

Fact Sheet: HSU Study Information 2026 - 2027



HELMUT SCHMIDT
UNIVERSITÄT

Universität der Bundeswehr Hamburg

International Office

Building H1

1st Floor, Room 1172/1173

UniBwHamburgInternationalOffice@bundeswehr.org

Linda Weiss

Head of International Office

+49 (0)40 / 6541 2987

weissl@hsu.hamburg

Manuel Tack

Deputy Head of International Office

+49 (0)40 / 6541 2805

tackm@hsu-hh.de

Melissa Gürsoy

Outgoing Coordinator

+49 (0)40 / 6541 2940

guersoym@hsu.hamburg

Marine Masmaud

Incoming Coordinator

+49 (0)40 / 6541 2020

masmaudm@hsu.hamburg

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Academic Calendar: Trimester System

The Helmut-Schmidt-University operates on a trimester system, dividing the academic year into three terms. Each trimester consists of teaching periods followed by examination phases.

Below you will find the official dates for the trimesters and examination periods for the current academic year 2026/2027:

- **Fall term 2026:** October 1st – December 31st 2026
- **Examination Period:** December 14th – December 23rd 2026 and January 4th – January 8th 2027

- **Winter term 2027:** January 1st – March 31st 2027
- **Examination Period:** March 22nd – April 2nd 2027

- **Spring term 2027:** April 1st – September 30th 2027
- **Examination Period:** June 21st – July 2nd 2027

Nomination & Application Process

This quick guide covers the main steps for incoming exchange students, from nomination to application and enrollment at the HSU.

Nomination by your home-university

Your exchange journey begins with your nomination by your home university. This means that your home university has selected you for a temporary academic stay at the HSU as part of a partnership/exchange agreement.

Nominations should be submitted to the following email address:
UniBwHamburgInternationalOffice@bundeswehr.org

Nomination deadlines:

- Fall trimester: May 31st
- Winter trimester: October 1st
- Spring trimester: January 15th

Once the HSU receives your nomination, the International Office will contact you directly with information about the next steps, including application deadlines, required documents, and organizational procedures.

Application and enrollment

To be successfully enrolled you will need to send the following information and completed/signed papers to the International Office:

- Enrollment application
- Application for housing on campus
- Arrival and departure sheet
- Proof of enrollment at your home university
- Proof of health insurance for the duration of stay
- Current Transcript of Records
- German language certificate B1/B2 level
- Biometric photo
- Copy of your personal ID card or passport (must be valid for the duration of stay!)

You will find the first three documents on our website in our download section under point "Incoming": <https://www.hsu-hh.de/auslandsstud/en/startpage/forms-downloads>

There are two different enrollment application forms available:

- One for **degree-seeking students** (those completing a full bachelor's or master's program at HSU)
- One for **non-degree-seeking students** (those staying for one trimester or up to one academic year as exchange students).

Application for Visa/Residence permit

If you are a citizen of a country that requires a visa for study purposes, you must apply for one as soon as possible. If you need supporting documentation for your application (e.g. a letter of admission), please let us know. Please check with the German embassy or consulate in your country for specific requirements and estimated processing times.

The International Office is happy to support and advise you during this process. However, please note that **we cannot perform these administrative procedures on your behalf**. You are required to handle all steps independently.

Learning Agreement

All international students (**except degree-seeking students**) receive a Learning Agreement (LAG). The Learning Agreement is a formal document between the student, their home university, and the host university, specifying the courses to be taken during the exchange program and indicating the credit points that will be awarded upon successful completion. International students who are only completing their thesis at HSU also need a Learning Agreement, which should include the thesis title and the name of the HSU supervisor.

International students participating in an **Erasmus+ exchange** need, in addition to the HSU Learning Agreement, an **Online Learning Agreement (OLA)**. The process for completing the OLA should be explained by your home university. The International Office will only countersign the OLA once both you and your home university have signed it and it matches the HSU Learning Agreement.

Important: Due to a high workload, longer waiting times may occur. We kindly ask for your patience.

Courses & Credit Points

The primary language of instruction at HSU is German. However, **three degree programs are fully taught in English**, in addition to a selection of individual courses offered in English. The availability of these courses may vary from term to term.

English-taught study programs:

- Bachelor in [Engineering Science](#)
- Master in [Engineering Science: Defence Systems](#)
- Master in [Digital Governance and Administration](#)

HSU is organized into four faculties:

1. Faculty of Electrical Engineering
2. Faculty of Mechanical and Civil Engineering
3. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
4. Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences

An overview of all study programs and their corresponding module handbooks is available on the [HSU website](#).

In addition to completing coursework and earning credit points, students also have the opportunity to come to HSU to write their thesis. In this case, please contact the Incoming Coordinator for further guidance.

Students interested in undertaking an internship at HSU are encouraged to visit the university's website and identify a professor whose research aligns with their interests. Please contact the professor directly to inquire about internship opportunities. After acceptance, the professor will coordinate with the International Office to begin the necessary administrative steps. As this process can take up to 12 weeks, early planning is highly recommended.

For studying at HSU, a minimum language level of B1/B2 in German (for courses taught in German) and B2 in English (for English-taught courses) is required to support academic success.

Upon successful completion of courses and examinations, students are awarded credit points. Assessment methods may include written exams, oral exams, and term papers. In most cases, credits are granted only after completing and passing the entire module. As modules typically consist of at least two courses, students are required to attend and pass all components.

Non-credit courses: HSU organizes its course system differently from many other universities. Some modules run over several trimesters and can only be completed with a final examination at the end of the full duration. As a result, certain courses may not be eligible for credit if students stay for only one trimester. In such cases, and with the professor's approval, international students may still participate and receive a certificate of attendance.

Language courses: The Language Center offers courses in several languages, including German and English, for students who wish to improve their language skills during their studies. These courses can be taken for credit points or, in some cases, for a certificate of attendance. All language courses require a mandatory exam to earn the credit points, which are then listed on the transcript of records.

Further information: Sven Hansen, German Instructor - hansens@hsu.hamburg

On-Campus Housing

If international students choose to stay in on-campus accommodation, they will live either on the **Main Campus** (Holstenhofweg 85, 22043 Hamburg) or the **Hanseatic Campus** (Stoltenstraße 13, 22119 Hamburg).

Every apartment has a shared kitchen and common room. Depending on amenities, you might also have to share showers and toilets with your roommates. Everyone has a private fully furnished bedroom with room sizes pending between 9sqm – 25sqm.

Please consider the following prices per month (valid until 30.06.2028) for on-campus housing:

1. 347,66€ (private sink, common toilets and showers in the hallway)
2. 370,38€ (private sink and toilet, common showers in the hallway)
3. 386,62€ (private sink, toilet, and shower)

Since we have agreements with most of our partner universities regarding housing of our international students, there might be a reduced or waived housing fee. Please check in with your international coordinator and they will inform you!

Rooms are assigned by the respective battalions (Alpha, Bravo & Charlie) of the Study Body Regiment depending on availability. **The International Office is not in charge of the housing management, meaning we have no influence in this process:** in other words you can neither choose the room you might prefer, nor can we guarantee specific amenities.

Battalion assignment is based on your study program or faculty – this means that the battalion corresponding to your academic field will also be your main point of contact in terms of campus accommodation and administrative support by your military supervisor.

- Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Faculty of Mechanical and Civil Engineering: **Battalion Alpha**
- Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences: **Battalion Bravo**
- Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences: **Battalion Charlie**

Living Costs in Hamburg

You should expect to budget around 200€ per month for living expenses. This may vary depending on your personal lifestyle and the activities you choose. For example, preparing your own meals is very common and significantly more affordable than eating out in Hamburg on a daily basis.

Please also note that some agreements with partner universities include free meals in the campus dining hall, including weekend meal provisions. If you are unsure whether this applies to you, we recommend contacting your international coordinator for clarification.

Dining Hall / Cafeteria Opening Hours and Price List	
Monday to Thursday	Friday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast: 07:00 – 09:00 • Lunch: 11:30 – 13:30 • Dinner: 16:45 – 17:45 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast: 07:00 – 09:00 • Lunch: 11:30 – 13:00
Military students	Civilian students
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast: 2,37€ • Lunch: 4,57€ • Dinner: 4,57€ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast: 3,50€ • Lunch: 7,50€ • Dinner: 6,00€

The weekly menus are available [here](#).

Student Life

On-Campus Activities

There are several student groups on campus, including clubs in security policy, marching, and different military units, as well as a wide range of sports clubs such as football, handball, basketball, and volleyball.

Throughout the year, various military and academic events are organized, including political education sessions, military Thursdays, and academic lectures.

Sports are a popular extracurricular activity on campus. You will find a swimming hall, running tracks, football and basketball fields at the Main Campus and a beach volleyball court at the Hanseatic Campus. Furthermore, both campuses offer gym facilities free of charge for university members, as well as two Military Fitness Containers.

If you prefer running outdoors, there are many routes of different lengths around the campus area, for example around the Öjendorfer Lake.

If you choose to live on campus, you can enjoy a variety of group activities organized by students, including sports, barbecues, movie nights, and other informal gatherings.

Off-Campus Activities

Free time off campus is very flexible and can be shaped according to your interests. Hamburg offers a wide variety of cultural and leisure activities. These include concerts by international artists, theatre performances, and musicals, as well as numerous museums and exhibitions.

You will find more information and impressions at the [Hamburg Tourist Information Center](#).

Health Insurance in Germany

To obtain a student visa for Germany, you are required to have health insurance that meets German standards, meaning it must provide full medical coverage in Germany. Standard travel insurance is not sufficient.

Please make sure to arrange this as early as possible, as the process may take some time depending on your country of origin. Exceptions may apply to the following group of students:

- Military students: covered by their respective Service Academy
- ERASMUS+ students: covered by the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

If no exception applies to you, we recommend consulting the following website for detailed information on how to choose suitable health insurance for a study abroad program in Germany:
<https://www.daad.de/en/studying-in-germany/living-in-germany/health-insurance/>

Transport & Mobility

If you wish to use the public transportation in Hamburg, we recommend downloading the [“hvv switch” app](#), which is available free of charge. The app provides the fastest routes to your chosen destination and displays all necessary modes of transport. In addition, it combines several public transport providers on one platform, making ticket booking easier and more transparent.

From the Main Campus, the bus stop “*Universität der Bundeswehr*” is about a 5-minute walk. From there, the X35 bus provides a direct connection to Hamburg Central Station (Hauptbahnhof). In addition, other bus lines towards “*U Wandsbek Markt*” connect you to the nearest underground station.

As for the Hanseatic Campus, the nearest underground station “*Horner Rennbahn*” is approximately a 20-minute walk. From there, the U2 (towards *Niendorf Markt/Nord*) and U4 (towards *Elbbrücken*) provide direct access to the city centre.

In addition, car-sharing services (e.g. [MILES](#)) and e-scooter providers are available via smartphone apps.

For an affordable mobility option, the ride-pooling service [MOIA](#) can be booked via the MOIA app or through the hvv switch app.

Take a Look at Campus Facilities in Pictures



Photo: ©Gelhausen – HSU/UniBw H



Photo: ©Gelhausen – HSU/UniBw H

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Helmut-Schmidt-University/
University of the Federal Armed Forces Hamburg
International Office
Holstenhofweg 85
22043 Hamburg

Building H1, 1st Floor, Room 1172/1173
<https://www.hsu-hh.de/auslandsstud/en/>
UniBwHamburgInternationalOffice@bundewehr.org

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