

LANGUAGES / INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
RheinAhrCampus Remagen
Koblenz University of Applied Sciences
Joseph-Rovan-Allee 2, 53424 Remagen, Germany
Tel: +49- 26 42 / 932 -389
Fax: +49 - 26 42 / 932 - 256
E-Mail: language@rheinahrcampus.de
www.rheinahrcampus.de/international



Handbook for Exchange Students



Handbook for Exchange Students

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1 Introduction

Welcome to RheinAhrCampus!

We look forward to having you here and hope that you will spend an exciting semester and an adventurous time in Germany. In this brochure we have collected all the information we think might be helpful to make your stay in Remagen as enjoyable and successful as possible.

All our exchange students agree that coming to Germany and to RheinAhrCampus in particular has been an excellent choice, that it definitely has been a lot of fun and a great learning experience. We sincerely hope that you too will have a wonderful time here!



1.1 How to Use the Handbook

This handbook was put together by exchange students and the team at Languages / International Affairs. The handbook is designed to provide information before you arrive and to accompany you throughout the different stages of your stay at RheinAhrCampus. It may seem a lot of information at first, but don't worry, everything will become clear in the end. The team at Sprachen/Internationales will guide you along and answer any questions you might have.

Useful and important information can also be found at:

www.rheinahrcampus.de/Internationales

This handbook is also online at: www.rheinahrcampus.de/Exchange_Students.218.0.html

2 RheinAhrCampus

The RheinAhrCampus of the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences (often abbreviated "RAC") was founded in 1998 and now has nearly 3000 students in two faculties, Business & Social Management Studies and Mathematics & Technology. The name "RheinAhrCampus" derives from its proximity to the river Rhein and the river Ahr.

More information on the campus and the services provided will be given later in this handbook and can also be found on our website: www.rheinahrcampus.de/Campus_profile.202.0.html

2.1 Semester Dates

Fall/Winter Semester: from middle of September to end of February

Spring/Summer Semester: from middle of March to end of July

2.2 Application

Unlike degree-seeking students, exchange or visiting students do not need to submit a full application. A nomination by your university (our partner university) or faculty/department is all that is required. Initial registration is via our RheinAhrCampus Registration Form, which will be given to you by your home coordinator or International Office. You will be sent a letter of confirmation that you have been accepted here at RheinAhrCampus. After your arrival, you will need to enrol with the General Admissions Office to receive your student card.



3 Contacts

There are a number of people who will provide help and answer your questions.

3.1 Team "Sprachen/Internationales" (Languages / International Affairs)

The Team of Languages / International Affairs at RheinAhrCampus will help you with all the practical things before your arrival as well as during your stay. They are your first point of contact and will deal with all your questions and concerns. They will also help with administrative matters.

Head of "Sprachen/Internationales" is Dr. Laurent Borgmann. Your main contact person is Ms Adelheid Korpp, Room A 014, Tel: +49 2642 - 932 458 / Fax: +49 2642 – 932 256, Monday to Thursday, 1400 – 1700. E-Mail: Korpp@RheinAhrCampus.de

3.2 Student Mentor System

The International Team will assign a student mentor to each exchange student coming to Remagen. The mentor is a senior student who will act as a contact person for you. The mentor will pick you up at the station when you arrive in Germany and will help you integrate quickly. You will be given the e-mail address of your student mentor before you arrive, so that the two of you can get in touch. This makes it much easier for you to find your way around in this new environment and to meet other students.



4 Arriving in Remagen

There are a few things you need to think about coming to Germany.

4.1 Visas

Please check whether you need to apply for a visa before coming to Germany.

NATIONALS OF EUROPEAN UNION COUNTRIES

If you are a citizen of the European Union and you wish to study or do paid practical training in Germany, you do not need a visa or work permit, in accordance with European Union regulations. You will, however, need a valid passport in order to register with the local authority (Buergerbuero Stadt Remagen in the Rathaus).

OTHER NATIONALS

All other nationals* need a student visa (Studentenvisum) BEFORE entering Germany.

Application forms should be completed in triplicate and submitted to the Visa Section of the German Embassy in your country together with

- a current passport,
- several passport photographs,
- a higher education entrance qualification recognized in Germany,
- proof of your previous study achievements,
- a letter of confirmation from RheinAhrCampus, stating that you are an exchange/visiting student spending a study-abroad period in Germany,
- proof of sufficient financial means for studying and living in Germany for the whole length of your study period. European exchange students should take a written confirmation of their ERASMUS grant from the International Office of their home university. If you have another source of income (state support, scholarship etc.) you might also ask for a written statement. The confirmation should cover Euro 600-700 per month.

The application will then be forwarded by the relevant embassy to the local Foreign Nationals Authority in Germany for a decision. Soon after entry you need to register with the Foreign Nationals Office (Buergerbuero Stadt Remagen), which is responsible for issuing your Residence Permit. The Team at Languages / International Affairs will help you with this

IMPORTANT

Your visa can only be issued to you in your own country. It cannot be forwarded to Germany and it cannot be issued in Germany after arrival.

* Citizens of Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and the United States of America do not need a visa for entering Germany. A residence permit for study purposes can be issued to you here in Germany within three months of arrival. The conditions mentioned above apply. Citizens of all other countries planning a longer stay (more than three months) in Germany must apply for visas at the respective embassy or consulate before arriving in Germany. Please follow the procedure outlined above if you want to apply for a Studentenvisum.

Up-to-date information is available at:

<http://www.auswaertiges->

[amt.de/diplo/en/WillkommeninD/EinreiseUndAufenthalt/Visabestimmungen.html](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/diplo/en/WillkommeninD/EinreiseUndAufenthalt/Visabestimmungen.html)

4.2 Travel and Health Insurance

Citizens of the European Union should bring their European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). The EHIC covers any medical treatment necessary during your stay in Germany, because of illness or an accident. The card gives you free access to state-provided medical treatment.

Non-EU nationals can buy travel insurance in their home country or apply for student insurance with any German health insurance company. During our orientation week we will give you more detailed information.

You should always take out insurance for the interim period between arrival and actual commencement of the contract, either through a health plan of your country or some form of travel insurance. If you want more protection than the basic health care provided under the German scheme, you should buy additional travel and health insurance.

The International Student Identity Card (ISIC) is recognized in Germany and entitles you to discounts at various shops, services and cultural institutions. It also offers relatively cheap health and travel insurance for students. More information at: www.isic.org

5 Accommodation

The team at Languages / International Affairs will help you find a room. In October 2004 a dormitory ("Wohnheim") was built right next to the campus. It holds 100 furnished rooms of which 95 are single rooms with shower, toilet and kitchenette plus internet connection via password for Euro 230 per month all inclusive. Two are suitable for the disabled, two are intended for students with children and one is a "Wohngemeinschaft" (shared flat) with 3 rooms. You also have access to a common room with a kitchen as well as laundry facilities. Please note that the rental periods normally run from September to February for the winter semester and from March to August for the summer semester. A deposit of 400 Euros is to be paid with the first rent before you arrive. The deposit will be returned if there are no damages to the room. We normally try to find students in the Wohnheim who would like to sublet their rooms, either private or in the Wohnheim, during their semester abroad. To find out more about the Wohnheim in Remagen please visit this website: <http://www.studierendenwerk-koblenz.de/index.php?page=campus-remagen>

The team at Languages / International Affairs will help you with the application procedure.



6 Before Arrival in Remagen

6.1 Check List

- Accept the exchange place by sending the Registration Form via e-mail to Sprachen/ Internationales.
- Fill in the application for a room in the student dormitory and send it back to Sprachen/ Internationales.
- Check with your German Embassy whether you require a student visa (and apply if necessary). Check with the German Embassy whether you require x-rays or a medical certificate at immigration point.
- Make sure your passport is valid six months longer than the period of your planned stay in Germany.
- Non-European Nationals: Have proof that you have enough money for your entire stay in Germany, e.g. bank statements, letter from your parents or sponsor (you need to carry this in your hand luggage).
- Order any medicines which you will require for the first few weeks in Germany.
- Make sure you have enough money available to cover your first few weeks in Germany. They are probably the most expensive.
- Check whether you will be able to use your credit/debit card in ATMs in Germany – remember your security code/PIN number!
- Arrange travel and health insurance.

- Plan your first night's accommodation (if not staying in student accommodation, or, if staying in student accommodation, but not arriving during office hours). Plan your exact arrival together with Sprachen/Internationales.
- Plan your onward journey from the airport to your accommodation.
- Put your important documents, e.g. passport, visa, letter of confirmation, proof of funding, insurance certificates, maps, arrival instructions, in your hand luggage.
- Pack warm clothes (coat, gloves, hat). It might still be quite cold in March and it may start to get cold in October.

6.2 What to Bring

Here is a list of things you might find useful:

You will need bedding and linen (duvet, pillow) or a sleeping bag, towels, cutlery, pots, pan, and a tea towel, as they are not supplied by the student residences. Don't forget an international travel adapter plug (220V). You may also want to bring a hair dryer, travel kettle, travel iron, some comfortable shoes/slippers, dressing gown, alarm clock, posters, photographs of family and friends, books. Please think about which season of the year you will be staying here and bring along appropriate clothing. Student dress at RheinAhrCampus is informal but not too casual. Bring some sensible walking shoes and other sports equipment you might want to use (running shoes, swimsuit etc.). Bring at least six passport photos for registration with the local authority, enrolment etc.

IMPORTANT:

If you bring your laptop, don't forget to bring a connection cable for internet connection between laptop and internet socket, as there is no W-LAN access in the student residences.

Another option, especially if you arrive from overseas, is to buy these things here in one of the cheaper department stores. But remember to bring a few souvenirs from home, something personal to remind you of home and perhaps to show to your new German friends

Electrical appliances in Germany operate on a 220 volt current, which means that appliances designed for 100 volts will burn out. Except for radios, electrical shavers and other appliances that may already be adapted for 220 volts, you will need an adapter. German wall sockets are designed for two round-prong plugs as opposed to the flat-prong type customary in some countries.

6.3 Mobile Phones

If you bring your own mobile phone, it is easiest if you buy a new SIM card here in Germany rather than enter into a contract with a German provider. Please talk to Sprachen/Internationales before you decide what to do.

7 How to Get to RheinAhrCampus

7.1 Frankfurt International Airport (FRA)

At Frankfurt International Airport (www.frankfurt-airport.de/), the train station (Fernbahnhof) is situated right in the airport building. Trains to Koblenz depart regularly and from there it is easy to take the local train to Remagen. You may also want to go to Cologne first and change there for a train to Remagen. This is the faster option.

7.2 Koeln/Bonn (Cologne/Bonn) Airport (CGN)

If you arrive at Koln/Bonn airport, take the SB60 bus to "Bonn Hauptbahnhof" (main train station) in Bonn and from there you can take the local train to Remagen (destination Koblenz). The airport web-site can be found at www.airport-cgn.de

7.3 Duesseldorf Airport (DUS)

If you arrive at Duesseldorf International Airport, you can catch a direct local train (Regionalexpress RE5) that takes you to Remagen (destination Koblenz). The official web-site is www.duesseldorf-international.de/

7.4 **Frankfurt-Hahn Airport (HHN)**

This is a small airport about 130 km away west of Frankfurt. There is a bus service to Koblenz main train station (bus number 610) which takes about 90 minutes and costs about 14 Euro one way.

www.hahn-airport.de From Koblenz take a local train to Remagen.

7.5 **Arriving in Remagen by Train**

There are frequent train connections to Remagen from Koblenz Main Station, Cologne Main Station as well as Bonn Main Station.

MRB from Koblenz to Cologne via Remagen

MRB from Cologne or Bonn to Koblenz/Mainz via Remagen

RE5 from Koblenz to Emmerich via Remagen

RE5 from Dusseldorf, Cologne and Bonn to Koblenz via Remagen

Once you have arrived at Remagen train station, it's only about a 15 minute walk to the campus. There are also buses and taxis available at the railway station.

8 **Orientation Week**

During the week before the actual start of the semester, the team at Sprachen/Internationales will help you with the enrolment procedure, and provide lots of information about studying at RheinAhrCampus and living in Germany. There is also a German language course at Koblenz campus, where you will meet the other exchange students.

9 **Enrolment as a Student and Local Registration**

9.1 **Studierendensekretariat**

Your enrolment as a student takes place at the General Admissions Office (Studierendensekretariat). You will need your passport, a proof of health insurance and proof that you have paid your student services fee (Semesterbeitrag). You will then be issued your student ID (Studierendenausweis) and your enrolment number (Matrikelnummer). The team at Languages / International Affairs will help you with this..

9.2 **Semesterbeitrag**

This is a general contribution to student services which is paid by all students, full-time RheinAhrCampus students and exchange students alike (and is not to be confused with tuition fees). It entitles you to subsidized meals at the student cafeteria and free use of the university sports facilities. But above all, it gives you free travel on public transport in the region between Koblenz and Cologne for the whole semester (Semesterticket). Your student ID serves as your ticket. The Semesterbeitrag is around 200 Euro.

9.3 **Semesterticket**

The student card allows you free travel by regional train, bus or tram in the Remagen region, in Bonn, to Koblenz, and in most parts of Koeln (Cologne). You can also use the ferry from Remagen to Erpel and from Remagen-Kripp to Linz on the other side of the river Rhine for free.

9.4 **Further Enrolment**

If you are staying for two semesters, you must re-enrol for the following semester at the end of the current semester (Rueckmeldung). You will be reminded via e-mail by the Admissions Office to pay your Semesterbeitrag..

9.5 **Local Registration**

All visiting students – including EU students – have to register with the Remagen Municipal Administration (Buergerbuero) at the Town Hall. Please don't forget to bring two passport-size photographs, because a residence permit will be issued to you. You will also need a confirmation of your German accommodation (e.g. your tenancy agreement with your landlord).

10 Studying at RheinAhrCampus

Here are a few things that are useful to know when you come to RheinAhrCampus.

10.1 Degree Programmes

RAC offers a variety of courses in the following BA degree programmes:

Logistics and E-Business
Sports Management
Health and Social Services Management
Business Mathematics
Biomathematics
Medical Engineering & Sports-Medical Engineering
Optics and Laser Engineering

You can find more information about the BA and MA

programmes at www.rheinahrcampus.de/Studiengaenge.61.0.html and

www.rheinahrcampus.de/Studiengaenge.70.0.html. There you will also find the individual modules, the course descriptions and the ECTS credit points plus a timetable for each study semester (Vorlesungsplan).



10.2 Courses in English

RheinAhrCampus offers a variety of courses conducted in the English language. This gives students whose proficiency in German is not very high at the beginning of their stay the opportunity to study in English and gain ECTS credits. The courses are listed separately on our website:

www.rheinahrcampus.de/Programme_in_English.2850.0.html

10.3 RheinAhrCampus Certificate in International Business and Communication

It is also possible to do a complete semester in English and, upon successful completion, obtain our "Certificate in International Business and Communication" at the end of the semester (worth 30 ECTS credit points). For more information on the certificate programme please see:

www.rheinahrcampus.de/Programme_in_English.2850.0.html

10.4 German Language Courses

By Caitlin Woods, Exchange Student from Australia
RheinAhrCampus offers a regular German language course every semester with two hours per semester week.. But if you want to learn German on a more intensive level, in the towns that surround RheinAhrCampus there are many options for German language courses. These courses are varied to fit different competence levels (from absolute beginner to advanced), budget and schedule. The team at Languages / International Affairs can help you to find one that is perfect for you. Although this is not compulsory, I would advise students with little to no German language skills (like me when I arrived) to take this opportunity. This enabled me to understand some basic everyday essentials and impress locals with my willingness to integrate into their culture.

10.5 Pre-Semester Workshop on International Academic Competence

Before the beginning of the lecture period, orientation sessions are offered to familiarise students with life in a foreign country and to give advice about cultural differences in rules, behaviour, customs and life on campus.

10.6 Study Organisation

What makes RheinAhrCampus special is the fact that active participation by students is part of the learning process in seminars. Students work in groups (which means it is easy to get to know other students), prepare and do presentations in class. Lecturers see students as partners in the learning process, not just as people to be taught. This form of active learning makes you learn better. So don't be shy and take an active part in what is going on in class, even if your German or English is not very fluent. It's not the grammar, it's the content that is important.

It helps lecturers to know who the exchange students in their class are so

they can pay special attention to any questions you might have. Please introduce yourself at the begin-



ning of the course and tell the lecturer where you are from, what you already know about this particular subject etc. They are always very happy to meet exchange students.

10.7 Semesters and Exams

The semester of the Faculty of Business and Social Management is split into a first half and a second half. Some courses finish at the end of the first half with an exam (Week 8), while other courses start with the second half and have exams at the end of the second half (Weeks 16/17). Other courses run from the beginning of the semester to the end, and exams are at the end of the semester (Weeks 16/17). In the Faculty of Mathematics and Technologies, all the courses cover the entire 16-week period of the semester and exams are held at the end.

Exams are held in the form of written tests, assignments to be handed in and/or presentations in class. In some cases (especially in smaller classes), there may be oral examinations. Information about the type of exam for a particular course can be found in the module description on the website or in MyStudy (see below). There you will also find the number of ECTS credit points awarded for each course.

10.8 MyStudy

This is a kind of electronic notice board and personal timetable. It is a highly useful tool for all lecturers and students to organize their semester courses. Many professors use this as the sole communication platform for any business related to their classes. You will be given a user name and a password together with your personal mail account. When you log in to MyStudy, you can put together your semester programme by adding courses to your timetable. You can now access important information about each individual course, for example the start date, the time of the next session; you can download study materials provided by the lecturers as well as upload your assignments. You will be automatically put on an e-mail list for all the courses you have chosen. This means it is possible to send messages to all course participants by either the lecturer or by the students themselves. You should familiarize yourself with the system, so you receive all the information provided.



Please note that all the messages sent out by lecturers will go to your campus email address (cf. below). More information on the website at: www.rheinahrcampus.de/Dokumentation_myStudy.309.0.html

At the end of the semester, you will be asked to evaluate each course and lecturer in MyStudy. This evaluation provides important data to the lecturers and the faculty, so use this opportunity to make your views known.

10.9 Registration for Courses and Exams

You can register for the courses via the MyStudy system. Registrations for exams are done via the QIS system of the exam board. Details will be given during Orientation Week.

10.10 Moodle

The Moodle is another tool you may come across when taking part in some of the courses offered in English. It is similar to MyStudy in that it enables communication between lecturers and students in a class. However, the Moodle also has some other great functions such as uploading the minutes taken in class or projects worked on. There are also discussion forums and wikis that are useful for collaboration. It is a colourful space that gets added to each week as the course progresses. The space is very user friendly and becomes a part of your 'study' routine. You will be shown how to log in and use the Moodle in the first session.

10.11 Learning Agreement

Before you arrive or immediately on arrival we will set up a Learning Agreement that details the courses you would like to do during your semester with us and for which you would like to get recognition from your home university and transfer the ECTS- credit points gained here. The Agreement will be signed by you, your home university and Sprachen/Internationales.

11 Student Services

11.1 The Library

The library is open Monday through Friday 9.00-18.00 and Sat 11.00-14.00 during the semester. Please register at the library (bring proof of your address, e.g. the registration form from the Burgerbüro). You can borrow books for four weeks up to twelve weeks, unless another student would like to borrow the same book. If you want to renew your book, you can do this over the computer with the library's system OPAC (online-public-access-catalogue), by phone, by e-mail or in person at the library counter. This has to be done three days before the book is due to be returned. If you are late returning a book, the fee is 1 Euro per book. The library also has a photo copier operated via your student card.



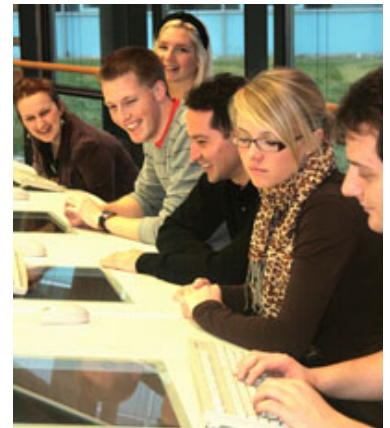
11.2 Computers and E-Mail

There are five computer labs at RheinAhrCampus with about fifteen workplaces each. There are also approximately fifteen computers in the library. Due to the fact that there are plenty of workstations, it's really easy to find a spare computer. Using the computers and having Internet access is a free service to every student at RheinAhrCampus. The team at Languages / International Affairs will help you contacting the computer help desk in the "Rechenzentrum" (IT Centre) for your personal log-in and e-mail address. Please check the e-mail messages in your RheinAhrCampus account regularly or have them re-directed to your normal account, as you will receive a lot of important information about events, homework etc. via your RheinAhrCampus e-mail account.

11.3 "Sprachlernzentrum" (Language Lab)

"Sprachen/Internationales" runs an open access language lab (Sprachlabor) in the library where you can practise your language skills working with CD-ROMs and the internet. German, English, French, Italian, Spanish and Dutch language software is on offer. If you would like to learn another foreign language or improve your current level, the staff at the lab will be glad to help you!

The opening hours of the language lab change every semester as they are adjusted to students' needs and their schedules. Have a look at the "Sprachlabor" posters which you can find all over campus.



11.4 Mensa

During the day you can have breakfast and lunch at the "Mensa" (campus cafeteria). For lunch, students can choose between three different menus (including a vegetarian option), each consisting of soup, a main dish, salad and dessert, for only Euro 1.90. You can also choose a salad or something lighter in the cafeteria. Payment is via a chip on your student card. After you have chosen your dish or drink, the staff will withdraw money from your card via a little machine. So there is no need to always have the right change in your pocket. The "Cafeteria" is open Mon to Fri 08.00 to 15.30 and lunch is served Mon.-Thurs. 11.30-14.00, Fri. 11.30-13.45. There are also vending machines in the "Mensa" foyer where you can get sweets, soft drinks and coffee.

12 Student Activities

by Malin Näsholm, Exchange Student from Sweden

As a student at RheinAhrCampus, there are a lot of things you can get involved in and there are many fun activities going on.

12.1 "StuPa"

The StuPa is a student committee (Studierendenparlament) where students can voice their opinions and make a difference. The StuPa consists of ten elected members that look after the students' concerns and their rights. (<http://asta-remagen.de/index.php/stupa/>)

12.2 “AStA”

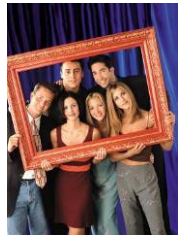
The AStA is the executive branch of the StuPa that arranges a lot of activities. They publish a magazine called “RAC-Magazin” that provides a lot of information about what is happening on campus. For example, the AStA organizes first-semester parties every semester and a “Pool Party” every summer to celebrate that the exam period is over. To find out more about what is organised by the AStA, visit their homepage at: www.asta-remagen.de or talk to somebody in D009. Tel: +49 (0) 2642/932185, e-mail: asta@RheinAhrCampus.de

12.3 AStA Shop

Here you will find all the things that you need to be a good student, paper, pens, index cards and much more. Open during lunchtime in room D008.

12.4 “Lunch Club”

Twice a week, during lunch break, “Sprachen/Internationales” shows an instalment of an American TV-show in room B014. This is a great opportunity to meet other students and to practice your English in an entertaining way. The two shows currently offered are “Friends” and “King of Queens”.



12.5 Excursions and Trips

The International Office at Koblenz campus organizes excursions to places near Remagen and Koblenz, but also trips to Berlin, Brussels and other cities. The programme can be found at www.fh-koblenz.de/Veranstaltungen-Events.3050.0.html. Please register as early as possible as places fill up quickly. This is also a good way of getting to know other international students at RheinAhrCampus and FH Koblenz.

13 Living in Germany

When you leave your home to live in another country, there are some things worth considering before you go.

13.1 Money in Germany

Currency is the Euro. You can pay by bank card and in most shops by credit card, and there are many cash machines or ATMs available. It is advisable to open an account with a local bank for monthly deductions for rent etc. This service is free for students.

13.2 Cultural Differences – An Introduction by Marie Nilsson, Exchange Student from Sweden
Every country has its own customs, languages and traditions, all of which are part of the country’s culture. When you are planning to go to a foreign country, whether you are just going for a vacation or for studying abroad, think about the new culture that you will meet. Try to figure out things that might be different from your own culture, things that you are not used to, and how to behave and communicate in the new environment. This preparation will not only make your integration easier, but it will also help you to quickly overcome any feeling of alienation you might experience.

Here are a few things that you may want to consider when coming to Germany. Please keep in mind that these are very personal observations from a Swedish perspective, it might be good to do your own research and compare that with your culture in order to be better prepared for your experience abroad.

Politeness – Germans are very polite and hospitable and this is of course the way they want to be treated as well. You should always start addressing people by their last names or the formal German word for you, “Sie”. This is a rule with exceptions though. If you know the person well or if you are among students, then you may call them by their first names and use the informal German word for you, “du”.

Drinking – In some countries drinking is a taboo, in others people go out for a drink once a week or tend to drink all the time. In Germany, beer and wine drinking is more of a cultural and social activity than in some other countries; keep this in mind when going to the local “Kneipe” (pub). Drinking in public is becoming popular, however this behaviour is not seen as desirable.

Wine – Is a specialty of the Rhine and Ahr valley with a multitude of vineyards and local wine producers. Each year, each town in the region celebrates a wine festival, where you can sample the local produce and watch the crowning of the Wine Queen.

Punctuality – Germans are known to be very punctual at official meetings and events. They might even try to arrive a few minutes before the meeting is scheduled. However, if you have a more informal gathering with your student friends, do not count on them showing up on time, they might well be ten or fifteen minutes late.

13.3 Language

The official language in Germany is of course German. If you want to enrol for seminars taught in German at the university, a good level of German is required. If you think your German is not that good, you can look out for seminars taught in English and still get credits. The use of English here in Germany is quite widespread. All the students here at RheinAhrCampus can understand and make themselves understood using the English language; this is also the case for most of Germany in general.

14 Leisure Time Activities

by Fredrik Lundqvist, Exchange Student from Sweden

There are many different activities that you as a student at RheinAhrCampus can take part in. The AStA (Student Association) organises many sports activities in Remagen such as soccer, aerobics, volleyball, jogging, basketball and squash. Right next to the campus is a very nice sand court that is used for beach volleyball and beach soccer. A notice board in the Mensa foyer provides the latest info on what is happening. Remagen and its surroundings are ideal for cycling/mountain biking and inline skating.

There are also many other activities in Remagen, such as:

Tennis Club (just across the street from campus) www.tennis-center-remagen.de

“Freizeitbad” (just across the street from campus). Ask for your free pass at Sprachen/Internationales Dance Studio

Gym for weightlifting

Entertainment

The Tourist Information Centre opposite the Rathaus (Town Hall) offers a range of leaflets and brochures to help you find your way around Remagen and the area and the many attractions it has to offer. The Remagen website also lists local events:

<http://www.remagen.de/>

including current exhibitions at the Arp Museum in Rolandseck.

Events at the Kulturwerkstatt are listed at: www.kultur-werkstatt-remagen.de/

To find out what is happening in and around Remagen, you should also have a look in the local daily newspaper (General-Anzeiger and Rhein-Zeitung).

General information on events is also listed at the websites of the following radio stations:

www.wdr.de

1 Live www.einslive.de

DASDING www.dasding.de/

SWR 1 www.swr.de/swr1/rp

SWR 2 www.swr2.de/

SWR 3 www.swr3.de/

SWR 4 www.swr.de/swr4/rp

SWR CONT.RA www.swr-contra.de

There are also posters and brochures around the campus, especially in the area in front of the library. "Live!" is a magazine listing all events in the Bonn/Cologne region.

15 Cost of Living

by Fredrik Lundqvist, Exchange Student from Sweden

It is very difficult to estimate what the living expenses would be for a student here in Remagen, since this of course depends on the standard of accommodation, food and entertainment. However, the calculations below should give you an idea of what your costs would be. The average living costs for students for a month are around Euro 750 per month.

Accommodation

For a room in town, sharing with other people, you can expect to pay between Euro 230 and Euro 300 per month. A room in student residences is Euro 230 including heating etc. You also have to pay a deposit in advance, normally three months' rent.

Food and Drink:

For a glass of beer or a bottle/can of coke you will have to pay between Euro 2.50 and Euro 3.50. The prices for food depend on where and what you would like to eat. There are a lot of nice restaurants as well as fast food places that you can choose from if you want to go out for lunch or dinner.

Cultural Activities

If you like going to the cinema, this would cost you between Euro 5 and 10. And remember that most films are dubbed into German! Special cinemas in Bad Godesberg, Koblenz, Bonn and Köln offer films in the original versions plus German subtitles.

16 The Town of Remagen

"Die Stadt Remagen" - a pleasant place to live.

Remagen is situated on the river Rhine, near Bonn, between Cologne and Koblenz. Here, life is peaceful and therefore good for studying. And Remagen is close enough to the larger cities, if you feel like experiencing city life around you.

The promenade along the river Rhine offers a splendid view of the river Rhine. The landscape around Remagen is green and luscious, and is good walking and cycling country. Remagen has all the amenities you might want, shops, restaurants, weekly markets where you can buy fresh food, flea markets in the summer and a Christmas market in winter.

For more information about Remagen, please visit the official web site: www.remagen.de



17 The Surroundings

by Malin Näsholm, exchange student from Sweden

From Remagen it is really easy to go by train to the surrounding cities. It only takes about 20 minutes to Bonn, half an hour to Koblenz and about 40 minutes to Koeln. It is a lot of fun going there, for example if you like visiting museums or if you would like to go out for an evening or maybe go shopping. There are a lot of beautiful places around Remagen that are definitely worth a visit. Be sure to take the opportunity to explore the area. The landscape along the River Rhine is wonderful, and there are a lot of beautiful old castles. The people we have met here have all been very happy to show us around. With the fast and fairly cheap train and plane connections, it will only take you a few hours if you are interested in exploring other places in Germany during your stay. Or why not the rest of Europe?

18 Travelling by Train

One of the easiest ways to travel around Germany is by train. The train connections are very good, especially along the Rhine. Don't forget to use your student-ID-card for free travelling around Remagen. The official internet address of the German Railways ("Deutsche Bahn") is: www.bahn.de. Here you will find train schedules and special offers for train tickets. In order to get a discount on all your train tickets for one year, you can buy a "BahnCard" when you arrive in Germany. Two of these "BahnCards" by Deutsche Bahn might be of interest to you. "BahnCard 25 for students" costs Euro 39 (2nd class) and provides a 25% price reduction. And "BahnCard 50 for students" which costs Euro 118 (2nd class) and provides a 50% price reduction. A passport photo and an address are required. Which one would be best for you depends on how much you are planning to travel during the card's validity. Travelling from Remagen is very easy since you are only a short distance away from the larger cities Koblenz, Bonn and Köln, and only a few hours away from the rest of Europe.

19 Personal Experiences at RheinAhrCampus

Our former exchange students have written up their experiences at RheinAhrCampus and their reports have been put on our website. To find out what students think of their semester here at RheinAhrCampus and some hints and tips, please go to:

www.rheinahrcampus.de/Students-Experiences.2226.0.html

20 Health Issues

Emergency Doctor and Ambulance

A general emergency service is available at this telephone number: 116 117

Local Emergency Number: 02641 836666

Fire Brigade: call 112

20.1 Winter in Remagen

Although the winters in the Remagen area are relatively mild for Germany, we do get a few weeks of cold weather around freezing point every year between November and March. Dress warmly when you go outside. Several layers of clothes are much better protection than one heavy coat. Wear gloves or mittens and a hat. You should have footwear which protects you from moisture (rain and snow) as well as warm socks.

20.2 Medical Services and Emergency Services

Doctors in Remagen are listed in the telephone book. Ask other students for recommendations, make an appointment and see how you get on with your chosen doctor.

A list of doctors and emergency services can be found at: <http://www.remagen.de/deutsch/5/1/1/>

In the evening, at night and over the weekend, different pharmacies are open for emergencies. The nearest pharmacy that is open is listed on every pharmacy door. Information also by telephone

(0 18 05) 25 88 25 53424

(0 90 05) 25 88 25 53424

Mobile

(0 18 05) 25 88 25 53424

21 Useful Internet Addresses

- www.rheinahrcampus.de - RheinAhrCampus web page, which is a good place to start.
- www.rheinahrcampus.de/OPAC.80.0.html - OPAC the library's website.
- www.asta-remagen.de - AStA homepage at RheinAhrCampus.
- www.ractivist2010.de – The site for RheinAhrCampus business students with interesting info
- www.fh-koblenz.de - Official home page of the "Fachhochschule Koblenz" that RheinAhrCampus is a part of. Be sure to look at the International Office pages! There you will find the Semester Programme with trips to places of interest in the area.

- www.remagen.de - Official page of the town of Remagen.
- www.bruecke-remagen.de - The museum of the famous "Bridge at Remagen", now a peace museum
- www.bahn.de -The German railway company. Here you can find offers, prices and timetables.
- www.tennis-center-remagen.de - If you want to play tennis during your stay.

22 Glossary of Academic Terms

Abitur: the final oral and written examination at high school level (A-levels). Entitles you to study at a university.

Akademisches Auslandsamt: a university's international students' office is the administrative bureau responsible for foreign students coming to Germany and German students going abroad.

AStA: Elected student representatives, performing a series of services for students as well as doing campus political work. They have several thematic working groups,

Aushang: a sheet of paper on the bulletin board, giving you up-to-date information

BAFoG: means "Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz", a law regulating a national grant system

Dekan: elected head of a department; dean.

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD): The German Academic Exchange Service provides information for students from abroad in Germany and for German students going abroad. They also offer scholarships for German and international students. Visit their web site: www.daad.de for useful info. They also offer online German language courses for free!

Diplom: a first degree granted in study programs that do not conclude with the Staatsexamen, a Magister degree or a Bachelor degree. At most German universities (including RAC), this type of degree will be phased out and replaced by Bachelor/Master degree programmes.

Dozent: a teacher at a Fachhochschule or Universität

Fachbereich: a "school" or department in the sense of a college or faculty within the University of Applied Sciences

Fachhochschule: type of university placing special emphasis on applied teaching. Research activities focus on the needs of business and industry.

Fachschaft: is the student body within a given department. It has official representation within the student government.

German Academic Exchange Service: see Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst

Immatrikulation/ Einschreibung: formal enrolment procedure for official admission into a university

Klausur: a written exam of two to four hours, usually at the end of the semester

Lehrbeauftragte: part-time teachers at universities of Applied Sciences, recruited because of their specialized business experience.

Leistungsübersicht: a certificate that shows the exams a student has taken during a program (transcript of records). The grades are: 1 = excellent; 2 = well above average; 3 = average; 4 = pass; 5 = fail.

Mensa: the main student cafeteria

Naturwissenschaften: the natural sciences

N.N.: (lat. nomen nominandum) is used instead of a name and means that the teacher is yet to be appointed.

Praesident/Praesidentin: the official head of a university; president.

Professor: members of permanent teaching staff, usually with a PhD degree, responsible for a special field within their department.

Pruefungsamt: the Departmental Examination Office regulating and conducting exams (Pruefung) according to the rules laid down in the Pruefungsordnung by the Department and the Examination Board (Pruefungausschuss).

Rueckmeldung: procedure of re-registration at the beginning of each semester by paying the Semesterbeitrag

Semester: divides the academic year into two periods. The Wintersemester is from mid-September to the end of February, the Sommersemester from March to the end of July.

Semesterbeitrag: individual student's contribution per semester to student services provided (not to be confused with tuition fees).

Semesterticket: comes as part of your Semesterbeitrag and entitles you to free public transport for the semester within the region between Koeln and Koblenz. Your student ID serves as the ticket.

Seminar: form of teaching that requires the students' active participation and a written and/or oral exam at the end of the semester is generally required. Sometimes presentations are part of the course work and exam.

Senat: a university's governing body. It consists of elected faculty members, staff and students.

Studierendenwerk: a non-profit service organization for students that runs various services, student residences, cafeterias, kindergarten, federal scholarships etc.

Tutorium: informal group tutorial covering what has been learned in a lecture, often conducted by a senior student.

Uebung: learning takes place in a smaller group. It also finishes with an exam.

Universitaet: type of university where the main emphasis is on theoretical knowledge and research, the furthering of knowledge in general.

Vorlesung: Lecture, i.e. a lecturer presents her/his topic while students take notes. At the end of the lecture students are invited to ask questions.

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Edited by Adelheid Korpp

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