WELCOME TO UNIVERSITÄT HAMBURG!
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GUIDE
DEAR PROSPECTIVE STUDENT,

So you want to spend a semester—or perhaps do your entire degree—abroad. We would like to congratulate you on a decision that will change your view of the world, your life, and you. This brochure will help you take the next step: choosing the right place. Let me tell you why Universität Hamburg—North Germany’s largest educational and research institution—should be your top choice:

1. Universität Hamburg combines a broad course spectrum with excellent research. We offer a comprehensive range of subjects, from ancient Greek to zoology. Our researchers pursue interdisciplinary projects and collaborate with partners all over the world.

2. Universität Hamburg has a highly diverse student body, with around 42,000 students from different countries and a variety of interests, talents and biographies.

3. Because Universität Hamburg values this diversity, we offer every student individual support. PIASTA, the Universitätskolleg, the Campus Center and other advising and counseling services provide all students with the support they need to study successfully.

4. Our campus is centrally located. If you study in Hamburg, you are but a stone’s throw from the city center, the idyllic Alster Lake and Hamburg’s “in” districts with countless cafés, bars, and small shops. Discover for yourself how much the city has to offer!

5. Universität Hamburg is a sustainable university. We are committed to sustainable research and all of our faculties have taken great strides towards sustainability in research and teaching. Universität Hamburg assumes social responsibility and encourages its members to do so.

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Dieter Lenzen
President of Universität Hamburg
Established on 28 March 1919 by the Hamburg State Parliament, Universität Hamburg is the first democratically founded university in Germany. In 1911, entrepreneur Edmund Siemers endowed what would later become the University’s Main Building located in the city center. His mission statement, “To research, to teach, to educate and form,” is still engraved above the main entrance. Universität Hamburg remains committed to these principles and sees research and teaching as inseparable pursuits. Their interaction makes sustainable education possible.

SUSTAINABLE SCIENCE AND SCHOLARSHIP

Universität Hamburg is committed to the idea of sustainable science and scholarship. The Center for a Sustainable University functions as an academic platform for interdisciplinary ideas and processes in the area of sustainability. It focuses on how research and teaching can rise to the challenges of environmental and social sustainability and how to shape sustainable forms of teaching and learning. For more information visit the Center’s website: WWW.NACHHALTIGE.UNI-HAMBURG.DE/EN
The University focuses on the following key research areas:
- climate, earth and environment
- photon and nanosciences
- manuscript culture
- neurosciences
- structural systems biology and infection research
- particle physics, astrophysics and mathematical physics
- health economics

Universitätskolleg: Funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the Universitätskolleg focuses on the transition from secondary school or work to academic study. It bundles tutorial and interdisciplinary activities for students in order to improve students’ academic aptitude and pave the way for a “general studies” program. In the second phase of funding it will extend its scope to include projects supporting advanced students. This will ensure student success from enrollment through graduation.
WWW.UNIVERSITAETSKOLLEG.UNI-HAMBURG.DE

Center of Academic Expertise
As North Germany’s largest and most diverse center of research, the University’s research spectrum includes a wealth of individual achievements as well as interdisciplinary cooperation. Two of its most outstanding projects are part of the federal excellence initiative:

CLiSAP: Cluster of Excellence Integrated Climate System Analysis and Prediction, dedicated since 2007 to the pressing topics of climate and climate change. Together with other research institutions in Hamburg, it forms the "Klima Campus".
WWW.UNI-HAMBURG.DE/EN-CLISAP
WWW.KLIMACAMPUS-HAMBURG.DE/START/

Universität Hamburg is additionally part of strong partnerships such as PIER: Partnership for Innovation, Education and Research together with DESY—Deutsches Eleckronen-Synchroton. Both institutions also cooperate with the Max Planck Society at the Center for Free-Electron Laser Science (CFEL), a unique institution in Europe conducting research on—and using—the next generation of light sources.
WWW.CFEL.DE
OUR PROGRAMS

Universität Hamburg offers bachelor’s and master’s degrees in virtually every subject. Bachelor’s programs are generally three years (six semesters) leading to a BA (Bachelor of Arts degree) for subjects in the humanities or BSc (Bachelor of Science degree) for subjects in the natural sciences. Students wishing to enroll in a two-year master’s (MA/MSc) program must have completed a bachelor’s degree or equivalent.

INTERNATIONAL AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

Several consecutive master’s programs as well as other post-graduate programs have an international approach and are taught either partially or entirely in English, such as the Master in Business and Sustainability; the European Master in Law and Economics; the Erasmus Mundus Master’s in Journalism, Media and Globalisation; the Master of Politics, Economics and Philosophy; the MSc in Integrated Climate System Sciences; and the MSc in Mathematical Physics. A number of joint degree programs are currently being developed.

FACULTIES AND DEPARTMENTS

Universität Hamburg’s eight faculties offer over 66 bachelor’s and 85 master’s degree programs. All degree programs offered by Universität Hamburg are listed in our electronic program guide with a detailed description of each program as well as information about career prospects, program structure, and student orientation. Podcasts about certain courses are also online.

WWW.UNI-HAMBURG.DE/ENGLISH-MASTER-PROGRAMS
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND SERVICES

STUDYING AT UNIVERSITÄT HAMBURG

PURSUE A DEGREE AT UNIVERSITÄT HAMBURG

Prospective international students interested in pursuing a degree at Universität Hamburg can find detailed information and contact details at the Campus Center. The Center provides online information about applying, admissions, and studying. WWW.UNI-HAMBURG.DE/IA

DOCTORAL STUDENTS

International students with a master's degree or equivalent may enroll in a doctoral program at Universität Hamburg. To be admitted as a doctoral student, candidates from abroad must find a professor from Universität Hamburg to act as their supervisor and be approved for doctoral studies by the department in question. WWW.UNI-HAMBURG.DE/PHD

INDEPENDENT STUDY ABROAD

Foreign students who would like to add a stay abroad to their studies at their home university may spend up to two semesters at Universität Hamburg as so-called free-movers. Free-movers take courses without pursuing a degree or studying through a partnership or exchange program. Free-movers must be enrolled in a degree program at their home university and must find a faculty member in the respective program at Universität Hamburg to supervise their academic program throughout their stay. WWW.UNI-HAMBURG.DE/GUEST-STUDENTS
The Erasmus+ program is a great way to gain valuable experience abroad by studying in another European country. Students who want to study at Universität Hamburg through the Erasmus+ program should apply to the Erasmus coordinator at their home university. For advice on enrollment, please contact the Erasmus program officers in Universität Hamburg’s academic departments. Detailed application information is online at: www.uni-hamburg.de/en-erasmus

Central Exchange Program
Universität Hamburg offers student exchange programs, for example, with Johns Hopkins University and the University of California Berkeley/USA, National Taiwan University, Stellenbosch University/South Africa, the University of Calgary/Canada as well as with Macquarie University/Australia and Fudan University/China. Students nominated by their home university can spend one to two semesters in Hamburg. More information at: www.uni-hamburg.de/en-central-exchanges

Funding
Hamburg State Stipends
The Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg provides financial aid to international students. The merit scholarship program targets international students with outstanding academic records. These candidates can apply for a one-year stipend. In addition, the recipient is expected to contribute actively to the internationalization of Universität Hamburg. International students can also apply for degree completion scholarship during the final phase of their studies. This stipend is awarded for a maximum of twelve months.

External Stipends
There are many foundations and organizations offering stipends to students wishing to study in Germany. Criteria for financial support vary from organization to organization. These range from outstanding academic performance, subject, academic goals, and study location to birthplace and need. Financial support is often connected to a foundation’s own program aims or areas of interest. Other organizations grant stipends to students from certain countries or for special doctoral and research projects.

www.daad.de/deutschland/en/
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
The Department of International Affairs is responsible for cooperation with international universities, welcomes international students and academics to Hamburg, and coordinates exchange programs with its partners. The department develops strategic measures to reach the goals laid out in the university’s internationalization strategy. Universität Hamburg is a member of several international higher education organizations and has signed the National Code of Conduct on Foreign Students at German Universities.

www.uni-hamburg.de/international-affairs

CAREER CENTER
The Career Center assists with the transition from university to professional life. Students, alumni, and young scholars can creatively and decisively lay the groundwork for a career in Germany.

www.uni-hamburg.de/en/career-center

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT

CAMPUS CENTER
Current and prospective students as well as applicants will find all the information they need at the Campus Center, from dates and deadlines to program-specific information.

www.uni-hamburg.de/en/campuscenter

INTERNATIONAL GUIDE
The online portal International Guide takes international prospective students step by step through the application process and first phase of their studies at Universität Hamburg. The International Guide contains important information about preparing and starting studies at Universität Hamburg, including all organizational steps, and about life in Hamburg.

www.uni-hamburg.de/stepbystep
PIASTA INTERCULTURAL LIVING AND LEARNING

PIASTA is an intercultural program coordinated by the Department of International Affairs and Universitätskolleg. It promotes internationalization and cultural exchange at Universität Hamburg and provides assistance to both German and international students. Its Welcome and Culture Program encourages students to discover the University, Hamburg, and the entire world in all of its cultural diversity.

WWW.UNI-HAMBURG.DE/EN/PIASTA

International Welcome Week: The PIASTA Team invites all international and German first-year students to its International Welcome Week.

WWW.UNI-HAMBURG.DE/EN-WELCOME

Language Tandem: The Tandem Service organizes partnerships to assist language learning.

WWW.UNI-HAMBURG.DE/EN-TANDEM

CIC—Certificate Intercultural Competence: CIC highlights commitment to extracurricular and cross-cultural activities in addition to regular academic pursuits.

WWW.UNI-HAMBURG.DE/EN-CIC

Welcome Buddy Program: Buddies help newly enrolled international students get a good start with their studies and everyday life in Hamburg and at the University.

WWW.UNI-HAMBURG.DE/EN-WELCOME-BUDDY

To-dos brochure: This guide for new students contains information about living in Hamburg, registering with the authorities, obtaining a study-based residence permit, health insurance, setting up a bank account, enrolling, and starting studies.

WWW.UNI-HAMBURG.DE/NEWSTUDENTS

ACCOMMODATION

Since the demand for housing in Hamburg is very high, students should start looking for accommodation before being admitted.

WWW.UNI-HAMBURG.DE/ACCOMMODATION
HAMBURG: GERMANY’S GREAT PORT CITY

Hamburg is the second-largest city in Germany with 1.8 million citizens and is also one of Germany’s 16 federal states. Due to its location on the River Elbe linked to the North Sea, it has had a long tradition as the cultural and commercial center of North Germany.

Commercially, the Free and Hanseatic City is known as the media capital of Germany and is a leader in the shipping and transportation industries. Culturally, the city is home to, among other things, the leading ballet company in Germany, an opera house, numerous musicals, and a yearly film festival.

As far as action and fun go, Hamburg is the place to be. The Reeperbahn, known not only to sailors worldwide as the “Sin Mile”, has numerous bars, cafés, and discos as well as many other interesting sites not to be seen elsewhere. The Kiez, as the natives call it, even gave the Beatles their start in the early 1960s. Fortunately, Hamburg’s many parks and green areas provide the opportunity to relax and recover from the city’s active side. Moreover, the city’s innumerable canals invite you to spend some time sailing, rowing, or kayaking.

WWW.ENGLISH.HAMBURG.DE