

Information for Incoming ERASMUS Students

at TH Köln - Cologne University of Applied Sciences, Faculty 07 / IME

This text contains information for ERASMUS students who wish to attend courses in Informatics / Computer Science, Communications Engineering, or Electrical Engineering at the Faculty for Information, Media, and Electrical Engineering (IME, Faculty 07) of Cologne University of Applied Sciences (TH Köln). <http://www.nt.th-koeln.de/vogt/erasmus/index.html> is the Web address of this and other important documents. More information is provided by the International Office (<https://www.th-koeln.de/internationales> and https://www.th-koeln.de/en/international_office/incomings_21389.php), especially about the application procedure and its deadlines.

The Faculty for Information, Media, and Electrical Engineering

The Faculty for Information, Media, and Electrical Engineering offers bachelor/master programs in Computer Science & Engineering, Electrical Engineering (including Communications Engineering), and Media and Imaging Technology. It is structured into five institutes: Communications Engineering, Automation Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Applied Optics and Electronics, Media and Imaging Technology. The Faculty is part of the Campus Deutz of the TH Köln, Betzdorfer Straße 2.

Courses Offered

Besides basic courses, the faculty offers a wide range of advanced courses students may choose from – see https://www.th-koeln.de/informations-medien-und-elektrotechnik/incomings_49353.php. These courses belong to the fields of Information Technology / Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, and Media and Imaging Technology. A detailed description of the course contents (“Module Handbooks”) can be found at <http://f07-studieninfo.web.th-koeln.de/>. **Read these descriptions carefully**, especially the information about the **previous knowledge required**. Your **knowledge might be tested** (especially in some master-level courses) and, in case of failure, you might not be allowed to join the course. Bachelor students will be generally not be admitted to master courses.

Note that **not all courses are held each semester**: Most of the courses are offered either in the summer semester or in the winter semester, and some courses are held only sporadically. Moreover, it is often the case that the Module Handbook states that the course is given in German or in English, but in reality it is held in **German** only.

A course normally includes classroom lectures (90 minutes per week), classroom exercises (90 minutes per fortnight) and laboratory work (with an average on-site workload of 45 minutes per week). It is concluded by an exam, normally in writing. Due to limited capacities, access to the laboratory part of a course might be restricted. It is advisable to apply early and to contact the respective professor beforehand (i.e. shortly after arriving at Cologne).

Learning Agreement / Course List

A student must list all courses he/she intends to attend in the ERASMUS Learning Agreement. This agreement must be signed by both universities. It is the student’s responsibility (with the help of his/her home International Office) to get hold of the signed agreement in time. The document must be **uploaded to *Mobility Online*** well before the student comes. It is also strongly recommended to **contact the coordinating professor** at TH Cologne early and directly by mail (contact info see below) and inform him about the choice of courses, such that he can give advice on availability, conditions, etc. If necessary (e.g. due to timetable problems), the list of courses can be modified during your stay.

The program of a German student typically comprises five or six courses per semester. The **number of courses** an ERASMUS student can take depends on his/her background and his/her prior knowledge. The average ERASMUS student should only attend up to three technical courses per semester (or maybe four). This limitation accounts for difficulties that are likely to occur (especially language problems, see below) and leaves enough time for other activities (especially language courses). However, students who are technically strong and have a good command of the course language might take five or perhaps even six courses.

ERASMUS students in their first semester at Cologne will receive one ECTS credit point more per course than indicated in the module handbooks (e.g. six instead of five) due to their additional initial efforts. This, however, applies only to technical courses that are held in the German language, and it does not apply to double degree students!

Final Projects and Theses

The ERASMUS program is primarily intended to let students attend courses in a foreign country. Having finished courses at Cologne, ERASMUS students can possibly work on their final projects and write their theses here (provided that the regulations of their home university allow it and they are accepted by a professor in Cologne). It is, however, **not possible** to come to Cologne and **immediately start with a final project** without prior consent of a Cologne professor. All applications with the term “final project” (or similar) in the proposed ERASMUS Learning Agreement will be rejected – unless they include the name of the advising professor at Cologne. Therefore, before(!) sending the learning agreement, the student must apply for a final project.

The application for a final project has to be sent by E-mail to the coordinating professor at Cologne. This mail must include a convincing and expressive letter of motivation describing the personal strengths and interests of the applicant. The applicant should put considerable effort into writing this letter in order to make him-/herself interesting for us! Furthermore, a CV and a list of the courses attended so far (including the marks received) are required. The coordinator will then forward the application to his colleagues to see if anyone of them is interested. However, there is no guarantee for success. If a professor is interested, he will contact you and propose you a topic (in general, it is not the student who defines the topic).

Language

The Faculty offers a limited number of courses in English (especially on the master level), but the overall majority of the **courses and exams are held in German**. Therefore, some **knowledge of German is strongly recommended** (and in many cases **indispensable!**), because it will considerably widen the range of courses the student can choose from. An ERASMUS student should already have some practical skills in German before he/she comes to Cologne. To extend this knowledge, the university offers a choice of language courses for incoming ERASMUS students.

Schedules

The academic year consists of a winter semester and a summer semester. Lectures of the winter semester start end of September / beginning October (in 2019: Sept. 30) and finish end of January, those of the summer semester start in mid-March (in 2019: March 18) and finish mid-July.

Many courses consist of two modules. The first of them is held in the winter and the second in the summer semester. Hence it is recommended for foreign students to begin their studies in autumn.

To ensure a smooth start, students must install themselves in Cologne at least one week, better **two weeks before courses begin**. In autumn 2019, there will be a meeting in the week from September 23 to 27 all incoming students **must attend**.

Note that the **exams are scheduled after the end of the lectures** (i.e. those of the winter semester in February or even beginning of March; those of the summer semester after mid-July). Students must make sure to **stay long enough at Cologne** for them.

As already stated, students should **contact their ERASMUS coordinator in Cologne several months before their arrival**, preferably by e-mail (contact information given below). They should inform him of the courses they wish to attend and about possible language constraints.

Students have to take care of their own accommodation, transport, health insurance etc. The International Office can give some support for getting a room in a students' residence. Directly contacting the “Studentenwerk” (www.kstw.de) will also be helpful. Especially the **accommodation problem** should be addressed **as early as possible** because accommodation for students is scarce!

Contact Persons and Web Sites

ERASMUS contact at the International Office:

- Ms. Janina Knöll (janina.knoell@th-koeln.de)

ERASMUS contacts at Faculty 07:

- See https://www.th-koeln.de/informations-medien-und-elektrotechnik/partnerhochschulen_18254.php

Web Sites:

- Faculty 07: <http://www.nt.th-koeln.de/vogt/erasmus/index.html>
https://www.th-koeln.de/informations-medien-und-elektrotechnik/incomings_49353.php
- International Office: <https://www.th-koeln.de/internationales/>,
https://www.th-koeln.de/en/international_office/incomings_21389.php
- Studentenwerk: <http://www.kstw.de> ->“Kultur & Internationales”