Technology Arts Sciences TH Köln

First Steps as an Exchange Student at TH Köln – University of Applied Sciences

– Before your arrival –

First Steps	✓
Brochure Just Arrived / Angekommen The International Office has prepared detailed information on all formalities that need to be settled before you leave your home country and during your first few days in Germany. We therefore would like to ask you to read this information carefully as it will answer most of your questions. You can also find all information on our website as well as in our Just Arrived brochure: • International Office – Incomings (German) • International Office – Incomings (English) • Just Arrived / Angekommen	
Online Application via Mobility Online After your home university has selected and nominated you for an academic exchange abroad, you will be asked to register online on our Mobility Online platform. Upon successful completion and review of your application, your letter of admission will be available for download on Mobility Online. Those of you attending classes in German are asked to upload a **language certificate**, which should be no older than one year. To prepare for your stay at our university, please fill out your **Learning Agreement** (relevant for Erasmus+ students) by entering your personal data and the courses you intend to take. We therefore ask you to contact your Erasmus+ departmental coordinator at TH Köln, in order to prepare your list of courses and to obtain all necessary signatures before you arrive in Cologne.	
Visa Make sure to inform yourself in time whether you need a visa or not. If you need to apply for a visa, please make sure to select the right type of visa. Information about visa requirements can be found on our homepage (or p. 11 Just Arrived).	
Health Insurance All students enrolled at TH Köln are required to have health insurance. Please make sure that your insurance coverage from your home country meets all health insurance requirements in Germany. If you cannot provide proof of valid health insurance coverage from your home country, you are required to sign a contract with a German insurance company prior to enrolling. All students who have not taken out a statutory German health insurance are required to show their health insurance policy/card (e. g. European Health Insurance Card, private health insurance from Germany or abroad) to a statutory German health insurance and request an exemption from the statutory German health insurance. This exemption is usually granted if your insurance meets the health insurance requirements in Germany. We ask you to submit a confirmation of this exemption when you enroll at TH Köln (p. 12 Just Arrived).	

Accommodation
Finding accommodation in Cologne can be a serious challenge so we recommend starting as early as possible. You will find useful advice on all issues related to apartment-hunting in Cologne, Leverkusen and Gummersbach on our homepage (or p. 9 Just Arrived).

Student Dormitories
Cologne's most convenient and economical housing option is oftentimes a student dormitory. Kölner Studierendenwerk (KSTW) operates 88 student dorms offering roughly 4800 rooms for about 100,000 students of Cologne's public universities. Please be aware that TH Köln does not allocate the rooms in these dorms. In order to be allocated a room, please apply online now on the website of KSTW. Initially, you might be put on a waiting list. To remain on this waiting list, you will need to confirm a link sent by the KSTW via email each month.

Kölner Studierendenwerk (German)   Kölner Studierendenwerk (English)

Your Arrival in Cologne
There are several airports near Cologne, which we recommend as your destination airports:

- Airport Köln-Bonn: www.koeln-bonn-airport.de
  (about 15 minutes to Cologne using public transportation)

- Düsseldorf International: www.duesseldorf-international.de
  (about 45 minutes to Cologne using public transportation)

- Frankfurt Airport: www.frankfurt-airport.de
  (about 1 hour to Cologne using public transportation)

For your train connection, please visit the website of Deutsche Bahn:
- www.bahn.de (German)
- http://www.bahn.de/p_en (English)

Your Way to Gummersbach
From Cologne Central Station, please take RB 25 (direction Meinerzhagen) to Gummersbach Bahnhof. This regional train runs once every hour and takes approximately one hour and ten minutes to Gummersbach.

Your Way to Leverkusen
From Cologne Central Station, please take S6 (direction Essen Hbf) to Leverkusen Chempark. This fast train (not ICE) runs once every 20 minutes and takes approximately 15 minutes.

Rhine-Sieg Transportation Network (VRS)
You can buy bus or train tickets at most platforms at the ticket machines.

You can find electronic schedule information for all busses and trains of the Rhine-Sieg transport network (VRS) online at: www.vrsinfo.de or www.bahn.de