



Settle In & Succeed

Pre-Arrival Web-Seminar for New International First-Year Students

Winter Semester 2026/27

Team International Degree-Seeking Students

Your point of contact

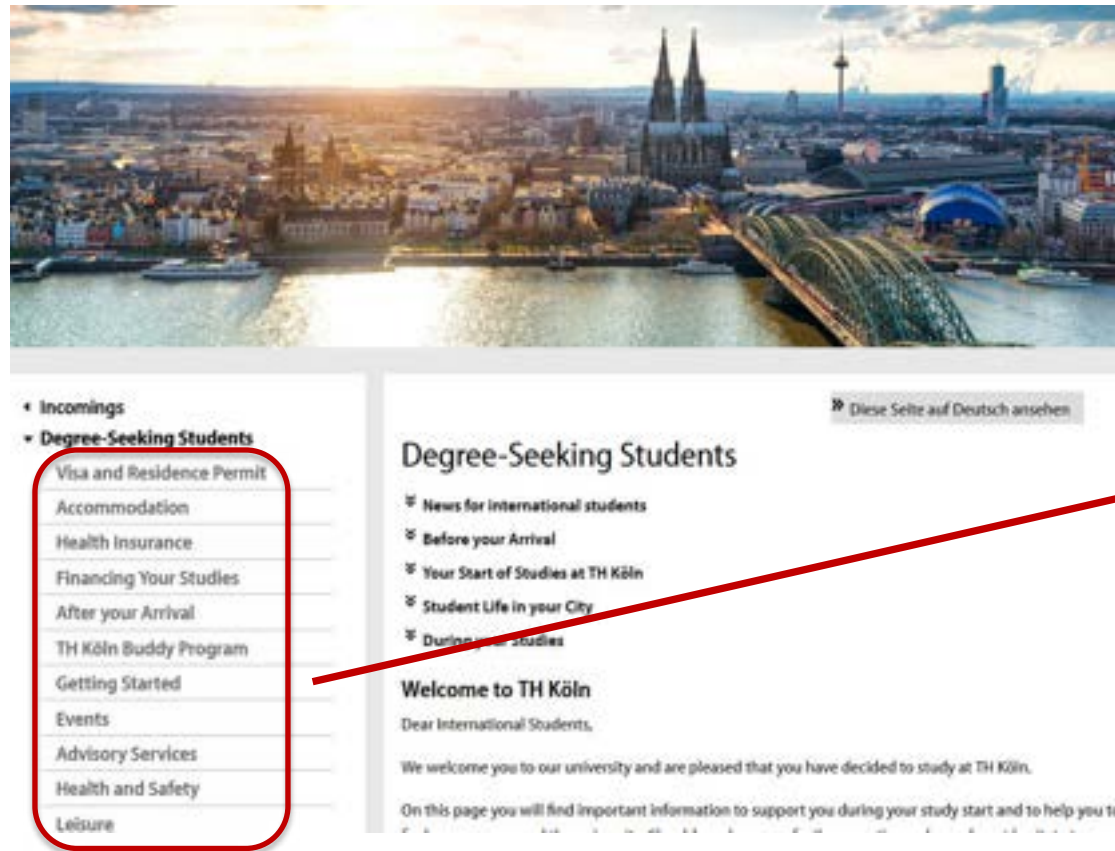
- Orientation at TH Köln and in Germany
- Right of residence/immigration office
- Financing your studies
- Housing/Accommodation
- Health insurance
- Challenges during your studies



If we do not have the answer to your question, we will also support you in finding the right contact persons.

For Starters

Have a look at our website



Visa and Residence Permit

Accommodation

Health Insurance

Financing Your Studies

After your Arrival

TH Köln Buddy Program

Getting Started

Events

Advisory Services

Health and Safety

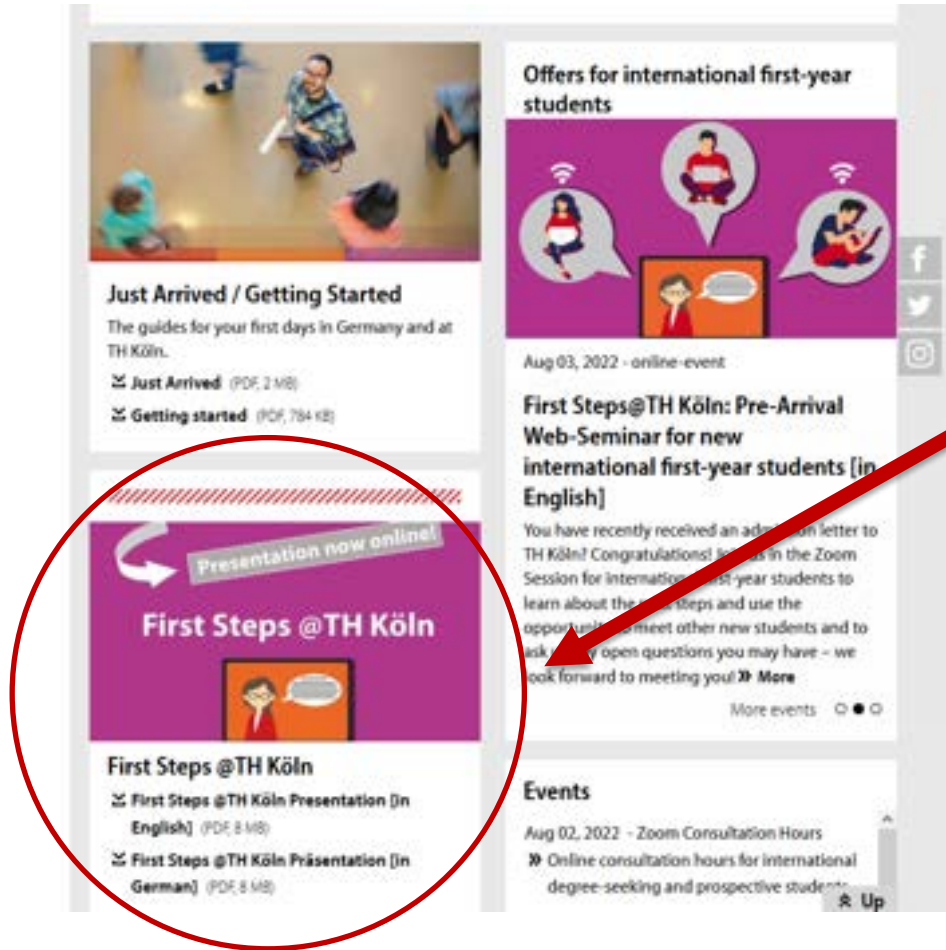
Leisure



www.th-koeln.de/international-first-year-students

First Steps @TH Köln Presentation

Available for download



th-koeln.de/international-first-year-students

Events for You

Keep your eyes open!

International / Incomings / Degree-Seeking Students / Events

- ◀ Incomings
- ▼ Degree-Seeking Students
 - Visa and Residence Permit
 - Accommodation
 - Health Insurance
 - Financing Your Studies
 - After your Arrival
 - TH Köln Buddy Program
 - Getting Started
 - ▶ **Events**
 - Advisory Services
 - Health and Safety
 - Leisure

Subscribe to AStA events
for more networking events such as game nights, get-togethers, picnics, movie nights, etc.
➔ [AStA events](#)

Workshops

Culture

Get-together

Events

» Diese Seite auf Deutsch ansehen

Events for International Students

Discover our diverse events designed especially for international students! Look forward to informative web-seminars, hands-on workshops, and interesting company visits. Do not miss this opportunity to enrich your studies with valuable experiences. We are looking forward to seeing you!

- ✂ Web-Seminars and Events
- ✂ Workshops "Application Training and German Work Culture"
- ✂ Workshops "Academic Writing and Communication"



[Link](#) to events overview

International Degree-Seekings

Digital Info Sessions



Nov 04, 2026 - Web-Seminar for international students

Student jobs in Germany - finance your studies and get ready for your career [in English]

Germany offers a big variety of job opportunities for students. Of course you can work in a bar or deliver pizzas. But you also can work in jobs related to your studies to get relevant work experience, which can be a good kick off for your career. Join our web-seminar for more information. » **More**



Nov 18, 2026 - Web-Seminar for international students

Residence Permit for Study Purposes and the Immigration Office [in English]

Are you an international student at TH Köln with a student visa or a residence permit for study purposes? Learn more about your obligations, the immigration office, and helpful tips for extending your residence permit. Stay informed and we'll be prepared—we look forward to seeing you! » **More**

International Degree-Seekings

Digital Info Sessions



Nov 24, 2026 - Web-Seminar for international students

Intercultural Skills for Studying in Germany [in English]

Our interactive web-seminar prepares you to understand cultural differences in everyday university life and to avoid unclear situations. Gain practical insights into topics such as direct communication, taking self-initiative, interacting with professors, and the role of rules. Register now! [» More](#)



Dec 08, 2026 - Web-Seminar for international students

Side Jobs for International Students – Know Your Rights and Responsibilities [in English]

Do you want to work in Germany while you study? In our web seminar "Side Jobs for International Students - Know Your Rights and Responsibilities" you will get important information about your employment rights in Germany. Find out more about working hours, tax and social security obligations so that you are optimally prepared. We will support you! [» More](#)

Ready, Study, Go



- Support for your academic success
- Preparation for the German labor market
- Web-seminars and workshops on study financing, academic writing, student jobs, job application trainings and German work culture...
- Networking events with companies in Cologne and the region: Company visits, career fair, employer breakfast...
- Career counselling

 www.th-koeln.de/ready_study_go

 [Ready, Study, Go @TH Köln](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ready-study-go-at-th-koeln)

Contact: ready_study_go@th-koeln.de / open office hours: Mondays 10am - noon, Deutz Campus (ZN 2-2)

Consultation Hours



On campus (Deutz, Gummersbach, Südstadt)

← After your arrival...



Online



By telephone

Need more time?
Sensitive matter?
**Schedule an
individual appointment**

Let's stay connected!

Our communication channels



Stay tuned on Instagram:
@thkoeln_international



Feel free to contact us and
watch out for emails from us:

international-degree-seekings@th-koeln.de



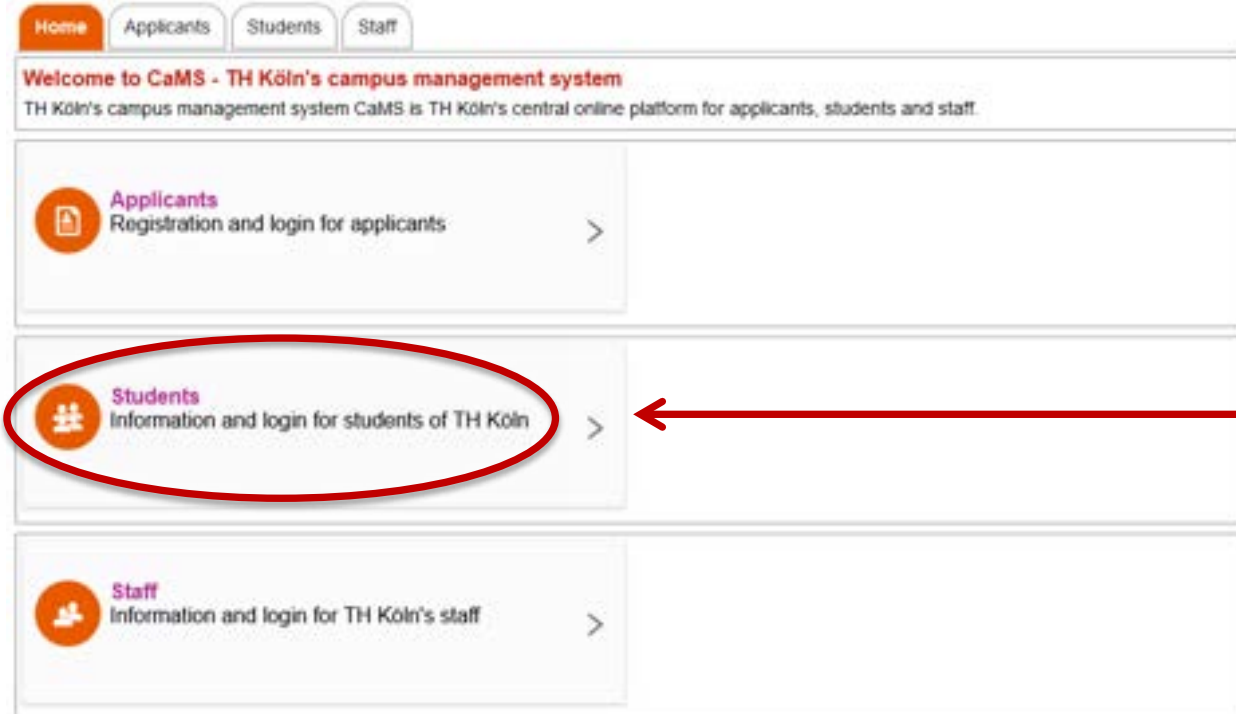
[Contact details and office hours](#)



Your CaMpusManagementSystem

CaMS for you!
CaMS for you!
CaMS for you!

CaMS



Once you are fully enrolled...

...you log on to CaMS as a Student with your Campus ID!

Your **C**ampus**M**anagement**S**ystem

- Update personal contact details

→ especially your address, once you have found permanent accommodation in Germany!

- Overview on your payments and fees
- Download certificates of enrollment
- For some programs: exam management



More [info](#) on CaMS

CaMS for you!
CaMS for you!
CaMS for you!

Student Email and IT Services

- ✓ Have you activated your CampusID?
- ✓ Have you set up MFA, yet? (Multi-Factor Authentication → without MFA: no access to central IT services)
- ✓ Have you looked into your email account?
- ✓ Please note: during your studies, the Student and Examination Services (and some professors) will only accept emails from your TH Köln email address for identification and security reasons

Important!

Check and read your university emails!



More info on [IT services](#) *[only available in German]*



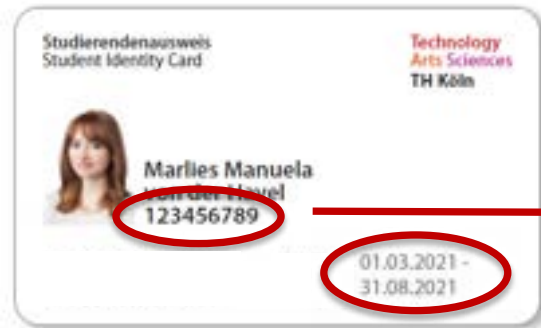
[Video Tutorial](#) CampusID

Great!

- ✓ Software, like Microsoft Office 365 free of charge
- ✓ Included in your semester fee

Your student ID card

in short: **MultiCa** = Multifunctional chip card



Your matriculation number

Important

After arrival, please [validate](#) your card on campus.

- Identification for exams
- Library card
- As identification for your semester ticket
- To get the reduced prices in the university canteens
- To get other student discounts

Have not received your card, yet?

- Send an email to your Student and Examination Service
- If you have put down our address in CaMS, please come and pick it up once you have arrived.



More [info](#) on MultiCa

Your Semester Ticket

- Free use of busses, trams and regional trains
- Included in semester fee
- Valid in the whole of Germany (*Deutschlandticket*)
- No express trains (IC or ICE) or other special trains
- Don't forget to download it and save it to your smartphone



Please note

Only valid with picture ID!



More [info](#) on semester ticket



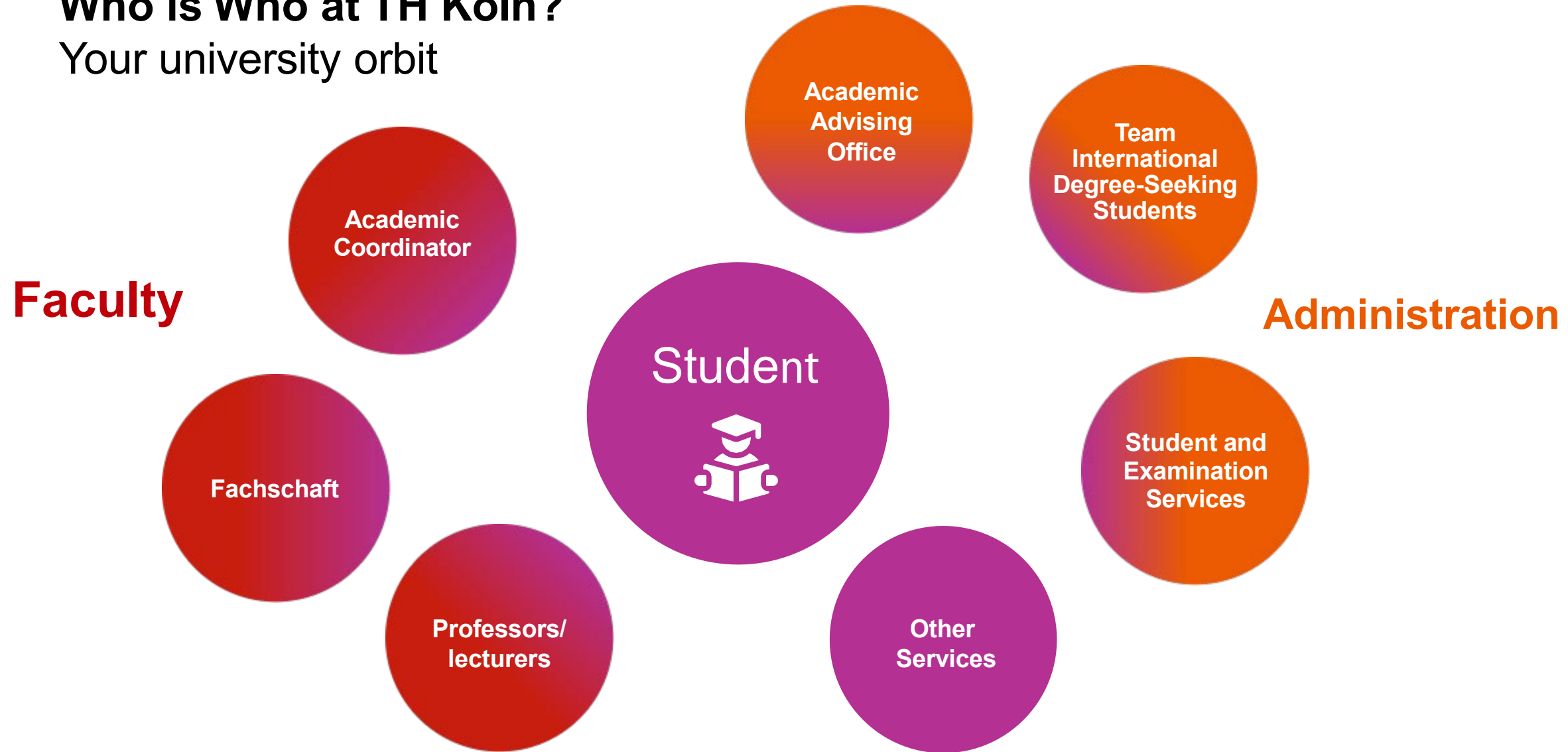
[Video Tutorial](#) semester ticket

Great!

- ✓ You can also [rent bikes](#)
- ✓ Included in your semester ticket

Who is Who at TH Köln?

Your university orbit



The Semester Start

Some Tips

- In Germany, studies are very **self-organized**
 - no obligation to take every class scheduled for your semester (the module hand book with the study plan are a guideline)
 - personal initiative and self-discipline are required
 - own research for information is expected
- Join **first semester groups** (e.g. on WhatsApp) and attend **first semester events** (city tour, parties...) to make contacts
- Watch your time management and aim for a **good work-life-balance** (sports, friends, other activities...)
- If you have any questions, **just ask!** You don't have to know everything right from the start 😊
- Seek consultation in your Faculty, if need be



The Semester Start

Faculty contact

Who is my Faculty contact?

- Not a standardized term or system
- Points of contact may be called:
 - Academic advisor
 - Program coordinator
 - Academic program director
 - Program administration
- Contact persons will be published on the **website** of your study program



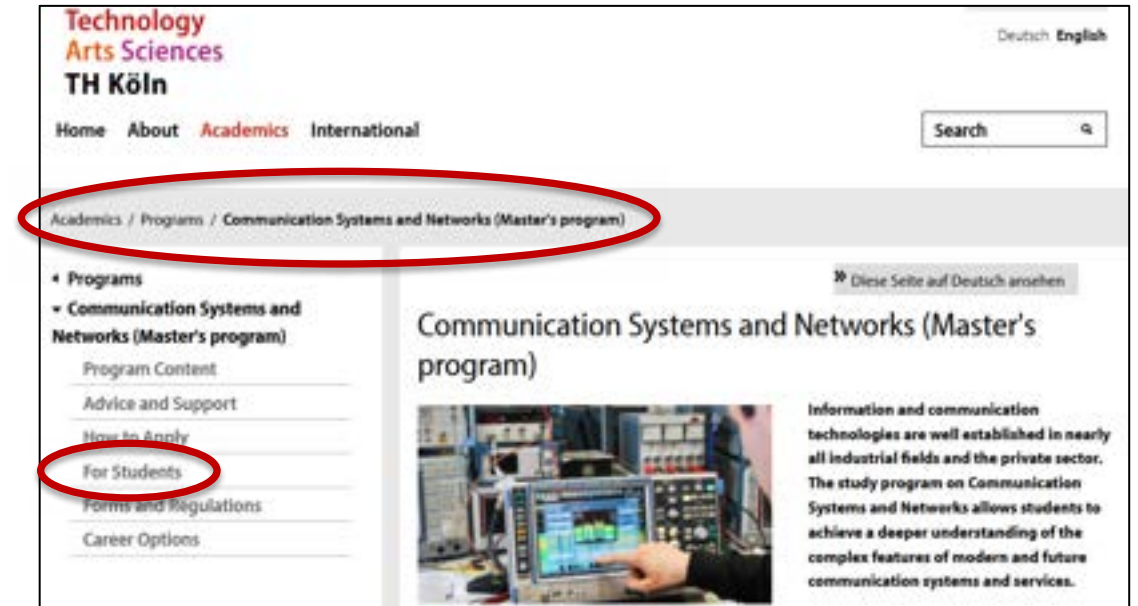
Good to know!

Professors have office hours.
Look them up on their personal pages.

The Semester Start Schedule

Where can I find my **schedule**?

- **Own research** for information is expected
- Check information on the **website** of your study program
- Check **ILU** and any other platforms mentioned
- Attend the **first semester introduction of your faculty** and be informed about program structure, course and exam registration (date will be published on your program website)



More [info](#) on semester start

Language Learning Center

German language courses



IMPORTANT ADVICE:

- Make time in your schedule to include a German language course
- German language skills are extremely important when it comes to finding a part-time job
- Solid German skills help you to settle in more easily inside and outside the university
- German courses on levels A1 to B2+
- Thematic German courses:
Technical German, How to hold a presentation, How to apply
- Writing Consultation for International Students (German as a Foreign Language)

Great!

- ✓ Free of charge
- ✓ Included in your semester fee



More [info](#) on German courses

Placement tests:

September 21 to October 8, 2026

[Register now!](#)

Learn German

Additional tips

- Book a course at a private language school, e.g. VHS (Volkshochschule)
- Attend “*Deutsch-Treff*” at Café Freiraum (Deutz campus) on Wednesdays 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Check out the Media centers of German TV channels; e.g. ARD/ZDF
- Watch *Tagesschau* (German news broadcast) in simple German language
- Sign up for TANDEM (an offer from University of Cologne, open to all University students in Cologne)



More [info](#) on Tandem

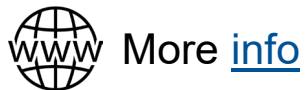


Fachschaft

Student Association of Your Faculty



- organize social events for first-year students
- sell lecture notes or exams from previous semesters
- help you with questions about the timetable
- provide information on examination matters, for example how to behave in case of illness during exams and in which cases you can view your exam
- you can drop by the student association's open office hours without an appointment



Great!

- ✓ less formal
- ✓ insider information from other students

Library

For your research

- Each campus has its own library
- Borrow books
- Research for articles
- Quiet space for self-studies and group work



Good to know!

Guided library tours in English
(Deutz, Südstadt and Gummersbach)



 More [info](#) on library

Coming with a Family or Child?

Family Service

Balancing studies and family is challenging for everyone.

Since 2011, we have been certified as a “**family-friendly university**” and continue to support families at our university.



Schedule your one-on-one confidential consultation, whether it is on:

- Finding suitable child care options (daycare/summer programs)
- Obtaining information on maternity and parental leave
- Organization of work and study time
- Questions about financial support options for students with children
- Caring for sick/elderly family members



More [info](#) on Family Service

Startup Service

Gateway TH Köln



The startup service offers:

- advice and support on funding opportunities and financing
- information on all aspects of self-employment, start-ups and entrepreneurship
- 15-minute initial consultation for your startup idea
- 1-hour consultation on your individual idea
- co-working spaces



More [info](#) on Gateway TH Köln

General Students' Committee

AStA = Allgemeiner Studierendenausschuss



- represents student interests inside and outside the university
- Various advisory services, including legal consultation, and lots of events



More [info](#) on AStA

Kölner Studierendenwerk

KSTW / „Werk“

- Student dormitories, university canteens, daycare centers
- Various advisory services and workshops
- Psychological counselling



More [info](#) on KSTW



Great!

- ✓ Advisory services free of charge
- ✓ Included in your semester fee

Culture Shock?

Do not worry – there is help!



At TH Köln students can seek psychological counseling in English or German:



- [Book an appointment in English](#)
- [Book an appointment in German](#)
- [Online counseling via anonymous chat](#)



Great!

- ✓ Advisory services free of charge
- ✓ Included in your semester fee

Mental health matters!

You can seek help for all different sorts of problems:

Contact difficulties, examination fears and speech inhibitions, partner problems, personal crises, study stress, mental disorders, depressed mood...or even if you don't know exactly what's going on, but feel that it would be good to talk to someone in confidence.

Mensa / KSTW

Food on Campus

- Valid MultiCa required
- You pay by credit card, ApplePay, GooglePay (sometimes cash)
- Select student price – otherwise you pay more than necessary
- Vegan and vegetarian options available
- You can find the menu for each day online
- Each campus uses a slightly different system – in case of doubt ask a fellow student 😊



More [info](#) on Mensa

Good to know!

As a TH Köln student, you can eat at every KSTW-canteen (incl. other universities)

Share pick from KSTW

The place to go for free & well-maintained...

- electronics
- tableware
- office supplies and much more.

Where: Universitätsstraße 14, 50937 Köln

When: Tuesdays, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

SCHATZKAMMER IM SERVICEHAUS

 Öffnungszeiten: Dienstag von 14:00 - 15:30 Uhr
Adresse: Universitätsstraße 14, 50937 Köln



Entdecke unsere **Schatzkammer** deine – Anlaufstelle für kostenlose, gebrauchte und gut erhaltene Baby- und Kinderkleidung, Elektronik, Büromaterial, Geschirr und vieles mehr.

Mach mit, gebrauchte Dinge sinnvoll wiederzuverwenden.
Du kannst auch gut erhaltene Gegenstände bei uns abgeben.







 KÖLNER STUDIERENDEN WERK

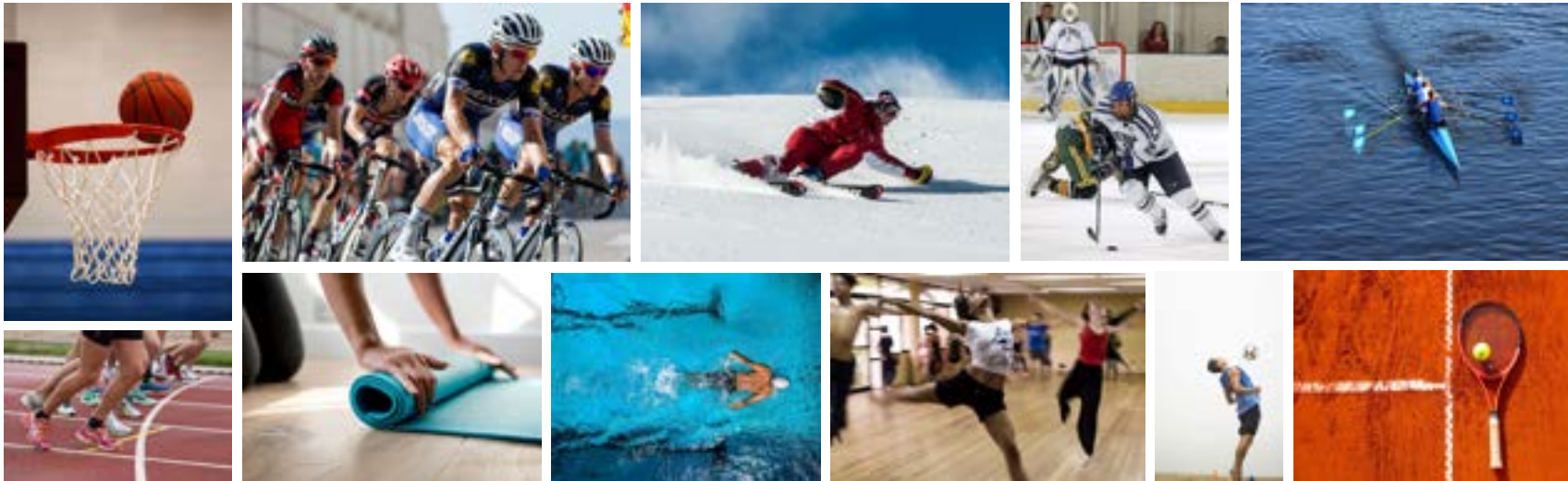
Die Annahme behalten wir uns vor.

University Sports

Stay active



- More than 100 different sports, more than 250 courses in a week:
Football, Zumba, Rowing, Salsa, Basketball, Hockey, Karate, Handball, Hip Hop-Dance, Baseball etc.
- Great way to meet new people and build a social network
- Many of them free of charge, included in your semester fee or for a small membership fee



© www.pixabay.com

Good to know!

In Germany, many people do sports in clubs (*Vereine*) – outside the universities



More [info](#) on university sports

© www.flaticon.com

Music and Stuff

Choir, Orchestra, Radio



More [info](#) on TH Köln Choir

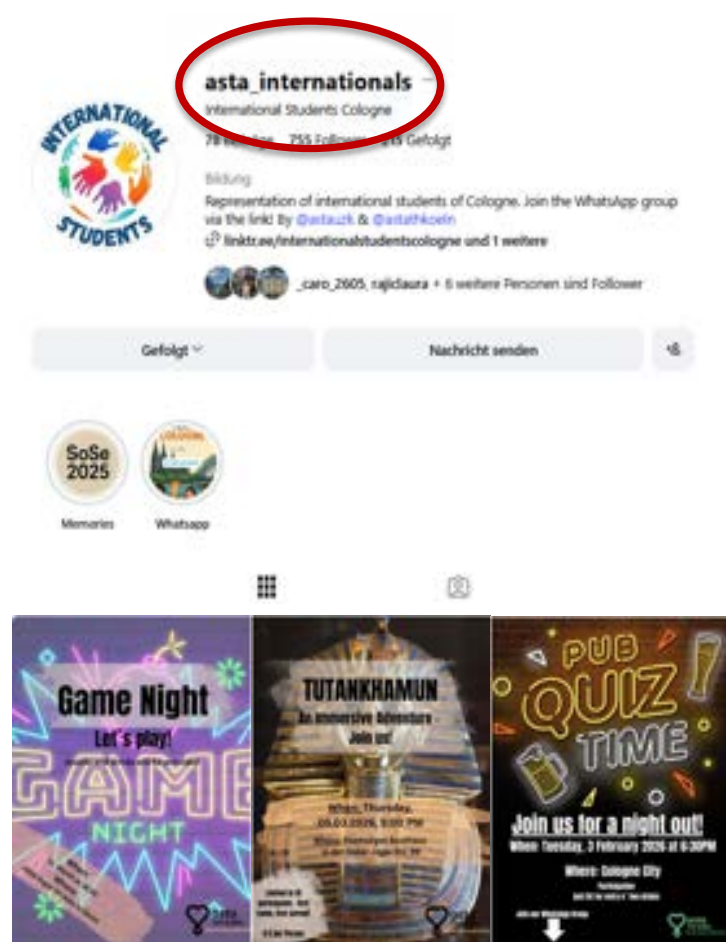
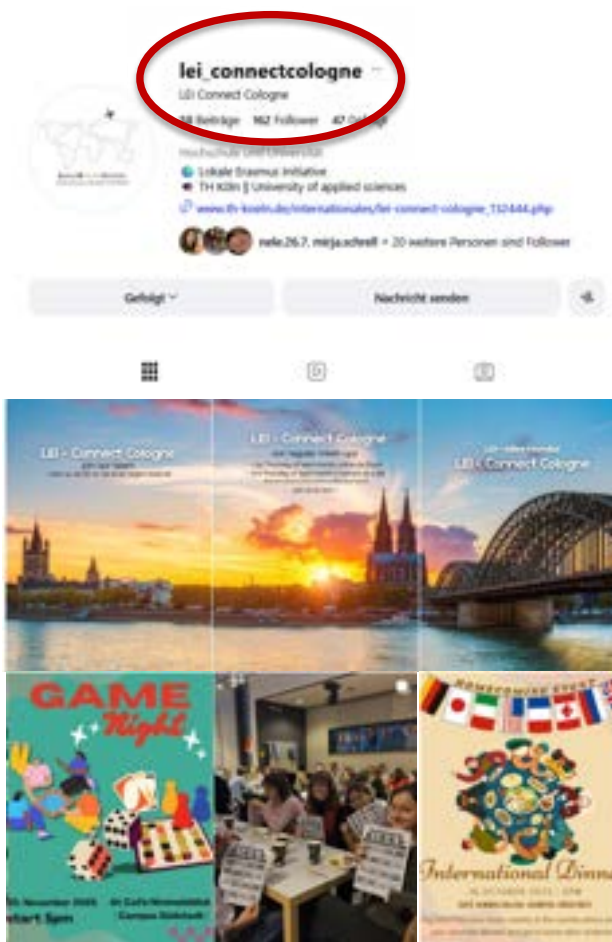
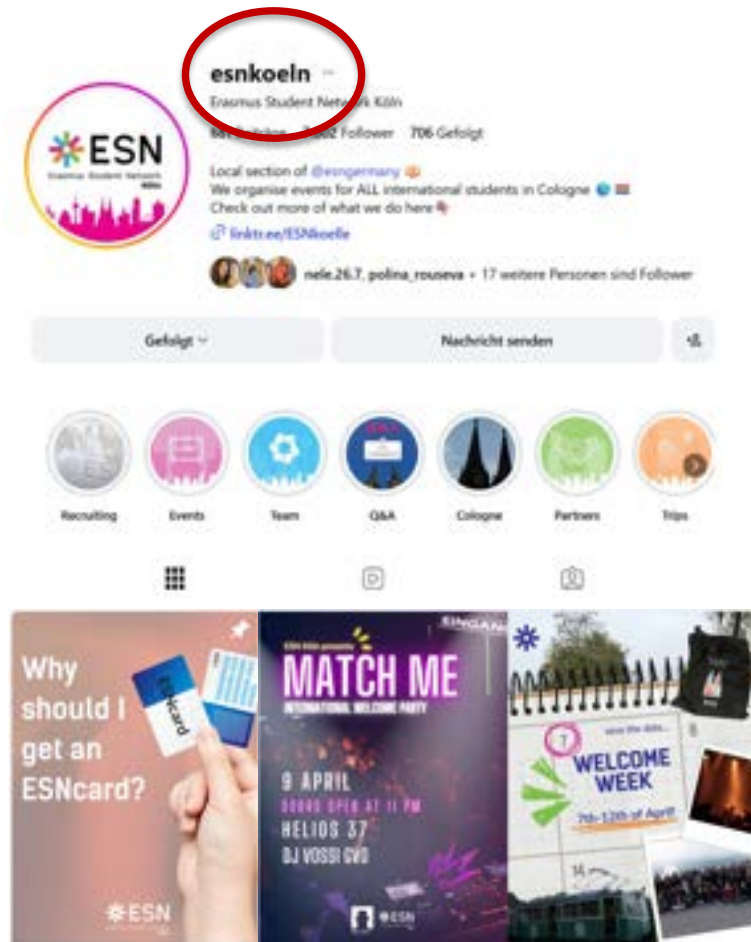


More [info](#) on TH Köln Symphony Orchestra



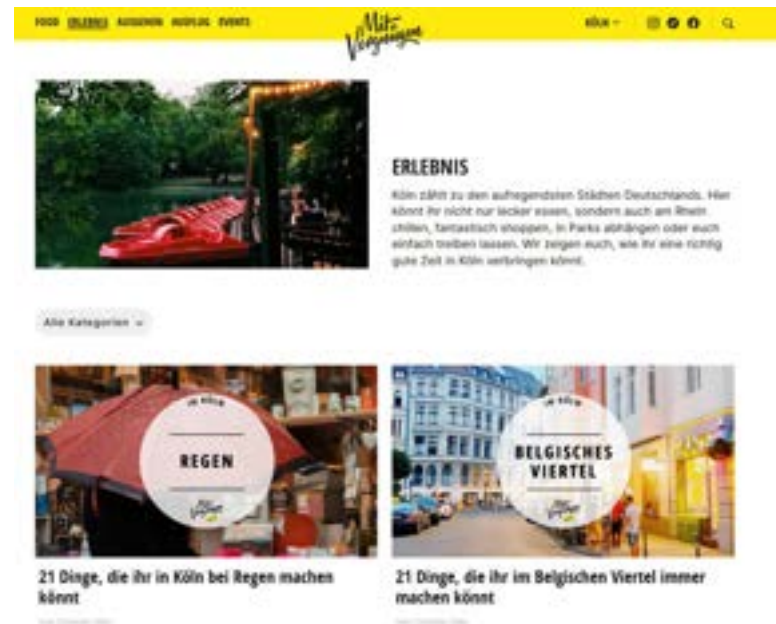
More [info](#) on Köln Campus Radio

Events and Options to Connect



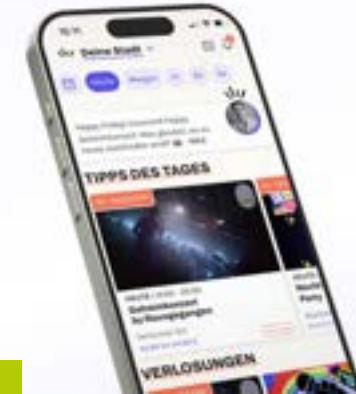
Useful Apps and Websites

- koeln.mitvergnuegen.com/
- rausgegangen.de/cologne/
- toogoodtogo.com/en-ca/
- nebenan.de
- ...just to name a few!



Entdecke die besten
Events
in deiner Stadt

Berlin München Hamburg Köln Bremen
Stuttgart Dortmund Leipzig Düsseldorf
Frankfurt



Don't forget

Your next steps

- Finalize your enrollment: www.th-koeln.de/enrollment
- Register for a placement test at Language Learning Center: www.th-koeln.de/slz
- Locate your first semester introduction for your program
- Register for Ready Study Go: www.th-koeln.de/ready_study_go
- Visit our website: www.th-koeln.de/international-first-year-students
- Follow us on Instagram:  @thkoeln_international



Questions? Contact us:
international-degree-seekings@th-koeln.de

