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The University

The Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich is commonly known as the University of Munich or LMU and is amongst Germany's oldest universities.

Originally established in Ingolstadt in 1472 by Duke Ludwig XI of Bavaria-Landshut, the university was moved in 1800 to Landshut by King Maximilian I of Bavaria when Ingolstadt was threatened by the French, before being relocated to its present-day location in Munich in 1826 by King Ludwig I of Bavaria. In 1802, the university was officially named Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität by King Maximilian I of Bavaria in his as well as the university's original founder's honour.

The University of Munich has, particularly since the 19th century, been considered as one of Germany's as well as Europe's most prestigious universities; in 2006, it was among the first three German universities to be conferred the title of "elite university" under the German Universities Excellence Initiative, cementing its position as one of Germany's premier universities. In terms of Nobel laureates associated with the university, several illustrious figures include first physics laureate Wilhelm Röntgen, Max Planck, Werner Heisenberg, chemistry laureate Otto Hahn as well as literature laureate Thomas Mann. Other notable alumni also include anti-Nazi activists Sophie and Hans Scholl, the first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany Konrad Adenauer as well as the incumbent Pope Benedict XVI, who was both a student and professor at the university.

The wide range of courses at the LMU comprises around 150 subjects, ranging from law and economics through the social sciences and the humanities to medicine and the natural sciences.

Together with an atmosphere of liberal-mindedness, this attracts a large number of students each year. Currently, more than 46,000 students, about fifteen percent of which are international students from 125 countries, take advantage of the highly differentiated spectrum of courses.

Munich itself is Germany's third largest city and offers ideal conditions for studying and conducting research within a vivid metropolitan yet charming and secure environment. It has a long and impressive history as a hub for research, inventions and higher learning with LMU as the centre and motor of it.

Academic Highlights and Specific Research Opportunities

LMU is constructed around the four pillars of classical academic research: Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences and Medicine. 18 faculties offer the possibility of top-level-research in nearly every academic field except Engineering.

The historic part of the campus mainly accommodates the humanities and is located in the city centre, close to the Bavarian State Library and numerous archives. Interdisciplinary centres of research as the Centre for Language and Literature Studies or the Munich Ethics Referral Centre offer challenging research opportunities.
The International Office

The International Office is the first port of call for students from all over the world who are interested in completing a degree here or just visiting for a semester or a year, as well as for students from LMU Munich who want to spend some time studying abroad.

International Office
Ludwigstr. 27, ground floor
80539 Munich
Subway line U3/6, Universität station, exit Schellingstraße
Phone: +49 (0) 89 / 2180 - 2823
Fax: +49 (0) 89 / 2180 - 3136
Location

Founded in Ingolstadt in 1472 and located in Munich since 1826, the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) is one of the most prestigious universities in Europe and also one of the largest.

LMU’s institutes and research centers are spread throughout Munich, with several buildings located in the suburbs of Oberschleissheim and Garching as well as Maisach and Bad Tölz. The university’s main buildings are grouped around Geschwister-Scholl-Platz and Professor-Huber-Platz on Ludwigstrasse, extending into side streets such as Akademiestraße, Schellingstraße, and Veterinärstraße and the university’s main campus is served by the Munich subway’s Universität station. Other large campuses and institutes are located in Großhadern (Klinikum Großhadern), Martinsried (chemistry and biotechnology campus), the Ludwigsvorstadt (Klinikum Innenstadt) and in the Lehel (Institut am Englischen Garten), across from the main buildings, through the Englischer Garten.

Even though Munich is known best for its annual beer fest, the Oktoberfest, its real charm lies in its qualities as a major cultural centre, with world-famous museums and galleries, theatres and concert houses, and the beautiful landscape around it.

A stroll through the “Englischer Garten” is a relaxing break in studying. With the Alps less than an hour away, skiing and mountain biking skills are easily improved. And visiting one of the city’s famous beer gardens is the perfect way to crown a day filled with stimulating lectures.
Accommodation

Housing

Housing in Munich is both hard to find and more expensive than anywhere else in Germany but still affordable in comparison to Ireland.

Housing is arranged for LMU exchange students from selected partner universities. For all others some subsidized student housing is available. For private housing the city offers a variety of solutions, from student co-ops to rooms in homes.

University housing and International Office assistance

The Studentenwerk (student services) offers limited university housing. The rooms are furnished and cost EUR 200 – 280 with a deposit of EUR 300.

LMU exchange students will be able to apply for housing in the registration process with the International Office.

All others need to apply directly to the Studentenwerk, using their Online Application Form (please select English as your language). If you receive a housing offer, the Studentenwerk will send you information about your room and you need to confirm the reservation. The rental agreement will be signed upon your arrival in Munich. Rent is debited directly from your bank account, so once you arrive in Munich you need to immediately set up a bank account.

The Studentenwerk cannot take special requests for rooms (single, double etc.) into account, and the International Office has absolutely no influence over the selection process. Also, if you get a room you don’t like, you can’t switch it with another student. If the room is unsuitable, you’ll just have to look for private housing.
Travel

As the University is located in the centre of Munich it is very easy to travel around. Also the rail system is well organised and there are good offers for cheap travelling for example the “Bayern-Ticket” which offers travel to any city in Bavaria with up to 5 other people for €28. You can even travel to Salzburg with it, although it is in Austria.

Plane

Direct flights from Cork to Munich with Aer Lingus are available.
**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).

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**

**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 are nominated by your home university for an exchange period at the LMU 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 Munich. You also have the possibility to book a room in a student residence hall in this online application.
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 the 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.

Academics

LMU Munich is divided into 18 faculties which group together major areas of teaching and research. The university has a classical academic profile ranging from the humanities and cultural sciences, law, economics, and social sciences to medicine and natural sciences.

Numerous research centres specializing either in one subject area or crossing the borders of individual disciplines as well as one of Germany’s finest library systems complete the well-differentiated research infrastructure at LMU. The Medical Centre of the University of Munich provides the maximum level of care and the highest standard of treatment and nursing. With 2,300 beds, it is, next to the Charité in Berlin, the largest institution of this kind in Germany.

The diversity of research at LMU Munich depends on close collaboration with research centres far beyond the confines of the university. As a leading German university, it enjoys excellent relationships with renowned partner research institutes.

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 Munich 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 Munich?
Then take part in our orientation course, which offers compact 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 Universität Munchen in the framework of a mobility programme (e.g. Erasmus, Tempus, etc).

**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.

**The University Library**
LMU Munich enjoys an excellent library system. Faculty and students also have access to the Bavarian State Library, the Technische Universität München Library, other local and state LMU partner libraries and the German university interlibrary loan network.

**Universitätsbibliothek (University Library - UB)**
The university’s library system consists of the Main University Library and more than 130 decentralized libraries hosted by the individual faculties. Its total stock amounts to about 6.5 million volumes. The vast majority of the library system’s holdings are listed in the online catalog accessible on the Internet. Whereas the holdings of the decentralized libraries are generally not available for lending, the Main Library houses lending stocks totaling 2.4 million volumes. These include the valuable old inventory of over 3,000 manuscripts and approximately 400,000 old prints up to the publication year 1900, the second largest in the Free State of Bavaria.

**Additional libraries**
Students and researchers at LMU Munich also have access to libraries at other universities and institutes of higher education in Munich as well as to partner libraries and the special libraries our university maintains.

**Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (Bavarian State Library - BSB)**
The Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, known popularly as the "StaBi," contains over 9 million titles and one of the world’s largest and most important rare document collections.
Practical Information

Residency Registration

If you will be staying longer than two months in Munich 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: "Aufenthaltsanzeige 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.

Medical Matters

If you need to go to the doctor your European Health Card is necessary and €10 covers the visit the doctors for the following 3 months.

Medical Center of the University of Munich

In 2009 approximately 500,000 patients were treated as inpatients, outpatients, and daycases at the downtown and Großhadern campuses of the Medical Centre of the University of Munich. Its 45 specialist clinics, institutes, and divisions have more than 2,300 beds at their disposal. There are about 1,700 doctors from a total of nearly 10,000 employees. Research and teaching make it possible to provide the highest medical standard in patient care. In 2009 the Medical Centre received ca. €62 million in third-party funding and since June 2006 has been a statutory public body.
Student Matters

Students Clubs & Social Events

LMU Munich and many other organizations provide a wide range of activities for international students in Munich. This provides a lot of opportunities to get to know the culture and the people of this city and this beautiful region while being in Munich as an international student. On offer are not only entertainment and information events in Munich but also excursions to other cities in Germany and neighbouring countries, guided city tours and much more.

TutoRIA - the LMU Munich tutoring program

TutoRIA is an incentive of the LMU, a group of students organizing trips, information events and a lot of other leisure activities for the international students of the LMU Munich.

You can register for a participation in our events Thursdays from 11:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. in the TutoRIA office:

  TutoRIA office  
  Schellingstr. 9, 2nd floor, room 202 
  Phone: (089) 2180-6298 - only during the public hours on Thursday

Feel free to ask all your other questions at tutor.international@lmu.de!

Munich ERASMUS Students Association (MESA)

MESA is the local section of the ERASMUS STUDENT NETWORK (ESN) in Munich. Their goal is to assist foreign students coming to Munich to study, offering a broad range of activities, parties and sightseeing trips.
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 Munich 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 Munich University.

Academic Matters:
- Take the chance to learn new things.
- Don’t worry if at the beginning you do not understand what is happening in lectures. Everything becomes easier as the year progresses.
- 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.
- Choose an accommodation with other students, especially German ones.
- Bed linen is not usually supplied – a sleeping bag is handy when you arrive, and for travelling.
- For buying bed linen and other household utensils IKEA is very reasonable.
- 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, a good offer is the “Bayern-Ticket”
- Don’t get caught without a ticket for the underground. The fine is very high.
- Buy a bike to get around.

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:
- Visit the Oktoberfest. It’s a must-do.
- Join a club or society.
- Take part in an orientation programme that is advertised on the LMU website.
- 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.
- Don’t use public phones or mobile phones to ring home. Skype is a much cheaper option.
- 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.