



h_da

HOCHSCHULE DARMSTADT
UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

fbeit

FACULTY OF
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



Take-off to Darmstadt

Electrical Engineering and Information Technology
International Master of Science

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Welcome to the University of Applied Sciences Darmstadt, one of the largest universities of applied sciences in Germany.

Located in the neighbourhood of the financial metropolis Frankfurt, surrounded by many high-tech companies, close to medieval and roman towns as well as the great nature areas of the Odenwald and Spessart, Darmstadt is a great place to study, to live and to meet new friends.

With this brochure, we want to provide you with a concise guideline for applying to our University, planning your trip, managing the first few days, succeeding in your studies and last but not least enjoying an enriching student life in Darmstadt.

Welcome to Darmstadt and h_da!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Fromm', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

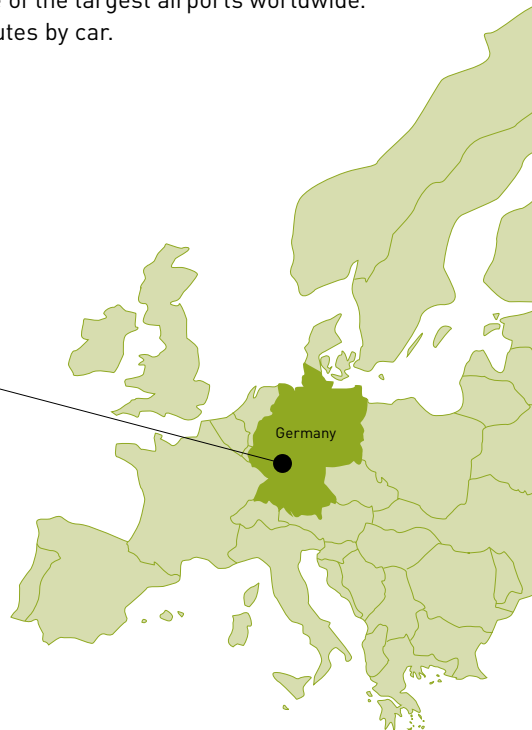
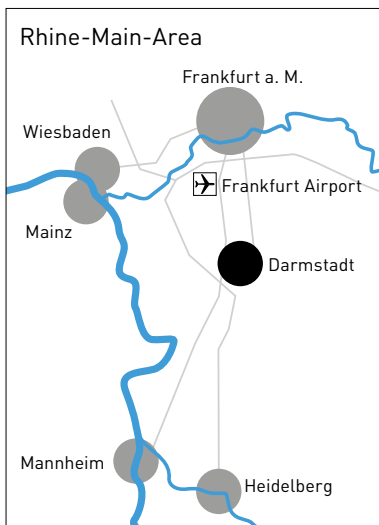
Prof. Peter Fromm
Master Course Director

Germany and Darmstadt at a glance

Some facts about the country and the location

Germany is a federal parliamentary republic in western-central Europe. The country consists of 16 states and its capital is Berlin. The chancellor, currently Angela Merkel, is the head of government. Germany with its 80 million people is the most populous member of the European Union and the largest national economy in Europe. It is and has always been a strong leader in political, cultural and technical fields. Germany is 357,000 square kilometres in area and its climate can be described as temperate seasonal with warm summers and cold winters.

The University of Applied Sciences – Darmstadt (in short h_da) is located in Darmstadt in the federal state of Hesse, situated in central Germany. In 1997, Darmstadt was titled as the City of Science by the hessian ministry of interior, to show the importance of science and research in the city. Three Universities, three Fraunhofer Institutes, two central institutions of European space science and several headquarters of global operating companies with their research centres indicate the importance of the city to the Rhine-Main-Area. It is connected to Europe and the world with one of the largest airports worldwide. Frankfurt airport is only approx. 30 minutes by car.





University of Applied Sciences Darmstadt – facts and figures

The roots of the University of Applied Sciences Darmstadt go back to 1876. Originally founded as an engineering school, it became a University of Applied Sciences in 1971. Together with the Technische Universität Darmstadt we are one of the largest technical education centers in Germany. The mission of the University of Applied Sciences – as stated in our name – is to provide an education focused on industry and applied research, which is highly rated by German recruitment professionals. In technology and design transfer, as well as in cooperative research projects, h_da works closely with scientific institutions and numerous regional companies.

Today around 17,500 students study in 50 different degree programmes in 11 different departments. More than 2,500 students are enrolled in the department of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology – the largest faculty at the h_da.

Travel arrangements

Starting in a foreign country can feel like stepping into the unknown. We have prepared the following checklist for you to facilitate your planning, indicating the most important steps. You can ensure your arrival at h_da goes smoothly by completing all relevant tasks in the checklist below. Please note that we explain all mentioned steps in the checklist in the following chapters in more detail.

Checklist

April

- Mandatory:** Check local visa regulations and prepare paperwork
- Mandatory:** Apply for visa interview
- Mandatory:** Apply for APS interview (if required)
- Mandatory:** Secure necessary financial means, if needed, arrange for a bank loan
- Highly recommended:** Take German language lessons – take the Goethe Certificate
- Highly recommended:** Check the online tutorials provided via KOPLA

May

- Highly recommended:** Register / apply for housing through the online portal KOPLA and return the housing application sheet back to us
- Mandatory:** Pay housing fee (in case you applied for housing through the faculty)

July until August

- Mandatory:** Pay course fee
- Mandatory:** Sign housing contract and send it back to the housing agency
- Mandatory:** Take the online German placement test.
- Mandatory:** Book flight and provide flight details to the administration staff by August 1st
- Mandatory:** Have visa interview and get visa
- Mandatory:** Take out travel insurance valid till Sept. 30th. Your health insurance starts from October 1st
- Highly recommended:** Weekend arrivals and late arrivals: Book bed in youth hostel till September 1st

September

- Mandatory:** Bring cash for the first month with you (approx. € 400-500 – you will have to invest in some books, food and daily expenses and the transfer from the airport to your accommodation)
- Arrival: Our student guides will pick you up at the airport
- Open a local bank account
- Enrolment and health insurance
- Move into your accommodation
- Attend German and technical bridging classes, excursions and intercultural forums

Support Service – Talk to your seniors

Our student guides are here to help and guide you with any questions related to your study at the h_da. Please note, that this email address will only be valid starting in April/May to September (as announced via KOPLA):

msetutors.fbe@h-da.de

Furthermore, we recommend that you register with the student's Facebook page / WhatsApp group to exchange information and meet other students coming to the h_da.

Information will be provided by our student guides in April or May.

Preparing your documents

Visa

In order to study in Germany international students need a student residence permit. You have to apply for a student residence permit with the German diplomatic representation in your home country before you come to Germany. Commencing your studies without a student residence permit is not allowed.

A tourist visa, business visa, etc. is not sufficient!

When applying for a visa, you will have to present your letter of admission, as well as proof of sufficient funds to pay for your studies and your living expenses in Germany. If you have further questions regarding your visa application, please contact the German diplomatic representation (embassy, consulate) in your country of origin.

In addition, you may check the following link:

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/visabestimmungen-node>

APS

For some countries, e.g. China and others we require an additional APS certificate. Please check this beforehand with your local embassy.

For Chinese students – please check following link for further information:

www.aps.org.cn/web/studium-in-deutschland

Travel Insurance

Before travelling to Germany you have to take out a travel insurance policy which will cover any health issues during the month of September.

Note that

- You have to take out the travel insurance in your home country which should be valid till the end of September to cover the time of the pre-courses which are not covered by the German health insurance.
- The student health insurance cover begins with the start of the semester on October 1st.

Insurance Provider:

- Allianz Insurance of your country
- All Airlines

Budget

Blocked Bank Account / Loan

When applying for a visa, you will need proof of sufficient funds for your study. This is usually a blocked bank account or loan. Please make sure to arrange this in time. For the costs of living, you may download an official letter from the University.

Information material: <https://mse.h-da.de/admission/prepare-your-stay/> → Visa and Bank Loan

Initial Budget

During the first few days, you will have to pay for many things in cash. We therefore recommend bringing a first month's budget of about € 400 - 500.

Then you will need approx. € 1,000 per month.

Scholarships

The University of Applied Sciences does not provide any scholarships. All expenses have to be carried out by the students.

Student jobs

Since we offer a full-time course of study you will not be able to finance your studies by working.



Preparing your study

Technical preparation

The master course at Hochschule Darmstadt is based on the bachelor standards of h_da, which is a bachelor of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology. This implies, that software development plays a significant role in our study programme. In order to keep up with the course right away it is highly recommended to do some preliminary work.

Please check the recommendations on:

<https://mse.h-da.de/Our-Service/Technical-Bridging-Classes>

German language skills

Living in Germany requires knowledge of the German language. Although all classes and exams will be held in English, you will need the German language to get around in Germany. Especially at work you will need German as it is often the only language of communication.

Therefore, all MSE students must participate in mandatory German classes offered by the University especially for them. Students' proficiency level will be appraised via an online placement test prior to their arrival.

Although it is not mandatory, we strongly recommend students to use the time before they come to Germany to learn German.

Especially those who cannot make it in time for the 1st of September have to start with own studies beforehand to keep up with the other students who are taking part in intensive classes in September.

Some hints for preparing German

- The Goethe Institut offers high quality language courses
- Check the website of the Deutsche Welle www.dw-world.de and select “Learn German” at the top. Choose one of the following courses:
 - Deutsch Interaktiv
 - Mission Europe
 - Deutsch, warum nicht?

For further information please follow the link:

<https://mse.h-da.de/Our-Service/German-Classes/>

Accommodations

Students in Germany usually live in off-campus accommodations. There are several student halls of residence in Darmstadt and surroundings. Darmstadt is a university town with tens of thousands of students. Since accommodation is very limited it is absolutely necessary to make enquiries as early as possible. You need to have your room before arriving in Darmstadt. As we know, it is very difficult to organise a room from a foreign country, we help our international students by approaching housing agencies and establishing the contact between landlord and tenants. The accommodation can be rented for 2 semesters. A limited number of double rooms are available. Each of the tenants will get his / her own contract.

Residence halls of the Studierendenwerk in Darmstadt:

<http://studierendenwerkdarmstadt.de/wohnservice/wohnheime/>

Residence hall LAB - Berliner Allee 6

Shared accommodation with 2 to 3 bedrooms

Rent per room: 310 € to 386 € per month

<http://studierendenwerkdarmstadt.de/wohnservice/wohnheime/berliner-allee/>

Residence hall Karlshof new construction site - Alfred-Messel-Weg 4

Shared accommodation with 3 to 4 bedrooms

Rent per room: 365 € to 386 € per month

<http://studierendenwerkdarmstadt.de/wohnservice/wohnheime/karlshof/>

Residence hall Karlshof - Alfred-Messel-Weg 6-10

Shared accommodation with 2 to 6 bedrooms

Rent per single room: 334 € to 384 €

Rent per double room: 297 € to 277 € per month (per person)

<http://studierendenwerkdarmstadt.de/wohnservice/wohnheime/karlshof/>

Residence hall fair - Nieder-Ramstädter-Straße 122-128A

Shared accommodation with 2 to 5 bedrooms

Rent per room: 345 € to 379 € per month

<http://studierendenwerkdarmstadt.de/wohnservice/wohnheime/wohnheim-fair/>

Residence hall rest - Riedeselstraße 62-64

Shared accommodation with 2 to 3 bedrooms

Rent per room: 297 € to 346 € per month

<http://studierendenwerkdarmstadt.de/wohnservice/wohnheime/riedeselstr/>

Residence hall of Quartier56 in Dieburg:

Residence hall Quartier 56, Alzheimer Straße 56-58

Group units with 4 to 6 bedrooms

Rent per single room: 300 € per month

Rent per double room: 240 € per month (per person)

<http://www.quartier56.com/>

Residence halls of HEAG in Darmstadt Eberstadt

Residence hall in Darmstadt-Eberstadt

Shared accommodations with 3 to 4 bedrooms

Rent per room: 260 € to 420 € per month

All rooms are furnished

<https://www.bauvereinag.de/kunde-werden/angebote-fuer-studenten>

All rooms are furnished with a bed, wardrobe, desk and chair. Kitchen and bathrooms are shared with other students on the floor. All residences offer internet access.

We try to consider but cannot guarantee the preferences on the application sheet.



Dormitory in Darmstadt-Eberstadt

Applying for an accommodation

The housing **application process** is described on our KOPLA portal in Step 4 Housing / Accommodation. Please read the instructions thoroughly and apply and pay the housing fee prior to the deadline.

Only if you applied and paid your fee on time are you entitled to a room.

The deadline of the **application and payment process** is described on the KOPLA portal Step 4 Housing / Accommodation.

The housing fee covers the first rent, the deposit and a service charge and is non-refundable. Please make sure that all transfer costs are carried out by your bank. International transactions take up to ten days before the amount is received on the recipient's account.

By mid-July you will be informed by the faculty via e-mail about which housing agency you have been assigned to.

Decline offered housing

Please note that you will only get one offer of accommodation. If you choose to decline the accommodation you are offered, you will not be able to receive housing from the faculty again.

Important contract information

The rental period always starts on September 1st as a fixed date. Rooms are rented by a period of 11 or 12 months depending on the contract of the specific housing agency; the contract does not extend automatically. You cannot rent a room of the faculty contingent for more than two semesters. It is intended for single occupancy. Subletting or sharing rooms will lead to immediate termination of the contract.

Please note: There is no cancellation policy once the rental contract has started. Rent includes Internet, water, heating and electricity.

The deposit amounts approximately to one month's rent, which will be returned according to the regulations of the housing contract.

The first rent and the deposit will usually be transferred by the faculty.

Family rooms / rooms for couples:

Affordable accommodation for couples or families is scarce in Darmstadt. Please note that we only have a very small number of double rooms with the different housing agencies. In case you have a family or a partner who will not study at a University we advise you to look as early as possible for a room or apartment for your family.

Moving in

Please note that you can only move in into your accommodation from Monday to Friday during business hours of your housing agency. It is not possible to move in on Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays. Make sure to book a room in a youth hostel in Darmstadt or Frankfurt well in advance.



Dormitory in Dieburg

Arriving in Darmstadt

Before you arrive in Germany you will get some information about the weeks to follow.

When you arrive at the airport you will be picked up by our student tutors. They will be at your side to help you with the next steps. You will be accompanied and guided by them. Therefore it is very important to transmit your flight details to the student tutors. You will receive their contact details.

They will accompany you to the University to get the health insurance and to enrol as well as to the bank to open a bank account. They will also help you to register with the city. This has to be done within the first seven days of your arrival. You will get all the necessary information during the enrolment procedure. You will also receive information about the introduction, excursions and courses you are expected to attend during the first few weeks.

All dates, events will be published in a timetable which can be downloaded from the University website (available around August):

<https://mse.h-da.de/admission/downloads/> → Semester Information

Immatriculation

The following documents are required for enrolment at Hochschule Darmstadt:

- Your letter of acceptance
- Your original bachelor degree
- Your original TOEFL/IELTS score report
- Your health insurance certificate purchased from a statutory German health insurance provider
- Your passport

Health Insurance

Health insurance in Germany is mandatory. Without a valid health insurance, enrolment is not possible. Therefore we help you when you arrive in Germany to obtain a German health insurance policy.

Please note that the health insurance has to be valid also during the period of your thesis and you have to be insured as well when doing your thesis abroad.

To get further information about this topic please follow:

<https://mse.h-da.de/our-service/arrival/> → Health insurance

Travelling from the Airport to Darmstadt

You have different possibilities to travel from Frankfurt Airport to Darmstadt. h_da is within 10 minutes walking distance from the main station.

Train

Travelling by train takes approx. 45 minutes between the airport and Darmstadt main station. The major German railroad company is Deutsche Bahn (DB). Note, that there is a railroad station within the airport complex (underground level). You will probably have to take a train to Frankfurt main station and from there to Darmstadt. Fare is approx. € 15.00.

To get further information please follow:

<https://www.bahn.com/en/view/index.shtml>

Airliner

A regular airport shuttle bus service is available between the airport and Darmstadt main station.

Please check: <https://www.heagmobibus.de/de/airliner>

Early arrival

Please note, that all rooms will only be available as of 1st of September. In case you arrive earlier, you will have to organise accommodation by yourself until September 1st.



The month of September

Part of the challenge of University life in a foreign country is learning how to manage your time to fit the demands of your course. You will find that different courses have different work patterns, in terms of both, the kind of work and how many hours of formal teaching and personal study is required. The technical preparation ensures that you are up to this challenge.

After you have successfully enrolled, prepared your paper work and recovered from your jetlag, the September programme will start. The official welcome reception and a rally through Darmstadt are the first highlights. You will start to attend the German classes to learn the first German phrases such as "Guten Tag". In addition, you will participate in a three day intercultural forum, helping you to get around in Germany. Living in Germany, studying in Germany and working in Germany are the three subjects of this very interactive event. Excursions to Heidelberg and Bonn will provide you with impressions of the cultural and historical background of Germany. The journey will take you from the prosperous time of the medieval age and finally to the Second World War and the birth of the German democracy.

Technical bridging classes will help you to prepare yourself for the classes, which will start early in October.

We look forward to seeing you in the autumn!

Contact Points

Master Course Director

Prof P. Fromm

peter.fromm@h-da.de

Office D16/309

Ms. Heike Mihr (Admission)

heike.mihr@h-da.de

Office D16/408

Ms. Sabine François (Accommodations)

sabine.francois@h-da.de

Office D16/407

Student Service Center (Enrolment)

Ms. Ruth Dunn

ruth.dunn@h-da.de

Office C10/ZG/31

Student Guides

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www.eit.h-da.de/mse