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General Information

Study in Germany:

The German academic year is divided into two semesters: the summer semester starts in April and ends in September and the winter semester runs from October to March. The no-lecture period is often filled with scientific work and preparations for presentations for the next semester. Some teachers tend to schedule tests during the holidays. Too, many German students take advantage of the long vacation to obtain work experience through an internship.

About TU-Darmstadt:

Technical University, Darmstadt was founded in 1877 and received the right to award doctorates in 1899. In 1882 it was the first university in the world to set up a chair in electrical engineering, in 1883 the first faculty for electrical engineering was founded there. With time it has added the latest of all advancing fields like Computer Sciences etc. There are about 25100 students (including 4450 foreign students) making a sizeable proportion of the total town population. Though TU-Darmstadt may not fare well in world rankings, its reputation goes beyond the rankings. Unlike classical universities (like back in India) where in there is a university and departments under it, TU-Darmstadt has quite a fascinating and interesting structure. It consists of 13 departments and 5 fields of study with 110 degree programs.

Each department offers courses in its field which can be taken up by the students. These institutes also provide thesis opportunities and assistantship jobs to students.

More information can be found at: [www.TU-Darmstadt.de](http://www.TU-Darmstadt.de)

About Hochschule Darmstadt:

The University of Darmstadt (h_da) is one of the largest Universities of Applied Sciences in Germany. About 50 undergraduate, graduate, and master courses with many self-selectable focus points provide the best career prospects for its 13,000 students. The range of courses ranging from the engineering, information technology, social work, social sciences and economics to architecture, media and design. Applied research and development at the h_da enriches the excellent teaching and strengthens businesses in the region through technology and knowledge transfer.

More information can be found at: [http://www.h-da.de/hochschule/](http://www.h-da.de/hochschule/)
Exam Structure and grading system TU-Darmstadt:

In the German grading system, grades are given between 1.0 (best grade) and 5.0 (fail grade). Grades are given in levels as 1.0, 1.3, 1.7 and 2.0 and so on. 4.0 is the pass grade. An oral exam may be conducted instead of written exam.

Credit Point System: German university follows credit point systems, each subject came with particular credit points and students will be awarded with those credit points upon successfully passing the examination. Number of credits with each subject varies.

Placements:

There are no campus placements in TU-Darmstadt. However, there are regular company fairs where students get a chance to interact with the representatives from the various companies and get valuable contacts. These may be used during the actual online application.

German Language Requirements:

TU as such requires no German language certificate at time of admission for all international courses. During the course you must complete up to B1 level of German language (3 levels from Goethe Institute aka Max Müller Bhavan in India). However, if you have beforehand German knowledge it will not only give you an advantage during the admission procedure but will help you gets a good internship / student assistantship. Therefore, we would advise you strongly to complete as many language courses as possible from India itself. Do submit a certificate of the levels you complete. Once here, you will have to give a small German language placement test wherein you will be placed in the appropriate further level. If you complete up to B1 from India itself, then you are not required to take up the language course. It is always a good idea to continue learning German side by side even once you are here just to keep in touch. You would be required to learn some technical terms in German sooner or later along with language for day to day conversation.

Coming to Darmstadt:

Accommodation in Darmstadt:

It is generally difficult to get good accommodation in Darmstadt as number of incoming students is high; we recommend visiting our website page for general information about accommodation i.e.

Also keep checking latest post on Information section of our website, this column contain lot of useful current information.

First steps in Darmstadt:

- **VISA Extension**

  It may be done at the Foreign office (Ausländerbehörde) Darmstadt or depends upon your address, within the first 3 months of your stay in Darmstadt. A new electronic card has been introduced which costs around 80 euros.

- **City Registration**

  It may be done at Stadt Darmstadt office (GrafenStr 30). It records your address in Darmstadt. It is a very important document and required for all contracts in the city. The city registration can be done with a temporary address. No costs are involved. The city registration has to be done every time you change your address in Darmstadt.

  In case you live nearby district of Darmstadt i.e. Dieburg etc. then you need to visit City hall of Dieburg for registration.

- **Health Insurance**


- **Phone connection**

  For phone connection, city registration and bank account is must. Usually Indian students prefer O2 connection with flat rate of 10-20 euros per month which includes free calling to other O2 mobiles and German landlines. Many handset options are available. Internet on phone can be got as combined pack with flat rate for 20 euros. Other service providers include T-mobile and Vodafone. Prepaid cards are available on temporary basis and can be bought over the counter. Your seniors can guide you with the right plans once you are here.

- **Calling to India**

  This can be done through prepaid cards. Most effective are VOIP software (Voice over Internet Protocol). Software like Jumblo and AKTIONVOIP can be used to call India at a rate of 0.9 cent/min. These can be made from your phone if you have the flat rate option of Data.

- **Internet Connection**

  Most Student Hostels already have an internet connection available in the room. In case of private housing, a variety of internet connection providers like BASE, NET+, UNISPOT, O2, VODAFONE, 1&1 provide internet for about 15 to 20 euros per
month. Additionally, the university has its own Wi-fi connection which can be used (on phone and laptop) near the university buildings in the city.

- **Travelling in Darmstadt**

For students of the TU-Darmstadt and FH Darmstadt, the public transport system in the state of Hessen is free. Darmstadt has an excellent bus system and trams, which covers the entire city. It is the cheapest (rather free for students) way to travel around the city as it is covered in the semester contribution. Buses start at 4.00 am and go on until midnight. Frequency is generally higher in the mornings and low at dawn and near midnight. Bus/Tram/Train connections can be searched online at [http://www.rmv.de/](http://www.rmv.de/). Cycling is an option, especially in the summer months when it is not very cold. Second hand cycles can be bought starting 20 euros at fairs in the city.

- **Driving license**

Getting a driving license is expensive in Germany and may cost from 1000 to 1500 euros depending on number of driving classes you need to take. Driving license MUST be got through a driving school. Indian Driving Permit is only valid for the first six months of your stay here and may not be accepted by all car-rental firms.

FAQ’s:

Frequently asked questions for this information section will come soon.