



# The Global Exchange Program at the University of Bonn

Fact Sheet for Partner Universities 2026/27



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## The University of Bonn

The University of Bonn was founded in 1818. Home to about 31,500 students, the University is one of Germany's largest academic institutions and, with more than 5,200 international students from all over the world, also one of the most internationally oriented. A wide range of courses, an outstanding reputation in teaching and research and a unique location make the University an especially attractive place to study.

Bonn, the former federal capital of Germany, is located on the River Rhine and a center for the Rhineland way of life, art and culture. In 1989, the city celebrated the 2,000th anniversary of its founding as a Roman settlement. With its 21 UN agencies, Bonn is Germany's "UN city" and hosts around 150 international organizations.

The city is also the birthplace of Ludwig van Beethoven, has a beautiful historical center with a daily market, numerous museums and many other buildings and events of significance and cultural interest.

[360-degree tour](#)

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## Details of the Institution

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<b>Name of university</b>	University of Bonn
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://uni-bonn.de">uni-bonn.de</a>
<b>Head of institution</b>	Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Michael Hoch, Rector
<b>Head of International Office</b>	<b>Dr. Katharina Fuchs-Bodde, Director</b> Phone: +49 228 73-5950 Email: <a href="mailto:fuchs-bodde@uni-bonn.de">fuchs-bodde@uni-bonn.de</a>
<b>Office in charge of Global Exchange Program</b>	<b>International Office</b> Poppelsdorfer Allee 53 53115 Bonn, Germany

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## Contact Information

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<b>Global Exchange Program Coordinator – Incomings</b> Program oversight, nomination and scholarships	<b>Nele Eing</b> Phone: +49 228 73-60493 Email: <a href="mailto:globalexchange-incoming@uni-bonn.de">globalexchange-incoming@uni-bonn.de</a>
<b>Global Exchange Program Administrator – Incomings</b>	<b>Hanan Elabdouni</b> Phone: +49 228 73-6316 Email: <a href="mailto:globalexchange-incoming@uni-bonn.de">globalexchange-incoming@uni-bonn.de</a>
<b>Global Exchange Program Coordinator – Outgoings</b> Program oversight, agreements and mobility numbers	<b>Christina Timpernagel</b> Phone: +49 228 73-5935 Email: <a href="mailto:globalexchange-partnerships@uni-bonn.de">globalexchange-partnerships@uni-bonn.de</a>
<b>Global Exchange Program Administrator – Outgoings</b> Student counseling, nomination, application and administration	<b>Laura Cornesse</b> Phone: +49 228 73-5951 Email: <a href="mailto:globalexchange-outgoing@uni-bonn.de">globalexchange-outgoing@uni-bonn.de</a>

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## Program Dates

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<b>Academic calendar</b>	Winter semester 2026/27: <b>October 12 to February 05</b> Orientation Weeks: <b>September</b> Summer semester 2027: <b>April 05 to July 16</b> Orientation Weeks: <b>March</b> Examinations may take place during the first few weeks after the end of the lecture period.
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## Nomination and Application

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### Nomination

Winter semester: **March 01 to April 14**

Summer semester: **September 01 to October 14**

The international office of the student's home institution is responsible for nominating them via the online platform Mobility-Online. Links will be sent to the coordinators.

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### Application

Winter semester: **April 01 to May 31**

Summer semester: **October 01 to November 30**

Students submit their online application and application for a dormitory room **via the Mobility-Online platform.**

The students will be told within 4 to 6 weeks of the abovementioned application deadlines whether or not they have been accepted and will receive further information.

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## Admission Requirements and Documents

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### Grade point average (GPA)

At least 3.0 out of 4.0, with some flexibility if the coordinator from the home university sees potential in a student not currently meeting this threshold

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### Language requirements

**English B2/C1:** at least B2 (preferably C1) in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages for courses taught in English; no official proof necessary

**or**

**German B2:** if students wish to take courses taught in German, they should have reached at least B2 level. Please note that only a limited number of undergraduate courses are taught in English, so undergraduate students are strongly advised to have an advanced level of German.

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### Recommendations

A high level of independence, an interest in intercultural exchange, an openness to different learning environments, a generally good mental and physical condition

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### Admission documents requested

- Current Transcript of Records (in English)
- Copy of passport (valid for the entire length of the planned stay)
- Letter of motivation

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# Orientation Weeks

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<b>Information</b>	Orientation Weeks are an optional three-week program that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Intensive German Course</b> Before Starting the Semester (A1-B2; Monday to Thursday mornings; 4 hours per day, equivalent to 4 ECTS credits)</li><li>• <b>Welcome Days</b> with information sessions on enrolling, registering with the city authorities, opening a bank account, etc.</li><li>• Various excursions and social activities</li></ul>
<b>Start date</b>	Orientation Weeks start alternately in March or September
<b>Cost</b>	Free of charge

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## General Course Information

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<b>Curriculum structure</b>	BA/ BSc/ MA/ MSc/ doctorate										
<b>Subject instruction</b>	Depending on their language and academic background, students may choose lectures, seminars, and tutorials from the University's standard course catalogue (see <a href="http://basis.uni-bonn.de">basis.uni-bonn.de</a> ). Specific academic requirements may apply to certain classes taught at the University.										
<b>Language requirements</b>	<b>Undergraduate:</b> mainly German, with a very limited number of courses taught in English. <b>Postgraduate:</b> German and English										
<b>Special English course for exchange students</b>	The <a href="#">International Classroom Bonn</a> seminar series offers undergraduate courses for exchange students that are taught in English. We provide an interdisciplinary range of courses that aim to broaden our incoming students' academic horizons and that enable them to connect with students outside their field										
<b>Faculties available</b>	All faculties (except the Faculty of Medicine)										
<b>Standard full-time workload</b>	It is recommended that students take between 12 and 18 contact hours per week for a total of around 30 ECTS credits per semester.										
<b>Grading system</b>	<p>The grading system usually comprises five levels (expressed as a number; intermediate grades may be given, e.g. "1-"). The minimum passing grade is <i>sufficient</i> (4).</p> <table><tr><td><i>Sehr Gut</i> (1)</td><td>Excellent</td></tr><tr><td><i>Gut</i> (2)</td><td>Good</td></tr><tr><td><i>Befriedigend</i> (3)</td><td>Satisfactory</td></tr><tr><td><i>Ausreichend</i> (4)</td><td>Sufficient</td></tr><tr><td><i>Nicht ausreichend</i> (5)</td><td>Insufficient/ Fail</td></tr></table>	<i>Sehr Gut</i> (1)	Excellent	<i>Gut</i> (2)	Good	<i>Befriedigend</i> (3)	Satisfactory	<i>Ausreichend</i> (4)	Sufficient	<i>Nicht ausreichend</i> (5)	Insufficient/ Fail
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# Information on German Courses

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<b>German language course</b>	Students may take part in a German language course: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Everyday language courses from A1.1 to B2.2, 4 hours per week, equivalent to 4 ECTS credits</li><li>• Courses on specific topics from A2 to C1, 2 hours per week, equivalent to 2 ECTS credits</li><li>• Credits can be included in the Transcript of Records</li></ul>
<b>Cost</b>	Free of charge

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## Accommodation

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<b>Student dormitories</b>	Students can apply for a room in a dorm owned by the Studierendenwerk Bonn via the online application page. The rental contract will be emailed to the student and will need to be signed around 6 weeks before they arrive.  For (doctoral) students who intend to stay less than one semester, please get in touch with our International Office.
<b>Monthly rent</b>	€300–€560
<b>Cancellation policy</b>	The Studierendenwerk Bonn's cancellation policy applies. Under the terms of the rental contract, a cancellation fee of up to three months' rent can be charged.
<b>Latest move-out date</b>	Winter semester: <b>February 28</b> Summer semester: <b>July 31</b>  <b>Students can only move in or out Monday through Friday!</b>
<b>Dorm Basic Set</b>	In all dorms, a starter kit called the " <u>Dorm Basic Set</u> " with basic necessities is available to buy for €60.
<b>More information</b>	More information on living in Bonn and private housing is available on the <a href="#">Living in Bonn</a> web page.

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# Visa

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## Visa application process

All participants are required to check the page of the [German Foreign Office](#) to see whether they need a visa.

### **US, Australia, Canada, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand:**

Students from these countries do not have to apply for a visa before they leave their home country but must apply for their electronic residence permit (visa) within three months of arriving in Germany.

They will need an application form (to be filled out by the student themselves), proof of insurance, a confirmation letter of enrollment (supplied by our office), biometric photos and the application fee of around €100 to €130 (to be paid by the student themselves).

### **Other countries:**

We will send out a letter of acceptance to the students prior to their departure, which they will require in order to apply for their visa in their home country.

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## Passport

Students will need a passport valid for their entire stay plus 6 months beyond.

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# Insurance

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## Health insurance

In order to enroll at the University of Bonn, students will need to provide proof of sufficient **health insurance** that covers their whole time spent studying abroad.

### **a) Private insurance:**

Students can take out an insurance policy abroad that covers the European area. Please contact one of the statutory German health insurance companies, quoting sender number H0001178, to check if your insurance cover is enough to exempt you from statutory German health insurance.

### **b) Statutory insurance:**

If they have not arranged any private insurance or their cover is not sufficient, students can take out statutory German health insurance, which costs around €135–€150 per month. Please contact one of the statutory German health insurance companies, quoting sender number H0001178, to get insured and request an insurance number.

Please be aware that students over 30 have to take out private health insurance.

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## Liability insurance

We recommend that students take out third-party liability insurance to cover any accidental injury or damage caused to other people or property during their stay.

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## Accident insurance

The semester fee, which students have to pay when enrolling, includes insurance cover for accidents that might occur on their way from the University to their place of residence or on University premises.

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## Finances

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<b>Monthly cost of living during semester</b>	Housing (dormitory)	€300–€560
	Housing (private accommodation)	€300–€650
	Food	€200
	Laundry, clothing, sanitary products	€80
	Health insurance	€135–€150
	Books and similar	€40
	Telephone, hobbies, sports, etc.	€90
	<b>Approx. costs per month</b>	<b>€1,000</b>

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<b>Semester fee</b>	<p>When enrolling at the University of Bonn, all students need to pay a semester fee once per semester. It includes the <a href="#">Deutschlandsemesterticket</a> (ticket for local public transportation in Germany).</p> <p>Note: this is NOT a tuition fee. All students have to pay this fee.</p>
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<b>Visa application fee</b>	Approximately €100
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## Welcome and Social Activities

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<b>Welcome Days</b>	<p><b><u>Welcome Days</u></b> for international students will be organized before the start of each semester (early October and April). Attendance is highly recommended as the International Office provides only limited individual support to late arrivals. The exact dates are communicated online.</p>
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<b>Study Buddy Program</b>	<p>The <a href="#">Study Buddy Program</a> matches newly arrived international students (mentees) with a “buddy,” i.e. a student from Bonn who can help them get started with their studies and get used to life in Bonn. Student volunteers from Bonn give international students advice and assistance and help them get off to a good start at university and in Bonn.</p>
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<b>Erasmus Student Network</b>	<p>The Erasmus Student Network at the University of Bonn organizes a lot of events during the term and helps Erasmus and Global Exchange Program students to settle in Bonn. Students can follow their Facebook page “<a href="#">Erasmus Student Network Bonn</a>” or Instagram account <a href="#">@esn_bonn</a>.</p>
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<b>International Club</b>	<p>The <a href="#">International Club</a> of the University of Bonn is a meeting place for German and international students as well as doctoral candidates at the University of Bonn. During the lecture period, the club puts on a wide range of exciting events where students can meet new people and get to know other cultures.</p>
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<b>BONNEWS Newsletter</b>	<p>Published every two weeks, this newsletter for international students includes updates on the latest event tips, excursion destinations, job offers and career-related information (<a href="#">subscribe</a>).</p>
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# INCLUSIVE Studying

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## Information

[Studying with disabilities or chronic illnesses](#) web page

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## Contact

Marion Becker, Representative for Students with Disabilities and Chronic Illnesses, [studium-inklusive@uni-bonn.de](mailto:studium-inklusive@uni-bonn.de)

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## Accommodation

The Studierendenwerk Bonn has a few rooms and apartments for students with special needs. As there is a limited number of such rooms, students are advised to get in touch with the International Office ([housing@uni-bonn.de](mailto:housing@uni-bonn.de)) and the Studierendenwerk Bonn ([wohnen@studierendenwerk-bonn.de](mailto:wohnen@studierendenwerk-bonn.de)) well in advance so that they can support their application accordingly.

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## Accessibility

The University of Bonn is not based on one single campus but spread throughout the city of Bonn. However, similar subjects are usually concentrated in the same area. As many institutes and departments are located in older buildings, not all of them are barrier-free. Students are therefore advised to get in touch with us before their arrival for further information.

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## Studying and learning support

- Special conditions and support in the various libraries
- Specially equipped room for taking exams, including reading devices for visually handicapped students
- Mentoring (on request)

Special conditions for exams (e.g. a different form of exam, more time, permission to use aids, etc.) can be arranged depending on an individual's disability level and needs.