Universität Rostock
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The University

It was founded in 1419 by confirmation of Pope Martin V and thus is one of the oldest universities in continental Northern Europe. In Germany, there are only five older universities: Heidelberg (1386), Cologne (1388), Erfurt (1392/1994), Würzburg (1402/1582) and Leipzig (1409).

The city of Rostock and its university became Protestant in 1542. Humanism and Lutheranism were defining characteristics of the university. After the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648), the University of Rostock played only a regional role. When the "ownership" of the university moved from the city to the state (Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin) in 1827, however, things changed for the better. The end of the 19th century saw generous building activity in Rostock's alma mater and the university soon regained its old reputation amongst German universities.

The Faculty of Law was closed in 1951, a Faculty of Agriculture was introduced in 1950 and in 1951 saw the opening of a Department of Shipbuilding (renamed Faculty of Technology in 1963). The University of Rostock was the first traditional university in Germany to open a technical faculty. In 1952, the Faculty of Aviation was opened, but eventually relocated to Dresden.

In 1976 the university was renamed Wilhelm-Pieck-Universität after Wilhelm Pieck, the first president of the German Democratic Republic. The renaming was annulled after the German reunification.

With its 200,000 inhabitants, Rostock is characterised scientifically, economically and culturally by 15,000 students and a work force of 5,000 in the university and university clinic. External funding raised for research rose between 2005 and 2010 by 83% and currently stands above €47 million per year. The University of Rostock is among the ten most founder-friendly higher education establishments in Germany. The regional economy has benefitted from the over 800 start-up companies launched from the university since 1991. Young people from the West of Germany and increasing numbers of foreign students are discovering Rostock as a study location. Students from 99 countries can be found meanwhile on the four campus locations in the city. Since 1991 over €500 million has been invested in the infrastructure of the university.

Tradition and innovation are the trademarks of our almost 600-year history. Today, with 2,200 employees and 15,000 students, the University of Rostock offers fascinating perspectives into nearly all scientific fields. With the four profile lines Life, Light and Matter/Maritime Systems/Aging Science and Humanities/Knowledge – Culture – Transformation, the University of Rostock has at its disposal excellent interdisciplinary research fields in the areas of natural and technological sciences, medicine, life sciences, humanities and cultural studies.
International Affairs Office

At the International Office, all international exchange activities of the University of Rostock 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 Rostock 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 Rostock’s International Office.

International Office
Kröpeliner Straße 29
18055 Rostock
Tel.: +49 (0) 381 498 -1209
Fax: +49 (0) 381 498 -1210
Email: auslandsamt(at)uni-rostock.de

Contact Information

Head of the International Office
ERASMUS Institutional Coordinator
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Advice and support for incoming students
Dörte Hackbusch
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German Studies Departmental Coordinator
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The harbour is the heart of the maritime town of Rostock. Although there may be fewer sailors on the quayside these days, its nautical atmosphere still shapes the character of the town. Since 1991, the town harbour has been transformed into a popular leisure complex with restaurants, theatres and shops. It is also the venue for major events, such as Hanse Sail in August, which attracts hundreds of historical sailing ships and a million visitors.

Rostock also has some remarkable examples of modern and contemporary architecture, including Lange Strasse, which was rebuilt in the late 1950s under the direction of the town's young chief architect, Joachim Näther, and the experimental Hyparschalen buildings created between 1966 and 1972. These include the Teepott restaurant in Warnemünde, the Kosmos restaurant in the Südstadt district and the multi-purpose hall in Lütten, all of which are notable landmarks. At the end of the 1990s, architects Gerkan, Mang and Partner built a trendy shopping mall behind the facade of a former hotel; Danish architect Henning Larsen designed the stark, modernist buildings of the Max Planck Institute near the town harbour, and in 2005 the famous German-American architect Helmut Jahn created the postmodernist Deutsche Med.
Travel

By Plane

The nearest big international airports are Berlin and Hambourg. From Berlin and Hambourg you may go to Rostock by train. Trains run at regular intervals and cost approximately €30.

By Train

The price and discount system of the German Railways (Deutsche Bahn) provides various discounts for early bookers, explained in detail on the German Railway’s website. The general rule “the earlier you book, the cheaper your ticket will be” applies here. Students using the Bahn to arrive in Rostock will arrive at Rostock Hauptbahnhof.

By Car

The best way from Hamburg to Rostock is to drive along the motorway A1 to Lübeck and follow the signs to Rostock from there. After the bypass Lübeck you reach the A20 that takes you directly to Rostock Süd. There, you drive towards Rostock-Zentrum via the district Südstadt and along the road Südring. At the end of the street Südring/Am Vögenteich, follow the signs “Universität”.

Coming from Berlin, you have to leave the city northbound first (general direction: Hamburg, Rostock). Then, you go along the A24 towards Hamburg and follow this direction until you reach motorway junction Wittstock. Turn into motorway A19 there and do not leave it until you reach exit Rostock Ost.

From exit Rostock Ost on, drive towards the city centre (landmark: church spire of St. Petri) and follow the signs “Universität”.

Accommodation

Rostock’s dormitory places are assigned by the student services organisation Studentenwerk Rostock. 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 Rostock
Abt. Studentisches Wohnen
St.-Georg-Straße 104 – 107
18055 Rostock
Germany


It is imperative that students travelling to Rostock seek out accommodation as early as possible. Those who wish to reside in student accommodation must seek it out quickly.
**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

The University Library of Rostock with its 3 divisional libraries and several specialized libraries provides scientific literature and information for research, education and study in all parts of the university. The library’s literature (about 2 Mio volumes) is recorded in the catalogue. Campus-wide access is provided to electronic journals (EZB) and specialized databases (DBIS). The university library owns large special collections of cultural-historical and science-historical old stocks. In the Patents and Standards Centre (PNZ), patent specifications, all DIN norms and regulations as well as the VDI guidelines are at your disposal. In addition, the university archive and the art treasure collection are part of the university library.

Universitätsbibliothek Rostock
Albert-Einstein-Str. 6
18059 Rostock
Tel.: +49 (0) 381 498 8600
Fax: +49 (0) 381 498 8602
Email: ub-sekretariat@uni-rostock.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 Rostock 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 Rostock, as well as provide you with information on living in the city, how to meet new people, etc.

A group of Rostock students is dedicated to support foreign students regarding organisational matters and to accompany them during their stay in Rostock 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-rostock.org/.

German Language Courses

During your studies, you get the opportunity to improve your language skills. The language centre of the University of Rostock offers German language courses as well as other language courses on various levels, alongside your studies, i.e. in addition to your main studies, during the term.

Please consider that these accompanying German language courses are only offered to exchange students and other enrolled students. They are not suitable and permitted for applicants.

Registering for a language course at the language centre requires a placement test and stating one’s enrolment ID. Further details on the offered courses are provided on the website of the language centre.

Language Centre website: http://www.sprachenzentrum.uni-rostock.de/en/

Sports Facilities

The sports facilities of the university sports are open to all students and staff of the University of Rostock, the Academy of Music and Drama and the University of Wismar, Rostock branch. The sports facility offers nearly 100 different sports activities for interested students, almost all of which are free of charge.

Students are able to avail of the facilities and the online registration of guests about 1-2 weeks after enrolment.
Tips from UCC Students

Academic Matters

- Translation courses, found under the Anglistik/Americanistik department, are very useful for achieving a better understanding of German. This has the added benefit of making your classes easier.
- Some departments will also offer German language courses designed to help foreign students understand how German is used in that field. These can also be of great help.
- Classes at Rostock tend to focus on oral presentation and group work.
- You will have to draw up your own timetables for your courses and ensure that your schedule has no clashes. However, this does allow you to personalize your schedule and allows for greater flexibility than you might find at UCC!
- The library facility is great. Make use of it!

Accommodation

- As a student in Rostock, public transportation will be largely free. This is helpful to those who live further away from the university.
- Student accommodation is usually clean, well-kept, and secure. If you intend on staying in student accommodation, be sure to seek it out very early in advance.
- Some accommodation will require you to rent out pillows and sheets, at a cost of €10 to €20 per year.
- Rostock is a fairly small city, so most accommodation will be within an acceptable distance of the university.

Travel

- Rostock is slightly closer to Hamburg than it is to Berlin, but the main benefit of arriving in Hamburg is that a train to Rostock costs only €20.
- Students ought to arrive in Rostock one week before the orientation week begins, at the latest.
- Rostock is connected by train and road with both Hamburg and Berlin, two main hubs of travel for those who want to visit other cities or the rest of Europe.
- Rostock is very far in the north of Germany, allowing students to visit Scandinavian countries with remarkable ease.
Bureaucracy

- Students should get their European Health Insurance Card well before they depart for Rostock.
- Keep your passport on you at all times. It is difficult to do much in Germany without it.
- In order to register within your first three months in Germany, you will need your passport, a confirmation of study from Rostock, and a proof of financial stability. Register with Rostock at the Auslandsbehörde as early as you can.
- German bureaucracy is very rigid and strict with its rules, but very clear on those rules as well. If you encounter confusion, do not be afraid to ask for clarification.

Social

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