

# Universität Bochum

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Fifty years ago there was not a single university in the Ruhr. The fact is that the Ruhr was a predominantly industrial region in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and this is likely to be the reason for the absence of institutions of higher learning for such a long period. In any event, the authorities in Northrhine-Westphalia opened up completely new territory when it resolved to found a university here in 1961.

The intention was to create a university with a new organizational structure equal to the demands of modern research. This new structure was to include, first and foremost, an emphasis upon interdisciplinary research through the integration of the engineering sciences, which in Germany had always been offered at separate technical universities, and through the establishment of other interdisciplinary institutes.

Today, by contrast, the Ruhr has the highest concentration of institutions of higher learning of any region in Europe. The first university founded here was the Ruhr University in Bochum (abbreviated RUB, for *Ruhr-Universität Bochum*). The foundation was laid in 1962, and doors opened for business in 1965, with courses offered first in the humanities and several of the natural sciences.

Today the university serves over 37,000 students and employs about 500 full professors, 4,500 teaching research staff members, and 2,400 non-academic staff. Young as it is, the university has already become a highly desirable goal for winners of scholarships and awards from other countries.

Over 3,000 foreign students, nearly 300 academic guests and, so far, twenty-one partnerships with other institutes from Tokyo to Texas and from Shanghai to Sheffield give the Ruhr University its cosmopolitan and internationally open character. Even the earlier critics of the university must now admit that Bochum has achieved the difficult task of winning a young university the reputation of the great traditional institutions without sacrificing the pioneering spirit and dynamism.

Directions: Coming from the station or Uni-Center, walk towards the university library. Keep left after the library and turn left to the FNO-Building (small white building). Walk down the stairs to level 01, go through the glass door and turn right. Follow the floor to the foyer.

### Staff and Contact Hours

Information services and Admissions	Karsten Alt Tel. 0234/32-22199 Room 172	Monday – Thursday: 8.00 - 13.00 & 14 - 16.00 Friday: 8.00 - 15.00
Advice for International Students Admissions	Christel Sander Tel. 0234/32-28739 Room 171	Monday – Thursday: 9.00 - 12.00
Admissions and Matriculation for International Students	Angelika Tatang Tel. 0234/32-23739 Room 171 Fax 0234/32-14297	Monday - Thursday 09 - 12.00
Contact person for incoming students (ERASMUS / TEMPUS / DAAD / Fulbright programme, etc.) - Admission and Matriculation for international exchange students - Orientation course - Visa and residency regulations - Welcome Centre	Ruthild Schulte Tel. 0234/32-25899 Fax 0234/32-14297 Room 174	Monday - Thursday 10.00 - 12.00
Study abroad advising for RUB students and scholars	Viktoria Klinger Tel. 0234/32-28913 Fax 0234/32-14297 Room 183	Monday and Wednesday 15.00-17.00 Tuesday and Thursday 10.00-12.00 or by prior arrangement
Contact person for outgoing students	Monika Pokoj Tel. 0234/32-23912 Fax 0234/32-14297 Room 178	Monday - Friday 10.00 - 12.00
Partner universities/ Teaching staff Mobility	Gabriele Rössler Tel. 0234/32-27442 Fax 0234/32-14297 Room 180	Monday - Friday 10.00 - 12.00
Welcome Centre: contact person for international guest scholars/	Anne Weissbauer Tel. 0234/32-26397 Fax 0234/32-14640	Monday - Friday 9.00 - 12.00

Accommodation for exchange students/ Accommodation for guest scholars at the RUB ("Haus der Nationen")	'Haus der Nationen' App. 002, Spechtsweg 20, 44801 Bochum	
Welcome Centre: accommodation for guest scholars at the RUB ("Internationales Gästehaus")/ Room reservations for events in the "EuroEck"	Beate Seidemann Tel. 0234/32-22279 Fax 0234/32-14684 "Auf der Papenburg" 14, 44801 Bochum	Monday - Friday 9.00 - 11.30
Welcome Centre Coordination	Anna Tredota Tel. 0234/32-28824 Room 185	By prior arrangement
Advice and counselling for international students/ Cultural programme during the semester	Hannelore Grans Tel. 0234/32-23420 Fax 0234/32-14635 Level 02/ Room 32	Monday, Tuesday, Friday 10.00 - 12.00 Wednesday & Thursday 14.00-16.00
Advice and counselling for international students	Sarah-Amelie Stücken Tel. 0234/32-27676 Room 176	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9.00 -12.00 Tuesday& Thursday 12.00 - 14.00
International Office	Bärbel Klaffke Tel. 0234/32-28024 Fax 0234/32-14684	Monday - Friday 9.00 - 12.00
Deputy Director of the International Office/ Institutional ERASMUS Coordinator/ Study abroad advising for RUB students and scholars	Jutta Schmid Tel. 0234/32-28763 Fax 0234/32-14297 Room 186	By prior arrangement
Director of the International Office	Monika Sprung Tel. 0234/32-25483 Fax 0234/32-14684 Room 182	By prior arrangement

Ruhr-Universität Bochum  
Akademisches Auslandsamt / International Office  
Forum Nord Ost (FNO) 01 / 02  
Universitätsstrasse 150  
D-44780 Bochum  
Phone: +49 (0)234/ 32-22199

## Location

The foundations of Bochum began in the 9th century when Charlemagne set up a royal court at the junction of two important trade routes. It was first officially mentioned in 1041 by the name *Cofbuokheim* in a document of the archbishops of Cologne. Originally it may have meant 'Brookhome' or 'Bacheim', but later it seems to have gained the notorious reputation of 'Bookhorn'.

In 1321 Count Engelbert II von der Marck granted Bochum a town charter, but the town remained insignificant until the 19th century, when coal mining and steel industry emerged in the Ruhr area, leading to the growth of the entire region. The population of Bochum increased tenfold between 1850 and 1890 while it was part of the Prussian Province of Westphalia.

In World War II the city was heavily bombed by British and American bombers. Nearly the whole inner circle of the city was destroyed and many thousands of citizens were killed. Bochum became part of the new state of North Rhine-Westphalia after the war.

Between 1960 and 1980, all the mines were closed. Other industries, such as car manufacturing, compensated for the loss of jobs. The Opel Astra is assembled by General Motors at their plant here. In 1965 the Ruhr University was opened, the first university in the Ruhr area and the first to be founded in Germany since World War II.

## Accommodation

If you are coming to Bochum within an exchange agreement, for example Erasmus, then you can reserve a room through the university beforehand. The Ruhr University at Bochum offers you a reservation service for rooms in their student residences. Please fill in the reservation request form. For all the formalities like contracts, deposit and questions related to your accommodation, you can contact Ms Anne Weißbauer from Monday to Friday from 9 - 12.

The rooms for exchange students are reserved for you by the International Office in order to offer you a flexible and quick service. The student housing is owned by the *Akademisches Förderungswerk*. On their website (<http://www.akafoe.de/>) you will find a detailed description of the houses and rooms. All rooms are either furnished single rooms, some of them apartments with your own bathroom and kitchen; others shared apartments or rooms with shared kitchen and bathroom facilities. Please note that we rent the room for half or full term years only. For the current possible starting dates for the rent, please have a look at the reservation request form.

For further enquiries, please contact:

Anne Weißbauer  
Ruhr-Universität Bochum  
Akademisches Auslandsamt  
'Haus der Nationen', App. 002,  
Spechtsweg 20,  
D-44801 Bochum  
Tel: +49/(0)234/32-26397  
Mobil: +49/0171-1276122  
Fax: +49/(0)234/32-14640  
Email: Anne.Weissbauer@uv.ruhr-uni-bochum.de

## Travel

The University of Bochum can be reached by car or by the U-Bahn (underground rail)

### Train

From the Central Train Station (*Bochum Hauptbahnhof*), travel on the U-35 U-Bahn in the direction of *Hustadt*. The station you need to exit at is called *Ruhr-Universität*.

### Car

On the North-South Autobahn Axis, Bochum can be reached by the A43/A1 (Hamburg – Köln), and on the East-West Autobahn Axis by the A40/A44 (Netherlands-Kassel). The exit for *Ruhr-Universität* is at the crossing of Autobahn A43 with A44 (Exit 19).

### Plane

Düsseldorf International:

From Dublin, both Aer Lingus and Ryan Air fly directly to Düsseldorf, and from Shannon, Ryan Air flies directly to Düsseldorf. From Düsseldorf there is a direct S-Bahn (overland rail) connection S1 to *Bochum Hauptbahnhof*. The S-Bahn travels hourly during the day in the direction of Dortmund. The journey lasts about 56 minutes. From the Hauptbahnhof, take the U-Bahn U35 in the direction of *Hustadt*. The station is called *Ruhr-Universität*. The journey from Düsseldorf to Ruhr-University in Bochum requires a *Preisstufe C* (Price C ticket).

## Admissions Procedures

### The Registration Procedure

1. Nomination by your home university and/or grant-awarding body.
2. Fill out the application form for studying at the RUB and send via fax or post. Alternatively you can use the application form available online (accessible from the end of June onwards). In case of difficulties, please get in touch with [Ruthild.Schulte@uv.ruhr-uni-bochum.de](mailto:Ruthild.Schulte@uv.ruhr-uni-bochum.de)
3. Send proof of registration at your home university, proof of your exchange student status (Socrates/Erasmus etc.) and a passport-sized photograph by post to the International Office at RUB.
4. Once you have filled out the application form and sent your documents, you will receive a document confirming Programme registration.

**Deadline for winter term: 15th July**

**Deadline for summer term: 15th January**

\*Once you arrive in Bochum, please contact Mrs. Ruthild Schulte in the International Office and make an appointment for your enrolment.

### Documents You Will Need

1. Notification of Admission / Program Admission.
2. Passport or Personal Identity Card.
3. Passport-sized photograph (1).
4. Evidence of health insurance. For example: European Health Insurance Card

### Pre-Registration

After you were nominated by your home university for an exchange period at the Ruhr-Universität in the framework of a mobility programme (e.g. Erasmus, Tempus, Fulbright, DAAD students not planning to obtain a final degree), you can pre-register by internet.

The more complete the information on the application form, the easier and faster your formal enrolment will proceed once you have arrived in Bochum. You also have the possibility to book a room in a student residence hall in this online application

Please note: Pre-registration online will be accessible from the end of June for the winter semester.

For further enquiries, please contact:

Ruthild Schulte  
Ruhr-Universität Bochum  
Akademisches Auslandsamt  
Gebäude FNO, Raum 174  
D-44780 Bochum  
Tel: 0049-(0)234-32-25899  
Fax: 0049-(0)234-32-14297  
e-mail: Ruthild.Schulte@uv.ruhr-uni-bochum.de

### **After the Matriculation Procedure**

After having finished the matriculation procedure, you will receive the form for transferring the Sozialbeitrag (social fee) in our office. Please transfer the amount immediately.

The Sozialbeitrag for winter term amounts approximately to €210. The Sozialbeitrag contributes towards the social institutions and services of the university (such as the student dormitories, the cafeterias, sport institutions, student bodies). Additionally included is the semester ticket for public transport for the whole state of Northrhine-Westphalia for the entire semester.

Registration is in October and will take place in the general student secretary of RUB. Please make an appointment for enrolment with Ms. Schulte, building Forum Nord Ost (FNO), floor 01, room no. 174.

For further enquiries, please contact:

Ruthild Schulte  
Ruhr-Universität Bochum  
Akademisches Auslandsamt  
Gebäude FNO, Raum 174  
D-44780 Bochum  
Tel: 0049-(0)234-32-25899  
Fax: 0049-(0)234-32-14297  
e-mail: Ruthild.Schulte@uv.ruhr-uni-bochum.de

## Academics

### Orientation Course

You want to brush up your German before the start of the semester? You want to get familiar with campus and university before they get busy? You want to go through all the formalities calmly, get to know the city of Bochum and its surroundings, learn about sports and leisure facilities? And you don't want to do this on your own, but together with other international students who will spend one or two semesters in Bochum?

Then take part in our orientation course, which offers concise language lessons, course guidance service, trips, and leisure activities.

This orientation course is offered before each semester for international students who come on a study visit at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum in the framework of a mobility programme (e.g. Erasmus, Tempus, etc).

The orientation course in the winter semester will take place from late September to early October.

For further enquiries, please contact:

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Ruhr-Universität Bochum  
Akademisches Auslandsamt  
Gebäude FNO, Raum 174  
D-44780 Bochum  
Tel: 0049-(0)234-32-25899  
Fax: 0049-(0)234-32-14297  
e-mail: Ruthild.Schulte@uv.ruhr-uni-bochum.de

### Language Tandem

A language tandem is a system whereby you are paired with a German student so you can mutually improve your language skills and at the same time to get to know a country and its people from talking to a native. Contact the Tandem Agency des International Tandem Network for more information at:  
<http://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/slf/sgl/tandem/>

### Computer Centre

The *Rechenzentrum* (RZ) of RUB provides the necessary central computing facilities for research, teaching and administration. The services of the computer centre include computer courses, application software, installation of departmental computer facilities and access to international networks. Furthermore, the computer centre offers advice on matters concerning computers to all the members of the Ruhr University.

## **The University Library**

The *Universitätsbibliothek Bochum* (UB) is the largest library in the Ruhr, and even so is only one part of a larger whole: the entire system of libraries at the Ruhr University. At least fifty other faculty and departmental libraries, for the most part independent and non-centralised, provide the literature for research, teaching and study. The University Library is open to all students and staff of the university, and is also designed to foster and serve academic and professional interests outside the university. The library has a large bibliography and reference section, subscriptions to periodicals, and acquires rare books otherwise unavailable in Bochum, and lends out its collections.

One important service provided by the library is its computerised bibliography. For most subjects, the library can access databanks in the Federal Republic of Germany in order to compile state-of-the-art bibliographies on complex subjects. The collection of the library can be searched online with the aid of OPAC, the Online Public Access Catalogue. This and other library services are also available via the internet (<http://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/bibliothek.html>).

## **Practical Information**

### **Residency Registration**

If you will be staying longer than two months in Bochum you will have to register with the municipal authorities (at the *Rathaus*) within a week of your arrival. For exchange students, the International Office will arrange your registration for you along with your university registration. As specially appointed members of the Town Hall Bochum, we carry out the formal registration procedure at RUB.

As an EU citizen, you will have to fill out a number of different forms and provide the following documents:

1. The form: "Anmeldung bei der Meldebehörde"
2. The form: "Aufenthaltsanzeige gemäß § 5 FreizügG/EU"
3. Copy of your personal identity card (please bring the original)
4. "Immatrikulationsbescheinigung der Ruhr-Universität Bochum"
5. Proof of health insurance cover

If you cannot take part in the residency registration in RUB, the Bürgerbüro is appropriate for registration:

Bürgerbüro (in the information centre in the town hall)  
Willy-Brandt-Platz 2-8  
Mon - Thu 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Fri 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Sat 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

You can obtain the required forms from Ms. Ruthild Schulte in the International Relations Office.

For further enquiries, please contact:

Ruthild Schulte  
Ruhr-Universität Bochum  
Akademisches Auslandsamt  
Gebäude FNO, Raum 174  
D-44780 Bochum  
Tel: 0049-(0)234-32-25899  
Fax: 0049-(0)234-32-14297  
e-mail: Ruthild.Schulte@uv.ruhr-uni-bochum.de

### **Counselling**

The foreign student's representation offers counselling and other integration services to International students.

## **Social Matters**

### **BOSKOP (Student Culture)**

The Bochum Student Culture Operation aims to add a bit of excitement to student life. Anyone who feels lonely and at a loose end in Bochum or at the University, wants to strike up personal contacts, or perhaps, just for once, play in a big band or study belly dancing, is bound to find the right course or workshop in BOSKOP's semester programmes, which cover nearly everything: theatre, dance, music, visual arts, and video.

### **Leisure Time, Art and Creativity**

Teaching and research are not the only concerns at the Ruhr University: leisure-time activities and creativity — quality of life, in other words — are also important. The Centre for the Arts, which is accessible to everyone associated with the University, offers the possibility of individual creative development in four areas: photography and film, music, drama, and visual arts, both at basic and advanced levels. The Ruhr University also owns art collections with holdings from the ancient and modern periods.

### **Music Centre**

The Music Centre is the central musical institution in the university, which facilitates musical application outside the framework of academic study. It is not possible to get a diploma or degree here, and students ought to register with the centre's management if they wish to participate in lectures and events. Current announcements and programme details are to be found in the centre itself. There are three practice rooms — each with a piano — where students may bring along their instruments and practice.

These rooms are located on level 0, rooms 26, 27/29, 28/30. A new list is hung up at the beginning of each lecture season, and interested students must register their names here. Outside of the lecture season, students must arrange their own practice times.

### **The Botanical Gardens**

The Botanical Garden on the south slope of the campus is an attractive place for students to meditate or simply relax, and has become a favourite spot for visitors on their Sunday walks. The appeal of the Garden was enhanced by the addition of an original Chinese garden on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the University.

### **The University Sports Programme**

A comprehensive brochure containing information on sport in the university is published at the beginning of each semester. It is available in various locations throughout the university, including the International Relations Office.

### **The Student Film Centre (Studienkreis Film, SKF)**

In the East Lecture Centre (Hörsaalzentrum Ost, HZO), Room 20-23. The SKF celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1997. Film presentations (also in original languages) take place on Tuesday and Thursday from 18.00.

### **Students Tips**

Erasmus is full of excitement and adventure, but also uncertainty and nerves. Although the International Education Office in UCC and the International Office in Bochum will help you as much as possible, nothing can beat the experience of being in the same situation. So here are some tips and tricks from UCC students who have studied in Ruhr University.

#### Academic Matters:

- Take the chance to learn new things.
- Try and take some courses that allow you to learn more about German life, culture, history, or literature. You'll never have quite the same opportunity in Ireland.
- The fact that German is your second language is not taken into account in exams.
- Exam structure is very different.
- Keep up with your reading.

#### Accommodation:

- Look in to all accommodation options before deciding.
- Give yourself plenty of time to find accommodation.
- Bed linen is not usually supplied – a sleeping bag is handy when you arrive, and for travelling.
- Always look through the peephole before answering the door.
- Bring pictures of home to put on the walls.

- Check whether or not you can access your accommodation on arrival. If not, make alternative accommodation arrangements.
- Bring a 2-pin plug adaptor for Irish electrical products.

#### Travel:

- Remember generally the earlier you book the flights, the cheaper they are.
- Some clubs organise really cheap day and overnight trips.
- If you are coming home for Christmas, it is a good time to bring back excess luggage.
- Look out for rail discounts and offers.

#### Bureaucracy:

- Bring multiple photocopies of any documentation you might need.
- Bear with the bureaucracy. It's probably more than you are used to in Ireland, but the majority of form-filling will be finished by the end of the first month.
- Patience is helpful.
- It is a good idea to carry some sort of ID with you at all times.

#### Social:

- Join a club or society.
- Buy local newspapers and magazines, and listen to local TV, radio, and music.
- Immerse yourself in the culture.
- There is a great international student community.
- Make use of the orientation. It's a great way to find your footing and meet new friends.

#### General:

- Bring a good German dictionary.
- Unlock your mobile phone before you leave Ireland if you want to put a German SIM card in it.
- Bring some books in English, as it is handy to have some for travelling and for when you first arrive.
- Look into phone cards – they are one of the cheapest ways to phone home.
- If you have a laptop and internet access in your accommodation, look into getting Skype or other internet phone packages.
- Bring your European Health Insurance Card.
- Set up Internet banking.