the students' specific needs. However, nursery care is not available. As students with and without disabilities live under the same roof, this is supposed to enhance integration. The students may also use the facilities at the neighbouring Gustav-Heinemann-House (Centre for the disabled and non disabled).

For further information contact:

Deposit

Dorms with wheel-chair access

⇒ www.uni-bonn.de/Unileben/Behinderte_Studierende.html

Studentenwerk Bonn, Mr. Schorre: Nassestr. 11,
53113 Bonn, Tel. +49-(0)228-737163.

⇒ www.uni-bonn.de/Unileben/Wohnen.html

IV.1.6. Other dormitories

In Bonn, there are also various other dormitories run by private institutions or the churches. You can apply directly to the addresses given below. Usually, the deadline is the same as that of the *Studentenwerk*.

Student dormitory Althaus: *Studentenheim Althaus*, Adenauerallee 129, 53113 Bonn, Tel: +49-(0)228-213972

Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-House: Königstr. 88, 53115 Bonn, Tel: +49-(0)228-9119915 (Mail address: Venusbergweg 4, 53115 Bonn)

Newman House: Adenauerallee 63-69, 53113 Bonn, Tel: +49-(0)228-9144527

Cusanus House: Hainstr. 52, 53121 Bonn, Tel: +49-(0)228-624428

Oncken-House: Am Quirinusbrunnen 4, 53129 Bonn, Tel: +49-(0)228-231223

Stella Matutina Dorm for Female Students: *Stella Matutina Studentinnenwohnheim*, Gudenauer Weg 128, 53127 Bonn, Tel: +49-(0)228-9102636

Collegium Leoninum: Am Alten Friedhof 13, 53111 Bonn, Tel: +49-(0)228-635084/90

Oscar-Romero-House: Heerstr. 205, 53111 Bonn, Tel: +49-(0)228-635094/-651215

Dormitory Stolzenfels: *Wohnheim Stolzenfels*, Hatschiergasse 1, 53111 Bonn, Tel: +49-(0)228-655045 (for Catholic male students only)

Augustine House: *Augustinus Haus*, Eduard-Pflüger-Str. 56, 53113 Bonn, Tel: +49-(0)228-232530

Döllinger-House: Baumschulallee 9-13, 53115 Bonn, Tel: +49-(0)228-635912

Students' Dormitory Westmark: *Studentenwohnheim Westmark*, Rheinaustr. 130, 53225

Addresses

Bonn, Tel: +49-(0)228-471410/-474759
 Collegium Albertinum: Adenauerallee 17, 53113
 Bonn, Tel: +49-(0)228-2674-0 (informal applica-
 tion with a letter of recommendation by a
 priest/minister, male students only)
 Sacred Heart Monastery Dormitory: *Herz-Jesu-
 Kloster Studentenwohnheim*: Lindenstr. 62,
 53227 Bonn, Tel: +49-(0)228-443290
 Dormitory of the Baltic Christian Students' Asso-
 ciation: *Studentenwohnheim des Baltischen
 Christlichen Studentenbundes*: Annaberger Str.
 400, 53175 Bonn, Tel: +49-(0)228-316244
 Benedictine Dormitory for Female Students: *Stu-
 dentinnenwohnheim der Benediktinerinnen*,
 Kapellenstr. 46, 53115 Bonn, Tel: +49-(0)228-
 210171
 Evangelical Theological Dormitory Clarenbach:
*Evangelisch-Theologisches Studienhaus Cla-
 renbach*: Goebenstr. 32-34, 53113 Bonn, Tel:
 +49-(0)228-218110/-220457 (Theology students
 only)
 Evangelical Theological Dormitory: *Hans-Iwand-
 House Evang.-Theolog. Stift*: Humboldtstr. 42,
 53115 Bonn, Tel: +49-(0)228-732200 (Theology
 students only)

IV.1.7.Housing voucher and housing allow- ance

Private rooms and apartments are usually much more expensive than accommodation in student dorms. In order to make ends meet, try the following: You can either look for social housing (a so-called *Sozialwohnung*), apartments that have been built with special public subsidies and are for low income groups only. In order to get one, you will need a housing voucher (*Wohnberechtigungsschein*) which you can apply for at the town hall (*Stadthaus*) by paying a rather moderate administrative fee: *Amt für Soziales und*

Housing voucher

Wohnen (Office of Social Affairs and Housing), Berliner Platz 2, *Stadthaus*, 53111 Bonn, Tel: +49-(0)228-772937. However, this only makes sense if you already know of an apartment you might get subject to the housing voucher. Alternatively, you can also ask for information on housing allowance (*Wohngeld*) at the town hall's Office of Housing (*Amt für Wohnungswesen/Stadthaus*) and then file an application. Under certain circumstances, you might be entitled to receive this kind of subsidy.

Office of Social Affairs and Housing:
Amt für Soziales und Wohnen
Berliner Platz 2,
Stadthaus,
53111 Bonn,
Tel: +49-(0)228-772937

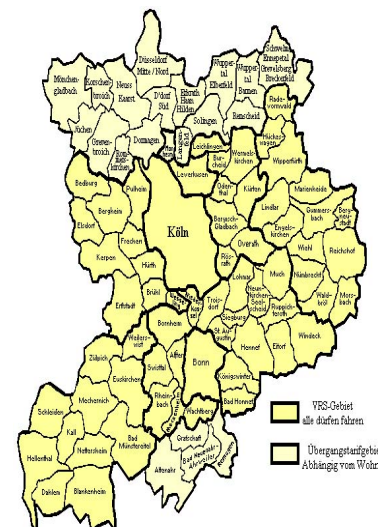
IV.2. Getting around

IV.2.1. Public Transport in the Bonn Area

All students enrolled at the University of Bonn are entitled to use public transport in the Rhine-Sieg area free of charge (i.e. all carriers belonging to the *Verkehrsverbund Rhein-Sieg*) if they carry their Student ID as well as another ID (driver's license etc.) with a photo. Upon registration at university, students have already paid for this "*Studi-Ticket*". This student's season ticket is valid for 6 months (starting 1st October or 1st April, respectively), i.e. not only during lecture periods. This ticket allows unlimited travel on buses, trams, and some DB trains (those that do not require supplements). If you pay for supplements, you can also travel on some other Deutsche Bahn trains. Further information on the area covered by your "*Studi-Ticket*" is available from the Information Office of *Bonner Verkehrsbetriebe*, situated in the underpass at the main station (*Bonn Hauptbahnhof*).

As you can see, it is not advisable to buy a car in order to get around, especially due to the fact that parking fees are high almost everywhere in Bonn city centre. Those of you living close to the

⇒ www.swb.bonn.de



city centre will soon find out that bicycles are the best option. Bikes are also fun for weekend trips in the Bonn area. They are even allowed on Rhine riverboats for a fee of approx. € 1.

Bonn by bike

Unfortunately, expensive bikes are very likely to be stolen. You might want to buy a bike second-hand and resell it when you go back home. Check out ads on the university's notice boards or go to the bicycle market held alongside the university's main building (to the side of the *Hofgarten*), once a semester.

You can also rent a bike at:

The Radstation at *Bonn Hauptbahnhof* (main station),

Rent-a-Bike

Kurscheid Rent-a-Bike, Römerstr. 4, 53111 Bonn, Tel: 631433

Fahrradladen Südstadt: Ermekeilstr. 7, Tel: 2423233 (sells and rents bikes)

City Bike, Oxfordstr. 15, 53111 Bonn, Tel: 9816112

IV.2.2. Getting Around in Germany

The best way to travel around Germany is to either go by car or by train. There are cheap options for both modes of transportation: car-pools and discounts on train fares. In Germany, it is not very common to travel around by bus, unless you book one for a whole group of people. For longer distances you might also want to contact a travel agency for bargain airfares (there are special offers for students). If you do not have a discount ticket for the German railway system, it can often be cheaper to go by plane.

Car-pools (*Mitfahrgelegenheiten* in German) are a good option if you want to go from one big city to another, but not if you are heading for a remote location or if you have to be there at a precise time. You just need to find somebody with a car who will go the same direction you

are heading at a time that suits you. You will share the expenses for petrol (depending on how many people are going, you pay either 50% or 25% etc.). If you are going with your own car, you can also look for fellow-drivers in order to save on petrol. There are always offers and requests to be found on the university's noticeboards, but it is better to check out the AStA file (noticeboards at *Mensa Nassestraße* and *Mensa Poppelsdorf*). An even more promising but also more expensive way to find a car-pool is to contact a car-pooling agency or *Mitfahrzentrale*. If you find a car-pool that suits you, the *Mitfahrzentrale* will charge you a fee depending on the distance you are travelling. A leaflet with prices is available from: *Mitfahrzentrale*, Herwarthstraße 11 (behind the main station), Tel: 693030. The main station (*Bonn Hauptbahnhof*) is located very close to the city centre, the "pedestrian precinct" (shopping area) and the university's main building. It is one of Germany's most busy train stations with departures to a wide range of destinations. Train fares are quite expensive in Germany, but there are various discount options. If you plan to use the German railway system on a regular basis, you should get the discount ticket *Bahncard* for approx. € 60 (for 2nd class) or € 150 (for 1st class). The *Bahncard* is valid for 12 months, entitling you to a 25 % discount on the entire German railway system and a 25% discount on some reductions (e.g. the "travel together discount" - *Mitfahrer-Rabatt*). With the Saver Tickets for Europe (*Europa-Sparpreis*) you can save money on train fares in 16 European countries.

The "Good-Evening-Ticket" (*Guten-Abend-Ticket*) allows almost unlimited travel across Germany between 7 p.m. and 3 a.m. (between 2 p.m. and 3 a.m. on Saturdays) for approx. € 30 (€ 36 for ICE trains, a supplement of approx. €

⇒ www.europealive.de

Car-pool

***Mitfahrzentrale*
Herwarthstraße 11
(behind the main
station), Tel:
693030**

⇒ www.bahn.de

Special Offers

8-10 applies Fridays to Sundays). On Saturdays or Sundays you can also buy a "Happy Weekend Ticket" (*SchönesWochenend-Ticket*, approx. € 28) that allows unlimited travel on local trains (*Regionalbahn, Stadtexpress, S-Bahn*) on Saturdays or Sundays between 12 noon until 3 a.m. (valid for up to 5 people travelling together).

If you plan to travel around Europe, ask for discount options like the *Twen-Ticket* (20 % discount for those under 25 for journeys in Germany, up to 50% for journeys in most European countries, including Morocco and Turkey). You can also save money by booking your train tickets online as early as possible (*Plan & Save*) you get a 10 – 40% discount depending on the time-space between buying the tickets and travel. Pay attention: This offer is for a special train on a special day. If you do not go by this train, you have to pay a fee of approx. □ 45 for booking another!

There is one important rule for the German railway system: (for the right train, for prices and for discount possibilities) - *always ask!*

V. FINANCING YOUR STUDIES

V.1. Fixed monthly costs

Before we get on to considering possible ways to finance your studies, we want to give you an idea of how much money the average student at the University of Bonn needs per month. The total cost you find below is just an estimate, as expenses differ widely according to whether you live in an inexpensive student dorm, a shared apartment or a private flat.

Average monthly cost of living:

Accommodation: € 210.-

Food: € 140.-
Clothing/Laundry/
Personal hygiene items: € 60.-
Registration Fee
(once a semester): € 105.-
Books etc.: € 30.-
Medical and nursing care
Insurance: € 50.-

Other (phone calls,
recreation, athletics etc.): € 83.-

*Total: € **678.-***

V.2. Financing your studies by Working

If you are an EU citizen you do not need a work permit. You can work subject to the same rules as German students: if you work for more than 15 hours per week or if your monthly income exceeds € 325, you have to pay taxes and social security contributions, i.e. contributions to the German medical insurance and pension scheme that will be recognised in other EU countries. You need an income tax card (*Lohnsteuerkarte*), issued by the Residents' Registration Office (*Einwohnermeldeamt*). For up-to-date information on the German labour market refer to the Employment Office's website: www.arbeitsamt.de. Those studying on a DAAD scholarship cannot work without the DAAD's consent.

All other students (non-EU citizens), please note the following: you are allowed to work in between lecture periods (3 months, e.g. 90 days per year or half a day work for 180 days per year). As this permit is already included in your visa you do not need a special work permit.

You are allowed to work for up to 10 hours per week during the lecture periods providing you

Income Tax Card

⇒ www.arbeitsamt.de

Obtaining a Work Permit

adhere to the following procedure:

1. First of all, you need to have a written confirmation by one of your professors/lecturers that your future job is compatible with your studies.
2. You have to show this certificate to the Aliens Authority (*Ausländerbehörde*). The official will put a stamp in your passport modifying the conditions of your stay permit accordingly.
3. Next, you need to file an application for a work permit at the Employment Office, enclosing a personalised description of the job (i.e. your future employer needs to explain why he or she wants to employ you).

Allow approx. 6 to 8 weeks for processing of your request. The work permit you obtain is limited to a single employer (i.e. it is valid for one job only) and depends on your current stay permit.

For further information, contact Mr. Schnalke at the Employment Office Bonn (Tel: 924-1186).

The Employment Office also has a special Students' Job Agency: Villemombler Str. 101 (Tel. 92421-19/-20/-21), Monday-Friday 8 a.m. – 12.30 p.m., Thursday additional: 2p.m. – 4p.m..

If you are looking for a job, you should register accordingly at the aforementioned agency. It is advisable to contact the office once in a while to ask for vacancies, but you are usually told as soon as there is a job offer that might suit you.

However, the Employment Office is not the only source of job opportunities. There are other steps you can take. As the manufacturing industry does not play a major role in Bonn, it is difficult to find a job as a substitute worker in factories (e.g. assembly line). However, the services industry is a strong economic factor in Bonn. The many small and medium enterprises need substitute employees especially during the holidays,

Employment Office
Arbeitsamt Bonn
Mr. Schnalke, Tel:
924-1186

⇒ **www.arbeitsamt.de/bonn/hochschulteam/index.html**

Students' Job
Agency

but applicants should have both an excellent command of German, as well as very good computer/typing skills.

Check the daily newspapers for employment listings. However, it is mostly jobs for cleaners, kitchen hands or waiters/waitresses that are listed there. There are some job opportunities for students at the university refectories. You can also check the noticeboards or ask at your department's secretariat for jobs as tutors or research assistants.

⇒ www.asta.uni-bonn.de/Jobs/

⇒ www.uni-bonn.de/Aktuelles/Stellenangebote.html

V.3. Scholarships

Unlike institutions of higher education in other countries, German universities usually do not award grants as they do not have the necessary funding. However, some scholarships are available from various national organisations for exceptionally qualified candidates. Of course, there are far more applications than scholarships available. As a matter of fact, in the past, only 15 % of international applicants obtained scholarships funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). There are two distinct types of scholarships: first of all, there are scholarships which are awarded before the students' arrival in Germany, i.e. scholarships covering your basic financial needs in Germany right from the start. Applications need to be filed in your home country before going abroad. Eligibility for these scholarships usually depends on the applicants having completed a first degree or the period of general studies in their home country.

There also some, though fewer, scholarships for international students already enrolled at a German university. Eligibility depends primarily on excellent performance. Social factors will be taken into account only if there are equally quali-

fied applicants. You usually need to have completed the first part of your studies (e.g. the intermediate examination, *Vordiplom* or *Physikum*). Check out the current scholarship database of DAAD online: www.DAAD.de/info-f-a/de/foerderung/stipendien/index.html. Further information on other organisations awarding scholarships to international students is available from www.DAAD.de/info-f-a/de/foerderung/organisation/index.html or at the International Office (*Akademisches Auslandsamt*).

There you will also get the leaflet *"Förderungsmöglichkeiten für ausländische Hochschulangehörige"* [*Possibilities of grants for foreign university students*] with more details on institutions and grants that might be suitable for you. The AStA (Student Union) of Bonn University also publishes a brochure on foundations and scholarships called

"Stiftungen und Stipendien" [*Foundations and Scholarships*]. A particularly interesting source of information is the detailed index of foundations: www.Stiftungsindex.de.

Please note that foreign nationals studying in Germany on a scholarship awarded by a German institution are usually obliged to return to their home country immediately after graduation. If they do not comply, they can be required to pay back their grant. Scholarship holders applying for German citizenship might have to pay back the grant in order to fulfil the requirements of the German Naturalisation Authority.

V.4. BAFÖG for international students

Only in very few cases do international students have a chance of being awarded federal financial aid, i.e. a student loan according to the BAFÖG-law (*Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz*). The following can apply:

⇒ www.DAAD.de/info-f-a/de/foerderung/stipendien/index.html

⇒ www.DAAD.de/info-f-a/de/foerderung/organisation/index.html

⇒ www.Stiftungsindex.de

Stateless persons as defined by the law; foreign nationals residing in Germany who have been granted asylum; foreign nationals residing in Germany with a refugee status; foreign nationals residing in Germany who are exempt from deportation according to the provisions of § 51, paragraph 1, German Aliens and Asylum Law; citizens of an EU or EEA Member State fulfilling certain prerequisites (§ 8, nr. 8/9, paragraph 1 of the BAFöG-law applies accordingly); foreign nationals residing in Germany with a parent or spouse being a German citizen as defined by the German Basic Law;

Foreign nationals who have lived and worked legally in Germany for at least 5 years prior to commencement of their studies or if at least one parent has been working legally in Germany for a certain amount of time (cf. Article 8, nr. 8, paragraph 2)

Apart from this, loans are granted to international students subject to the same rules (e.g. regarding maximum loans) as those which apply to German students.

If you believe yourself to be eligible for a loan, we strongly recommend that you contact the BAFöG Agency for further information:

Amt für Ausbildungsförderung (BAFöG-Amt), Nassestr. 11, 53113 Bonn (inside the *Mensa* building), Tel: +49-(0)228-737172, Fax 737180, Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 12:30 p.m. – 3 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The Student Union (AStA) also provides information on BAFöG loans (same address, 1st floor, room NR 5), Tel. 73-5874, Wednesday 12 noon – 3 p.m.

The *Studentenwerk* is another institution you can turn to for information and counselling on financial assistance to students: Nassestr. 11, 3rd floor, Tel. 73-7187. Office hours: Monday and

⇒ www.bmbf.de

⇒ www.das-neue-bafoeg.de

**BAFöG-Agency,
Nassestr. 11,
53113 Bonn (inside
the *Mensa* building),
Tel: 73-7172**

⇒ www.uni-bonn.de/asta

Thursday 9 a.m. – 12 noon and 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
(as well as by appointment).

Important:

Do not file an application for social welfare, which may result in your residence permit being withdrawn. Remember that according to German law, you must be able to support yourself financially during your studies!

**Do not apply for
Social Welfare!**

VI. SUPPORT, ADVICE, CONTACT

VI.1. Counselling services offered by the University of Bonn

VI.1.1. Academic Affairs Support

The university's Academic Affairs Support (*Zentrale Studienberatung*) is located in Franziskanerstraße 4, 53113 Bonn (Tel: +49-(0)228-737080, e-mail: zsb@uni-bonn.de), Office hours: Monday–Friday 8:30 a.m.–12 noon, Monday–Tuesday 1:30 p.m.–3:15 p.m., on Thursdays also 1:30 p.m.–6 p.m.

It provides a variety of information and counselling services that focus on such topics as courses offered at the University of Bonn, admissions procedures, learning strategies, or how to write essays and research papers. The *Zentrale Studienberatung* has also published various brochures and leaflets with valuable information.

What is more, the office provides crisis counselling, and can get you in contact with a registered psychologist, e.g. in case of socially-related disorders, lack of concentration, stress and anxiety prior to exams, lack of self-esteem etc.

⇒ [www.uni-bonn.de
/Studium/Zentrale
_Studienberatung.
html](http://www.uni-bonn.de/Studium/Zentrale_Studienberatung.html)

VI.1.2. Faculty Advisors

All faculties also have their own advisors (*Fachstudienberater*), i.e. professors or lecturers

providing specific information on the individual discipline. You should contact the faculty advisors for details on your course of study. You can turn to them for additional information when it comes to inquiries regarding the study requirements and examination regulations or the regulations for doctoral degrees. You should also consult the relevant advisor for details on recognition of previous academic achievements (credits, degrees etc.). A list of all faculty advisors is included in the Course Catalogue (*Vorlesungsverzeichnis*).

List of Faculty Advisors is in the Course Catalogue

⇒ [www.uni-bonn.de](http://www.uni-bonn.de/Einrichtungen/Fakultaeten.html)
[/Einrichtungen/](http://www.uni-bonn.de/Einrichtungen/Fakultaeten.html)
[Fakultaeten.html](http://www.uni-bonn.de/Einrichtungen/Fakultaeten.html)

VI.1.3. Faculty Office Hours

It is not only the specifically appointed advisors who provide information. All professors and lecturers of the University of Bonn are available for consultation at certain times: professors set aside the time to talk to you and to answer your questions, and they really want you to come. What is more, registration for most seminar courses usually takes place during these hours. The professors also give advice on various topics, such as presentations in class, housework, final exams and your thesis. Check your professor's noticeboard (usually next to his or her office) for the exact office hours or ask at your institute's secretariat.

⇒ [www.uni-bonn.de](http://www.uni-bonn.de/Einrichtungen/Fakultaeten.html)
[/Einrichtungen/](http://www.uni-bonn.de/Einrichtungen/Fakultaeten.html)
[Fakultaeten.html](http://www.uni-bonn.de/Einrichtungen/Fakultaeten.html)

VI.1.4. Counselling Services Provided by Students

All faculties have their individual student organisations (*Fachschaften*) that represent the students' interests as regards the individual field of study. The student organisations also offer counselling services which you should really make good use of. Services include a full week of student orientation activities (*Einführungswoche*) at

the beginning of each lecture period (*Vorlesungszeit*). In order not to miss this event, please check the departmental noticeboard for details. The student orientation will help you get started at the University of Bonn. It will provide valuable information on the structure of your course of study, and it is an excellent opportunity to meet other students enrolled in the same course.

⇒ www.asta.uni-bonn.de/fachschaft.html

Student Orientation

VI.2. Counselling and socialising

VI.2.1. International Office

The International Office (*Akademisches Auslandsamt (AAA)/Dezernat für Internationale Angelegenheiten*) located in Poppelsdorfer Allee 53 wants to enhance and promote the university's international relations. Its work focuses on providing information and support to international students and applicants.

Director of the International Office: Ms. Lieselotte Krickau-Richter,

Deputy Director: Mr. Wolfgang Gerkhausen.

The International Office, Poppelsdorfer Allee 53, is open Monday to Friday 9 a.m.–12 noon. If you contact the office in advance, we can also arrange appointments out of hours.

The following are your contacts for the various topics:

General information, application forms, accommodation:

Information Room (*Info-Zimmer*), Tel: 73-7626, e-mail: info-aaa@uni-bonn.de

Support and advice for international students and international applicants; special programmes:

International Office:

(Akademisches Auslandsamt), Poppelsdorfer Allee 53; Monday–Friday 9 a.m.–12 noon

Useful Tips

Eva Bezzeg-Frölich, Tel: 73-7694,
e-mail: e.bezzeg@uni-bonn.de

Support and Advice

German language courses, DSH language test;
Association "ProIntegration":
Wolfgang Gerkhausen, Tel: 73-7708 and 73-
5945,
e-mail: w.gerkhausen@uni-bonn.de

DSH Language Test and German Language Courses

ERASMUS programme:
Petra Berkner, Tel: 73-5949,
e-mail: p.berkner@uni-bonn.de.
Renate Steimel, Tel: 73-5951
e-mail: r.steimel@uni-bonn.de

ERASMUS

Junior Year programme:
Holger Impekoven, Tel: 73-5944
e-mail: impekoven@uni-bonn.de

Junior Year Pro- gram

Study Buddy programme:
Hanna Kathrin Zimmermann, Tel: 73-7831,
e-mail: hzimmerm@uni-bonn.de

Study Buddies

VI.2.2. International Club

The International Club, run by the International Office, is a great place to meet German and international students from all over the world. During lecture periods (and also once in a while during the *Semesterferien*) people come to have a chat, to read newspapers, to use our three Internet terminals or to simply have fun.

The International Club organises student orientation activities as well as parties at the end of each semester, film nights, excursions, visits to companies, concerts etc. All Students are welcome to participate by paying a small fee.

Check out our current programme online: www.uni-bonn.de/~club. You will also find the programme on the faculties' noticeboards, at the International Office and in a leaflet

International Club



International Office and in a leaflet.
If you want to sign up for events, please contact
the International Club:

⇒ www.uni-bonn.de/~club

International Club
Poppelsdorfer Allee 53 (junction: Argelander-
straße) 53115 Bonn
Tel: 73-9356 or 262875 (answering machine)
Fax: 0228- 73 59 66
e-mail: club@uni-bonn.de

**International Club
Poppelsdorfer
Allee 53
(junction:
Argelanderstraße)
53115 Bonn**

VI.2.3. The Study Buddy Programme

The Study Buddy Programme was very recently launched by the International Office. It is designed to provide information to international freshers and to help them adjust to the new environment at the University of Bonn. The programme proved a great success last semester and will thus be continued.

"Study Buddies", i.e. German students who are familiar with the university's structures will give you a helping hand during your first semester. Most of the German students participating in the Study Buddy Programme have spent a year abroad themselves and are aware of many problems and answers that might arise. Your personal "Study Buddy" will help you with administrative tasks, and will provide valuable advice on everyday life in Bonn. By participating in the Study Buddy Programme, you will not only be able to cut the red tape but will also get in contact with German students more easily.

In the past, we ascertained that the programme really helped to foster friendship and mutual understanding, broadening the cultural horizon of all participants.

The programme's activities will also include a brunch, wine tasting, and there will be various events organised by the International Club – an

**"Study Buddy
Programme"**

excellent opportunity to meet people from all over the world. What is more, the Study Buddy Programme is free of charge!

Please contact us if you want to join the programme. Please note that participation will be confirmed once you have passed the DSH language test.

We wish you all the best while preparing for your studies at the University of Bonn, and are looking forward to you joining our programme!

Eva Bezzeg-Frölich, Tel: 73-7694; e-mail: e.bezzeg@uni-bonn.de

and

Hanna Kathrin Zimmermann, Tel: +49-(0)228-73-7831; e-mail: hzimmerm@uni-bonn.de

International Office

Poppelsdorfer Allee 53

53115 Bonn

VI.2.4. Studentenwerk Bonn

The *Studentenwerk* (Student Services Agency) provides detailed information on social assistance. It is located in

Nassestr. 11, staircase 1, 3rd floor, room NR 301;

Tel: 73-7187. Office hours: Monday and Thursday 9 a.m.–12 noon and 1 p.m.–3 p.m.

⇒ www.uni-bonn.de/studentenwerk

VI.2.5. Student Union (AStA)

The Student Union or *Allgemeiner StudentInnenausschuß* (*AstA*) represents all students enrolled at the University of Bonn. Elections are held once a year.

The *AStA* is located in Nassestraße 11, inside the *Mensa* building (Tel: 73-7030; Fax 262210) Office hours: Monday to Thursday, 12 noon–2 p.m. and Friday 12 noon–1:45 p.m.

The *AStA* has various subdivisions dealing with specific topics and offers student-focused ser-

⇒ www.uni-bonn.de/asta

**AStA, Nassestraße
11, inside the
Mensa building, Tel:
73-7030**

vices. Once a semester, the AStA publishes an up-to-date brochure on studying in Bonn.

Inside the AStA, there is a specific committee for international students, the *Ausländersprecherrat (ASR)*. The committee has three members, i.e. international students elected by the other international students once a year. You are encouraged to turn to the *ASR* committee for advice and information or if you have any suggestions.

Throughout the semester, the international students' committee *ASR* organises a variety of information campaigns as well as an international party.

The Autonomous Office of International Student Affairs or *Autonomes AusländerInnenreferat* (room NR 14, Tel: 73-7040) provides support and advice to international students and applicants as well as to those enrolled at the *Studienkolleg* (College for Preparatory Studies). The office deals with a wide range of topics, such as financial problems, questions concerning courses of study, accommodation, problems with the administrative body or the Aliens Authority, and provides a student's perspective. The *Autonome AusländerInnenreferat* also offers information on admissions procedures, scholarship grants, language schools, the German labour market, job opportunities, how to apply for residence permits as well as internships for international students.

There is a counselling service on legal matters (room NR 5, Tel: 73-5874) for all those in need of legal advice who cannot afford a lawyer.

The social counselling service (room NR 15, Tel: 73-7043) will answer your questions on topics such as the housing allowance, welfare, or insurances and there are also a variety of brochures with further details. Students with financial difficulties can obtain loans granted by AStA.

The AStA Sports Office (room NR 9, Tel: 73-7045) offers a wide range of athletic activities

Office for International Student Affairs

Counselling on So- cial and Legal Matters

Athletics

students can join, most of the courses being free of charge. An AStA brochure issued each semester will give you more details on activities offered and on how to apply. You will find the brochure at the university refectories or at the AStA office. There is an AStA office of Gay and Lesbian Affairs (room NR 11, Tel: 73-7041) that organises various activities and features a small library. There you will find competent students providing answers to your questions.

Gay and Lesbian Affairs

Those of you looking for a car-pool will find a specific file at the AStA office. You are most welcome to check offers during office hours, at no cost, or to post an offer or request yourself.

Last but not least, the AStA runs two shops for low-cost stationery: there is one at the AStA office in Nassestraße 11 (room NR 1) and another one at the Poppelsdorf Cafeteria (*Mensa*).

stationery shop

VI.2.6. International meeting Centre

The International Meeting Centre (*Internationale Begegnungsstätte*) is located behind the main station (Quantiusstraße 9) and can be contacted Tuesday–Friday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Tel: 773279, Fax: 772794).

The Centre is run by the Bonn City Office for Social Affairs and Housing (*Amt für Soziales und Wohnen*), or more specifically by its multicultural affairs division. It is an excellent meeting-point for Germans and people from all over the world. What is more, the centre offers information and educational activities. There is a reading room with international literature, newspapers and magazines. The Centre organises cultural events, e.g. lectures dedicated to individual countries, concerts, film nights, slide shows and readings, as well as discussions on current problems of foreign nationals living in Germany.

Multicultural Affairs Division

Twice a year, the centre publishes a brochure

listing all activities. It is available at the centre. Apart from that, you might also want to check the website of the Bonn City Foreign Nationals Advisory Board (*Ausländerbeirat*) for helpful advice: www.bonn.de/auslaenderbeirat/index.htm.

VI.2.7. Student Associations

⇒ www.bonn.de/auslaenderbeirat/index.htm

At the University of Bonn, there are many student associations covering a broad range of topics, e.g. cultural activities, politics and religion. You will also find societies dealing with individual cultures or countries and associations promoting intercultural relations like:

AIESEC (*Association Internationale des Etudiants en Sciences Economiques et commerciales*): Monika Koncz, Adenauerallee 24-42, 53113 Bonn
Bosporus Society for German-Turkish Exchange (*Bosporus-Gesellschaft für Deutsch-Türkischen Austausch e.V.*): Reuterstraße 44, Tel. 263843, Georg Danckwerts, Goebenstr. 25, 53113 Bonn;
Circle of Friends Bonn-Toulouse (*Studentischer Freundeskreis Bonn-Toulouse*): Vera Bickel, Römerstr. 146, 53117 Bonn;
ONDE (Society for German-Italian Relations): Katharina Schumacher, Endenicher Str. 215, 53121 Bonn;
Chinese Student Association (*Chinesischer Studentenverein*), Cheng Hung Chung, Drususstr. 9, 53111 Bonn.

As we cannot list all of the associations, please check the aforementioned website for further details.

VI.2.8. College of preparatory studies for international students (Studienkolleg)

The College of Preparatory Studies for International Students (*Studienkolleg*), located in Adenauerallee 10 (Tel: 73-7550, Fax: 737079, Mon-

day to Friday 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon, closed on Wednesdays) provides training for those international students who cannot be admitted directly to German university and prepares them for the assessment test.

The *Studienkolleg* offers different courses, each of them encompassing various disciplines. At the end of the preparatory course, students take an assessment test (*Feststellungsprüfung*), proving they are able to successfully study the individual subject at a German university.

Studienkolleg, Adenauerallee 10, Tel: 73-7550

VI.2.9. "Emergency Aid for International Students" association (Nothilfe für ausländische Studierende e.V.)

This association awards grants in an attempt to help international students in the event of an unanticipated emergency. Admissions deadlines can be found on the *Studienkolleg's* noticeboards. More details are available from the *Studienkolleg*.

VI.2.10. Legal Counselling Service for foreign nationals

You can contact the Legal Counselling Service for Foreign Nationals or *Rechtshilfefonds für Ausländerinnen und Ausländer* for enquiries concerning the German aliens law. It is located in Dorotheenstr. 49 (Tel: 630253).

The office is open Tuesday and Thursday 6 p.m.–8 p.m. Appointments are not necessary.

VI.2.11. Aktion Courage e.V. - SOS racism

You can contact *Aktion Courage* in case of discrimination or racist aggression against yourself or if you would like to help prevent discrimination and promote the protection of foreign nationals against acts of violence in Germany.

Aktion Courage e.V. - SOS Rassismus: Postfach (P.O. Box) 2644, 53016 Bonn, Tel: 213061, Monday to Friday 9 a.m–6 p.m.; please make an appointment.

VI.2.12. Psychological Counselling Centre of the Studentenwerk

The Student Union's Psychological Counselling Centre (*Psychotherapeutische Beratungsstelle*) offers assistance to students experiencing personal or study-related difficulties.

Psychotherapeutische Beratungsstelle: Lennéstr. 24, 53016 Bonn, Tel: 73-7106. To make an appointment, call: Tuesday 8 a.m.–12 noon, Wednesday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Counselling and Support

VI.2.13. The University's Women's Representative

Ms. U. Mättig is the university's women's representative promoting the interests of female students and scholars. Her office is located in Kaiserstr. 1d (Tel. 73-7490). E-mail: gleichstellung@uni-bonn.de. Mailing address: Regina-Pacis-Weg 3, 53113 Bonn.

Women's Representative

VI.2.14. Protestant Chaplaincy (ESG)

The Protestant Chaplaincy or *Evangelische Studentengemeinde (ESG)*, is a meeting place for students wanting to spend time with others on a spiritual and everyday level – This includes sharing religious services and organising parties and community weekends.

The *ESG Bonn* offers movie nights with current films, Clubs (choir, photography, environmental protection, Latin dance, soccer, games etc.), international parties, very convenient study trips and many other activities. Check the brochure "*ESG Bonn*" for the complete programme. It is

⇒ www.uni-bonn.de/esg-bonn

published each semester and distributed at the University refectories. The ESG is located in Venusbergweg 4, 53115 Bonn, Tel: 911990. The student minister and Mr. Campbell-Cohen have special office hours for international students: Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m.–12 noon.

ESG
Venusbergweg 4,
53115 Bonn, Tel:
911990

VI.2.15. Greek Orthodox Parish of Agia Trias Bonn, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Germany

The parish is located in Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Straße 2, Tel: 462041/42, Fax: 464989. Please contact the Arch Priest Sokratis Ntallis (weekdays upon appointment).

Dietrich-
Bonhoeffer-Straße
2, Tel: 462041/42

VI.2.16. Muslim community

If you are a Muslim, you can obtain detailed information on various Muslim institutions from King-Fahad-Academy (*König-Fahad-Akademie*), Mallwitz-Straße 2-4, Tel: 3460-01/02/03.

The Academy runs a school (primary and secondary education) with a Saudi-Arabian curriculum as well as a mosque. On Saturdays, the Academy holds free of charge courses on Islam. There are various other mosques in the area of Bonn, e.g. in Bad Godesberg, but there is no Muslim parish. However, you can contact the Muslim parish in Aachen: Tel. 0241/508153

King-Fahad-
Academy, Mallwitz-
Straße 2-4,
Tel: 3460-01/02/03

VI.2.17. Catholic Chaplaincy (KHG)

The Catholic Chaplaincy or *Katholische Hochschulgemeinde (KHG)* wants to foster community spirit through religious services, events (parties, lectures, discussion groups) as well as co-operation in the Chaplaincy Council, the Chaplaincy Assembly and during planning-weekends. A brochure that is distributed in the university refectories at the beginning of each

⇒ **[www.uni-bonn.de](http://www.uni-bonn.de/khg/index.html)**
[/khg/index.html](http://www.uni-bonn.de/khg/index.html)

semester provides information on the broad range of activities offered. It is also available from the KHG office. The Office for International Students wants to be a spiritual venue for Christians from all over the world as well as a meeting place for non-Christian students. The Director, Mr. Röttgen, will be glad to listen to the many problems international students may encounter and will do whatever is in the Chaplaincy's power to help solve these.

The KHG is located in Schaumburg-Lippe-Straße 6, 53113 Bonn, Tel: 914450. Mr. Röttgen holds office hours on Wednesdays (10 a.m.–12 noon) as well as upon special appointment. To contact him, call: 91445-19 (Fax: 91445-30).

What is more, the Catholic Chaplaincy at the University of Bonn also offers a budget coffee break for students: in summer time, you should go to the small "*Rheinpavillon*" in Schaumburg-Lippe-Straße (halfway between the Rhine and the Law Faculty *Juridicum*). The pavilion is situated right next to the river and features a terrace with a nice view. There you will get coffee, tea, hot chocolate, juice, ice cream etc. for less than € 0.50 (Open Monday to Friday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

Underneath the terrace, there is a Fair Trade Shop run by the Catholic Chaplaincy where you can get coffee and many other things (open Monday to Friday 1 p.m.–3 p.m.).

As an alternative, or if the weather is not as nice, you can go to the Catholic Education Centre's premises (*Zentrum des Katholischen Bildungswerks*) in Fritz-Tillmann-Str. 13, 53115 Bonn. The Centre is open Tuesday to Friday 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 3 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. and sells coffee, tea, hot chocolate, juice and cakes at very low prices.

KHG
Schaumburg-Lippe-
Straße 6, 53113
Bonn
Tel: 914450

VI.2.18. Synagogue Community

The Synagogue Community (*Synagogengemeinde*) is located in Tempelstraße 2 and can be contacted by phone (Tel: 213560).

VI.2.19. Counselling for disabled students

Mr. Nagel is the university's representative for students with disabilities. His office is located in the main building next to the *Hofgarten* (Tel: +49-(0)228-737264, Fax: 739046).

The German Student Services Agency (*Deutsches Studentenwerk*) in Weberstraße 55 also has a counselling service for disabled students and applicants (Tel: 26906-62).

⇒ www.uni-bonn.de/Unileben/Behinderte_Studierende.html

**Mr. Nagel,
Tel: 73-9046**

VI.2.20. Meeting other students

If you are looking for an opportunity to meet other students, make sure to participate in the events organised by many of the student dormitories. They cover a broad range of activities (e.g. athletics, cultural affairs, dinner parties), so-called *Mentorate*. There are usually announcements on the dormitory noticeboards and/or special leaflets informing you of upcoming events.

Newsgroups offer an opportunity to get additional information: Check out www.uni-bonn.de/rhrzinfo/netnews.html or more specifically the university's newsgroups and their special categories, e.g. "uni-bonn.misc" or "uni-bonn.studentenwohnheime" to make sure you do not miss anything.

⇒ www.uni-bonn.de/rhrzinfo/netnews.html

VII. LAST NOT LEAST: EVERYDAY LIFE

Upon arrival in Bonn you will be mainly occupied with cutting the red tape. But apart from that, many questions will arise concerning everyday life in a foreign city.

The following hints and suggestions have been compiled to make sure you can adapt and adjust quickly to your new surroundings, the university and a new way of life.

VII.1.Libraries

In Bonn, there are various libraries to choose from: the University Library, the departmental libraries, the Student Library and the Public Library. What is more, by paying an annual fee of approx. € 20.-, students can also use the Public Library in Cologne (*Josef-Haubrich-Hof*, right in the city centre, get off at *Neumarkt*).

VII.1.1.University Library

The University Library or *Universitätsbibliothek (UB)* has various sections.

The main area is located close to the university's main building on the other side of the *Hofgarten* (Adenauerallee 39-41, 53113 Bonn, Tel: 73-7525).

There you will also find the Inter-library Loan Service (*Fernleihestelle*), where you can order books from other libraries that are not available in the university library.

If you want to borrow books, you first need to register at one of the Lending Services Desks by showing your Student ID or the preliminary certificate issued by the University Secretariat, as well as the certificate you obtained at the Residents' Registration Office (*Bürgeramt*). Upon registration, you will get a Code Card with your user number.

**University Library
Adenauerallee 39-41, 53113 Bonn,
Tel: 73-7525**

⇒ **www.ulb.uni-bonn.de/**

The library's Reading Hall (*Lesesaal*) is open Monday to Friday 9 a.m.–9 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.–12 noon.

Opening hours of other services:

Lending Services Desk: Monday to Friday 9 a.m.–7 p.m.

The so-called *Freihandmagazin*, where the latest books can be borrowed, closes 15 minutes prior to closure of the desks.

The University Library features literature on almost every academic subject, but its main focus is on the literature of the two theological faculties, the Faculty of Philosophy, the Faculty of Law and Political Science as well as on clinical medicine.

The books are stored in a so-called magazine (in the library's cellar, entrance is on the right-hand side of the lending desks). There you can read, borrow and make copies from books published after 1956. Older books as well as periodicals need to be ordered in advance. Therefore, you have to complete a special form (*Leihschein*) you will find in the *Katalograum* (catalogue room) and put it into one of the two boxes on both sides of the desks. The regular loan period is 4 weeks. Usually, there is a possibility of renewing loans once or twice for an additional 4 to 8 weeks. Very old and precious books, as well as newspapers and periodicals, can only be consulted in the reading hall.

At the beginning of each semester, there are guided tours around the library. Make sure to participate in one in order to learn how to use all the library's services and how to search the different catalogues. Guided tours will be announced on the noticeboards at the library entrance.

In the entrance hall, there are also library guides, i.e. leaflets detailing the different services, for you to take away.

The German Central Library for Agricultural Science and Departmental Library for Medicine, Natural Science and Agriculture (*Deutsche Zentralbibliothek für Landbauwissenschaft und Abteilungsbibliothek für Medizin, Naturwissenschaft und Landbau*) is located at Nußallee 15a, 53115 Bonn, Tel: 73-3405.

The Departmental Library for Education (*Abteilungsbibliothek Pädagogik*) is located at Römerstr. 164, 53117 Bonn, Tel: 73-4257.

VII.1.2. Departmental Libraries

Each department has its own library you can use free of charge. The departmental libraries usually do not lend books. They are for on-the-spot consultation only (so-called *Präsenzbibliotheken*). However, some of the libraries will let you borrow books for the weekend. As regulations vary, we recommend that you ask for details at your department's library.

VII.1.3. Student Library

The Student Library (Tel: 73-7397) is located in the main building (entrance *Hofgarten* lawn/near *Kaiserplatz*). It is open Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. – 9 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. – 7:30 p.m., out of term opening hours are Monday to Friday 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

As you cannot borrow books from this library, you do not need to register. The Student Library offers a broad range of German and international newspapers and periodicals as well as a great number of new publications, mainly general fiction books.

VII.1.4. Public Library

**German Central Library for Agricultural Science and Departmental Library for Medicine, Natural Science and Agriculture,
Nußallee 15a,
53115 Bonn, Tel:
73-3405.**

**Departmental Library for Education,
Römerstr. 164,
53117 Bonn, Tel:
73-4257**

⇒ hss.ulb.uni-bonn.de/bokis/f_bokis.html

**Main Building, Entrance *Hofgarten*
Lawn/near *Kaiserplatz*,
Tel: 73-7397**

The Public Library is in the city centre, in *Bottlerplatz*, behind the main post office.

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., closed on Tuesday.

As this library is for the wider public, collections are very diverse and do not focus on academic interests and requirements.

Inside the Public Library, there is also an English Library called "*Die Brücke*", where you will find a broad range of English language books, newspapers and periodicals.

The books are freely accessible and can be taken away from the shelves. On the first floor, there is a spacious reading hall with newspapers and periodicals.

You need to get a Library Card before borrowing books, periodicals, music and videotapes, games etc. Please turn to the Registration Desk ("*Anmeldung*") and show the certificate you obtained from the Residents' Registration Office (*Bürgeramt*). There is a fee users have to pay: it is either approx. € 0.50 for each book you borrow or a flat rate of approx. € 15.- for 12 months, entitling you to borrow as many items as you wish. For payment of the fee, please report to the Registration Desk (*Anmeldeschalter*).

***Bottlerplatz*, behind the Main Post Office, Monday to Friday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., closed on Tuesday**

VII.2. Opening a bank account

It is necessary to open an account with a German bank as most payments (e.g. rent, medical insurance, administrative fees) can only be made as transfers, i.e. you cannot pay cash.

Therefore, you should opt for a so-called current account or *Girokonto*. A savings account or Sparkonto (with a special "deposit book") does not allow transfers to be made or received. It is meant for savings only, and your deposit will

Current Account

earn you moderate interests (approx. 1.5 % p.a.)

If you brought some money from your home country in order to pay for living expenses and are sure you will not need part of this for 3 to 6 months or more, you should get information on fixed assets with higher interest rates (e.g. deposit accounts or *Festgeldkonten*).

You can open a current account (*Girokonto*) with a bank, a savings bank (*Sparkasse*) or the post office, after registration with the Residents' Registration Office (*Bürgeramt*). For students, the current account is usually free of charge. You just need to show your Student ID.

You can use your current account to set up standing orders (*Dauerauftrag*) and direct-debit mandates (*Einzugsermächtigung*) for your payments, which means you can stop worrying about monthly payments. Payments of a fixed amount that are due in regular intervals, e.g. rent and medical insurance, can be made as standing orders. As regards recurrent payments of varying amounts, e.g. telephone and electricity bills, you can opt for a direct-debit mandate. By doing so, you entitle the Telekom office or public utilities to directly withdraw the due amount from your account. In this way, you avoid having to make a special transfer every time you receive an invoice.

If you do not agree with one of these withdrawals, you need to contact your bank immediately. In this case, the money will be retransferred to your account until you reach an agreement on the correct amount of money due.

Standing orders and direct-debit mandates are set up once. They are valid as long as you do not change or cancel them.

VII.3. Computers

If you want to learn how to use a PC, you should participate in one of the basic courses offered by the university's computer centre (*Hochschulrechenzentrum*). These are free of charge. The centre is located at Wegelerstr. 6.

Contact the computer centre for detailed information on courses and registration deadlines: Tel. 73-2751

(Monday to Friday 9 a.m.–12 noon, 2 p.m.–4 p.m.).

If you are planning to buy your own PC or if you have any computer problems, the computer centre will also provide help and advice.

The International Office has 3 computer terminals with Internet access in its International Club. You are most welcome to use the terminals during opening hours.

Several other institutes feature CIP-Pools, where you can use PCs and printers free of charge. Contact your department's secretariat for further information.

⇒ www.rhrz.uni-bonn.de

**Computer Centre
Wegelerstr. 6, Tel.
73-2751**

VII.4. Sports

At the University of Bonn, you can choose between a wide range of sports classes offered by the General Sports Department of the Athletics Institute (*Institut für Sportwissenschaft und Sport*) in co-operation with the Student Union's Sports Office (*AStA-Sportreferat*). Most of the courses are free of charge, except for gliding, skiing, tennis, and dancing classes, where you are expected to pay a small fee. There are approx. 80 courses on offer, including autogenous training, soccer, aerobics, handball, juggling, swimming, taekwondo, dancing, tennis, windsurfing and many more. At the beginning of each semester, the Student Union publishes a

**Student Union's
Sports Office
Nassestraße 11,
53113 Bonn, Tel:
73-7045**

brochure listing all courses on offer:

Student Union's Sports Office (*AStA-Sportreferat*): Nassestraße 11, 53113 Bonn, Tel: 73-7045, Fax: 262210.

⇒ www.bonn.de/sport/

The use of the university's sports facilities at *Venusberg*, Nachtigallenweg 86 (e.g. athletics grounds, workout studio) is free of charge.

What is more, in Bonn you will find a wide range of sports clubs. In the following, we will list just a few:

Bonner Sports Club 01/04 e.V., An der Josefs-höhe, Tel: 676307 ;

Bonner Judo Club e.V., Adolfstraße 29, Tel: 653976;

Bonner Ruderverein 1882 e.V. (rowing club), Wilhelm Spiritus Ufer 2, Tel: 216272;

Bonner Segel-Sport-Club e.V. (sailing club), Berliner Platz 31, Tel: 630073;

Bonner Tennis- und Hockey-Verein e.V. (tennis and hockey club), Christian Miesen-Straße 1, Tel: 238529;

Bonner Turnverein 1860 e.V. (athletics club), Riesstraße 9, Tel: 223689;

Schwimm- und Sportfreunde Bonn 05 e.V. (swimming and sports club), Kölnstraße 313a, Tel: 676868

There are also various commercial sports facilities with workout machines, aerobics and other gymnastics classes as well as saunas.

VII.5. Music, Culture and The Arts

Music: If you are interested in singing or playing a musical instrument, please contact the university's *Collegium Musicum*, Am Hof 7, Tel: 73-5872 (Monday to Friday 9 a.m. – 12 noon).

Detailed information on current and upcoming

⇒ www.uni-bonn.de/Collegium-musicum/

programmes can be found in the Course Catalogue, chapter "*Studium Universale*". At the Arts Studio (*Studio für Kunsterziehung*), you can take classes in classical ballet and jazz dance (Tel: 73-5005).

At the end of each semester, the university's music groups give concerts in the *Aula* or the university festival hall. These events are usually free of charge. Announcements can be found on the university's noticeboards, especially in the main building.

There are concerts (classical and modern music) in the *Beethovenhalle* (Wachsbleiche 17). The Opera House (Am Boeselagerhof, near Kennedybrücke) offers a wide range of operas and ballets. Various other events (e.g. pop and rock concerts) take place in the so-called *Biskuihalle* (Siemensstr, take a bus to Heinrich-Böll-Ring). In summer time, there are also open-air concerts in the area between the two art museums *Kunstmuseum* and *Kunsthalle* in Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 4 (take the U-Bahn to Heussallee).

⇒ [**www.bonnside.de**](http://www.bonnside.de)

There are also concerts in the *Brückenforum* in Bonn-Beuel (Friedrich-Breuer-Str. 17), the *Pantheon* (Bundeskanzlerplatz, take the U-Bahn to Museum König or Heussallee) as well as in several pubs, e.g. *Jazz Galerie* (Oxfordstr.), *Harmonie* (Frongasse 30, Endenich) and many others.

⇒ [**www.bonn.de**](http://www.bonn.de)

The Arts:

The University's Arts Studio (*Studio für Kunsterziehung*), Am Hof 7, offers drawing and painting courses (Tel: 73-5005). Detailed information on current programmes can be found in the Course Catalogue, chapter "*Studium Universale*".

⇒ [**www.uni-bonn.de/Studium/Studium_Universale.html**](http://www.uni-bonn.de/Studium/Studium_Universale.html)

There are quite a number of art museums in Bonn. In the following, we will list just a few: *Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland*, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 4, a museum

with changing exhibitions that boasts a remarkable roof garden; *Kunstmuseum Bonn*, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 4; *August-Macke-Haus*, Bornheimer Str. 96; *Frauen Museum* (Women's Museum), Im Krausfeld 10 (old part of town); *Rheinisches Landesmuseum* (Rhenish Museum), Colmantstr. 14 - 16 (behind the main station.)

Culture:

There are several venues for theatre lovers in Bonn, e.g. the *Kammerspiele Bad Godesberg* (Theaterplatz, take the U-Bahn to Rheinallee), the *Halle Beuel* (Siegburger Str. 42, behind the train station Bonn-Beuel), the *Contra-Kreis-Theater* (Am Hof 3, on the right-hand side of the university) and the *Euro Theater Central* (Mausp-fad).

You will also find many cabaret shows, e.g. at the *Pantheon* (Bundeskanzlerplatz), at the *Brotfabrik* (Kreuzstr. 16 in Bonn-Beuel, take a tram to Friedrich-Breuer-Straße), at the *Haus der Springmaus* (Frongasse 8, Endenich), and at the *Theater im Ballsaal* (Frongasse 9).

⇒ www.bonn.de/kultur/

It goes without saying that you can also choose from quite a number of cinemas, several of them in the *Marktplatz* square. There is also the WOKI (Bertha-von-Suttner-Platz 1–tickets from € 2.99). Some interesting non-commercial cinema shows take place at the *Brotfabrik* (Kreuzstr. 16, Bonn-Beuel), *Neue Filmbühne* (Friedrich-Breuer-Str. 68, Bonn-Beuel) as well as the *Rex* (Frongasse 9, Bonn-Endenich). In summer time, there are open-air film nights in the inner court of the university's main building.

VII.6. Coffee-Houses and Pubs

You will find quite a number of coffeehouses in the city centre, e.g. in *Kaiserplatz*, *Remigiusplatz*

and *Marktplatz*. Among those located close to the University, we recommend the *Göttlich* (Fürstenstr. 4), *Café Blau* (Franziskanerstr. 9, in the *Viktoriabad* building) and the *Zebulon* (Stockentor 19 – a pub that is open all day, with many special offers). As well next to the main building of the university you find the *Cafetiero* (Fürstenstr. 6). You should also try the coffeehouse *N.N.* (Argelanderstr./Schloßstr.) as well as the café inside the *Kunstmuseum* (Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 4).

Bonn features a large number of pubs. In the following, we will name just few for you to check out. In the city centre, for example, there is the *Pendel* (Vivatsgasse 2a, pedestrian precinct), the *Cartoon* (Kasernenstr. 16), as well as the *Giacomo* (opposite C&A). Close to the old part of the town you will find the *Jazzgalerie* (Oxfordstr. 24), another dancing-night venue. The two pubs, *Namenlos* and *Bla*, located on the left-hand side of the *Stadthaus* (city hall) occasionally have live concerts. There are so many pubs in the old part of town that we cannot list all of them. Try the *Pawlow* (Heerstr. 64), a pub with an open-air terrace, where you get the recordings of local bands, the *Babel* (Franzstr. 36) and the *Duck* (Heerstr. 132, reggae and African music).

⇒ www.bonnsite.de

Various other pubs can be found in the *Südstadt*, e.g. the *Treppchen* (Weberstr. 42), in *Bonn-Endenich* (e.g. *Odeon*, Endenicher Str. 268; *The Fiddlers*, Frongasse 9; the *Harmonie*, Frongasse 30), in *Bonn-Beuel* (*Furios*, Friedrich-Breuer-Str. 67, open until 3 a.m.), in *Poppelsdorf* (*Hoppegarten*, Jagdweg 16) as well as in other districts.

In summer time, you should also try one of the numerous beer gardens, e.g. *Alter Zoll* (Brasserufer) close to the University, or *Rheinlust* on the Bonn-Beuel riverside.

VII.7. Special Offers

Students can get food for reasonable prices from the *Studentenwerk* refectories (*Mensen*) .

Prices are so low because the refectories receive public funding and students only have to cover the actual cost of ingredients as well as a small part of the cooking expenses. Prices range from approx. € 1.65 for stews and € 2.15 for the "*Special Dish/Aktionsgericht*". There is also always a vegetarian dish. The weekly menu can be found on the refectory noticeboards.

MENSA NASSESTRASSE

Nassestr. 11 (close to the main building and the Law Faculty *Juridicum*)

Monday to Thursday 11:30 a.m.–2:15 p.m.,
5:30 p.m.–8 p.m.

Friday 11:30 a.m.–2:15 p.m., 5:30 p.m.–8 p.m.

Saturday 12 noon–1:45 p.m.

⇒ [www.uni-bonn.de
/studentenwerk/
mensa.htm](http://www.uni-bonn.de/studentenwerk/mensa.htm)

MENSA POPPELSDORF

Endenicher Allee 19 (close to the Faculty of Mathematics/Natural Sciences)

Monday to Thursday 11:30 a.m.–2:15 p.m.

Friday 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

MENSA VENUSBERG

Clinic premises, Venusberg

Monday to Thursday 11:30–2:15 p.m.

Friday 11:30 a.m.–1:45 p.m.

MENSA PÄDAGOGISCHE FAKULTÄT

(Faculty of Education)

Römerstr. 164

Monday to Thursday 11:30 a.m.–2:15 p.m.

Friday 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

Carl's Bistro, located in Nassestraße (on the

right-hand-side of the *Mensa*) serves meals at slightly higher prices (open 8:30 a.m.–8 p.m.) – you can also get breakfast here!

For dinner, we can also recommend several pubs with budget offers, e.g. the *Godot* (Im Krausfeld 8, *Altstadt*), *Wespennest* (Argelanderstr. 139, *Südstadt*) and the *Odeon* (Endenicher Str. 268, Endenich). If you want to have a coffee and meet fellow students, the university cafeterias are an excellent place to go, but there are various alternatives like the International Club in the International Office as well as cafeterias run by the chaplaincies.

If you have found an unfurnished room to stay, you will need furniture and other household effects. For extremely reasonable prices, check out the second hand furniture shops, e.g. the one operated by *Caritas*, Heerstr. 134, Tel: 696963, open Monday to Friday 1:30 p.m.–5 p.m. and Hochstadenring 45, open Monday to Friday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

The Household Bulky Refuse Service or *Sperrmüll* is another good bet. On a given date, citizens can leave household items they no longer need on the street for a refuse lorry to take away. Anybody can take what he or she needs, and you can actually find quite a number of useful things, such as coat hangers, chairs and even cupboards free of charge. The Refuse Service has a different timetable for each municipal district. Therefore, almost every day you can find useful things "on the street" somewhere in and around Bonn. For details, contact the *Stadthaus*, Berliner Platz, where you will also get the "refuse planner" leaflet ("*Abfallplaner*") with the exact schedule for the different districts.

Another way to get all kinds of (second hand) items, such as household goods, clothing, re-

Refuse Planner:
⇒ [www.bonn.de/rat-
haus/amt70/](http://www.bonn.de/rat-
haus/amt70/)

cords, and furniture is the flea market that takes place in the area called *Rheinauen* every third Saturday between April and October.

Flea Market

You get stationery at cost price from the Student Union (AStA): Mensa Nassestraße (Monday to Thursday 12 noon–2 p.m., Friday 12 noon–1:45 p.m.) or from the Mensa Poppelsdorf (Monday to Friday 11:45 a.m.–1:45 p.m.).

Stationery

Newspapers and periodicals offer quite a number of special subscription schemes for students, at a considerably lower price. Check the Mensa noticeboards for offers or contact the departmental student organisations or the *AStA*.

Students who are on a foundation's scholarship programme or those receiving similar funding can apply for the *BonnAusweis*, a special card entitling you to various price reductions at municipal facilities such as the public baths. For details, contact the following authorities:

BonnCard (*BonnAusweis*)

Municipal districts of Bonn and Beuel

Bonn Office of Social Affairs and Housing (*Amt für Soziales und Wohnen*) at the City Hall Beuel, Friedrich-Breuer-Str. 65, room NR 16 (letters A-K) und 17 (L-Z)

**Bonn Office of
Social Affairs and
Housing
(*Amt für Soziales
und Wohnen*) at the
City Hall Beuel,
Friedrich-Breuer-
Str. 65**

Municipal district Bad Godesberg

City Hall Godesberg, Kurfürstenallee 2-3, room NR 170

Municipal district Hardtberg

City Hall Duisdorf, Villemombler Str. 1, room NR 5

Students whose income does not exceed certain limits can apply for exemption from radio and television fees. They can also apply for a reduction of the monthly basic fee for telephone services (reduced to approx. € 4.50). The relevant addresses are the ones mentioned above (see *BonnAusweis*).

Contact the Telecom Office (Friedensplatz 4, opposite of the Sparkasse) in order to get your telephone connected.

We hope that this brochure has provided helpful advice for your studies and daily life in Bonn. Should you have any suggestions for improving the information contained in the International Students' Guide, please do not hesitate to contact us by phone, mail or e-mail. (Tel: 73-7694/73-7831 or attn.: Ms. Eva Bezzeg-Frölich, Poppelsdorfer Allee 53, 53115 Bonn; e-mail: e.bezzeg@uni-bonn.de).



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