Universität Marburg
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The University

Philipps-Universität, which is almost 500 years old, is the oldest and most traditional university in the state of Hessen and considers itself to be a classical university offering a full range of courses with a modern approach. Its broad range of arts and humanities, and its experimentally challenging scientific work, constitute an ideal platform for interdisciplinary cooperation. The university relies on innovative teaching methods (with short course durations) and networked research, and offers students from all over the world a broad range of courses.

While students at Marburg University experience first rate research and teaching, they also enjoy a peaceful environment. Anonymity and overcrowded lecture halls are uncommon at Philipps-Universität. Lecturers and students cherish Marburg mainly because of its attractive historic town centre, its delightful landscape and its wide range of cultural activities. In the city of Marburg, which is located on the banks of the Lahn River and has a population of almost 80,000 inhabitants, practically everything revolves around the university with its almost 18,500 students and 7,500 employees. Those studying at Marburg can complete their studies in many subjects much quicker (saving up to two and a half terms) than is possible at other German universities. This was recently confirmed by the latest survey of the German Science Council.

The city in the country offers students good working conditions. The university buildings are located at two different sites. While the humanities and arts are concentrated in the town centre, most of the science departments and the Department of Mathematics are located in the Lahn Hills, six kilometres from the city centre. This is also where the university hospital and the new building of the Max Planck Institute for Terrestrial Microbiology as well as the biomedical research centre have been based for the last two decades.

Short course durations, outstanding research, qualified training for the next generation and intensive international networking – these highlights distinguish Philipps-Universität, which was founded by Landgrave Philipp in 1527, and is the oldest Protestant university still in existence. But Philipps-Universität offers much more than that: companies support our researchers in the domain of knowledge and technology transfer. And studying at Marburg is particularly easy for disabled people, especially for the visually impaired, due to a number of special aids. As a result, Marburg University has by far the greatest number of blind students. Recently, Philipps-Universität has also been concentrating on measures that provide an even more family-friendly work environment. These self-imposed commitments have been awarded the Family-Friendly University seal, which is very rare in Germany. And last but not least, Philipps-Universität also offers a wide range of leisure activities in the areas of sports, music and culture.
International Student Affairs

The International Office supports and strengthens the internationalization of the University of Marburg – from the daily assistance for students, scholars and professors to the development of strategic plans. 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 Marburg, please do not hesitate to contact the university’s International Office.

Philipps-Universitaet Marburg
International Relations Office
Biegenstr. 10
35032 Marburg
E-Mail: Seip@verwaltung.uni-marburg.de
Phone: +49 (0)6421-28-26176
Fax: +49 (0)6421-28-28998

Contact Information

Nicole Lautier
Support and counselling of international students
Organisation of the Orientation Programmes, certificates

Biegenstrasse 10, Room 02011
Telephone: (++49) 06421 28 26246
Fax: (++49) 06421 28 28998
Email: nicole.lautier@verwaltung.uni-marburg.de

International Info Point
Advice and Information for international students, certificates and assistance with formalities, organisation of the Orientation Programme, semester programme, support in searching for accommodation, contact to other places or services

Biegenstraße 10, Foyer
Telephone: (++49) 06421 28 24929
Fax: (++49) 06421 28 24951
Email: studium-international@verwaltung.uni-marburg.de
Marburg

"Marburg - the creative little model city" - that is how a newspaper in Gießen a little enviously titled its portrayal of Marburg’s cultural life. Whether the cultural scene in Marburg is exemplary in every way is something for others to judge.

Indeed, the city is stimulated by an endless and spirited source of creativity and ideas - and that of a broad range; from classical music to off-theatre, from museums and archives to open-air festivals, from literary circles and socio-cultural centres to the multiple prize-winning cinema programme.

Professional patrons of the Arts, broad volunteer involvement and lively public interest ensure continuous and dynamic development of this "creative little city”.

Marburg enjoys an excellent reputation as a university city. Its atmosphere, manageability, variety of academic courses and accessibility for persons with handicaps contribute to Marburg’s special image and high profile.
Travel

By Plane

The University suggests that incoming students travelling by plane arrive at Frankfurt Airport. Frankfurt Airport is the closest airport to Marburg.

Arriving at Frankfurt Airport:

- Pick up your luggage on the arrivals level
- Follow the signs to the Regional Train Station (Regionalbahnhof)
- Buy a train ticket to Marburg/Lahn (approx. 20 Euro) in the Travel Center (Reisezentrum)
- Take the S-Bahn to Frankfurt Main Train Station ("Hauptbahnhof") (approx. 10 min.)
- Change trains to go to Marburg

By Train

The largest train station in Marburg is Marburg Hauptbahnhof, and is the station most students will use if arriving in Marburg by train. Ticket prices vary according to destination, but students arriving via plane in Frankfurt can expect a ticket price of approximately €20.

By Car

If you are coming by car, leave the urban motorway at the "Marburg Mitte" (AudiMax) exit. There is some street parking or you can park in the underground garage at the Lahn Center.

Accommodation

As in other university cities, there is a definite housing shortage in Marburg. We therefore strongly recommend that you therefore apply for a room in a student dormitory before you leave for Germany! The Phillips-Universität does not guarantee that housing will be available for all incoming students. The Marburg Studentenwerk is capable of assisting students in their search for private accommodation.

Marburg Studentenwerk
http://www.studentenwerk-marburg.de/en

Housing Agency
Marion Pauznik
Tel: +49 (0) 6421/296 -145
Fax: +49 (0) 6421 / 296-252
E-mail: wohnen@studentenwerk-marburg.de

Marion Werner
Tel: +49 (0) 6421/296 -144
Fax: +49 (0) 6421 / 296-252
E-mail: wohnen@studentenwerk-marburg.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

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

Phillips-Universität Marburg has a general library as well as an array of departmental libraries, all of which are for student use. The general library may be used by any student, but departmental libraries may require a student to be a member of that particular school before access is granted. Materials that libraries do not possess may be requested and retrieved through the Inter-Library Loan system.

University Library,
Wilhelm-Röpke-Strasse 4, 35039 Marburg
Phone 06421/28-25130
06421/28-26506 fax
auskunft@ub.uni-marburg.de

Computer Rooms

The University’s Regional Computing Centre (RRZK) operates several PC pools throughout the University. Many of these pools are available for student use outside of classes, though some are intended solely for faculty research use and others are used as the location for classes to be taught. While printing may be available at these pools for students, it is suggested that incoming Erasmus students purchase their own printers at an affordable rate to ensure the constant availability of printed documents.

Use of the computer rooms at the University requires an S- or university-mail account, which is given to students upon the completion of their registration at the University. Computer rooms may be reserved for classes or events. If a computer room has been reserved, it is unavailable for the posted time for students not a member of the given event or class.
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

The orientation programme helps future international students to adjust to their life in Marburg. All tutors are students at the university and assist participants with all formalities.

The orientation programme is intended to make your start at the PhilippsUniversität and in Marburg easier. Our group tutors, themselves students of our university, help participants to settle all the formal matters including the required procedures with the authorities. They will show you important places on the campus, e. g. the university library or the cafeteria. A range of enjoyable side-events is also offered within the orientation programme. You will, for instance, have the opportunity to participate in a guided city tour and get to know typical dishes from the home countries of your international fellow students at our International Dinner. The programme costs €30; the fee is to be paid after your arrival in Marburg.

The Philipps University of Marburg offers international students interesting excursions lasting one or more days during the semester. These affordable and partially free events such as city trips and guided tours can improve your understanding of Germany and its culture. Berlin, Heidelberg and Weimar Buchenwald are among others the most popular excursions which take place each year. You can find information about the activities in the current semester here: http://www.uni-marburg.de/international/semesterbegleitend
German Language Courses

At the language centre (Sprachenzentrum) of Philipps - Universität, during the semester, you can take courses in German, English, French, Italian, Spanish, Swedish, Russian and Chinese. Such courses take place once or twice per week (2 to 4 hours per week) and are organised according to the levels of the European Framework of Reference (A1 to C1). For each course completed successfully, you get ECTS credits and a certificate. Philipps-Universität subsidizes the courses at the Sprachenzentrum; their price is favourable for students. Depending on the number of contact hours, they cost between €30 and €85 for the entire semester.

To ensure that every student finds the right course level, placement tests are administered for every language at the beginning of each semester. You can find the relevant dates on the website of the Sprachenzentrum (Lehrangebot Kursorganisation), as well as all the information on how to register for a course. Those who do not have the time to attend a course regularly can improve their language skills on their own via computer at the Selbstlernzentrum (self learning centre): multi-media learning software for training your grammar, vocabulary, listening and reading comprehension makes this possible. And for those who prefer classic techniques, the Selbstlernzentrum offers magazines for language learners, audio CDs and coursebooks to work with, or you can simply go and watch a foreign-language film. In case of questions or technical problems, there is always someone there to help you.

Sports Facilities

The university sports centre (Zentrum für Hochschulsport) offers a wide range of different sports in which all members of Philipps-Universität can participate. Each semester, a brochure is published with information about what is offered and how to join. Registration normally takes place online during the first week of the semester.

You can also find information about the courses on the centre’s website.

Zentrum für Hochschulsport
Bunsenstr. 2, 35037 Marburg
Tel.: 06421 28 23974
www.uni-marburg.de/zfh
Tips from UCC Students

Academic Matters

- The language courses are extremely worthwhile. They count as credits and help you have an easier time in Marburg with the locals.
- The workload at Marburg is similar to the one at UCC, so keep this in mind when planning your timetable.
- Being a student at Marburg is very much self-directed, but do not be afraid to ask for help if you need any!
- If you are going to take the language courses, be sure to get the analysis exam completed as quickly as you can! There is sometimes a rush of people looking to do the same.
- Subjects in German law must be signed up for, as they are not scheduled automatically. Be sure to complete this as soon as you can, as spots tend to fill up quickly.

Accommodation

- Housing must be sought out as early as possible. Finding a place to live is among the most difficult parts of studying in Germany, so be sure to get it done quickly!
- Almost all places to live would be within public transit distance of the University. Places further away from the university are more likely to be on the outskirts of town.
- Extra costs, like internet access, are not often included in the rent for accommodation, so plan your finances accordingly.
- If you stay in the Studentendorf, the student accommodation, you will have plenty of opportunities to meet new people.
- Bed linens are almost always supplied in student and private accommodation.

Travel

- Marburg is close to one of Germany’s main airports and contains one of its main train stations. The city is a great place for those who like to travel.
- Ryanair offers the cheapest flights to Marburg, but book early to ensure a seat. Flights from Ryanair arrive at Frankfurt Hahn, 2 hours by bus from Frankfurt and the train station to Marburg.
- Aer Lingus brings you directly into Frankfurt Airport if you desire a more direct route.
- Your student card will allow to you get some discounts on bus and train tickets in Marburg. Use these for travelling!

Bureaucracy

- You will only need your passport, birth certificate, and a few copies of your passport photograph. Most other forms are provided for you in Germany.
- Call offices before you arrive to be sure that you have all the documentation that you need to provide.
- German bureaucracies can be very strict. Be patient, and you will be fine.
When in doubt: ask. You are expected to care for yourself, but help will be given if requested.

Social

- There are more than enough things in Marburg to make sure that there is always something to do.
- The Studentendorf, student accommodation, is a great place to make friends. If you don’t like there, find someone who does!
- Eating out in Marburg is slightly cheaper than it is in Cork. Don’t be afraid to ask people out to lunch or coffee.
- The social life in Marburg 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 Marburg!
- 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.