

Welcome Guide

for International Students



HCU | HafenCity University
Hamburg

ENGLISH

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First and foremost, we would like to warmly welcome you to the HafenCity University. Whether you are here for one semester, one year or for your full course of studies, this will likely be one of the most exciting, as well as complicated, times of your life. You probably have a lot of questions, many of which can be answered by this Welcome Guide. Within this guide, you'll find plenty information and tips for studying and living in Hamburg. We recommend reading the Welcome Guide in its entirety.

We wish you all the best for your studies at the HCU and hope your time here will do lots to further your personal and academic development. The International Office and the YOU@HCU team organize many activities to which you are cordially invited. Whenever you have any questions, please feel free to contact the International Office (<https://www.hcu-hamburg.de/en/io/contact-information/>) or your Welcome Buddy.



1 Before your arrival

Even though your arrival at the HCU might seem to be unreal and far in the future while you are still in your home country, it is very important that you start preparing for it now. For example, to complete your enrollment and officially start the matriculation process, you must wire your semester contribution. You need a student health insurance to be matriculated at the HCU. You maybe need a visa to enter Germany and you need a place to live in Hamburg. You will also look for information on HCU courses and would like to know how to register for them.

1.1.1 Matriculation for Exchange Students

Exchange students (e.g. ERASMUS, UNIBRAL etc.) receive their HCU documents mainly via an Online Mobility Tool from the International Office; you will be notified personally via mail about this matter. The online registration form must be filled in, printed out and signed by the responsible person(s). The signed version must be scanned and uploaded to the Online-portal, together with several other documents.

Important: Please use capital letters only when filling in the application form.
Please rewrite Ä, Ö or Ü as AE, OE etc.

1.1.2 Semester contribution for Exchange Students

Exchange students must pay for the semester ticket but not the administration fee. You will get information via the Online Mobility Tool.

1.1.3 Matriculation for Free Movers

Free Movers (Guest students coming from outside the existing cooperation programmes to the HCU) have to be matriculated directly by the student administration.

You will receive an Application for Matriculation with the Letter of Acceptance from the student administration. This application must be filled in completely. You may have to add some further documents if necessary. The Matriculation Application must be handed in or sent back to the student service within the deadline set by the student administration in the acceptance letter.

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1.1.4 Semester Contribution for Free Movers

Free Movers must pay the administration fee as every other regular degree student here at the HCU:
<https://www.hcu-hamburg.de/en/student-services/for-students/re-registration/semester-contribution/>

The administration fee will be due with the acceptance at the HCU (Matriculation).
By any questions considering Free Movers please write directly to the Student Administration:
<https://www.hcu-hamburg.de/en/student-services/auditor-freemover/>

1.1.5 Student Health Insurance

In order to enroll at a German university students must provide a proof of health- and long term care insurance. This proof is in the form of an insurance certificate issued by a health insurance company. Therefore, if you do not have a valid European health insurance card, you must get German health insurance. More questions? Check this page: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=559&langId=en>

If you come from an member state of the European Union or if you have health insurance from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, Macedonia, Switzerland, Turkey or Tunisia, your health insurance will be accepted in Germany as long as you fill out the appropriate forms. Either way, you must provide the following form to one of the German health insurance company:

- All EU countries plus Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein:
E128 and European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)
- Serbia, Montenegro: Ju 6
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: BH6
- Croatia: HR/D 111
- Macedonia: RM/D 111
- Turkey: T/A 11
- Tunisia: TN/A 11

Please note: Travel health insurance does not meet the requirements!

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Students from all other countries:

Only in very exceptional cases health insurance from non-EU countries will be accepted by German authorities as equivalent to the German student insurance. We recommend you buy your student health insurance from one of the public health insurance companies in Germany as soon as you arrive in Hamburg. Also, for the same reason travel health insurance does not meet the requirements because the range in the type of provision, in the amount of the provisions (e.g. up to a maximum of US \$ 50,000) and the period of time (e.g. return transport after 90 days) is limited! Only those insurance contracts, which do not have a maximum upper limit, i.e. which do not have limited coverage per person and per case, provide adequate health insurance coverage recognized by the German authorities. This will be checked in the Welcome Week by a representative from the German health insurance system.

You might need to provide health insurance already for the Germany embassy to open your visa for Germany. In this case you should contract some kind of travel insurance for the first couple of weeks only. As soon as you arrive in Hamburg we help you to get a student health insurance at a public health insurance company (like AOK, TK).

You can also already now send an e-mail to our contact person at the AOK, DAK or TK health insurances (see the next page) telling/asking them what you should do to get a student health insurance.

Also, you can contact Ekaterina Wittke (HCU International Office) if you have any questions or need advice on student health insurance: Ekaterina.Wittke@hcu-hamburg.de. Do not skip this step!

Where can I get health insurance?

In Germany there exist compulsory public health insurances (Gesetzliche Krankenversicherung GVK) and private health insurances (Private Krankenversicherung PKV). Public health insurers all have the same fees.

A few examples of public health insurance companies where you can get insured include

AOK (<http://www.aok-on.de/studierende.html> - website in German only),

DAK (https://www.dak.de/dak/mitglied_werden/English-1283388.html - website is partly in German only) and TK (<http://www.tk.de/tk/faq/s-english/students-from-abroad/199676>).

You can find a map with all the public health providers in Hamburg under

<http://tinyurl.com/health-insurance-hh>

In order to get your health insurance certificate if you are still abroad and not yet in Germany, you

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can refer to our contacts at the AOK (Mr. Axel Stein, axel.stein@rh.aok.de), DAK (Mr. Marvin Rudolf, marvin.rudolf@dak.de) or at the TK (Ms. Kristina Peters, kristina.peters@tk.de).

Costs

All members of public health insurance companies pay almost the same, state-regulated fees. Monthly costs are generally € 80,41. Members who do not have children and are 23 years of age or older pay a higher fee of € 81,90. This favorable rate for student insurance is limited to 14 semesters and ends when the student turns 30 years.

After the obligatory student insurance has ended, international students must "voluntarily" maintain their public insurance. Fees for the public insurers vary and are determined based on income. Under "low income" a legal minimum limit of € 921,00 is used. That means the corresponding premium (as a % of income) will be calculated based on this figure. The costs are therefore, depending on the insurer, approx. € 160 per month.

Depending on the insurance company, there is, where applicable (e.g. AOK), a somewhat more affordable "Absolvententarif" (rate for recent graduates) that can cover a transition period of 6 months.

By the way! BAföG students can receive a subsidy for health insurance fees:

Students receiving BAföG are eligible to receive a subsidy for their health insurance premium. BAföG recipients paying an own contribution - generally beginning with the 25th birthday or later, commensurate with completing "Wehrdienst / Zivildienst" - can apply for a subsidy with Student Services. They will receive per month € 62 for health insurance and € 11 for long term care insurance.

Required Documents for getting health insurance:

- Passport or personal identification,
- Proof of residency in the city of Hamburg (Meldebescheinigung),
- Proof of matriculation (Semesterbescheinigung),
- Your bank information at a German bank so that the monthly premium can be automatically withdrawn from your account

Be sure that you have received your health insurance certificate/identification (Krankenversicherungsnachweis) from your health insurance provider. The International Office at the HCU will help you with contracting a health insurance during the International Welcome Week (<https://www.hcu-hamburg.de/en/io/incoming/welcome-week/>).

More information about health insurance:

<http://tinyurl.com/zjv3sd5>



2 ARRIVAL IN HAMBURG

2.1 Applying for a Visa (non-EU Students)

If you are not from a member state of the EU or EEA (European Economic Area) then you need a visa to study in Germany. Please contact the German foreign representatives in your home country in order to apply for a visa covering your study and university preparatory activities ("Visum zum Studium und für studienvorbereitende Maßnahmen" §16 Abs. 1 AufenthG).

Important! You cannot use a Tourist Visa (Touristenvisum) to travel to Germany for the purpose of studying. The Immigration Office of the Federal Republic of Germany will not convert a Tourist Visa into a Student Visa.

At the German Embassy or German Consulate in your country, you must present, among others, following documents:

- A certificate recognized by Germany proving your university entrance qualifications (uni-assist) (not needed for ERASMUS and exchange students)
- A letter of acceptance or proof of enrollment at the HCU
- Health insurance certificate
- Proof of necessary living expenses (ca. 670,00 € per month for the length of you stay in Germany)

For further information contact a German Embassy or Consulate.

Further Informations under: <https://www.hcu-hamburg.de/en/io/incoming/visum/>

2.2 From the Hamburg Airport

Before arriving it is a good idea to use the website of the HVV (Hamburger Verkehrsverbund) <http://www.hvv.de/en/index.php> to search for a connection from the Hamburg airport or the main train station to your final destination in Hamburg. If you have not received your Semester Ticket yet, you should be sure to purchase a ticket at an automated machine (ca. 3,00 €).

Our Welcome Buddies can gladly assist you upon your arrival in Hamburg. If you need a personal HCU Welcome Buddy or your Buddy hasn't contacted you yet - please drop us a line at welcome-you@hcu-hamburg.de.

If you should arrive already in September (the semester ticket is valid from October 1) please consider purchasing a HVV "Flexi-Week"-Ticket:

<http://www.hvv.de/en/tickets/weekly-monthly-tickets/general-season-tickets/>

Arrival in Hamburg

2.3 Looking for an Apartment

Many international students already have a place to live while others are still searching. This little guide serves to help with searching for a place to live and provides information for official registering in Germany.

Important: It is not at all easy to find an adequate and affordable apartment in Hamburg in time for the beginning of the semester. Therefore, we highly recommend reading up on and beginning the search even before receiving your letter of acceptance from the HCU and arriving in Hamburg!

2.3.1 Student Dormitories

The International Office of the HCU has a limited number of rooms in student dormitories of Studierendenwerk Hamburg. Exchange students can apply for such a room directly at the International Office. Application forms will be sent per e-mail. It is not possible for exchange students to apply for a dormitory room directly by Studierendenwerk Hamburg (through the International Office only).

Non-Exchange students can apply yourself for a room in one of student dorms. These public dormitories give away their places by means of a central application process through Student Services. The application forms can be filled out on the website of Student Services:

http://www.studierendenwerk-hamburg.de/studierendenwerk/en/wohnen/online_application/

In addition it is possible for ALL international students to contact private student residence halls directly. A list of the houses can be found at the Student Services:

http://www.studierendenwerk-hamburg.de/studierendenwerk/en/wohnen/wohnanlagen_anderer_traeger/

<https://www.smartments-student.de/en/feel-at-home/>

Dormitories in the suburbs along the periphery of the city often have rooms available!

Sometimes it's possible to reserve a guest room for a few weeks at the Student Services. Particularly at the beginning of the term it's often manageable to get one. Therefore you will have to call particular student dormitories directly.

More information:

http://www.studierendenwerk-hamburg.de/studierendenwerk/en/wohnen/kurzzeitmiete/index_neu_engl.php

Rents on the "free apartment market" are considerably higher.

Arrival in Hamburg

2.3.2 Communal Living ("WGs") and a flat-sharing agency "Mietwohnzentrale"

Communal living ("Wohngemeinschaft" or just "WG") – an apartment shared with about 1-5 other students – is the most affordable living option in Hamburg for international students who do not want to live in, or do not get a place in, student dormitories. Nevertheless, you can still count on paying a rent between 300-350 Euros.

Alternatively, you can try and find a small apartment for yourself alone. This is, however, often quite difficult, since landlords only rent to students when the parents can co-sign the lease. Rents in this case are between ca. 350 -xxx Euros per month.

Advertisements for WGs and apartments can be found on the following websites:

<http://www.housinganywhere.com>

<http://www.wg-gesucht.de/en/wg-zimmer-in-Hamburg.55.0.0.0.html>

<https://www.smartments-student.de/en/feel-at-home/>

You can try and reserve a room in either a regular hostel or a youth hostel ("Jugendherberge") for the first few days:

<http://www.jugendherberge.de/en/youth-hostels/hamburg%20auf%20dem%20stintfang523/Portrait>

<http://www.jugendherberge.de/en/youth-hostels/hamburg%20horner%20rennbahn522/portrait>

<http://www.aohostels.com/en/hamburg/>

<http://www.hostelbookers.com>

<http://www.hostelworld.com/>

A further possibility is searching for an apartment with the help of a "Mitwohnzentrale" (a flat-sharing agency). Using services of the agency, however, costs money. Internet addresses:

<http://www.city-wohnen.de/eng/>

<http://www.ihermitwohnzentrale.de/start.htm>

Important: Whoever does not have a residence in Hamburg cannot register with the city, open a bank account etc. ...!



3 THE FIRST DAYS IN HAMBURG

The first days in a foreign country can appear difficult. In this section we'll explain how you can handle the most important questions.

3.1 Registration with the Authorities

All new students must register within one week at either the district's registration office or the Hamburg Welcome Center. There, you have to show proof of your address in Germany (rental contract or a letter from the responsible tenant in the shared apartment ("WG") confirming that you live in this "WG").

Welcome Center
Alter Wall 11
20457 Hamburg
Tel.: 040 42854-5001
Fax: 040 42854-5002

Hours of Operation:
Monday: 08:00-17:00
Tuesday: 08:00-12:00
Wednesday: 08:00-12:00
Thursday: 08:00-18:00
Friday: 07:00-12:00

E-mail: info@welcome-center.hamburg.de

As a part of the HCU International Welcome Week we are offering the opportunity to apply for the registration „Meldebestätigung“ through the International Office.

<https://www.hcu-hamburg.de/en/io/incoming/welcome-week/>

In order to receive the proof of registration the following documents must be presented:

- Your rental contract or a WG letter
- Proof that you have moved in (starting from November 1, 2015 tenants must provide a written confirmation from their landlord confirming the exact date when they moved in)
- A confirmation of moving in from the landlord
(<http://www.hamburg.de/Dibis/form/pdf/6700-25-barrierefrei.pdf>)
- Passport or personal identification

In addition, a registration form must be filled out and signed. You can download the registration form (in German or English) from <http://welcome.hamburg.de/contentblob/2217296/data/antrag-anmeldung.pdf>. After this process you will receive your proof of residency ("Meldebestätigung"), which you should store carefully. This certificate must be presented, for example, when applying for a library card, opening a bank account, signing a cell phone contract etc.

The city charges a fee of 11 € for this procedure (which you should preferably pay with a German cash card).

The First Days in Hamburg

3.2 Public Transport

Since 1994 all students receive a "Semester Ticket". You can travel with this ticket for the entire semester using all subway trains (U-Bahns) and S-Trains, ferries as well as all normal and night buses. You can use every line in Hamburg. Therefore you do not have to buy any additional tickets! But Express buses (Schnellbusse) can also be used with an additional fee.

Bicycles can be taken in all U- and S-Trains without fee. However, bicycles are not allowed weekdays between 6 - 9 a.m. as well as between 4 - 6 p.m. There are no restrictions on Saturdays and Sundays.

Have you not received your semester documents by beginning of the semester period, even though you paid your semester fees (and, when applicable, tuition) on time? Please purchase a weekly or monthly pass (with photo!) from the Hamburger Verkehrsverbund (HVV). More information under: <http://www.hvv.de/en/tickets/weekly-monthly-tickets/general-season-tickets/>.

This can then be reimbursed by presenting your Semester Ticket after you have received it. Where can you purchase a weekly/monthly pass? At all HVV Service and Sales Points: <http://www.hvv.de/en/contact/service-centres-sales-points/>

Where do you get reimbursed?

S-Bahn Hamburg Fahrgeldstelle
Mon-Fri 08:00-18:00
www.s-bahn-hamburg.de
Telephone: 040/3918-50650 (Monday through Friday 8:00-16:00)

Additionally, Hamburg is very bicycle friendly. Used bicycles are sold reasonably priced through private newspaper advertisements. The "AVIS" is published on Tuesdays and Fridays. It is a newspaper, which has private classified ads. Everything imaginable is available for little money: bicycles, TVs, dishes etc. You can also buy a used bike at an auction from the Lost and Found. Even at the flea market or on the Internet (<http://www.quoka.de/hamburg/>) you can find affordable bicycles.

Once you've purchased a good bike it's highly recommended that you get a good bike lock. Bikes are often stolen!

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Attention! The city of Hamburg recently set up a bike-share. After registering you can rent a "StadtRAD" at many locations in Hamburg. The first half hour is always free! It is particularly suitable for riding short distances quickly. More information can be found at: <http://stadtrad.hamburg.de/kundenbuchung/process.php?proc=index&changeto=511>

3.3 Opening a Bank Account

Each HCU student can open a German bank account without problems.

A student account can be set up free of charge with all banking institutions, such as Deutsche Bank (site in German only) (<http://www.deutsche-bank.de/index.htm>), Postbank (site in German only) (<http://www.postbank.de/>), HASPA (site in German only) (<http://tinyurl.com/haspabankaccount>) or Commerzbank (<https://www.commerzbank.de/portal/en/englisch/english.html>)

When opening an account you will receive an EC card (ATM / Debit Card). With the EC card you can withdraw money outside of the hours of operation as well as at all partner institutions without paying a fee.

Why do you need an account in Germany?

- Uploading your HCU Student Card (paying in the HCU canteen, library etc.)
- Transferring your rent payment without fees
- Transferring your health insurance premium without fees
- Transferring your semester fees to the HCU with no extra charge
- Receiving your wages (e.g. for a part-time job)
- Simple ATM withdrawals without being charged a fee
- Credit cards aren't accepted everywhere while EC cards are much more common
- Booking language courses
- Deposit refunds when leaving

When opening an account you need:

- A personal identification or passport
- Proof of residency ("Meldebestätigung")
- Student ID issued by HCU Hamburg



4 STUDYING AT THE HCU

4.1 International Welcome Week

The International Office of the HafenCity University Hamburg and the YOU@HCU Program invite all new international students to an International Welcome Week at the beginning of the semester. A diverse program awaits you: you can get to know Hamburg and the HCU, receive information on studying and living in Hamburg and establish contact with other students.

This orientation and advising opportunity makes the beginning of your studies easier and is, therefore, highly recommended!

More information under <https://www.hcu-hamburg.de/io/incoming/welcome-week/>

4.2 Seminars, Lectures and Courses

It is important to decide in advance which courses you must or would like to take. You can find the course catalogue from last semester under:

www.ahoi.hcu-hamburg.de (on the left hand side - in German only).

The Course Catalog (Vorlesungsverzeichnis) for the upcoming Semester will be published under the same link.

You will receive more information on this during the International Welcome Week and/or through your Welcome Buddy.

4.3 Structure of the Study Year

The academic year in Germany is divided into two semesters. The Winter Semester lasts from the 1st of October until the 31st of March. The Summer Semester then lasts from the 1st of April until the 30th of September.

Lecture Period: The lecture period is the time during in which all courses and lectures take place. For the Winter Semester this is from the middle of October until the middle of February, while the lecture period for the Summer Semester starts beginning of April and runs until the middle of July.

Exams: The exam period for Architecture and Urban Planning majors begins one week after the end of the lecture period and lasts for two weeks. For Geomatics, the exams start two weeks after the lecture period and last for two following two weeks. In the summer, for geomatics, the exams take place in

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two different exam periods. Sometimes oral exams take place either before or after the official exam period. The exams for Civil Engineering are spread throughout the semester break (Semesterferien).

Lecture-free period/ semester break: This is the time during which no lectures take place. It includes two weeks for the Christmas holidays and one week for Pentecostal holidays (Pfingstferien) during the week after Pentecost Sunday.
For more information please check the appendix.



4.4 Advisory Service during your Studies

General academic advisory services at the HCU are carried out through the degree program coordinators. You can find your contact person under <https://www.hcu-hamburg.de/en/student-services/advice-and-contact-persons/programme-management/> Advisers from each degree program who deal especially with the needs of international students can be found under:
<https://www.hcu-hamburg.de/en/student-services/advice-and-contact-persons/degree-programme-advisory-service/>

4.5 “Rückmeldung”: Confirming Your Admission for the Next Semester

You must confirm your place for the each semester anew! You can do so by merely transferring the semester contribution to the HCU. This must be done within the deadline to ensure you receive your semester documents in time for the beginning of the next semester. More information (deadlines etc.) at: <https://www.hcu-hamburg.de/en/student-services/for-students/re-registration/semester-contribution/>

5 IT

In this section you can find important information regarding your user account, e-mail address, WiFi (WLAN), VPN and Stud.IP/Ahoi.

5.1 User Account

All HCU students receive their HCU-Identification with the preliminary semester documents. The HCU E-Mail should be activated as soon as possible. The explanation for the activation will be provided in the Welcome Week IT Training or under <https://www.hcu-hamburg.de/en/it-and-media/informationstechnik/benutzerkennung-e-mail-hcu-card/hcu-benutzerkennung/>.

The HCU-Identification has 6 characters and contains both numbers and letters. Among other things it is used for the ahoi-portal, e-mail account, Stud.IP, and the HCU WiFi.

5.2 HCU E-mail Address

As a student you will receive an HCU e-mail address. This address generally takes the form of `firstname.lastname@hcu-hamburg.de`. It is important to activate and to use this address and to check if you have received any new e-mails regularly. The International Office and professors will often send e-mails only to this address and not to your private e-mail!

You can find information about your account as well as introductions to mail forwarding and administering your mail using other programs at <https://www.hcu-hamburg.de/en/it-and-media/informationstechnik/benutzerkennung-e-mail-hcu-card/e-mail/> You must register in order to call up your e-mails at: <https://webmail.hcu-hamburg.de/horde/login.php>.

5.3 WiFi (WLAN)

In order to use WiFi at the HCU you have to install and start the software „VPN Client“. For more information or an informational handout you can contact the IT consulting services under <https://www.hcu-hamburg.de/en/it-and-media/informationstechnik/vernetzt-arbeiten/wlan-vpn/> You can also use the European-Wide system of eduroam:
<https://www.hcu-hamburg.de/en/it-and-media/informationstechnik/vernetzt-arbeiten/eduroam0/>

5.4 Stud.IP and Ahoi

Stud.IP and Ahoi are course administration systems, where professors and students can communicate and upload documents.

Discussions about a class can take place there, and you can find and contact fellow students from your courses. It is important to register for classes there. Otherwise you could miss out on course information. You can register under <https://e-learning.tu-harburg.de/studip/> or for Ahoi under <https://www.ahoi.hcu-hamburg.de>. Therefore you need your HCU-Identification.

More information you can get in the Welcome Week and/or from your Welcome Buddy.



6 LIVING IN HAMBURG

6.1 YOU@HCU

During the semester YOU@HCU organizes an exciting leisure and culture program, planned and carried out by HCU students. Approximately 10 events are planned for each semester. Everyone at the HCU is invited. It is important for us that you settle in quickly in Hamburg, acquaint yourself with the country, people and customs and get to know many of your fellow international as well as national students. On this website you can see the program for the last semester: <https://www.hcu-hamburg.de/en/io/leisure-and-cultural-program/>.

Since 2011 we also have a Facebook page where you can check our current program or just take a look at the pictures from our events and meetings. Please like the YOU@HCU page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/YOUHCU/143517999052258>

6.2 University Sports

Hochschulsport (University sports) Hamburg offers an affordable and comprehensive sports program. The program is divided into two parts. The first is the SportCard. You can buy the card for 50 € per semester and then participate in as many courses as you want. The other type is classes for which you have to register and pay individually. You can find more information about Hochschulsport here: <http://hochschulsport-hamburg.de/>

6.3 HVV (Public Transport)

The HVV (Hamburger Verkehrsverbund) offers connections via buses, U and S-Trains, regional trains and ferries. By paying the semester contribution you will receive a Semester Ticket allowing you to use the services in the full area covered by the HVV (with a few exceptions such as Schnellbusse). The HVV offers further service information as well as a good route planner on their website; <http://www.hvv.de/en/index.php>

6.4 Telephone and Mobile Phone

International students receive a prepaid SIM Card during the International Welcome Week (<https://www.hcu-hamburg.de/io/incoming/international-welcome-week/>) as a present (first come, first served).

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PeterZahlt:

You can connect two land lines for free on the PeterZahlt website:

(<http://www.peterzahlt.de/index.do>)

One line must be in Germany, while the other can be in one of 30 countries for which Peter Zahlt offers this service.

6.5 Emergency Numbers

Police:	110
Fire Department:	112
Ambulance or Emergency Physician:	112



Living in Hamburg

6.6 Medical Care: What to do if you get sick and need a doctor

In case of catching a slight cold you can consult a pharmacy for any pharmaceuticals that do not need a prescription such as cough syrup, nose drops and Aspirin. These pharmaceuticals are not paid by your health insurance. You will have to pay for them yourself.

In Germany everybody needs a family physician (Hausarzt), whom you can visit in case of serious illness. For this purpose you need to have a health insurance card from your insurance (EU or German insurance).

Which doctors can you visit?

The health insurance card allows you to go to both a „normal“ doctor (family physician) as well as specialists such as eye doctors or gynecologists. Important: you can only go to doctors who accept public insurance providers (Kassenärzte). In Germany, however, this is the vast majority of all doctors. For private doctors you will have to pay more and the care is not necessarily any better than with the public doctors.

You can find addresses for doctors either in the telephone book (Gelbe Seiten) or in the internet. When you call be sure to ask if the doctor accepts your insurance company.

It is necessary to always bring your health insurance card with you.

A special case - the dentist:

You need your health insurance card for the dentist, as well, but you should also be sure to ask which treatments are covered by your insurance company. For complicated operations the insured (you) has to pay for either all or part of the work.

Pharmaceuticals:

If pharmaceuticals are needed for the treatment of your illness, the doctor will give you a prescription („Rezept“). With this prescription you have to go to the pharmacy. The simplest medications such as adhesive bandages or cough syrup aren't prescribed by a doctor and you can buy them without a prescription. Important: Some pharmaceuticals, such as antibiotics, are sold only with a valid prescription.

Living in Hamburg

6.7 Traveling by Train with DB (Deutsche Bahn)

Price Specials (Sparangebote)

These specials begin at 29 € and have to be booked at least 3 days in advance with the Deutsche Bahn (<http://www.bahn.de/i/view/USA/en/index.shtml>). However, for particular dates they are quickly sold out and should be booked as early as possible.

BahnCard 25 & 50

The BahnCards allow you to save 25% or 50% on each trip. To purchase a BahnCard you will have to go to a Deutsche Bahn ticket office at Hamburg Central Station, Dammtor station or Altona station with your passport or personal ID, student ID and a passport photo.

Schönes-Wochenende Ticket (Weekend Specials)

With this ticket you can travel from 44 € (internet, otherwise ca.46 €) with up to 5 people. The ticket allows you to travel in all regional trains for one day on the weekend throughout Germany.

https://www.bahn.de/p_en/view/offers/national/regional/schoenes-wochenende-ticket.shtml

Or if you would like to travel within the week (Monday - Friday):

https://www.bahn.de/p_en/view/offers/national/regional/quer-durchs-land-ticket.shtml?dbkanal_007=L01_S02_D002_KIN0001_at6-qdl_LZ001

Niedersachsen & Schleswig-Holstein Tickets

For about 39 € up to 5 people can travel for one day in regional trains within these states. When traveling alone tickets can also be purchased starting at 22 €.

<http://www.bahn.de/i/view/GBR/en/prices/germany/laender-ticket.shtml>

InterRail One Country Pass

With this ticket you can travel for 3, 4, 6 or 8 days in one month throughout Germany. In Germany these tickets are only sold to foreigners. More info: <http://www.interrailnet.com/>

Driver's License

To get information regarding the validity of your license, please contact an ADAC office: <http://www.adac.de> (website in German only).



**WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD
TO SEE YOU!**

APPENDIX

Semester Dates 2016/2017:

Winter Semester 2016/17

1 October 2016 - 31 March 2017

First Day of Classes

17 October 2016

Last Day of Classes

04 February 2017

Christmas break

24 December 2016 - 8 January 2017

Summer semester 2017

1 April 2017 - 30 September 2017

First Day of Classes

3 April 2017

Last Day of Classes

15 July 2017

Project week

6 - 9 June 2017

National Holidays

Oct. 3, 2016

German Unification Day

Dec. 25, 2016

First Christmas Day

Dec. 26, 2016

Second Christmas Day

Jan. 1, 2017

New Year's Day

April 14, 2017

Good Friday

April 17, 2017

Easter Monday

May 1, 2017

Labor Day

May 25, 2017

Ascension Day

June 6, 2017

Pentecost Monday