

First Semester Introduction

Summer Semester 2026

Department of International Affairs

Department of International Affairs

What do we do?

- Advice and support for international students ([Team International Degree-Seeking Students](#))
- Coordination and advice on all aspects of study abroad programs ([Team International Mobility](#))
- Maintenance of [international partnerships](#)
- [Internationalization Strategy 2030](#)
- and more...



Campus Deutz Team

We look forward to meeting you

Elin Petersson

Exchange Students (Incoming/Outgoing)
Students with refugee background



outgoings@th-koeln.de

incomings-exchange@th-koeln.de

refugees@th-koeln.de

Kristina Plaga

International Degree-Seeking Students



international-degree-seeking@th-koeln.de



Find us!

Room ZN2-4

(opposite the information desk in the main entrance)

Consultation Hours

Department of International Affairs



On campus:

Thursdays 10 a.m. to 12 noon
(no appointment required)



Online:

th-koeln.de/ia-online-consultation



By telephone:

Tuesdays: 10am - noon and Thursdays: 2-4 pm
T: +49 221-8275-3772 (Incomings Exchange and Outgoings)
T: +49 221-8275-2910 (International Degree-Seeking Students)

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

Let's stay connected!

Our communication channels



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

international-degree-seekings@th-koeln.de

incomings-exchange@th-koeln.de

outgoings@th-koeln.de



Stay tuned on Instagram:

@thkoeln_international

SCAN ME



© www.pixabay.com

Incoming Exchange Students

” Stay on track - all you need to know for the rest of your mobility

We will explain what you need to know and do to keep your mobility on track. Topics will include your next steps in MobO, residence permits, exam management, re-registration, Transcript of Records and much more.

Dates "Stay on track" for a stay in the summer semester 2026:

Tuesday, April 28, 2026	12 noon - 2 p.m. (UTC+1)
Tuesday, May 5, 2026	4 p.m. - 6 p.m. (UTC+1)

Zoom login

- <https://th-koeln.zoom-x.de/j/86161160292>
- Meeting-ID: 861 6116 0292
- Kenncode: 021419



Outgoing Students

Ab ins Ausland – Go Global

Everything you need to know
about studying and interning abroad



organization, application, financing...



April 20th – 23rd, 2026



More [info](#)

Team International Degree-Seeking Students

As part of the **Department of International Affairs** we advise you on...

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

◀ 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

Degree-Seeking Students

- News for international students
- Before your Arrival
- Your Start of Studies at TH Köln
- Student Life in your City
- During your Studies

Welcome to TH Köln

Dear International Students,

We welcome you to our university and are pleased that you have decided to study at TH Köln.

On this page you will find important information to support you during your study start and to help you to find your way around the university. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Up

Accommodation

- ✓ KSTW maintains several dormitories in Cologne, Leverkusen and Gummersbach
- ✓ Apply now
 - www.kstw.de/wohnen/bewerbung
 - Select all types of housing in the online application
 - Waiting time 6 months and longer!
- ✓ Accept the offer, even if it does not have the desired location; all dormitories are connected to the public transport system
- ✓ No room guarantee
- ✓ Check the private offers in the [database](#) of KSTW daily as well as other databases on the private market
- ✓ Specifically search for intermediate rent (*Zwischenmiete*) at first



Accommodation

Links, handouts, useful information

International / Incomings / Degree-Seeking Students / Accommodation

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



Accommodation

» Diese Seite auf Deutsch ansehen

 www.th-koeln.de/accommodation

Department International Affairs
Team International Degree-Seeking Students
Contact: international-degree-seeking@th-koeln.de

Technology
Arts Sciences
TH Köln

Useful Information for Apartment Hunting

This information has been compiled to the best of our knowledge and is intended as a guide for your orientation. You can find more information on housing on our website:
www.th-koeln.de/accommodation

What documents should I prepare?

- Request a (Schufa) credit report or provide an alternative proof of financial security (e.g. blocked account).
- Create an application portfolio (CV, cover letter, proof/explanation of financial security).
- Cover letter to landlord/landlady: Briefly introduce yourself: Who are you? Where are you from? What is the reason for your stay in Germany?
- For shared flats: Write a more personal introduction of yourself: Write about your personality, hobbies, and interests. Refer to information that may already be mentioned in the advertisement.

What kind of information will be requested from me?

- In Germany, it is common to fill out a self-disclosure form when viewing an apartment. This typically includes your personal data as well as information about your professional and financial situation. The legal basis for data protection should always be indicated, namely Art. 6 para 1 lit. f GDPR.
- A scan of your passport can be requested by your landlord/landlady at a later stage, but should not normally be requested from you on first contact.
- Name, date of birth, current address, etc. are usually the most important pieces of information required by landlord/landlady to prepare a rental contract. Your bank details are normally not included in the contract; instead, you will receive the bank details of your landlord/landlady, to whom you should transfer the monthly rent. Exception: The Kölner Studierendenwerk (and possibly some commercial providers or private landlords) request your bank details because they collect your monthly rent by direct debit.

What types of advance payments are common?

- It is common to pay a security deposit and the first month's rent after signing the contract but before moving in. The deposit can amount to 1-3 months' basic rent.
- The previous tenant may ask you to purchase furniture or parts of the kitchen, etc. You discuss this with the previous tenant and usually transfer the agreed amount before moving in. You can also have a purchase agreement issued for this.
- It is not common to pay a fee just for viewing an apartment. Viewing fees are usually a scam.

After your Arrival

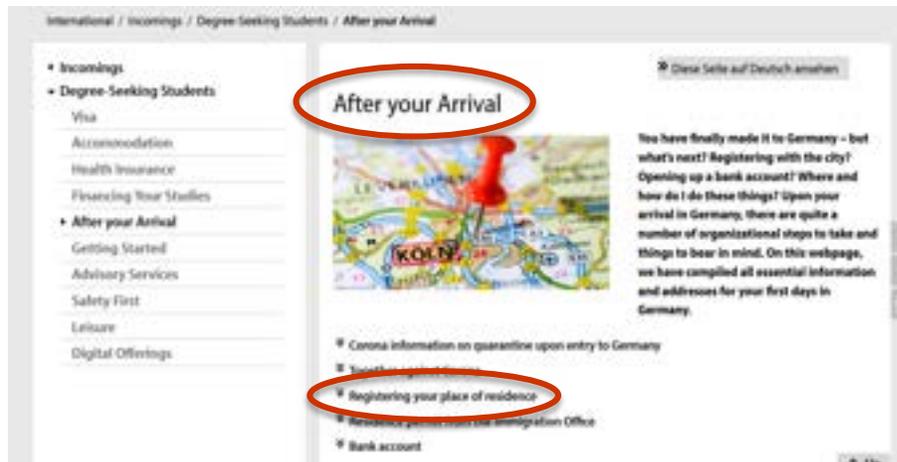
Registering your place of residence

When and where to go?

- Two weeks after you have moved into “permanent” place of residence (not two weeks after arrival!)
- In the city where your room/apartment is located



© Stadt Köln



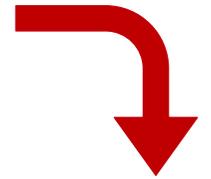
Good to know!

Cologne is divided into districts.
You can register at any of the district city offices.

 More [info](#) on city registration

Visa and Residence Permit Basics

All non-EU citizens must request a **residence permit** for study purposes from the immigration office in Germany.



When and where to apply?

- You have entered **visa-free: within three months, shortly after city registration**
- You have entered **with a visa: within validity period of your visa**
- There is something as “too early”: If your visa covers you for 1 year, do not start the process straight away but **approx. 3-4 months before visa expiry date**
- Apply at the immigration office of the city where you are registered
- Cologne is sorted by district, make sure to locate your district office according to area code



Visa

General Info

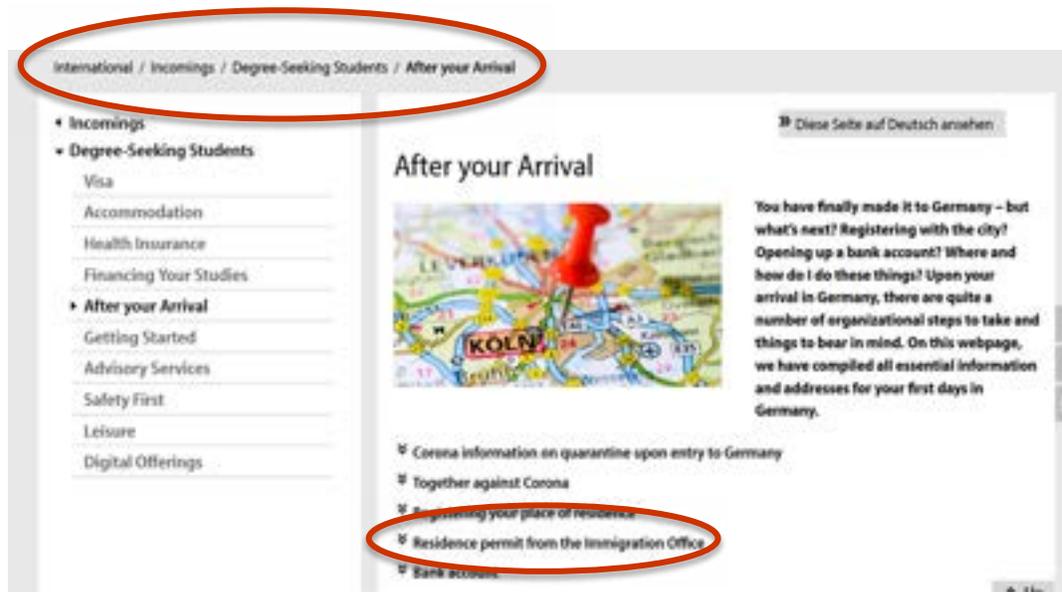


Good to know

You are allowed to start working part-time on your visa already.
No extra permit required.

After your arrival

Residence permit



The screenshot shows a website page with a breadcrumb trail at the top: "International / Incoming / Degree-Seeking Students / After your Arrival". The main heading is "After your Arrival". Below the heading is a map of Cologne with a red pushpin. To the right of the map is a paragraph of text. Below the text is a list of topics, with "Residence permit from the Immigration Office" circled in red. The left sidebar contains a menu with "After your Arrival" highlighted.

International / Incoming / Degree-Seeking Students / After your Arrival

• Incoming
• Degree-Seeking Students
 Visa
 Accommodation
 Health Insurance
 Financing Your Studies
• **After your Arrival**
 Getting Started
 Advisory Services
 Safety First
 Leisure
 Digital Offerings

After your Arrival

Diese Seite auf Deutsch ansehen

You have finally made it to Germany – but what's next? Registering with the city? Opening up a bank account? Where and how do I do these things? Upon your arrival in Germany, there are quite a number of organizational steps to take and things to bear in mind. On this webpage, we have compiled all essential information and addresses for your first days in Germany.

- ✓ Corona information on quarantine upon entry to Germany
- ✓ Together against Corona
- ✓ Registering your place of residence
- ✓ **Residence permit from the Immigration Office**
- ✓ Bank account



More [info](#) on residence permit

Events

Keep your eyes open!

The screenshot shows a website interface. On the left is a vertical navigation menu with the following items: Incomings, Degree-Seeking Students (with a sub-menu), Visa and Residence Permit, Accommodation, Health Insurance, Financing Your Studies, After your Arrival, TH Köln Buddy Program, Getting Started, Events (highlighted with a red circle), Advisory Services, Health and Safety, and Leisure. Below the menu is a 'Contact' section for Lis Dagny Ohlsen, Department of International Affairs, with an email address: international-degree-seekings@th-koeln.de. The main content area features a large graphic with the text 'Workshops', 'Culture', 'Get-together', and 'Events' surrounded by diagonal lines. Below this is a button that says '» Diese Seite auf Deutsch ansehen'. The main heading is 'Events for International Students', followed by a paragraph: '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!'. At the bottom, there is a list of event types: Web-Seminars and Events, Workshops 'Application Training and German Work Culture', and Workshops 'Academic Writing and Communication'.



[Link](#) to semester program

Events

Coming up!



Scholarships for international students – how do I find the right one? [in English]

Web-Seminar for international students, 23/04/2026



You are looking for the right scholarship for you? You want to find out how to apply for a scholarship and what to focus on in your application? This web-seminar gives you important information and offers you the chance to ask you individual questions.

At a Glance

Scholarships for international students – how do I find the right one? [in English]

Web-Seminar for international students

Where?
Zoom:
Meeting-ID: 635 1627 8144
Kenncode: 642722
Zoom-Link

When?
23/04/2026
15:30 to 16:45
add to my calendar

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

Web-Seminar for international students, 29/04/2026



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 well prepared—we look forward to seeing you!

At a Glance

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

Web-Seminar for international students

Where?
Online via Zoom
Meeting-ID: 655 3247 8156
Kenncode: 2026
Zoom-Link

When?
29/04/2026
13:00 to 14:30
add to my calendar

Events

Keep your eyes open!



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

Web-Seminar for international students, 12/05/2026



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.

At a Glance

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

Where?
Zoom:
Meeting-ID: 617 3219 8145
Kenncode: 059271

When?
12/05/2026
13:00 to 14:30
add to my calendar

Zoom-Link

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

Web-Seminar for international students, 26/05/2026



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!

At a Glance

Side Jobs for International Students – Know Your Rights and Responsibilities [in English]
Web-Seminar for international students

Where?
Online via Zoom
Meeting-ID: 631 9650 9018
Enter code: 693868

When?
26/05/2026
12:30 to 14:00
add to my calendar

Zoom-Link

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](#)

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



Thank you very much for your attention
We wish you a successful start at TH Köln!