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Global Office

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Website for Exchange Students

<https://www.uni-frankfurt.de/incoming/en>

Incoming Exchange Student Advisors

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Academic Calendar 2025-2026

Winter Semester (Semester 1)

Pre-Semester Intensive Language Course	The duration is now also three weeks (as in summer), starting mid/late September, Exact start date will be announced here .
Duration of Winter Semester	October 1 st 2025 to March 31 st 2026
Lecture Period	October 13 th 2024 to February 13 th 2026
Christmas/New Year's break	December 20 th 2025 to January 11 th 2026
Exam period	GU does not have a centralized exam schedule, so students need to discuss details with the respective faculty. Generally, most exams take place in mid- to end February, in some cases until mid-March.

Summer Semester (Semester 2)

Pre-Semester Intensive Language Course	Three weeks, starting in early-mid March (exact start date will be announced on our website once confirmed)
Duration of Summer Semester	April 1 st to September 30 th 2026
Lecture Period	April 13 th to July 17 th 2026
Exam schedule	GU does not have a centralized exam period so students need to discuss details with the respective faculty. Generally, most exams take place in mid- to end July, in some cases until mid-August.

Nomination

Deadline for the winter semester

May 15th

Deadline for the summer semester

November 15th

Application and Enrolment

	Winter Semester	Summer Semester
Application link <i>sent to students</i>	Early May	Early November
Application deadline	June 15 th	December 15 th

Please note: If your students do not receive the e-mail with the link, they need to contact us before the application deadline! We recommend adding incoming@uni-frankfurt.de to their safe senders list.

Process

Students need to fill in an online application form and have it signed by their coordinator. They will receive detailed instructions beforehand.

Please note:

- We need the home university's signature to validate the application. For German-taught programs, it also serves as confirmation that the home university considers the students' language proficiency at least B1 according to the CEFR.
- Students should regularly check their application work-flow in order to see if their application has been marked as complete. This will usually happen within a week.

Letter of Admission <i>e-mailed to students (More details)</i>	In August	In February
Semester Social Contribution <i>(details below) payment due</i>	March 31 st	September 30 th

Please note: students can only pick up their Goethe Card once the payment has been confirmed by the administration.



Arrival

Arrival Dates

students should take into account

- pre-semester German course (if applicable)
- student housing move-in date (if applicable)
- start of lectures (see academic calendar)
- orientation sessions (both by [Global Office](#) and their host faculty/department)

Students will be informed about orientation and housing dates in due time.

Getting to the city from the airport

Unfortunately, we can't offer airport pickup, but it is easy to get to the city by public transport or taxi. [For details see our website.](#)

Next steps

Students will be informed about the next steps, e.g. how to receive their Goethe Card (ID and transportation pass), set up their GU user accounts etc. in due time. [Details can be also found on our website.](#)

Insurance

For students who don't have a European Health Insurance Card we strongly recommend purchasing health insurance in Germany. More details on our [website](#).

Semester Social Contribution

The semester social contribution is **not a tuition fee**, but a social contribution to the Student Body Committees plus the costs of the semester ticket. This is **mandatory** for all students enrolled at GU, but for exchange students, we are able to waive a small administrative component.

The amount for exchange students is currently approx. **€345** (subject to change). Students will be informed about the exact amount and how to pay in their letter of admission.

- The **benefits** include:
 - full access to public transport in Frankfurt and a large part of the federal state of Hesse
 - discounts in campus restaurants
 - free access to campus bicycles, the botanical gardens and museums, etc.

For more details, see our [website](#).

Staying for 2 Semesters

Students who have been nominated for two semesters simply need to [pay the semester social contribution again](#) for their second semester in order to re-enroll.

Students who have been nominated for one semester, but wish to stay longer [need to request an extension](#) and, if granted, pay the semester social contribution again. Please consider that rental contracts in student residences cannot be guaranteed and is usually only possible if requested early (see website for details).

Courses

Academic Course Offer	See our website for details and below with regard to English course offer .
Language of Instruction	<p>In some faculties and programs, studying a full semester workload in English is generally possible.</p> <p>In most other cases, the majority of courses is taught in German, with some master programs and some individual classes in English, thus German skills are imperative if students need a specific amount of credits.</p> <p>If you have any questions about this, please always check with our colleagues at the faculties, and/or us beforehand. Please also see “eligibility” for minimum language requirement.</p>
Grading	<p>Typically, 1-5 (with 1 the highest and 4 the lowest passing grade).</p> <p>In some cases, a system may be used that ranges from 15 to 0 (with 15 the highest and 5 the lowest passing grade).</p> <p>For Details see p. 38 ff. in the official documentation.</p>
Course Registration	<p><i>Please note:</i> Enrollment into classes is de-central and works through the faculties/departments. This means the Global Office cannot allocate spots and also cannot monitor students’ attendance. The process is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will receive an e-mail once the course catalogue is online (usually in June for winter term; in January for summer term). • To register for their courses, students need to e-mail their host faculty/department before the start of the semester (if they are unsure who the right contact is they can check with the Global Office).
German Language Course Offer	<p>Our International Study Center offers preparatory intensive courses (3 weeks before the start of lectures) and courses during the semester. Both types of courses are credit-bearing and free of charge.</p>

Eligibility

GPA	No minimum, we trust our partner’s selection process.
Minimum Language Requirement	<p>The minimum for students to take academic courses in German varies depending on the subject; usually it is B1 according to the CEFR, but for medical studies, B2. The course offer at GU is mostly in German, but there are a range of subjects that can be studied fully in English, please find the details here. In these cases, the minimum is English B2, and there are exceptions that need a more advanced level.</p> <p>Please visit our website, open “language requirements” and check with us if in doubt. In everyone’s best interest, please only nominate students with sufficient language skills. If the students do not have the language proficiency they need, we may need to deny enrolment.</p>

Accommodation

The Global Office has a contingent of rooms/apartments for exchange students administered by student services ("Studierendenwerk Frankfurt"). Students need to apply through the Global Office, all details on how to apply can be found on our [website](#).

As much as we would like to, **we unfortunately cannot guarantee housing**, since we only have room for about 40% of exchange students, which will be allocated on a first-come, first-serve-basis but with overseas students given priority.

Frankfurt is a tight housing market by German standards, so students are encouraged to apply for the university housing, and, if they cannot receive a room (they will know in January/July) start looking on the private market as soon as possible. It is easier to find rooms a bit further outside the city, many smaller communities are well-connected by public transport (pass included in the semester social fee).

Support and Student Life

Buddy Program

Incoming exchange students are welcome to the [buddy programs at GU](#).

Students with Special Needs

Kindly let us know early on if you have students with special needs who are interested in coming to GU, so we can connect with [GU's support team](#) to provide assistance.

Student Initiatives

GU has a host of different initiatives, an overview can be found [here](#) (site in German at this time, sorry).

Activities for International Students

...are offered by [IST](#) and [ESN](#) for Erasmus Students.

More helpful info

...on [support](#) and [things to do in Frankfurt](#).

Please contact the Global Office team if you need further info. We look forward to welcoming your students!

