Universität
Hannover
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The University

In 1831, founded by the scholar Karl Karmarsch, the “Higher Trade School of Hannover” started with only 64 students. Today there are around 21,000 students in natural sciences and engineering, humanities and social sciences as well in law and economics.

The heart of Leibniz Universität Hannover beats in the idyllic Welfenschloss, the Guelph Palace. The year 1879 saw the Higher Vocational School, originally founded in 1831, move into the palace. Later, the Higher Vocational School became the Königliche Technische Hochschule, the Royal College of Technology. More than 2,300 academics and scientists work at the university in 9 faculties with around 160 departments and institutes.

The university's profile, from its beginning, centred on science and technology. In the course of the 20th century faculties for arts and humanities were added, and the formerly independent Teachers Training College was made an integral part of the university.

The International Office

At the International Office, all international exchange activities of the University of Hannover come together. It is their task to coordinate international relations and to develop and implement projects and programs with foreign partners. In addition, they provide advice and consultation for foreign students and prospective students, advices for Germans students who wish to study abroad and implement the ERASMUS program. The International Office at the Universität Hannover is analogous to UCC’s own International Office. If you have any concerns or troubles during your time abroad, please do not hesitate to contact Hannover’s International Office.

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Germany is one of the safest countries in the world. This safety can also be felt by visitors to Hannover. Besides the safety, there are several aspects of Hannover which make it a comfortable city to live in.

Unlike in other regions of Germany, German is spoken in the way as it is written in Hannover. Therefore, the German spoken by the people in the city and area around Hannover is the purest form of German, “Hochdeutsch” with no dialect.

Hannover is the “City of Short Distances.” For many, it offers a wide range of public transport systems including several bus routes and 11 underground railway connections which can all be accessed by students, thanks to the Semester-Ticket which allows unlimited usage of these facilities. Furthermore, it has an excellent bicycle-path-network which is over 500km long and runs through the whole city.

Hannover is the capital of the Federal State of Lower-Saxony and lies in the heart of Germany. All the important transport routes, from north to south, from east to west, may it be roads or rails, go through Hannover. A trip to Berlin, for example, takes about one and half hours with the train while that to Hamburg only takes one hour. In addition, the city is well connected with the world, thanks to its international airport.

In comparison to many other big cities in Germany, one can live in Hannover at a relatively low price. Not only the cost-of-living but also the rent is very moderate compared to other cities in Germany.
Travel

By Plane

There are few direct Irish flights to Hannover. Most will require a layover at some point. One of the most common flight paths taken is from Dublin to Southampton, and ending in Hannover. Another common route is Cork-Stansted-Hannover. Costs for flights vary depending upon the time of year and how far in advance tickets are booked, so be sure to reserve your tickets as early as possible for the best price. From Hannover airport in Langenhagen, take the “S-Bahn” no. 5 to the main station.

Students may fly into Hannover, or take direct flights from Ireland to other German airports, and then utilize train or bus systems to arrive in Hannover.

By Train

Most German cities are connected with Hannover by a direct train route. Arriving in Hannover by train from Hamburg will take approximately two hours, while arriving from Berlin will take approximately four hours.

By Car

Hannover occupies a central location in Germany and acts as a hub for many forms of transportation, including bus systems. Inter-city bus fare in Germany can be expected to cost anywhere between €20 and €40, though the Student Card received after orientation at Hannover will allow students to enjoy reduced rates for many forms of transportation.

Accommodation

Hannover's dormitory places are arranged and assigned by the student services organisation Studentenwerk Hannover. Their website provides information on location, equipment and monthly rent rates. An application for a place in a dormitory can be filled in online or downloaded and sent by mail to the following address:

**Studentenwerk Hannover**  
Abt. Studentisches Wohnen  
St.-Georg-Straße 104 – 107  
18055 Hannover  
Germany  
http://www.studentenwerk-Hannover.de/index.php

It is imperative that students travelling to Hannover seek out accommodation as early as possible. Particularly in Germany, university towns possess limited space for student accommodation. Those who wish to reside in student accommodation must seek it out quickly.
Admissions

For Non-EU Citizens:

Usually, foreigners need a visa to enter Germany. For longer stays you need additionally a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis). You must apply for a visa in your country of origin before you move to Germany. After immigration you must apply for a residence permit at the proper department (Ausländerbehörde) in Hannover. Please make sure NOT to apply for a tourist visa. You will need to apply for a visa that allows multiple entries into the country. Also be aware that accompanying family members will need such documentation as well.

To receive a visa (usually for the purpose of studying) which permits immigration to Germany and stay in Hannover, you must document your financial background ("Finanzierungsnachweis"). Thus, you must prove to the German embassy in your country of residence and to the city of Hannover that you can finance your stay in Germany. The approximate value is €8040 per year, which corresponds to the monthly maximum BAFöG level of €670 (since 01.10.2010). You can document your financial background by performing one of the following actions:

- EITHER starting a blocked account "Sperrkonto" with a value of at least €8040. Note that the amount depends on the duration of your stay. If you are only staying for six months, you will only have to put 6 x €670 in the blocked account. The blocked account will allow you to take out €670 per month max.
- OR presenting a formal commitment ("Verpflichtungserklärung") of a third party (such as your parents) stating to support you with at least €670 per month. The formal commitment must be presented to the German diplomatic representations
- OR presenting documentation of an acknowledged publicly financed scholarship (such as DAAD or from your home university) which support you with at least €670 per month or comparative proves of income (e.g. salary)

For EU Citizens: EU citizens as well as citizens of the European Economic Area do neither need a visa nor a residence permit. They only need to sign and present a statement confirming that they have sufficient financial means. After your arrival in Hannover, you have to register with the city's "Einwohnermeldeamt" as all German students have to as well.

Academics

In German universities a 1 to 5 scale is used to mark students’ academic work:

- 1,0-1,3 sehr gut (very good: an outstanding achievement)
- 1,7-2,3 gut (good: an achievement, which lies substantially above average requirements)
- 2,7-3,3 befriedigend (satisfactory: an achievement, which corresponds to average requirements)
- 3,7-4,0 ausreichend (sufficient: an achievement, which still meets the requirements)
- 4,3-5,0 nicht ausreichend / nicht bestanden (not sufficient / failed: an achievement, which does not meet the requirements)
Libraries

The University Library Hannover (UB) is responsible for providing the science, technology, humanities and social sciences departments at the University of Hannover with literature and information. Materials not in the possession of the library may be requested through the Inter-Library Loan system and acquired through other universities.

The German National Library of Science and Technology (TIB) is the central German specialist library for all areas of technology and its fundamental sciences, especially chemistry, computer science, mathematics and physics. The TIB is one of the world's largest specialist libraries and one of the most efficient document suppliers in its respective specialist fields.

University Library Hannover
Technische Informationsbibliothek / Universitätsbibliothek Hannover
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Tel. +49 511.762 -2268 (Information Desk)
Tel. +49 511.762 -3376 (Lending Desk)
Fax +49 511.762 -4076
E-mail auskunft@tib.uni-hannover.de

Practical Matters

Health Insurance

All foreign students attending a German university or college must have health insurance. Students can insure themselves in two systems in the Federal Republic of Germany: statutory health insurance (GKV) or private health insurance (PKV). Students from EU/EEA countries, which have social insurance agreements with Germany can be exempted from the obligation for health insurance in Germany with proof of health insurance in their country of origin. Students from EU/EEA countries should apply for and receive their European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) as early as possible before travelling to Germany for study.

Foreign students in Germany who are privately insured, but have not yet reached the age of 30, often require a waiver from statutory insurance. After this waiver, however, taking out insurance with a statutory health insurance fund during the study visit is no longer possible.
Acclimation and Immersion

Along with its large variety of student-run clubs and societies, Universität Hannover operates an Orientation Week before the beginning of its autumn semester. This week will provide you with all of the forms you will need to finalize your time abroad in Hannover, as well as provide you with information on living in the city, how to meet new people, etc.

A group of Hannover students is dedicated to support foreign students regarding organisational matters and to accompany them during their stay in Hannover with a wide range of activities. Do get in touch with the Local Erasmus Initiative (LEI) early and to register in their mailing list to get regular information on get-togethers, parties, trips and many more: http://www.lei-hannover.org/.

German Language Courses

The Centre for Applied Linguistics and Special Languages (Fachsprachenzentrum) is a central academic facility which serves teaching and research in the field of special purpose languages and the teaching of special purpose languages within the scope of foreign language teaching for students of all faculties and departments.

Before the semester starts, a four-week language course is offered for incoming exchange students in March and September. It is highly recommended that students avail themselves of these language courses to facilitate their transition to residence in Germany and to make their classes and stay more comfortable.

Sports Facilities

The University Sports Centre - in cooperation with the Student Union Sports Office (AStA) - offers all students and members of the various higher education institutions in Hannover a wide and extensive range of sporting opportunities. During the semester, the sports programme encompasses more than 500 events in over 90 sporting disciplines. The programme is slightly reduced during the non-lecture period.

University Sports Centre

Tel. +49 511.762 -2192 (Service Office)
Fax +49 511.762 -4965
E-mail zfh@hochschulsport-hannover.de
Tips from UCC Students

Academic Matters

- The university system at Hannover is quite different from that of UCC, and can be difficult to understand. Make yourself known to your departmental coordinator as early as you can so that you have a resource available to you should you require aid.
- StudIp is Hannover’s online internet student portal, but it is much more important than Blackboard. Check StudIp as often as you can after you receive your Matrikalnummer, your student number.
- The German language courses are in high demand, and placement for the classes in the early semester is often decided by lottery. You may be made to wait until October for a spot in these courses.
- It might be a good idea to take more of the required 60 credits in the winter semester, so that the second semester has more time for you to enjoy the summer in Germany.

Accommodation

- Student accommodation in Germany is regarded as being of a higher standard than private accommodation. For this reason, student accommodation is difficult to find if one begins one’s search too late.
- The option to request accommodation is provided to incoming students during the pre-departure registration process.
- As a student in Hannover, public transportation will be largely free. This is helpful to those who live further away from the university.

Travel

- Hannover is close to Hamburg, so it is suggested that students flying into Germany use Hamburg’s airport and train station to get to Hannover.
- Hannover is centrally located in Germany, and is a great city from which to depart on travels to the rest of Europe.
- Arriving in September is usually a good idea for students, especially those who want to partake in the intensive German language courses that run before the semester begins.
- If you cannot arrive in Hannover a month before the beginning of the semester, then arrive at least a week before the semester commences.

Bureaucracy

- Keep your passport with you at all times. It can be very difficult to operate within the German bureaucracy without your passport.
- Students should get their European Health Insurance Card well before they depart for Hannover.
- In order to register within your first three months in Germany, you will need your passport, a confirmation of study from Univerität Hannover, and a proof of financial stability. Register with Hannover at the Auslandsbehörde as early as you can.
- German bureaucracy can be difficult to navigate at times. Do not hesitate to contact the International Offices or the departmental coordinators for assistance.

Social

- There are more than enough things in Hannover to make sure that there is always something to do.
- The student accommodation is a great place to make friends. If you don’t live there, find someone who does!
- Eating out in Hannover is slightly cheaper than it is in Cork. Don’t be afraid to ask people out to lunch or coffee.
- The social life in Hannover is widely regarded as one of the best aspects of Erasmus study. Don’t be afraid to keep that tradition going!

General

- Most people will have some grasp of English, but it is better to make an effort to communicate in German. A little show of attempt goes a long way.
- Keep your passport with you at all times. It can be difficult doing things in Germany if you do not have it with you.
- Don’t give up and go home early in the semester. It may feel difficult, but you’ll pull through fantastically. You will love your Erasmus study at Hannover!
- Unlock your mobile phone before you leave Ireland if you want to put a German SIM card in it.
- 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.