INFORMATION FOR EXCHANGE STUDENTS

ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/2021
Dear international exchange students,

I am pleased to welcome you to Heidelberg University in these challenging times! We are delighted that you have chosen Germany's oldest university as the place to pursue your studies. Heidelberg provides excellent research and education opportunities for scholars and students from all over the world. It is my hope that you will be able to take advantage of these opportunities and become as much involved in the life of our university as the current situation permits.

From its very beginnings in the year 1386, the university has welcomed and profited from the international perspective students and scholars from abroad bring to its academic and cultural life. Semper Apertus – Always Open – the guiding principle of the university has remained valid over the centuries. It expresses our openness towards new ideas and scholarly innovation as well as towards students and scholars from all over the world, who enrich the university and life in the beautiful city of Heidelberg. And even though the pandemic will certainly continue to affect university life, we will do all we can to remain open to international exchange and cooperation, and to welcome international students, while, of course, taking the necessary steps to provide a safe classroom and campus environment.

During your stay here in Heidelberg, I would like to encourage you to immerse yourself in the academic life of our university by attending courses, participating in academic activities and taking advantage of the wealth of extracurricular activities offered to the extent hygiene guidelines and safety regulations permit.

It is my sincere hope that your stay in Heidelberg will be rewarding for you in many ways in spite of the many challenges caused by the pandemic. Again, it is a privilege to have you here. I wish you much success in your time here and hope that you will enjoy your experience at Ruperto Carola. You, too, can personally help shape the future here in Heidelberg.

Universität Heidelberg: Zukunft. Seit 1386

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Bernhard Eitel
Rector
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 About Heidelberg University
Founded in 1386, Heidelberg University is the oldest university in Germany and continues to be an important center of modern research and teaching. Around 28,700 students currently study in one of the university’s 12 faculties, covering a wide variety of subjects in the humanities, sciences and medicine. Almost 5,300 are international students, drawn from as many as 130 different countries.

1.2 The International Relations Office (Dezernat Internationale Beziehungen)
Heidelberg University’s International Relations Office provides all international students with a variety of services, helping with admissions and enrollment, providing general advice and maintaining a resource center and private accommodation service. Our office is located at two different sites in Heidelberg’s historic city center (Altstadt).

- Admission, enrollment, administration of study. General Resource Center and counselling services for all international students:
  “Carolinum”, Seminarstraße 2
The Resource Center (Serviceportal, room 33) for international students is open:
Monday through Thursday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- International cooperation and exchanges (this is where you can find your exchange coordinator):
  Fischmarkt 1-2 (close to “Heiliggeistkirche”)
Monday through Friday 10 a.m. – 12 noon; Thursday also 1 p.m. – 3 p.m
Telephone: + 49 6221 54-12701
www.uni-heidelberg.de/international-exchange

Welcome to Heidelberg
2 SOME PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

2.1 Important Dates

Fall/Winter Term (Wintersemester) 2020/21:
- October 1 – March 31
- Preparatory German Language Course for Exchange Students: September 14 – October 16
  (September 14 – 26 remote, October 5 - 16 in person)
- Placement Test for supplementary German Language Courses: October 27 (10:00 am)
- Orientation: October 26 – 30
- Classes run: November 2 – February 27
- Christmas break: December 21 – January 9
- Deadline for the receipt of applications to the University: June 15, 2020

Spring/Summer Term (Sommersemester) 2021:
- April 1 – September 30
- Preparatory German Language Course for Exchange Students: March 2 – 26*
  (March 2 – 26* remote, April 7 – 9* in person)
- Classes run: April 12 – July 24
- Orientation: April 7 – 9*
- Nomination deadline for exchange coordinators: November 15, 2020
- Deadline for the receipt of applications to the University: December 15, 2020

The link to our online application system will be sent out after a student has been nominated to participate in the exchange program.

* Please note that changes may occur any time.

Students not attending preparatory language courses are advised to allow sufficient time for administrative matters such as enrollment, bank accounts, health insurance, accommodation to be taken care of when planning their arrival to Heidelberg. It is also highly recommended to participate in the Orientation Days and other introductory events.

2.2 Preparatory German Language Course

Exchange students who wish to improve their command of the German language have the opportunity to take part in an intensive language course before the start of the semester. The program includes 80 hours of language instruction at three different levels (basic, intermediate, advanced). All courses contain exercises dealing with German grammar, conversation, reading and writing, listening comprehension, vocabulary, phonetics, regional and cultural studies, and information about studying in Heidelberg. The course fee amounts to 350 €*. Please ask your exchange coordinator whether you are required to pay for the course, as some students are exempt from paying.

2.3 Orientation

Every semester, the International Relations Office organizes Orientation Days to introduce new international students to Heidelberg and to the German university system. The Orientation Days usually take place in the week before lectures start and consist of a number of events and presentations, covering a wide range of academic and social questions. Introductory sessions will also be offered to all new students by the various departments.

We highly recommend these Orientations as a chance to meet other students and better adapt to everyday life in Heidelberg.

www.uni-heidelberg.de/studium/imstudium/beginn/angebote.html#I

* Price subject to change
3 STUDYING IN HEIDELBERG

3.1 The University Environment
Like many universities in Germany, Heidelberg University does not have a uniform centralized campus. It is divided into a number of departments and institutes located throughout the city center and the surrounding areas. Most of the departments and institutes belonging to the humanities – such as the Modern Language Department, the History Department, the Theology Department, the various law institutes – are located in the city center. The central administration building (Carolinum) is also in the city center, together with the main library, two cafeterias, and the "New University" (built in 1931), which is used for lectures.

The Science Departments and Faculty of Medicine are located on the Neuenheimer Feld campus. The campus is a large grouping of modern buildings situated across the river and north-west of the city center. Neuenheimer Feld contains a variety of facilities – libraries, the Center for Information Technology (Universitätsschulzentrum or URZ for short), cafeterias, stores, cafés, and pubs. Many student dormitories are located in Neuenheimer Feld as well. Neuenheimer Feld is easily reachable by both bicycle and public transportation.

The Social Sciences and the Department of Economics can be found on Campus Bergheim, which is between the main train station and the Altstadt.

3.2 General Structure of Studies
Heidelberg University offers Bachelor’s, Master’s, and Ph.D. programs. The Bachelor programs can be completed in six semesters, they consist of consecutive modules and require a Bachelor’s thesis.

The Master’s programs usually take four semesters, with some special programs being shorter (two or three semesters). There are consecutive, non-consecutive and executive Master’s programs. Consecutive programs build on a Bachelor’s program offered at Heidelberg University, whereas non-consecutive Master’s programs do not have an equivalent Bachelor’s program at Heidelberg University. Executive Master’s programs require at least one year of professional experience. Admission requirements for these programs vary according to the different disciplines.
3.3 Types of Courses
Courses are generally divided into three categories: Vorlesungen, Seminare, and Übungen.

Vorlesungen are lecture courses providing general or background information on a subject. There is usually little interaction between the instructor and students. Note: Course requirements for lectures may vary. It is therefore important to check course and grade requirements at the beginning of each semester and, if necessary, arrange with instructors to submit a paper or take an oral or written test in order to receive a grade and thus facilitate credit transfer.

Seminare (seminar courses) are generally smaller than lectures and require a greater level of participation from students. Students are usually expected to give an oral presentation and hand in a written paper. Seminare are offered at different levels: Proseminare at the basic level, Hauptseminare for graduate students and Oberseminare for very advanced (doctoral) students.

Übungen (exercise classes) allow students to practice certain sets of skills (e.g. translation, lab work, etc.) and usually require a presentation or other equivalent course work.

3.4 Course Selection
Exchange students are admitted to the University as Kurzzeitstudierende (short-term students) and are not eligible to receive a degree from the University. Thus, they have a relatively free choice in selecting the classes they wish to take even though they will be enrolled in one or two subjects only. Should an exchange student wish to attend courses in subjects other than those for which they have been enrolled, we recommend contacting the respective instructor beforehand in order to get his/her permission.

Information on the courses offered is available online at:
www.uni-heidelberg.de/studium/imstudium/vorlesungen/
The course catalogue for the upcoming semester will be available online a few months before the lecture period starts. Often you can also find course descriptions online which provide detailed information on the course content and a reading list, if applicable. This is very helpful both for choosing courses and as a source of information about receiving credit. In some departments, detailed course information may be also published as a download version on the respective department’s website or purchased at the department a few weeks before each semester.

For a list of department websites please see:
www.uni-heidelberg.de/sitemap/indexinstitute.html
An alphabetical list of subjects offered at Heidelberg University is available at:
www.uni-heidelberg.de/studium/interesse/faecher/a-z.html

If you would like to search only for courses offered in English (or another language), please see
http://lsf.uni-heidelberg.de/ and then click on: Lectures => Search Lectures. Enter the language of instruction that you would like to search for in the drop down menu and enter the department(s) in which you wish to conduct the search. Click on Select to select the name of the department(s) from a list. You can reveal the individual departments by clicking on the + to the left of Fakultäten and then selecting the Fakultät and department(s) in the same way. Once you have found the department(s), click on the box to the left to mark your selection (a green check will appear) and then click on the commit choice box at the bottom of the screen. To begin your search press Start Search at the bottom of the screen.
For example: the English Department (Anglistisches Seminar) is located under:
Fakultäten => Neuphilologische Fakultät => Anglistisches Seminar

Students who would like advice on course selection can seek help from the relevant departmental advisor or from the International Relations Office by sending an email to their respective exchange coordinator. Additionally, student associations (Fachschaften) within individual departments often provide helpful information on their websites. It may also be very helpful to contact current and past students from your home University to hear about their experiences.

The addresses and websites of the various Fachschaften can be found at:
www.stura.uni-heidelberg.de/vs-strukturen/fachschaften

3.5 Course Registration and Receiving Credit
Exchange students may attend courses in several departments. As the University does not have a central registrar and no uniform system of course registration, registration procedures may vary from department to department and sometimes even from course to course. Some classes require prior registration whereas for other classes showing up on the first day of class in order to sign up is sufficient. If prior registration is necessary, information regarding the specific registration procedure
will be mentioned in course descriptions in the course catalogue. Due to the lack of a uniform system of course registration, the University does not have comprehensive information on the courses exchange students attend, nor of their grades. Consequently, transcripts are not automatically issued.

**Exchange students will not receive a transcript of their completed courses and grades unless they follow the procedure outlined below.**

As you complete your courses, you are issued Scheine (course certificates, credits) by the individual instructors. These Scheine signify that you have fulfilled the course requirements. There are two types of Scheine: benotet (graded) and unbe-notet (ungraded). If your home university only gives credit for graded Scheine, you should speak to the instructor(s) at the beginning of the semester and arrange to receive a graded Schein. You should place your Scheine in your Studienbuch: they are the only documentation you will receive for the courses you have taken.

In addition to the grade, you will receive a certain amount of credits for each course (LP = short for Leistungspunkte or ECTS). 1 LP corresponds to 30 hours of work (hours in the classroom, work before and after a course, homework, preparation of in-class presentations, papers, exams etc.). The average workload for degree candidates is 30 LP per semester. The amount of LP awarded for a course is an indicator of the workload that comes with a course and may thus vary considerably from course to course.

To help with evaluation and credit transfer, the International Relations Office will translate your Scheine into a transcript and send it to your home institution. This is only possible if you present your Scheine to your exchange coordinator at the International Relations Office before leaving Heidelberg or arrange for your Scheine to be sent to your exchange coordinator by your professors.

**Note:** Heidelberg University does not keep copies of students' Scheine and so it is very complicated, if not impossible, to provide a transcript after you have left Heidelberg.
4 GERMAN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

In general, courses and examinations are conducted in German in most subjects, especially at the Bachelor’s level. However, students will find a good selection of courses taught in English in a variety of disciplines (see instructions on page 11 to search for these courses). A number of Master’s programs are exclusively taught in English. Students who wish to attend University courses taught in German should have solid language skills in order to be able to follow their courses (e.g. two years of university-level German).

4.1 German Language Instruction
All exchange students are encouraged to attend the Preparatory German Language Course in the month before lectures begin (see 2.2 Preparatory German Language Course).
During the semester, language instruction specially designed for exchange students is offered at all levels for 4 to 8 hours a week, supplementing your university courses. In addition to general language courses, you will also find subject-related courses such as Business and Law, German for Natural Science Majors, Literature and Film Studies, Philosophy etc. These courses are intended for students with a solid command of German (at least level B2, Creative Writing at A2, B1 and B2 levels). Detailed information on registration for these courses will be provided shortly before the lecture period starts. Exchange students who do not participate in the Preparatory German Language Course will be required to take a placement test in the week prior to the start of the lecture period.

Exchange students whose language proficiency is not sufficient to take part in university courses in their subject(s) may be admitted to an intensive German language course upon prior consultation with the International Relations Office (20 hours of instruction per week throughout the semester).

4.2 Language Tutorials
The International Relations Office organizes various tutorials for all international students. These include tutorials in which students are informed about technical language, the preparation of oral and written presentations, and intercultural variations, etc. There are three types of tutorials:
– Tutorial about academic writing
– Rhetoric and presentation
– Intercultural training
All tutorials are offered once (or twice) a semester and are free of charge. For more information about the tutorials, please see: Workshops und Tutorien
www.uni-heidelberg.de/courses/undergraduates/arrival/aaa_workshops.html

4.3 Tandem
The International Relations Office also provides a tandem service. By registering in room 139 of the International Relations Office, international students who would like to have the opportunity to practice German with a native speaker in a social setting can get in touch with German students who are looking for a language partner. The idea is that students speak for roughly equal amounts of time in German and in their mother tongue. The service is free of charge.

4.4 International Summer School of German Language and Culture
Every summer in August, Heidelberg University offers an “International Summer School of German Language and Culture”. The Summer School combines high quality language instruction with a wide range of additional activities.
The fee for the course is € 670. Application forms are available at the International Relations Office and on the Internet www.ifk.uni-hd.de
Please note: The International Summer Course of German Language and Culture 2020 has been cancelled due to the Corona pandemic.

4.5 Deutsch als Fremdsprachenphilologie (German as a Foreign Language Philology)
The Institut für Deutsch als Fremdsprachenphilologie (IDF) offers a degree program for international students wishing to teach German as a second language or work in other related fields. This program is for students who already possess a very good knowledge of German.
In addition to regular courses for degree candidates, certain courses are also offered to suit the special needs of exchange students (Kurzzeitstudierende, language requirement: B1/B2 minimum). For the list of courses targeted toward exchange students, please see Lehrangebot für Kurzzeitstudierende on the LSF webpage:
http://lsf.uni-heidelberg.de/qisserver/rds?state=user&type=0
Courses=>course overview=>Faculty of Modern Languages=>Deutsch als Fremdsprachenphilologie=>Lehrangebot für Kurzzeitstudierende.
Further information about Deutsch als Fremdsprachenphilologie is available at www.idf.uni-heidelberg.de
5 ACCOMMODATION IN HEIDELBERG

5.1 Student Residences
Student residences at Heidelberg University are managed by the Studierendenwerk, an independent organization providing various services to the student population. The number of available rooms is quite limited – only about 13% of Heidelberg’s students have the opportunity to live in student residences. However, the International Relations Office works with the Studierendenwerk to reserve rooms in student residences for international exchange students coming to Heidelberg.

Students usually stay in single rooms with a shared kitchen and bathroom(s) in co-ed groups of 2 – 4, or in dormitories with kitchens and bathrooms on each floor. There are also a small number of single apartments and women’s dormitories available. Some of the residences are centrally located and others are in the surrounding area. Most residences have a common room or TV room; some also have music or billiard rooms. All rooms are furnished; however, bed sheets, pillow and comforter, and kitchen utensils are not provided. Pillows and duvets can be purchased from the house-keeper of each residence (ca. 40 €) or at a store. Washing machines and dryers are also available in most residences.

More detailed information about student residences (including pictures of each residence) and other services offered by the Studierendenwerk is available on the Internet at:

www.stw.uni-heidelberg.de/en/living

All of the student residences on the Neuenheimer Feld Campus and the newer residences elsewhere have a direct connection to the university internet at no additional cost after enrollment. Please note that rooms in Heidelberg’s historic city center (Altstadt) do not have a direct connection to the university internet access. However, in the Altstadt you can arrange for an Internet connection through a telecommunications provider or purchase a surf stick for a monthly fee. In addition, the University libraries, cafeterias (Mensen), and cafés also provide wireless (WLAN) Internet access for students free of charge.

It might also be a good idea to check at your home institution if you can get internet access via Eduroam there, and thus be able to access Heidelberg University’s wireless system immediately after your arrival. For more information please see:

https://www.urz.uni-heidelberg.de/en/eduroam

Students who have special housing needs due to a disability, allergy or other health problems should indicate this on the housing portion of their application to receive the appropriate housing. Students who would like to live in one of the residences in which rooms are directly connected to the university’s computer center (URZ) should indicate this on their application or notify their exchange coordinator. Other room preferences can also be indicated; however, due to the limited housing available, specific room preferences not arising from a disability or health concern cannot always be met.

5.2 Private Accommodation
Students preferring to live in private accommodations can receive information about private rooms and apartments in the area through the accommodation service run by the Studierendenwerk in the Service-Center at the front of the Triplex-Mensa on Universitätsplatz. Please note that private sector rents are considerably higher than rents in student residences (a minimum of € 350 - 500 plus a deposit of two to three months’ rent), and private rooms are often not furnished. At the International Relations Office the accommodation service can be found in Room # 32, E-Mail: aaazimmer@zuv.uni-heidelberg.de

You might also request general information by email. Please note that neither International Relations Office nor the Studierendenwerk are allowed to give out contact information by email. The housing market in Heidelberg is very scarce and that we recommend to begin your search as early as possible.

The ERASMUS Accommodation Service is a good platform to start your search. This service was designed for ERASMUS students or students taking part in other exchange programs who are looking for off-campus student housing in Heidelberg and its vicinity.

www.uni-heidelberg.de/international/erasmus/zimmerboerse/

Other useful links are for example:

www.wg-gesucht.de; www.immobilienscout24.de/
6 ARRIVING IN HEIDELBERG

6.1 Getting to Heidelberg and the Triplex-Mensa
Heidelberg is located in the Rhein-Neckar region, about 100 km south of Frankfurt/Main. The nearest international airports are Frankfurt and Stuttgart and from each there are frequent trains to Heidelberg. After arriving in Heidelberg, you should first take the necessary steps to set up your housing, i.e. picking up a copy of your lease, paying any outstanding balances from the Studierendenwerk in the Triplex-Mensa building on Universitätsplatz and receiving a room key. Depending on when you arrive, you will either receive your key in the “Welcome Area” at the back of the Triplex-Mensa or at the Service-Center at the front of the Triplex-Mensa building.

Arrival by train: The train ride from Frankfurt to Heidelberg takes about one hour and may involve changing trains either at the main station in Frankfurt or in Mannheim. A one-way ticket costs about € 30. If you bring your bike with you, you should check at the airport to see which trains allow bikes on board. (Information on train schedules and fares is available at: www.bahn.de/)

From the Heidelberg train station you can proceed to the Triplex-Mensa either by taxi or bus. The taxi stand is in front of the main exit (Hauptausgang). Ask to go to Universitätsplatz – it will cost about € 17. It is also fairly convenient to get to the Triplex-Mensa by bus. The bus stop is in front of the train station. The ticket costs € 2.70 and can be purchased from the driver. The driver will give change but not for much more than a € 5 bill. Take bus #32 towards Altstadt and get off at Universitätsplatz.

To get to the “Welcome Area” you can enter through the revolving door of the Triplex-Mensa and then walk right through to the back of the building. The Service-Center is located at the front of the Triplex-Mensa, next to the book store „Lehmans“. A map in the appendix will help you find the Triplex-Mensa “Welcome Area” and Service-Center.

By airport shuttle: It is also possible to take the Lufthansa Airport Shuttle from Frankfurt International Airport to Heidelberg. Vans run between 7:00 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. from the Frankfurt Airport pick-up location in the arrival area in Terminal 1, level 1, (The Squaire West, exit near the REWE supermarket).
Please remember to make a reservation for the airport shuttle at least 3 days in advance and bring the ticket for your reservation with you. The price of a one-way ticket to Heidelberg is €16 (student ticket, you may need to show a student ID), payable with a credit card on the website below. You can view the exact departure schedule and book a seat online at:

www.frankfurt-airport-shuttles.de

The shuttle terminates at the rear entrance of the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Heidelberg, which is located at Kurfürstenanlage 1-3, 69115 Heidelberg. From the Crowne Plaza Hotel, you can either take a taxi to Universitätspalz or walk to the nearby stop, Seegarten, Kurfürstenanlage and take bus #33 (direction: Ziegelhausen Köpfel) to Peterskirche (see map in the appendix). A ticket will cost €1.70 (so-called Heidelberg Kurzstrecke) and can be purchased from the driver, but not with much more than a €5 bill. For directions from Universitätspalz to the Triplex-Mensa, see above.

By airport shuttle taxi: Perhaps the most convenient way to get to Heidelberg is to order a shuttle van run by the company TLS. A staff member of TLS will pick you up at Frankfurt Airport’s Meeting Point and take you directly to the Triplex-Mensa. The TLS shuttle service has to be booked at least three days beforehand. Further information is available on the Internet:

www.tls-heidelberg.de/en/

Please note: We strongly advise you to time your arrival to coincide with the business hours of the Service-Center in order to ensure that you can move into your room the same day.

Normal opening hours of the Service-Center (Universitätspalz):
Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
www.stw.uni-heidelberg.de/en/advice_servicecenter

Before the start of the Preparatory Language Course and at the beginning of the semester the Service-Center will have different hours of operation. You will receive a schedule of the extended hours during the arrival phase via e-mail.

HeidelbergCard: To explore Heidelberg the first few days after your arrival, you might want to purchase a HeidelbergCard. It’s a good value because it is a public transportation ticket for unlimited bus, streetcar and train use within Heidelberg, which saves you the hassle of buying and validating bus and streetcar tickets, and it comes with a ticket for the Bergbahn to the castle and admission to the castle courtyard. HeidelbergCard is available in different versions, e.g. for 2 days the price is €19 or for 4 days €21. You can purchase the HeidelbergCard at:
- Tourist Information Office in front of the main train station (Hauptbahnhof).
- Tourist Information Office in the City Hall building (Rathaus) and some other locations.

For more information, please see:

Further information on transportation to and around Heidelberg as well as on the city itself is available on the Internet at:
www.heidelberg.de; www.vrn.de
6.2 Establishing Housing

Approximately two months prior to your arrival, Studierendenwerk will send you an email with your housing contract. To guarantee your housing assignment you have to return a signed copy of your contract as well as to transfer the first month’s rent, the one-time administration fee and the (refundable) deposit for your room by a specific date.

All students are required to sign a lease for a full semester (until the end of March for the winter semester and until the end of September for the summer semester) or for a full year. Your lease can only be terminated early if a new tenant can be found for the room. If you wish to leave before the end of your lease, you must inform the Studierendenwerk in writing preferably three months before you intend to move out.

Students who register for the Preparatory German Language Course in the Wintersemester 2020/21 will receive a room reservation from October 1st onwards. Students who register for the Preparatory German Language Course in the Sommersemester 2021 will receive a room reservation from March 1st onwards.

On the day of arrival in Heidelberg, you will be handed over the keys for your room and a printed version of your contract at the Triplex-Mensa. You will also be provided with directions to your residence. It will then be up to you to go to your residence and arrange to meet your house-keeper (Hausmeister/in). Hausmeister are important sources of assistance and it is very much in your interest to establish a friendly and cooperative relationship with your Hausmeister. Most immediately you will need to purchase a pillow, comforter and bed sheets. It may be too late for you to arrange to meet the Hausmeister on your day of arrival. You can also purchase sheets and bedding at a store if you prefer to do so.

If it is not possible for you to arrive during the business hours of the Service-Center, we recommend that you stay overnight at the youth hostel located at Tiergartenstr. 5 (tel.: +49 (0)6221 65119-0, fax: +49 6221 65119-28, email: info@jugendherberge-heidelberg.de) reachable from the train station or the Crowne Plaza Hotel by bus #32 (direction: Kopfklinik, stop: Jugendherberge).

You can also inquire about temporary accommodation at the Tourist Information Office in front of the train station. The Tourist Office is also a good source for maps and information about public transportation and cultural events in Heidelberg.

After you have moved into your room, please come and see your exchange coordinator in the International Relations Office!

www.jugendherberge-heidelberg.de
7 ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

7.1 Insurance
Health insurance is compulsory for all Heidelberg University students. Health insurance in Germany is available from state and private insurance companies. State health insurance costs about € 595 per semester and includes visits to the doctor and dentist, prescription medicine (excluding a small basic charge), hospital treatment (excluding a small basic charge), and some therapeutic treatments. Premiums and the extent of coverage are fairly uniform amongst state insurance companies (gesetzliche Krankenkassen). The same type of insurance from private insurance companies is generally more expensive. To get an idea of what student health insurance involves, take a look at, for example, the AOK website at https://foreignstudents.aok.de/ or any other state insurance company.

Please note that students over the age of 29 do not qualify for state health insurance and have to purchase private insurance.

If you have health coverage from home you may not need to pay for health insurance in Germany. You can apply for exemption from German state health insurance at the Allgemeine Ortskrankenkasse (AOK) in Heidelberg (Friedrich-Ebert-Platz 3) or any other state insurance company. In order to do so, you will need your insurance card and a description of your insurance policy's coverage, which demonstrates that your health care costs are covered in Germany. The certificate of exemption must be handed in at the International Relations Office upon enrollment. Please note, however, that it is not possible to withdraw from this exemption during your stay in Germany.

Important note for students wishing to use health insurance from their home country: even if you can provide an exemption from the German state insurance and are thus able to enroll, you will not qualify for a residence permit if your health costs in Germany are not completely covered (= no limitation for reimbursement for doctor’s visits, hospital stays, emergency operations, etc.; the term “unlimited” must be mentioned in the description of your insurance policy). As insurances from abroad usually do not fulfill these conditions, we urge the students to take out German health insurance at the beginning of your stay.
Information for Exchange Students

Please note, that state health insurance starts on October 1st for the winter semester and on April 1st for the summer semester, and never before the actual enrollment. Students who are attending the Preparatory German Language Course will have to take out additional health insurance for the period between arrival and the start of the semester. (October 1/April 1).

Students are also strongly recommended to take out personal liability insurance (Haftpflichtversicherung). Liability insurance covers cases in which the property of a third party is damaged or their person injured (e.g. from a biking accident or as a pedestrian). This type of insurance can be taken out in Germany after your arrival (cost ca. 60 Euro per year) or in your country of residence. An easy way to set up liability insurance might be through your bank when setting up your bank account.

7.2 Residence Permit and Registration with the City

In order to study in Germany, foreign students (except citizens of EU-countries) need a valid residence permit (Aufenthaltsbewilligung zu Studienzwecken). Citizens of the USA, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Israel, Brasil, El Salvador, Honduras and EFTA countries may apply for their residence permit after arriving in Germany. Citizens of countries not mentioned above must apply for and receive a valid student visa before entering Germany.

Applying for a residence permit is a two-step process.

First step: You will have to register with the city. Every new student at Heidelberg University, including all international students, must register with the city of Heidelberg within 10 days after moving to their new residence. You can do this at your convenience at the Bürgeramt on the ground floor of the City Hall building (Rathaus) on Marktplatz in the Altstadt or at any other Bürgeramt in town (see below). Please remember to bring your passport, the “Anmeldung” form, a copy of your passport and - if applicable - a copy of your visa.

For the business hours of the various Bürgerämter in Heidelberg please consult: www.heidelberg.de/hd/Lde/HD/Rathaus/Buergeraemter.html

Students participating in the Preparatory German Language Course will have the opportunity to register with the city at the International Relations Office on designated days.

Second step: You will have to present the following to the Bürgeramt Zuwanderungsangelegenheiten (Foreigners’ Registration Office) when you apply for a residence permit. This must be done within three months of your arrival.

– completed application form
– 1 biometric passport photo
– certificate of enrollment, including subject area, semester duration, and degree program (can be printed using the LSF portal)
– proof of financial support amounting to a minimum of 853 Euros per month (notarized financial statement, proof of scholarship, other (public student loan from home country, savings account statement with lock flag, etc.)
– health insurance documentation
– copy of passport (including visa if applicable)
– stamped copy of the „Anmeldung“ form
– fee: 50 € for students staying in Germany less than 12 months/100/110 € for students staying longer

Students staying less than 12 months may submit their documents at the Bürgeramt Zuwanderungsangelegenheiten:

Hours of operation: Mo/Fr 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Tu/Th 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
We 8:00 am – 5:30 pm

If the application is complete, a sticker with the residence permit will be issued within ca. 2 weeks.

Students staying 12 months or longer will be issued an Electronic Residence Permit. In order to apply for the Electronic Residence Permit, it is necessary to make an appointment with your contact person at the Foreigners’ Registration Office. www.heidelberg.de/hd,Lde/HD/Rathaus/Behoerdenwegweiser.html?amtsID=911791

If you have questions concerning your residence permit, we encourage you to stop by the Service Point in the Bürgeramt. Opening hours for service point (see above):
Bürgeramt Zuwanderungsangelegenheiten, Bergheimerstr. 147
telephone: +49 (0)6221/ 58-17 520
fax: +49 (0)6221/58-4617520
e-mail: zuwanderung-servicepoint@heidelberg.de
Students who have obtained a visa in advance must also register at the Bürgeramt after their arrival. If your visa is not valid for the whole duration of your stay, you also need to apply for a residence permit at the Foreigners’ Registration Office (see above).

7.3 Enrolling with the University
Enrollment for exchange students takes place at the International Relations Office. The exact dates of the enrollment period are given on the letter of admission. For students attending the preparatory language course, special dates will be offered. In order to enroll, you must come to the International Relations Office in person and present the following documents:

– valid passport
– documentation on German health insurance (insurance card is not sufficient) or an exemption
– letter of admission to Heidelberg University (Zulassungsbescheid)

Please note that the enrollment procedure concerns Heidelberg University as a whole. Registration for specific courses takes place with individual instructors and departments. (For further information see section 3.4 and 3.5)

7.4 Uni-ID
(also known as „URZ-Benutzeridentifikation“): => access code for free Internet.
With your Uni-ID you have free access to the Internet/wireless (LAN) network on campus. Before you can access the internet, you will have to activate your Uni-ID by following the steps outlined in the information sheet of the University's Center for Information Technology, which you will receive with your Studienbuch and certificate of enrollment.

7.5 Student ID
After enrollment and payment of the student services’ fee (€ 101.75), you will receive your student ID (Studierendenausweis), which entitles you to use the University Library and the services of the University's Center for Information Technology (URZ). Your Uni-ID (see 7.4) is printed on your Student ID. The Student ID can be used as a method of payment in the university cafeterias (Mensen) and cafés. You can also use it to pay for copy machines, washing machines and dryers in student residences, and to pay for language courses at the Zentrales Sprachlabor (ZSL) or fees for special classes.

In the central library and cafeterias you will find automated machines (Aufladestationen) which allow you to put more money on your campus card. After receiving your student ID card, you will have to activate it at one of the validation machines ("Validierungsgerät"). Otherwise you will not be able to use it or access the Internet on campus. In the process, a date of validity will be printed on your student ID card. You have to re-activate it every semester after you have paid the fees for the following semester ("Rückmeldung").

A validation machine can be found on the ground floor of the International Relations Office across from room 33. You will also find them at the Triplex-Mensa (Universitätsplatz) or the ZentralMensa (Im Neuenheimer Feld).

Please note that you still need to pay the student services fee to finalize your enrollment. Payment information is printed on the certificate which you receive upon enrollment.
8 BANKING AND MONEY MATTERS

8.1 Estimated Cost of Living
On average, the cost of living and studying in Heidelberg comes to about € 800 to € 850 per month. Please be aware that you will have additional expenses at the beginning of your stay.

Refundable deposit for your room € 450
Semesterticket for public transportation (optional, valid for six months) € 180
Studierendenwerksbeitrag (student services fee) € 101,75

The following is a breakdown of expenses that you might have on a monthly basis:

Rent (for a dorm room) € 250-350
Health insurance (with state health insurance provider) € 100
Mensa meals (approx. € 3.50 for a warm meal) € 100
Groceries € 70-140
Public fee for internet, radio and TV € 18
Telephone € 10-20
8.2 Opening a Bank Account

Many banks in Germany are linked to the PLUS and Cirrus systems; all bank cards belonging to this system should be accepted in the corresponding German bank machines. You should inquire at your home bank as to the international use of your bank card and the charges levied. Please make sure you know your 4-digit PIN number, as German bank machines may not always have letters on their keypads. Still, you will need to have a Girokonto (similar to a checking (U.S.)/current (U.K.) account) in Heidelberg because monthly bills such as rent and health insurance are paid by automatic deduction from a bank account rather than by check. In order to open a German bank account you will have to bring your tax identification number from your home country (http://www.oecd.org/tax/automatic-exchange/crs-implementation-and-assistance/tax-identification-numbers/).

Because of growing international cooperation, many large banks have partners abroad now. If you have an account with such a bank, it might be possible to withdraw money at the German partner bank without having to pay fees. Funds from home can also be withdrawn from a German cash machine with a credit card. Be sure to establish a 4-digit PIN number before leaving home and inquire about the interest charges levied for its use. In order to avoid interest charges it is possible to load a credit card with funds in advance. These funds can then be withdrawn in Heidelberg from a cash machine or over the counter at a bank.

8.3 Earning Money

Students from non-EU countries receive a residence permit which allows them to work for 120 days (or 240 days part-time) per calendar year. This is a limited work permit – it entitles students to take only those jobs for which the Agentur für Arbeit (employment office) does not require a full work permit.

Students who wish to work during their stay in Heidelberg should go to the employment service (Jobvermittlung) run by the Studierendenwerk in the Triplex-Mensa building on Universitätsplatz in the city center. Cards containing information about available jobs are hung on boards on the ground floor of the Triplex Mensa. After identifying a possible job, ask a Studierendenwerk staff member at the Service-Center for the contact and application information. Staff can also advise you about the type of jobs that are available to you within the limited work permit.

Please note that while it is possible for you to earn some extra money in this way, you cannot expect to finance your studies in Heidelberg by working here.
9 STUDENT LIFE IN HEIDELBERG

9.1 Getting Around Heidelberg
Heidelberg is large enough to offer an extensive variety of cultural activities and a nightlife and yet small enough (population 160,000) to be easily navigated, with a large pedestrian zone and plentiful public transport. You will probably get around Heidelberg mostly by walking or taking one of the numerous streetcars, buses or regional trains. Information on the public transportation system in the region and schedules are available online at: www.vrn.de

Heidelberg is also a good city for biking – the city is flat and well-equipped with bike paths. Many students and other people get around the city by bike. It is possible to buy a second-hand bike in Heidelberg, either from a bike store or privately. A list of stores where you can buy used bikes is available at the International Relations Office, Service Center for International Students (room 33).

9.2 Semester Ticket
Once you are enrolled at the University, you will be able to purchase a Semesterticket at the Service-Center on Universitätsplatz, at the RNV Kundenzentrum across the street from the main train station’s North exit (Nordausgang), or at the Deutsche Bahn Service Center in the main train station for around € 175, which entitles you to use almost all public transport (buses, streetcars and regional trains) in Heidelberg and the surrounding area for the duration of the semester (six months). Please bring your receipt for the student services’ fee and your student ID or certificate of enrollment (Studienbescheinigung) as proof of your student status when purchasing a Semesterticket.

9.3 The University Library System (Universitätsbibliothek or UB)
Heidelberg University’s library system is composed of a central University Library (Universitätsbibliothek or UB for short), its branch on the Neuenheimer Feld campus, and a considerable number of decentralized libraries at the various departments, institutes and clinics (called Institutsbibliotheken).
The MultiMedia Centre (MMZ) of the UB is one of the main locations in the Altstadt providing computer facilities, which can be used for word processing, Internet, e-mail, etc. (see below). You can learn about the library collections and services, access library catalogs and databases and even take a virtual tour by going to the website:

www.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/Englisch/service/einsteiger/ubfuereinsteiger.html

This website also provides links to many of the departmental libraries.

9.4 Center for Information Technology (Universitätsrechenzentrum or URZ)

The URZ is responsible for providing and maintaining computer services and facilities throughout the University. Upon enrollment you will receive a user identification code (Uni – ID) with which you can access these services. With your ID you can gain access to the Internet and e-mail at almost all of the computers on campus. Should you need assistance in computer matters, you may seek advice at the URZ's helpdesk in the University Library or at the URZ directly.

For more information see the URZ website:

www.urz.uni-heidelberg.de/en.

9.5 Extra-curricular activities

Students at Heidelberg University pursue a wide variety of non-academic interests. There are many groups and activities from which to choose. Information about special lectures, films, cultural events, sporting opportunities and musical events is posted in many university buildings.

Another good source of information is the homepage of the Studierendenwerk: https://www.stw.uni-heidelberg.de/en Click on culture and events. Information on events in and around Heidelberg is also available online at: www.meier-online.de (currently not available due to COVID_19).

The Resource Center for International Students (Serviceportal, room 33) on the ground floor of the Central University Administration building (Seminarstr. 2) provides information on (international) student groups and societies, language tutorials, social activities and excursions.

9.6 Zentrales Sprachlabor (ZSL)

If you are interested in learning another language apart from German, you can choose from a variety of language courses offered at the Zentrales Sprachlabor, the University's language center.

Courses are offered at various levels in: Arabic, Chinese, Czech, English, French, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish and Turkish. If you would like to participate in a course, you have to sign up. Please check the information on the ZSL website in due time before the start of the lectures. www.uni-heidelberg.de/zsl; www.uni-heidelberg.de/zsl/anmeldung/index.html.

The ZSL is located at Plöck 79-81. The fee for each course is € 110; students who receive a scholarship from the State of Baden-Württemberg may receive a reduction. A placement test is required for Spanish, Italian, French, English and Russian as a second language.

9.7 Sports

All students are encouraged to take part in the sporting activities organized by the university. There are over 100+ sporting activities and fitness programs offered through the university. Detailed descriptions, dates and deadlines are provided online at: www.hochschulsport.issw-hd.de/
9.8 Music, Drama and the Arts

There is a large number of university groups within which students can pursue their musical interests. There are four university choirs (Capella Carolina www.capellacarolina.de, Großer Chor der Universität, Kleiner Unichor, Choir of the English Department), an orchestra as well as many other choral and musical groups. Information can be found on flyers and posters in university buildings and libraries, especially at the beginning of the semester or here: www.collegium-musicum.uni-hd.de

Many of the institutes and departments, particularly in modern languages, have their own theater groups, which welcome international participants. The English department is always looking for native speakers interested in drama. The Institut für Deutsch als Fremdsprachenphilologie runs a one-year theater seminar that includes a basic course in acting in addition to putting on plays. Students can earn credits for participation in this theater group called Idefix. www.idefix-theater.de

9.9 Excursions

We hope that you take the opportunity to travel to other parts of Germany. To this end the International Relations Office offers a range of reasonably-priced trips to well-known places in Germany such as Berlin, Hamburg, Nürnberg, Köln and München. Trips normally take place on weekends and are a good opportunity to experience German culture and to meet other international students.

Further information will be available during the Orientation Days or at: www.uni-heidelberg.de/studium/kontakt/auslandsamt/aaa_angebote.html

9.10 Shopping, Banking and Bureaucracy

Shops in the city center are generally open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. or 8 p.m. from Monday to Friday, and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Larger supermarkets are open from 8:00 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Banks are open Monday through Friday, they usually close at 4 p.m., but may remain open until 6 p.m. one or two days a week. Banks and some shops often close for an hour at lunch time. Everything is closed on Sundays and public holidays except some gas stations, a few pharmacies and the shops in the main train station.

Government offices are generally open to the public for only a few hours a day, usually every morning from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and additionally one afternoon a week. As the opening hours of government offices vary greatly from office to office, it is advisable to call ahead of time (or look on the Internet) to check business hours.

9.11 Food

The Studierendenwerk operates four cafeterias (Mensa) and nine cafés. In the cafeterias, the offer ranges from the low-priced meal of the day to a buffet with a great variety of dishes. Of course, you will always find vegan, vegetarian and pork-free dishes. Two cafeterias are located in the Altstadt (the Triplex-Mensa on Universitätspalast and the Zeughaus at Marstallhof), the ZentralMensa is located on the Neuenheimer Feld campus. These facilities are also centers of communication and cultural meeting points on campus. Please note that you will need your Student ID (Studierendenausweis) to receive the discounted student rates for food and drinks in the cafeterias and cafés. www.studentenwerk.uni-heidelberg.de/en/mensen_neu
10 PREPARING TO STUDY ABROAD

10.1 What to Bring
The following is a short list of items - ranging form the necessary to the useful - that we recommend you to bring:
- Passport (with visa for those students who need a visa before arriving, see section 7.2)
- Zulassungsbescheid from Heidelberg University (letter of admission)
- Financial statement (bank statement, notarized parental letter, etc.)
- Documentation on Health Insurance (either for the period between your arrival and the start of semester (October 1 or April 1) only, or for the whole duration of your stay (see section 7.1)
- Student Identification, preferably an International Student ID card (optional)
- Prescription medicine and prescriptions for the duration of your stay (please check with your physician if your medication can be prescribed in Germany!)
- Clothes. Students in Germany tend to dress fairly casually. Jeans or skirts are fully acceptable for everyday wear. In summer the temperature in Heidelberg averages around 28°C (82°F); winter temperatures only rarely fall below freezing. You should come prepared for wet weather; rain is more common than snow and is heaviest in the winter and spring. Sturdy walking shoes are advisable if you wish to walk up and down any of the steep hills that rise out of the Neckar Valley.
- Linens. You can buy pillows, comforters and sheets at your residence or in a store.
- Bath towels are not provided by the residence
- Toiletries. You might want to bring enough of your usual toiletries for the beginning of your stay. Since Germany has a good selection of such items, shipping or bringing large amounts of toiletries is not necessary.
- Appliances. Germany’s electricity runs on 220 V. Thus, international students may require an adaptor and converter for any appliance brought from home. Most small appliances such as hair dryers can be purchased fairly reasonably in Germany; this may be an easier option than bringing appliances from home.
- Mobile phone. If you wish to purchase a mobile phone in Germany, you will either have to sign a contract for two years or buy a mobile phone with a PrePaid card. PrePaid cards do not have a minimum duration and can be topped up according to your needs. We recommend that you check with your phone company at home to see whether you can use your own mobile phone with a German PrePaid card. Please keep in mind that international phone calls from German mobile phones are rather expensive.

10.2 Cultural Adjustment
Many students’ motivation for going abroad is to learn another language, to get to know a different culture, and to see a new part of the world. Getting to know a different culture often involves experiencing many differences in customs, behavior, values and beliefs, which, while fascinating, can also challenge the way that you have seen the world. Coming to terms with such differences calls for a certain amount of tolerance, patience, perseverance, interest and enthusiasm. Although the experience of culture shock can at times be difficult, the rewards of learning about and adapting to a new culture are great – you gain new perspectives on the world and on your own culture, you learn to think more critically, you can better understand the international ramifications of events and on a personal level you become more self-confident, self-reliant and independent.

In order to minimize the effects of culture shock and to ease the adjustment process, it is important for you to prepare in advance for your time abroad by gathering information and impressions of what awaits you. One way in which this can be done is by contacting students from Heidelberg or other universities in Baden-Württemberg currently studying at your home university. German students are normally interested in helping people learn about their home culture and are happy to meet prospective exchange students to pass on their advice. In this way you may have a contact in Heidelberg when you arrive.

Another way to prepare for your trip is to read about international events, either in English or in German (e.g. Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Die Zeit, Süddeutsche Zeitung). Most German newspapers or magazines are also online (e.g. www.faz.de, www.zeit.de, www.sueddeutsche.de). For current information on Germany, you can also visit: www.dw.de.
Fiction is also an interesting and entertaining way of learning about another culture. Most students will be familiar with the names of famous German authors such as Goethe and Schiller, but there are also more modern writers from whom you can learn about contemporary Germany. Ingrid Noll has written many novels set in the Heidelberg area such as Der Hahn ist Tot, Die Apothekerin, Die Häupter Meiner Lieben, and Röslein Rot. The film adaptation of Die Apothekerin (mid 1991’s) provides a good view of Heidelberg. Bernhard Schlink is a popular author who writes about the Heidelberg and Mannheim areas (e.g. Der Vorleser). Several of his novels have been translated into English.

Once in Heidelberg, there are many student run organizations and programs through the University that help with cultural adjustment. These groups are located throughout the city but usually meet at cafes or the cafeterias in the city. Flyers are typically handed out and posted at the beginning of the term as well as events posted throughout the city. We strongly encourage you to explore what these groups have to offer and to engage in the many other extra-curricular activities within the University or outside.

Student groups like ESN and AEGEE offer a variety of activities to help facilitate the integration of international students. In addition to their regular program offered during the lecture period, they also arrange a number of events throughout the arrival period of exchange students, which can be found on facebook.

- www.heidelberg.esn-germany.de
- www.aegee-heidelberg.de
- https://esn-heidelberg.de/

11 HOMESTAY WITH A GERMAN FAMILY

Students who would like to get a better insight into the German way of life may be interested in a short stay with a host family during their period of studies in Germany. These stays are arranged by Experiment e.V. and are offered in the Christmas break (two weeks) and at Easter (two weeks). Applications have to be handed in 6 – 8 weeks before the intended stay. A similar program for Christmas and New Year is offered by Heidelberg University’s International Relations Office.

- www.experiment-ev.de
- www.uni-heidelberg.de/studium/kontakt/auslandsamt/gastaufenthaltweihnachten.html
THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU RETURN HOME

Cancel your room contract (if necessary)
If you wish to leave before the end of March (winter term) or before the end of September (summer term), you have to give written notice to the Studierendenwerk as soon as possible in order to make sure that a new tenant can be found. Otherwise, you will have to continue to pay the rent for your room until your lease terminates. The form you need is available at:
Information as to how to get your deposit back is available at the Studierendenwerk.

See your exchange coordinator and hand in your Scheine if you need a transcript for your home institution.

Exmatriculate with the University
www.uni-heidelberg.de/studium/imstudium/formalia/exmatrikulation.html
Fill out the form that appears after you have selected "Exmatrikulation," let the University Library confirm on the form that you have returned all the books, and hand in the form at the International Relations Office, room #27.

Deregister with the city
Fill in the form available online or at any Bürgeramt in Heidelberg and turn it in to one of the Bürgerämter.
Bürgeramt => Formulare und Onlinedienste => Meldwesen => Abmeldung
For a list of the locations and business hours of the Bürgerämter please see:
www.heidelberg.de/hd,Lde/HD/Rathaus/Behoerdenwegweiser.html?amtsID=836340

Cancel your health insurance (if you have health insurance coverage from a German health insurance provider).

Close your bank account.

Make an appointment with the Hausmeister of your residence for the day you wish to move out.

APPENDIX

List of Useful Web Addresses

International Relations Office
www.uni-heidelberg.de/studium/kontakt/auslandsamt/

Information for Exchange Students
www.uni-heidelberg.de/international-exchange

Universitätsbibliothek (University Library)
www.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/Englisch/service/einsteiger/ubfuereinsteiger.html

Internationales Studienzentrum Heidelberg (ISZ)
www.isz.uni-heidelberg.de

Universitätsrechenzentrum (University Computing Center)
www.urz.uni-heidelberg.de

Studierendenwerk (Student Services)
www.stw.uni-heidelberg.de/

Student Clubs and Organizations (see: Studentische Gruppen und Initiativen)
dschungelbuch.fsk.uni-heidelberg.de/index.php/Dschungelbuch

Psychosoziale Beratung für Studierende (PBS), (Psychological Counselling for Students)
www.uni-heidelberg.de/studium/beratung/pbs.html

Information for students with disabilities
www.uni-heidelberg.de/studium/kontakt/handicap/

Nightline – the telephone counseling hotline
www.nightline-heidelberg.de/
Information for Exchange Students

Internet Addresses in and around Heidelberg and Germany

Foreign embassies and consulates in Germany
- www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/ReiseUndSicherheit/diplomatische-vertretungen-in-deutschland/199678

The city of Heidelberg (very useful links)
- www.heidelberg.de/

Tourist Information
- www.heidelberg-marketing.com/

Verkehrsverbund Rhein-Neckar
- www.vrn.de

Cinema and cultural events
- www.theaterheidelberg.de/
- www.karlstorbahnhof.de/
- www.cinevent.de
- www.meier-online.de

Map of Universitätsplatz with the Triplex-Mensa building, Info-Center and “Welcome Area”