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The University

The hallmark of the Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen-Nuremberg today, 260 years after its foundation, is its commitment to both tradition and innovation. Our university offers a wide spectrum of subjects, the diversity and interdisciplinary integration of which is unique in Germany. We see this integrated diversity as the key feature that enables us to enhance our profile in research and teaching, while at the same time promoting the process of internationalisation more intensively.

In addition to giving guidance in the pursuit of academic study, excellence in academic teaching requires us to develop new and innovative courses of study with an international orientation which will qualify our students to face the professional challenges of the future. Our career-focused orientation is based on close co-operation with influential partners in industry, finance and politics providing a network of steadfast support through international exchange and individual contributions. A further priority in this respect is our commitment to maintaining ties with our alumni.

Today, new knowledge is increasingly the result of interdisciplinary research which is no longer neatly compartmentalised within the traditional limits of academic subjects. Thanks to the breadth of our subject range, our university offers an ideal environment in which to generate this type of innovative research. This has enabled the university to secure a leading place among the German universities in the German Research Foundation (DFG) rankings and to attract a large number of Humboldt scholars, who have chosen our university as the place to pursue their research. We are committed to the constant improvement of our infrastructure, our study and research conditions and our service-oriented administration, all of which are essential as the university forges ahead on its way to becoming a first-class university of international recognition.
The Central Office for International Affairs

The Central Office for International Affairs is responsible for all international issues concerning the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg. Its work deals mainly with the organisation of exchange and scholarship programmes, and with the support of visiting academics and exchange students.

Referat für Internationale Angelegenheiten
Schlossplatz 3/Halbmondstr. 6
D-91054 Erlangen
Telefax: + 49 (0)9131-85-26335
Website: http://www.uni-erlangen.org/international/aaa/index.shtml

Head of the International Office and the University’s LLP/ERASMUS Coordinator

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(Students on internship programmes)
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elzbieta.wojcik@zuv.uni-erlangen.de
(Foreign students)
Location

The towns of Erlangen and Nuremberg lie in Bavaria, in the region called Central Franconia. Together with the neighbouring communities of Fürth and Schwabach, Nuremberg and Erlangen make up a half of this picturesque region which draws large numbers of tourists to the Franconian region.

Each of the towns brings its own special charms to this “family city”. Nuremberg, which was once a free city of the Holy Roman Empire, has, while retaining its medieval flair, become a centre for international fairs and exhibitions, and attained a modern cosmopolitan air.

Fürth, Nuremberg’s closest neighbour, boasts a medieval town centre, and Schwabach boasts a romantic marketplace and genteel town houses. Erlangen, some 10 miles from Nuremberg, is a centre of excellence for scientific and medical research, a town of splendid Baroque architecture with a university which dates from the time of the German Enlightenment. The tours organized by the society Geschichte für Alle (“history for everyone”) in Nuremberg, Fürth, Erlangen and Bamberg are highly recommended.

Erlangen is Bavaria’s eighth-largest city, with a little over 100,000 inhabitants. Its social infrastructure provides a wide range of opportunities. Erlangen is first mentioned in documents dating from 1002, but its real history began with the influx of Huguenot refugees from France in 1686. The town was specially rebuilt for the Huguenot settlers, and that original layout and the essential architectural concept can be seen to this day. In Germany there are few examples of the ‘ideal cities’ of the Baroque period which are as well-preserved as Erlangen.

One of Erlangen’s best-known and best-loved attractions is the Bergkirchweih, the local beer festival. The beer festival has taken place at Pentecost ever since 1755! It is one of the most enjoyable and enjoyed festivals in southern Germany, and each year it attracts around 1 million visitors from near and far.

Among the other highlights of the colourful cultural year in Erlangen are the International Comic-Salon, the Figurentheater-Festival (puppet theatre), the Poets’ Festival, and Arena, a week-long international festival of theatre by young people. This connection to the arts has ensured Erlangen’s reputation as a unique cultural venue.

In the wider world, Erlangen is also renowned both as home to the second largest university in Bavaria, which is home itself to a highly regarded Faculty of Engineering, and as the original home of Siemens AG, which still maintains a substantial presence in the city. Erlangen also enjoys an international reputation as a committed environmentalist city.
With its broad range of privately and publicly funded research facilities, Erlangen has developed into an important European centre in the field of micro-electronics. The basis of much of the success has been the close co-operation between science and business. Currently, Erlangen is establishing itself as a significant centre in the fields of medicine and health.
Accommodation

Friedrich-Alexander University has no housing agency for incoming students. Each student has to try to obtain accommodation on his/her own. It is vital to start looking and applying for accommodation early. At the beginning of the semester, thousands of new students will compete against each other. In order to enhance your chances, it is vital to be flexible as far as the location of the accommodation is concerned. If you do not find something right in the city centre, you should also consider moving to the surrounding area. The cities of Forchheim, Uttenreuth, Fürth and Herzogenaurach are nearby and very well connected by public transport. You are also urged to apply in parallel to different residences. Do not rely solely on receiving a room from just one Studentenwerk (Student Residence Hall).

For a copy of Friedrich-Alexander’s extensive accommodation booklet, which covers living in Germany, the various accommodation options open to students, and cost of living, please download it at:

http://www.uni-erlangen.org/international/exchangestudents/accommodation_exchange/InfoblattEnglish1.pdf

Transport

Getting There

Plane
Presently, there are no direct flights from Ireland to Nuremberg. You therefore have the option of flying via another European city or taking a connecting train. A large number of national and international airlines fly into Nuremberg Airport, and so almost all European capital cities can be reached direct from Nuremburg Airport. Destinations which cannot be reached directly from Nuremberg can be reached via Frankfurt or Munich.

The U2 subway line directly connects Nuremberg Airport with the central train station, thus providing access to Nuremberg's city centre in about 12 minutes only. One-way tickets are available at the subway station for €1.80. You can change to any other line at the central train station.

Taxis are also available twenty-four hours a day. A trip from the airport to city centre, which takes about 15 minutes, would be approximately €20.00.
Train
The main railway station in Nuremberg is an important national and international junction. It is integrated into the Euro-city network, into the German Railways’ IC network, and into the high-speed network (ICE). Erlangen (15 minutes away by train) can thus be reached easily from all over Europe. Within Germany, train times to Erlangen (via Nuremberg) are, for example: Frankfurt 2.5 hours, Munich 1.5 hours, Berlin or Hanover 4 to 5 hours.

Transport in Nuremberg and Erlangen

The old town in Nuremberg is best explored on foot. To get from one part of the old town to another by car or public transport, you will often have to leave the old town and re-enter it at a different gate.

Nuremberg has various subway lines (U1, U11, U2, U21). The U3, the first line with mixed trains in the world (driverless and driver), started in 2008. It also has six tramway (Line 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9) and numerous bus lines. Most subway and tram lines stop at the main station (Hauptbahnhof). Subway line 1 connects Nuremberg with its neighbour city Fürth, and line 2 goes to the airport and the Harbor. From 1 to 4 AM, you can use the "NightLiner" Bus-Network.

To travel to neighbouring cities you can use the S-Bahn Network. S1 Nürnberg Hauptbahnhof–Lauf (links der Pegnitz), S2 Nürnberg Hauptbahnhof–Feucht–Altdorf, S3 Nürnberg Hauptbahnhof–Schwabach–Roth.

Trains run regularly from Nuremberg to Erlangen from the Central train station and take about 20 min. The station is located in the middle of Erlangen in the City. Other stops are located in the southern area - the station of Erlangen-Bruck and Erlangen-Eltersdorf. These are predominantly from the regional trains operated. The main station is Erlangen stop for IC and ICE (Inter-City), IR (inter-regional), RE (Regional Express), and RB (regional train).
Admissions Procedures

Application

Students on exchanges or other programmes (DAAD, KAAD, SOKRATES-ERASMUS, Robert-Bosch-Stiftung, Diakonisches Werk etc.) should submit an application form for admission (Antrag auf Zulassung) approximately five months before the start of the course of studies planned. This form should be sent to Referat für Internationale Angelegenheiten (Central Office for International Affairs). Application forms must reach the University of Erlangen by the following dates:

- May 31st for the following winter semester
- November 30th for the following summer semester

The application forms should be sent to the following address:
University of Erlangen-Nuremberg
Referat für Internationale Angelegenheiten
Schlossplatz 4
D-91054 Erlangen

You can request the application forms by post at any time, or you can download them from the Internet:
http://www.uni-erlangen.org/international/exchangestudents/application/index.shtml

The application form should be accompanied by the following:

- Secondary/High School leaving certificates and, depending on the country, some evidence of one to two years of study in your own country (transcript of records). It is not necessary to send originals – certified copies will be accepted.

- Certificate of matriculation at home university

- Certificate indicating level of German

- Confirmation from the home university (or scholarship awardee) of nomination as exchange or programme student

*Incomplete forms will not be accepted!

Applicants will be informed in writing of the success or failure of their application, at the latest in the January or in the July after the respective deadline for applications has expired. If the application is successful, then along with your letter of admission you will receive information on the registration procedure (location, date, etc.). Make sure you
keep the letter of admission because it must be produced when applying for a visa and when registering with the university. As a rule, registration as a programme or exchange student is valid only for one or two semesters.

Registration

Each student must register in person at the beginning of the semester in the Studentenkanzlei in Erlangen (Halbmondstr. 6, Room 0.034/ 0.033, Opening Hours: Mon -Fri 8:30- 12:00).

The following documents are required for registration:

- Confirmation of admission to study at the university
- Passport
- Proof of having registered at the local Einwohnermeldeamt in Erlangen, Nuremberg or Fürth (depending on the place of residence)
- Evidence of health insurance coverage (Krankenversicherung). If you are privately insured you need to obtain a so-called ‘exemption’ (“Befreiung”) from one of the state health insurance companies (gesetzliche Krankenkassen) e.g. AOK, DAK, TKK

Prior to registration, all students are required to pay a fee (currently € 42) to the Studentenwerk. This fee is to be paid right after opening of a bank account in Germany, (normally during the Orientation Course “OK”).

After the registration you will receive a Studienbuch, a record of study, in which you must keep all Scheine (proof of academic achievement in a particular subject). You will also be given two computer printouts. One of these has copies of your proof of registration as a student (Immatrikulationsbestätigung); these can be detached as necessary and used (for example) when buying a monthly bus pass or when applying for a bank account free of charge. Most important, however, is the sheet containing your student identification (Studentenausweis). You should cut that section out and carry it with you at all times!

This document indicates your matriculation number (each student at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg is identified by such a number). You will need this number to enrol for courses, for example, at the Language Centre (Sprachenzentrum) and to register for exams. This I.D. also has details of your university e-mail address and your computer login. Last but not least, this document also contains a re-registration form for the following semester, as well as information about the dates and deadlines for re-registration. As an exchange and scholarship student, if you wish to study at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg for a second semester, you are required to pay a further € 42 and to re-register within the time specified.
Academics

ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) is a system aimed at establishing mutual university recognition of students’ academic achievements. The system is used by over 1000 universities in Europe either for individual subjects or the full spectrum of study courses.

The system is based on mutual trust between partner universities or institutions in recognising students’ academic achievement, on the desire for transparency and on the use of ECTS recognition points.

In the ECTS system, a course is seen from the point of view of the student: ECTS credits offer information on the workload a student must expect to take on in order to complete a course successfully. This includes both attendance at classes and independent work for the course. According to the ECTS regulations, the workload for all subjects amounts to 30 ECTS credits per semester and 60 ECTS for a year-long course.

Before the student leaves for the partner university, a Learning Agreement is drawn up between the partner university and its coordinators, which stipulates precisely which courses the student is to attend. Any changes to this agreement during the student’s stay must be negotiated by with the two coordinators. After returning to their home university, the students’ performances will be judged and recognised on the basis of the Transcript of Records. This procedure ensures that the student does not lose any time because of their stay abroad.

Academic Calendar

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<th>Mid October to February</th>
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<td>Summer Semester</td>
<td>Late April to end of July</td>
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Students on exchanges (Erasmus) should submit an application form for registration approximately five months before the start of the course of studies planned. This form should be sent to Referat für Internationale Angelegenheiten. Application forms must reach the University of Erlangen by the following dates (at the latest):

- May 31st for the following winter semester
- November 30th for the following summer semester
Practical Information

Health Insurance

As a rule, all students, including ERASMUS students, are obliged to take out health insurance cover. You should provide evidence for being insured in your home country. Without it, registration with a German university is not possible. Students from member states of the EU do not have to join the German state health insurance scheme, as long as they provide written confirmation (European Health Insurance Card/ Versicherungskarte) that they have comprehensive health insurance cover from their home country.

This card should be confirmed at a local health insurance provider (Krankenkasse), which can be carried out while visiting the orientation courses of the Central office for International Affairs (Referat für Internationale Angelegenheiten).

Banking

We recommend all students to open a bank account (current account/ Girokonto) after their arrival as soon as possible. This is possible at all banks and Sparkassen (communally based banks). A current account enables you to transfer money, and is also necessary for the setting up of direct debit instructions for, for example, paying rent to Student Services, so that your rent is automatically transferred from your account every month.

Students usually benefit from special conditions which are less expensive than those available to other customers. You will find a large number of banks and Sparkassen in every town. The biggest banks in Germany include Dresdner Bank, Hypo-Vereinsbank, Commerzbank, Deutsche Bank (also DB 24), and the Sparkasse group.
Student Matters

Orientation Programme

A specially-designed orientation course (Orientierungskurs – OK course) enables new international exchange and scholarship students to find their feet quickly at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg. With the able assistance of German student tutors and buddies, students are helped to complete the necessary formalities, such as registering with the city of Erlangen or Nuremberg, arranging health insurance, opening a bank account, applying for a residence permit, and registering with the university (Immatrikulation).

In this way we make sure that nothing important is forgotten and that there will be no problems in the future. It is no easy matter to find your way through the jungle of German bureaucracy and authorities on your own!

Every bit as important as being introduced to the German university system, is getting to know the other international students and your German fellow students which is possible at the welcome meetings in the AAA (Akademisches Auslandsamt, i.e. International Office).

The programme is topped off with a guided tour of the city, a trip to the surrounding area and, last but not least, a special reception for new international guests given by the Vice-Rector.

The OK course takes place twice a year, at the beginning of October and of April, before lectures start. Programme students automatically receive the course programme by post or by e-mail in August and February, respectively.

The Law Faculty organizes an introductory day for its exchange students at the beginning of October. Details are available from the law faculty preceding the beginning of term.

The Faculty of Business Administration, Economics and Social Sciences in Nuremberg organizes a separate introductory programme which is adapted to the particular needs of its exchange students. Apart from dealing with formalities, with a helping hand from German ‘buddies’, it also includes specially organised visits to local companies. The main programme takes place over four days. Information is available from the International Relations Office in Nuremberg (Büro für Internationale Beziehungen). Exchange and scholarship students at the Faculty of Education (Erziehungswissenschaftliche Fakultät) in Nuremberg are also welcome to participate in this programme.

When offered for beginning students, introductory sessions, such as, Einführungsveranstaltungen der Studienfächer für Studienanfänger (a general introduction to the German academic system) provide a valuable opportunity to obtain additional information.
Buddy Programme

The International Buddy Programme is an organisation of German student volunteers who want to help visiting students to get adjusted to their new environment. Even if it is not your first time in a foreign country, the idea of living and studying abroad may seem intimidating to you. To make the time before and shortly after your arrival run smoothly, we recommend you to register for this programme.

A buddy is a primary contact person who provides information and guidance to you during your first few weeks in Germany and, if the circumstances allow, during the whole of your stay.

Our buddies are local German students who have usually had the experience of being exchange students abroad before. They will help you to get started in your new hometown and provide insider information about student life in both cities and German culture in general. Being matched to one of our volunteers will almost certainly be a very valuable service for you.

Please do not forget that our buddies are doing their ‘job’ as volunteers, so you cannot demand any assistance from them that exceeds their competencies as a helping hand and contact person. If there are any serious problems (e.g. of a legal nature) your buddy will advise you to contact a member of the International Office staff.

To participate in this programme, just fill out the International Buddy Programme Registration form you got with your information letter and send it back to:

Akademisches Auslandsamt
z.H. Bianca Köndgen
Schlossplatz 3
91054 Erlangen, Germany
Fax: +49 9131 85-26335
Tel: +49 9131 85-24805

Sprachduo

Students looking for a direct language exchange with a German native speaker may be interested in the tandem programme. Sprachduo is the name given to this free programme, which enables students of different nationalities to improve their language skills and get to know German native speakers (or indeed other nationalities) by spending time with a language partner. The idea behind Sprachduo is that you learn from each other’s native language in a social context. Sprachduo can help you to establish initial contact, and then it’s up to you how often you meet and whether the tandem works out!

More information about the Erlangen-Nuremberg Sprachduo can be found on the Sprachduo website:

Sport and Student Organisation

Sports and physical activities at Nuremberg-Erlangen are run through the Institute for Sports Science and Sports in Erlangen (ISS), whilst student organisations are run through the equivalent of a students union.

To check out the extensive list of sports, clubs, and societies the university offers, please go to:

http://www.uni-erlangen.de/studierende/studentenseiten.shtml

Students Tips

Erasmus is full of excitement and adventure, but also uncertainty and nerves. Although the International Education Office in UCC and the Central International Office in Erlangen 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 at Friedrich-Alexander 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 into 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.
- Brings 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.