Universität Leipzig
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The University

The Universität Leipzig was founded in 1409 making it one of the oldest universities in Germany. It is an interdisciplinary, international comprehensive university.

On its ambitious path to becoming a European top-level university and internationally recognised seat of research and learning for young scholars, the University draws on an extensive range of subject areas. Crossing boundaries of traditional academic disciplines, international collaboration, networking with non-university research institutes and business are not just traditions of the University but are also the basis of its academic excellence.

The University consists of 14 faculties with 128 institutes. 35,000 persons research, teach and study at the university and more than 4,300 persons are employed at the University Hospital of Leipzig. The university offered 136 courses of study in the 2009/10 winter semester. 5,686 doctoral candidates are registered at the UL (2,439 in medicines), 631 of whom are enrolled in 20 structured graduate training programmes (as per the end of 2009). The research potential in Leipzig is fortified by 20 non-university research institutions and five other universities.

As a university steeped in tradition, the UL has always become stronger when emerging from difficult transitions. The phase after the Berlin Wall fell in 1989 was dominated by a virtually complete restructuring of the humanities and social sciences while the life sciences and natural sciences were adapted to new accents in research and teaching. The fundamental reformation of its structures and courses of study was also combined with the opportunity to promote interdisciplinary collaboration from the onset and take advantage of arising synergies.

The UL has been placed as the best university in the New Laender and among the top 25 in Germany in the fourth consecutive year (by the Shanghai Ranking).
International Affairs Office

Thanks to its prominent international profile in teaching and research, the Universität Leipzig is one of the most successful German universities in this area. The Akademisches Auslandsamt (International Centre) plays a key role acting as the interface of all internationalisation processes. The University’s International Office is analogous to UCC’s own International Office. If you have any questions, concerns, or troubles during your Erasmus stay at Leipzig, please do not hesitate to contact the university’s International Office.

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04109 Leipzig
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E-Mail: aaa@uni-leipzig.de

Contact Information

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Student Mobility
Christiane Schmidt
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Welcome Centre
Dr. Annemone Fabricius
Phone: +49 341 97 32039
Email: fabricius@uni-leipzig.de
Leipzig

The city of Leipzig is a centuries-old trading centre as well as a scholarly and cultural centre that has a heritage of international relations, cosmopolitan attitudes and cultivating tradition and tolerance. The major features of Leipzig and the University are a state-of-the-art infrastructure with attractive surroundings where everything is just one step away. A survey of the European Commission indicates that Leipzig is among the three big cities in Europe where life is most worth living while the New York Times calls it one of the top ten destinations.

Leipzig is situated in the east of Germany. With around 500,000 inhabitants it is one of the largest cities of the New Laender. Besides, it is very easy to access by train, plane, or car. During its 840-year-long history, Leipzig developed into a versatile city steeped in culture and traditions. Leipzig is a city of music, literature, education, international trade fairs, economic power (i.e. with a branch of the Porsche AG), and was just recently awarded the title “creative city.” Leipzig is also a very important place in German history. Napoleon was defeated here in the Battle of Nations (1813), and in 1989, the people of Leipzig started the peaceful revolution finally leading to the German Reunification.

The intriguing flair of Leipzig and its great variety of cultural, educational, and science offers have already captivated leading historical figures such as Goethe or Bach. The present German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, too, has started her career in Leipzig obtaining a degree in Physics. Presently, around 40,000 students are enrolled in one of Leipzig’s 7 higher education institutions.
Travel

By Plane

Flughafen Leipzig/Halle (Leipzig/Halle Airport) is roughly 30 minutes drive from the city centre. Deutsche Bahn InterCity and RegionalExpress trains run regularly between the airport station and Hauptbahnhof Leipzig (Leipzig main railway station). If there is no direct flight to Leipzig from your city, we recommend you fly to Berlin (about two hours to Leipzig by train), Frankfurt or Hanover (both about three and a half hours to Leipzig by train). There are regular trains to Leipzig from all three cities.

By Train

Deutsche Bahn InterCity- und InterCityExpress trains link Leipzig with almost all European cities. Hauptbahnhof Leipzig (Leipzig main railway station) – one of the biggest and most beautiful in Germany – is located right in the city centre.

By Car

To reach Leipzig by road, take Autobahns A9 (Berlin - Nuremberg) and A14 (Halle - Dresden).

Accommodation

Private accommodation at the level affordable by most students in Leipzig is generally not preferable to student accommodation. However, as is the case in many German university cities, finding student accommodation can be difficult. It is suggested that students interested in studying at Leipzig begin their search for accommodation as soon as they are able, to ensure that they receive a spot in their preferred accommodation.

If you would like to live with many German and foreign students in a hall of residence run by the Leipzig Student Services (Studentenwerk Leipzig), please apply online directly to the Studentenwerk Leipzig and not to the Akademisches Auslandsamt. As a rule rental agreements for the halls of residence are arranged for at least one year. If you have any questions about a hall of residence, please contact the Studentenwerk Leipzig.

Studentenwerk Leipzig
Address: PO Box 100 928/04009 Leipzig
Office: Goethestraße 6/04109 Leipzig
Central Phone: +49 0341/96 59 5
Fax: 0341/22 52 98 24 E-mail: info@studentenwerk-leipzig.de
Admissions

Applicants from the following countries do not need a visa, but should bring a valid passport with them when they travel to Germany: EU-countries, Andorra, Australia, Brazil, Canada, El Salvador, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Liechtenstein, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland, USA.

All other applicants must obtain a student visa at the German embassy in their native country before traveling to Germany. Please note: it can take as long as two months to process a visa application!

Requirements for a Student Visa:

- Proof of admission to a German university or
- Proof of admission to a Studienkolleg
- Proof of admission to a university-run German language course in Germany
- Proof of admission to a doctoral program in Germany
- And proof of financial support for the first year of study.

Possible Means of Proving Financial Support: Minimum €6420
(Current maximum BAföG rate: €585 x 12 months)

- Scholarship/grant confirmation
- Savings
- Blocked account in Germany with appropriate balance
- Letter or document stating the willingness of a third party to provide financial support, notarized if necessary.

A student visa is valid for 3 months.

Do not -- under any circumstances -- apply for either a tourist visa or a language course visa. These cannot be used to obtain a student resident permit once you have arrived in Germany!
Academics

Libraries

Leipzig University Library is used nationally and internationally because of its precious holdings and extensive special collections. These include medieval and modern manuscripts, incunabulae, the collection of papyri and autographs and the collections of Ostraka and coins.

Leipzig University Library offers its services in 20 buildings, all located near the faculties and the organizations of Leipzig University. Its holdings currently include more than 5.5 million volumes.

The main building, “Bibliotheca Albertina”, is the core of the unified library system. Here is the centre for acquisitions and cataloguing with a central procedure for all branch libraries as well as for inter-library loans. It also houses central technical facilities such as the digitization workshop, the book binding workshop, and the restoration workshop.

Bibliotheca Albertina is additionally the archive library for the entire library system of Leipzig University and the Saxon Academy of Sciences. With its reading rooms, it serves the humanities and the social sciences at Leipzig University.

Leipzig University Library provides printed and electronic media for all students, teachers, and researchers at Leipzig University. It continuously improves its catalogues and its reading areas, assures modern reproduction technology, and offers services in information retrieval for every discipline. Leipzig University Library cooperates closely with libraries in Saxony and other German States as well as internationally.

Students of Leipzig University, are automatically members of Leipzig University Library. Your University card is your library card. Please activate your card at one of the circulation desks either in the main library or in one of the branch libraries.

Your University card will then serve as library card, allowing you to use all library services including circulation.

Computer Room

The university operates several computer pools for student and faculty use. The main pools are located in the Locust Street 26, in the seminary building and lecture hall. For the use of the pool a username and password are provided. Students receive this information upon enrolment at the University.
Practical Matters

Residency Registration

If you will be staying longer than two months in Konstanz 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 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: "Aufenthaltanzeige gemäß § 5 FreizügG/EU"
3. Copy of your personal identity card (please bring the original)
4. Proof of health insurance cover

Counselling

The foreign student’s representation offers counselling and other integration services to International students.
Student 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 Leipzig 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 Germany.

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.
- 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.