

Handbook for Exchange Students



Welcome to RheinAhrCampus

We look forward to having you here on campus and hope that you will spend an exciting semester and an adventurous time in Germany. In this brochure we have collected all the information we think might be helpful to make your stay in Remagen as enjoyable and successful as possible.

All our exchange students agree that coming to Germany and to RheinAhrCampus in particular has been an excellent choice, that it definitely has been a lot of fun and a great learning experience. We sincerely hope that you too will have a wonderful time here!

How to use the Handbook

This handbook was put together by the team at Languages / International Affairs. The handbook is designed to provide information before you arrive and to accompany you throughout the different stages of your stay at RheinAhrCampus. It may seem a lot of information at first, but do not worry, everything will become clear in the end. The team at Languages / International Affairs will guide you along and answer any questions you might have.

Useful and important information can also be found at:

<http://www.hs-koblenz.de/rac/international-programs/>

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Introduction

RHEINAHRCAMPUS

The RheinAhrCampus of the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences (often abbreviated "RAC") was founded in 1998 and now has nearly 3000 students in two faculties, Business & Social Studies and Mathematics & Technology. The name "RheinAhrCampus" derives from its proximity to the river Rhein and the river Ahr.

More information on the campus and the services provided will be given later in this handbook and can also be found on our website:

<http://www.hs-koblenz.de/rac/international-programs/international-students/>

SEMESTER DATES

Fall/Winter Semester: from middle of September to end of February

Spring/Summer Semester: from middle of March to end of July

APPLICATION

Unlike degree-seeking students, exchange or visiting students do not need to submit a full application. A nomination by your university (our partner university) or faculty is all that is required. Initial registration is via our RheinAhrCampus Application Form, which will be given to you by your home coordinator or International Office. You will be sent a letter of confirmation that you have been accepted here at RheinAhrCampus. After your arrival, you will need to enrol with the Student Services Office to receive your student card.

TEAM SPRACHEN/INTERNATIONALES (LANGUAGES / INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

The Team of Languages / International Affairs at RheinAhrCampus will help you with all the practical things before your arrival as well as during your stay. They are your first point of contact and will deal with all your questions and concerns. They will also help with administrative matters.

Head of "Sprachen/Internationales" is Dr. Laurent Borgmann. Your main contact person is Dr. Rashimah Rajah, Room A 014, Tel: +49 2642 - 932 458 / Fax: +49 2642 – 932 256, Monday to Thursday, 10.00 – 14.00. E-Mail: rajah@RheinAhrCampus.de

STUDENT MENTOR SYSTEM

The International Team will assign a student mentor to each exchange student coming to Remagen. The mentor is a senior student who will act as a contact person for you. The mentor will pick you up at the station when you arrive in Germany and will help you integrate quickly. You will be given the e-mail address of your student mentor before you arrive, so that the two of you can



get in touch. This makes it much easier for you to find your way around in this new environment and to meet other students.



To start you off

A few things you need to think about before coming to Germany:

VISA

Please check whether you need to apply for a visa before coming to Germany:

http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/EinreiseUndAufenthalt/Visabestimmungen_node.html

NATIONALS OF EUROPEAN UNION COUNTRIES

If you are a citizen of the European Union and you wish to study or do paid practical training in Germany, you may not need a visa or work permit, in accordance with European Union regulations. You will, however, need a valid passport in order to register with the local authority (Buergerbuero Stadt Remagen in the Rathaus).

OTHER NATIONALS

All other nationals need a student visa (Studentenvisum) BEFORE entering Germany.

The application will then be forwarded by the relevant embassy to the local Foreign Nationals Authority in Germany for a decision. Soon after entry you need to register with the local authority (Buergerbuero Stadt Remagen) as well as the Foreign Nationals Office (in Ahrweiler) which is responsible for issuing your Residence Permit. The Team at Languages / International Affairs will help you with this.

IMPORTANT

Your visa can only be issued to you in your own country. It cannot be forwarded to Germany and it cannot be issued in Germany after arrival.

TRAVEL AND HEALTH INSURANCE

All students of the university must be insured by a German statutory health insurance company.

Citizens of the European Union should bring their European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). The EHIC covers any medical treatment necessary during your stay in Germany, because of illness or an accident. The card gives you free access to state-provided medical treatment.

Non-EU nationals can buy travel insurance in their home country, provided it covers at least as much as the German statutory health insurance. As the German statutory health insurance tends to be extensive, we advise non-EU nationals to apply for German statutory health insurance for your stay here.

ACCOMMODATION



The team at Languages / International Affairs will help you find a room. The modern dormitory ("Wohnheim") is next to the campus. It provides single rooms with shower, toilet and kitchenette plus internet connection for 240 Euros per month all inclusive. You also have access to a common room with a kitchen as well as laundry facilities. Please note that the rental periods normally run from September to February for

the winter semester and from March to August for the summer semester. A deposit of 600 Euros is to be paid with the first rent before you arrive. The deposit will be returned if there are no damages to the room. We normally try to find students who would like to sublet their rooms, either shared student flats or rooms in the Wohnheim, during their internship or exchange semester. The team at Languages / International Affairs will help you with the application procedure.

CONTRIBUTION TO GERMAN PUBLIC RADIO AND TELEVISION

Under a new law about the financing of public radio and television in Germany every household has to pay a monthly contribution of about EUR 18. This applies whether you actually have a radio or television set in your apartment or not. The fact that with new technology and electronic devices it is possible to listen to German radio and watch German television by various means has led to this new law.

Each apartment in the Wohnheim is considered a household and so every student in the Wohnheim has to pay her/his contribution. If you share a flat with other students, only one payment per household has to be made, regardless of the number of people sharing the flat.



Before Arrival

CHECKLIST

- accept the exchange place by sending the Application Form via email to Sprachen/Internationales
- fill in the application for a room in the student dormitory and send it back to us
- check with the German Embassy whether you require a student visa (and if necessary, apply). Start the application process as early as possible as it may take several months before your visa is issued.
- make sure your passport is valid six months longer than the period of your planned stay
- arrange travel and health insurance
- check the official arrival dates
<http://www.hs-koblenz.de/rac/international-programs/international-students/exchange-students/semester-dates/> and tell the people at Sprachen/Internationales when you will be arriving (date, flight number, train times)
- order any medicines that you will need for the first few weeks in Germany
- make sure you have enough money available to cover your first few weeks in Germany (the first few weeks tend to be the most expensive). Please note that if you have a blocked bank account with a German bank for visa purposes, you need to register at the Remagen town hall before you can unblock the account. This will take a few days, so make sure you have enough money with you or other ways of accessing money
- check whether you will be able to use your credit card in ATMs in Germany – memorize your PIN number
- plan your journey from the airport to the accommodation

- pack warm clothes as it might still be cold in March and may start getting cold as early as October.

WHAT TO BRING

You may need bedding and linen (duvet, pillow) or a sleeping bag, towels, cutlery, pots, pan, and a tea towel, as they are not normally supplied by the student residences. Do not forget an international travel adapter plug (220V). You may also want to bring a hair dryer, travel kettle, travel iron, some comfortable shoes/slippers, dressing gown, alarm clock, posters, photographs of family and friends, books. Please think about which season of the year you will be staying here and bring along appropriate clothing. Student dress at RheinAhrCampus is informal but not too casual. Bring some sensible walking shoes and other sports equipment you might want to use (running shoes, swimsuit etc.). Bring at least six passport photos for registration with the local authority, enrolment etc.

IMPORTANT

If you bring your laptop, do not forget to bring a connection cable for internet connection between laptop and internet socket, as there is no W-LAN access in the student residences.

Electrical appliances in Germany operate on a 220 volt current, which means that appliances designed for 100 volts will burn out. Except for radios, electrical shavers and other appliances that may already be adapted for 220 volts, you will need an adapter. German wall sockets are designed for two round-prong plugs as opposed to the flat-prong type customary in some countries.

MOBILE PHONES

Check with your mobile phone provider whether the phone will work in Germany at all and whether you can actually insert a different SIM card. It is easiest if you buy a new pre-paid SIM card here in Germany rather than enter into a contract with a German provider.

GERMAN BANK ACCOUNT

Some of you might want to open a bank account in Germany. Student bank accounts are free. To apply, please send a copy of your passport to Dr. Rajah before your arrival to Germany.

Another option, especially if you arrive from overseas, is to buy these things here in one of the cheaper department stores. But remember to bring a few souvenirs from home, something personal to remind you of home and perhaps to show to your new German friends.



How to get here

Please discuss your travel plans with Sprachen/Internationales in advance because they might know the best connections.

ON A PLANE

FRANKFURT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (FRA)

At Frankfurt International Airport (www.frankfurt-airport.de), the train station (Fernbahnhof) is situated right in the airport building. Trains to Koblenz depart regularly and from there it is easy to take the local train to Remagen. You may also want to go to Cologne first and change there for a train to Remagen. This is the faster option.

KOELN/BONN (COLOGNE/BONN) AIRPORT (CGN)

If you arrive at Koeln/Bonn airport, take the SB60 bus to "Bonn Hauptbahnhof" (main train station) in Bonn and from there you can take the local train to Remagen (destination Koblenz). The airport web-site can be found at www.airport-cgn.de

DUESSELDORF AIRPORT (DUS)

If you arrive at Duesseldorf International Airport, you can catch a direct local train (Regionalexpress RE5) that takes you to Remagen (destination Koblenz). The official web-site is www.duesseldorf-international.de

FRANKFURT-HAHN AIRPORT (HHN)

This is a small airport about 130 km away west of Frankfurt. There is a bus service to Koblenz main train station (Rhein-Mosel bus) which takes about 90 minutes and costs about EUR 11 one way and from then on you can take the local train to Remagen.

BY TRAIN

There are frequent train connections to Remagen from Koblenz Main Station, Cologne Main Station as well as Bonn Main Station.

From the South:

MRB from Koblenz to Cologne via Remagen

RE5 from Koblenz to Emmerich via Remagen

From the North:

MRB from Cologne or Bonn to Koblenz/Mainz via Remagen

RE5 from Dusseldorf, Cologne and Bonn to Koblenz via Remagen

To see train connections to Remagen, please go to: www.bahn.de

Once you have arrived at Remagen train station, it is only about a 20 minute walk to the campus. There are also buses and taxis available at the railway station.



Enrolment

ORIENTATION WEEK

During the week before the actual start of the semester, the team at Sprachen/Internationales will help you with the enrolment procedure, and provide lots of information about studying at RheinAhrCampus and living in Germany.

ENROLMENT AS A STUDENT AND LOCAL REGISTRATION

STUDIERENDENSERVICE

Your enrolment as a student takes place at the Student Services Office (Studierendenservice). You will need your passport, a proof of health insurance and proof that you have paid your student services fee (Semesterbeitrag). You will then be issued your student ID (Studierendenausweis) and your enrolment number (Matrikelnummer). The team at Languages / International Affairs will help you with this.

SEMESTERBEITRAG

This is a general contribution to student services which is paid by all students, full-time RheinAhrCampus students and exchange students alike (and is not to be confused with tuition fees). It entitles you to subsidized meals at the student cafeteria and free use of the university sports facilities. But above all, it gives you free travel on public transport in the region between Koblenz and Cologne for the whole semester (Semesterticket). Your student ID serves as your ticket. The Semesterbeitrag is around 250 Euros per semester.

SEMESTERTICKET

The student card allows you free travel by regional train, bus or tram in the Remagen region, in Bonn, to Koblenz, and in most parts of Koeln (Cologne). You can also use the ferry from Remagen to Erpel and from Remagen-Kripp to Linz on the other side of the river Rhine for free.

FURTHER ENROLMENT

If you are staying for two semesters, you must re-enroll for the following semester at the end of the current semester (Rueckmeldung). You will be reminded via e-mail by the Student Services Office to pay your Semesterbeitrag.

LOCAL REGISTRATION

All visiting students – including EU students – have to register with the Remagen Municipal Administration (Buergerbuero) at the Town Hall. Please bring your passport. You may also need a confirmation of your German accommodation (e.g. your tenancy agreement with your landlord) as well as the confirmation of moving in, signed by your landlord. The form for the confirmation of moving in is available for download from the Remagen Rathaus website.



Studying at RheinAhrCampus

DEGREE PROGRAMS

RheinAhrCampus offers a variety of courses in the following BA degree programs:

- E-Business and Logistics
- Sports Management
- Health and Social Services Management
- Business Mathematics
- Biomathematics
- Technomathematics
- Medical Engineering
- Sports-Medical Engineering
- Optics and Laser Engineering

You can find more information about the BA and MA programs at <http://www.hs-koblenz.de/rac/fachbereiche/wiso/studienangebote/> and for the other faculty <http://www.hs-koblenz.de/rac/fachbereiche/mut/studienangebot/>. Here you will also find the individual modules, the course descriptions and the ECTS credit points plus a timetable for each study semester (Vorlesungsplan).

COURSES IN ENGLISH

RheinAhrCampus offers a variety of courses conducted in the English language. This gives students whose proficiency in German is not very high at the beginning of their stay the opportunity to study in English and gain ECTS credits.

RAC CERTIFICATE IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATION

It is also possible to do a complete semester in English and, upon successful completion, obtain our "Certificate in International Business and Communication" at the end of the semester (worth 30 ECTS credit points). For more information on the certificate program please see

<http://www.hs-koblenz.de/rac-english>

GERMAN LANGUAGE COURSE

RheinAhrCampus offers a regular German language course every semester with two-four hours per week. You will have to do a Placement Test in the first week of your arrival to see which level of the German language course is most suitable for you. If you want to study German on a more intensive level, there are many options for German language courses in the towns that surround RheinAhrCampus. These courses are varied to fit different competence levels (from absolute beginner to advanced), budgets and schedules.

PRE-SEMESTER WORKSHOP: INTERNATIONAL STUDIES I

Before the beginning of the lecture period, orientation sessions are offered to familiarize students with life in a foreign country and to give advice about cultural differences in rules, behaviour, customs and life on campus.

STUDY ORGANIZATION

What makes RheinAhrCampus special is the fact that active participation by students is part of the learning process in seminars. Students work in groups (which means it is easy to get to know other students), prepare and do presentations in class. Lecturers see students as partners in the learning process. This form of active learning makes you learn better. Do not let your shyness prevent you from participating in class, even if your German or English is not very fluent. It is not the grammar; it is the content that is important.

It helps lecturers to know who the exchange students in their class are so they can pay special attention to any questions you might have. Please introduce yourself at the beginning of the course and tell the lecturer where you are from, what you already know about this particular subject etc. They are always very interested in meeting our exchange students.

SEMESTERS AND EXAMS

Each semester of the Faculty of Business and Social Studies is split into a first half and a second half. Some courses finish at the end of the first half with an exam (Week 8), while other courses start with the second half and have exams at the end of the second half (Weeks 16/17). Other courses run from the beginning of the semester to the end, and exams are at the end of the semester (Weeks 16/17). In the Faculty of Mathematics and Technologies, all the courses cover the entire 16-week period of the semester and exams are held at the end.

Exams are held in the form of written tests, assignments to be handed in and/or presentations in class. In some cases (especially in smaller classes), there may be oral examinations. Information about the type of exam for a particular course can be found in the module description on the website <http://www.myrac.de/syllabus> or in MyStudy (see below). There you will also find the number of ECTS credit points awarded for each course.

MYSTUDY

This is a kind of electronic notice board and personal timetable. It is a highly useful tool for all lecturers and students to organize their semester courses. Many professors use this as the sole communication platform for any business related to their classes. You will be given a user name and a password together with your personal mail account. When you log in to MyStudy, you can put together your semester program by adding courses to your timetable. You can now access important information about each individual course, for example the starting date, the time of the next session; you can download study materials provided by the lecturers as well as upload your assignments. You will be automatically put on an e-mail list for all the courses you have chosen. This means it is possible to send messages to all course participants by either the lecturer or by the students themselves. You should familiarize yourself with the system, so you receive all the information provided. Please note that all the messages sent out by lecturers will go to your campus email address (cf. below). More information on the website at: <http://www.hs-koblenz.de/mystudywebportal/>

At the end of the semester, you will be asked to evaluate each course and lecturer in MyStudy. This evaluation provides important data to the lecturers and the faculty, so use this opportunity to make your views known.

REGISTRATION FOR COURSES AND EXAMS

You can register for the courses via the MyStudy system. Registrations for exams are done via the QIS system of the exam board. Details will be given during Orientation Week / International Studies I.

MOODLE

The Moodle is another tool you may come across when taking part in some of the courses offered in English. It is similar to MyStudy in that it enables communication between lecturers and students in a class. However, the Moodle also has some other great functions such as uploading the minutes taken in class or projects worked on. There are also discussion forums and wikis that are useful for collaboration. It is a colourful space that gets updated each week as the course progresses. The space is very user friendly and becomes a part of your 'study' routine. You will be shown how to log in and use the Moodle in the first session.

LEARNING AGREEMENT

Before you arrive we will set up a Learning Agreement that details the courses you would like to do during your semester with us and for which you would like to get recognition from your home university and transfer the ECTS-credit points gained here. The Agreement will be signed by you, your home university and Sprachen/Internationales.

It is possible to change the original Learning Agreement if it turns out on arrival that there are timetable problems etc. The changes will have to be agreed with your International Office to make sure that your credits will be recognised at your home university. The changes can be done up till Week 3 of the semester.

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS

At the end of your semester at RheinAhrCampus all the courses you have attended and the grades you have achieved will be listed in the Transcript of Records. The transcript will be sent to your International Office.

The following grades are awarded at RheinAhrCampus:

RheinAhrCampus Grades	Description	Comment
1.0 (95-100%) 1.3 (90-94%)	Sehr gut	Excellent performance
1.7 (85-89%) 2.0 (80-84%) 2.3 (75-79%)	Gut	Performance well above average standard
2.7 (70-74%) 3.0 (65-69%) 3.3 (60-64%)	Befriedigend	Average performance
3.7 (55-59%) 4.0 (50-54%)	Genügend	Performance fulfills minimum criteria in spite of some shortcomings
5.0 (0-49%)	Ungenügend	Performance does not meet minimum criteria because of severe shortcomings
Pass	Attendance only. Grades are not awarded.	
Withdrawn	Course not attended and/or exam not taken	ECTS credit points cannot be awarded



Student Services

LIBRARY

The library is open Monday through Friday 9.00-18.00 and Sat 11.00-14.00 during the semester. Please register at the library (bring proof of your address, e.g. the registration form from the Burgerbuero). You can borrow books for four weeks up to twelve weeks, unless another student would like to borrow the same book. If you want to renew your book, you can do this over the computer with the library system OPAC (online-public-access-catalogue), by phone, by e-mail or in person at the library counter. This has to be done three days before the book is due to be returned. If you are late returning a book, the fee is 2 Euros per book per week.

COMPUTERS AND EMAIL

There are five computer labs at RheinAhrCampus with about fifteen workplaces each. There are also approximately fifteen computers in the library. Due to the fact that there are plenty of workstations, it is really easy to find a spare computer. Using the computers and having Internet access is a free service to every student at RheinAhrCampus. The team at Languages / International Affairs will help you contact the computer help desk in the "Rechenzentrum" (IT Centre) for your personal log-in and e-mail address. Please check the e-mail messages in your RheinAhrCampus account regularly or have them re-directed to your normal account, as you will receive a lot of important information about events, homework etc. via your RheinAhrCampus e-mail account.

SPRACHLABOR (LANGUAGE LAB)

Sprachen/Internationales runs an open access language lab in the library where you can practice your language skills working with CD-ROMs and the Internet. German, English, French, Italian, Spanish and Dutch language software is on offer. If you would like to learn another foreign language or improve your current level, the staff at the lab will be glad to help you!

MENSA

During the day you can have breakfast and lunch at the "Mensa" (campus cafeteria). For lunch, students can choose between three different menus (including a vegetarian option), each consisting of soup, a main dish, salad and dessert, for only 2.20 Euros. You can also choose a salad or something lighter in the cafeteria. Payment is via a chip on your student card. The "Cafeteria" is open Mon to Fri 08.00 to 15.30 and lunch is served Mon-Thurs 11.30-14.00, Fri 11.30-13.45. There are also vending machines in the "Mensa" foyer where you can get sweets, soft drinks and coffee.

LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES

There are many different activities that you as a student at RheinAhrCampus can take part in. The AStA (Student Association) organizes many sports activities in Remagen such as soccer, aerobics, volleyball, jogging, basketball, tennis, badminton and squash. Right next to the campus is a very nice sand court that is used for beach volleyball and beach soccer. A notice board in the Mensa foyer provides the latest info on what is happening. Remagen and its surroundings are ideal for cycling/mountain biking and inline skating and there are many hiking trails with nice scenery. You can also follow AStA on Facebook.



As for entertainment, the Tourist Information Centre opposite the Rathaus (Town Hall) offers a range of leaflets and brochures to help you find your way around Remagen and the area and the many attractions it has to offer including current exhibitions at the Arp Museum in Rolandseck. The Remagen website also lists local events: <http://www.stadt-remagen.de/>

To find out what is happening in and around Remagen, you should also have a look in the local daily newspaper (General-Anzeiger and Rhein-Zeitung) or listen in on one of the many radio stations for general information. There are also posters and brochures around the campus, especially in the area in front of the library. "Live!" is a magazine listing all events in the Bonn/Cologne region.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

Our former exchange students have written up their experiences at RheinAhrCampus and their reports have been put on our website. To find out what students think of their semester here at RheinAhrCampus and some hints and tips, please go to

<http://www.hs-koblenz.de/rac/international-programs/international-students/exchange-students/students-experiences/>

STUDENT BLOG

To find out who the current exchange students are and what they are up to, you can become a follower on our blog:

<http://rheinahrcampusexchangestudents.blogspot.de/>

FACEBOOK

And of course you can find us and like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/SprachenInternationales-RheinAhrCampus-Remagen-Germany/7479932443>

Student Activities



STUPA

The StuPa is a student committee (Studierendenparlament) where students can voice their opinions and make a difference. The StuPa consists of ten elected members that look after the students' concerns and their rights. (<http://asta-remagen.de/index.php/stupa/>)

ASTA

The AStA is the executive branch of the StuPa that organises all kinds of activities. They publish a magazine called "RAC-Magazin" that provides a lot of information about what is happening on campus. For example, the AStA puts on first-semester parties every semester and a "Pool Party" every summer to celebrate that the exam period is over. To find out more about what is organized by the AStA, visit their homepage at: www.asta-remagen.de or talk to somebody in Doo9. Tel: +49 (0) 2642/932185, e-mail: asta@RheinAhrCampus.de



ASTA SHOP

Here you will find all the things that you need to be a good student: paper, pens, index cards and much more. Open during lunchtime in room Doo8.

LUNCH CLUB

Twice a week, during lunch break, Sprachen/Internationales shows an instalment of American TV-shows in room B014. This is a great opportunity to meet other students and to practice your English in an entertaining way. The two shows currently offered are *Friends* and *Two and a Half Men*.

EXCURSIONS AND TRIPS

The International Office at Koblenz campus organizes excursions to places near Remagen and Koblenz, but also trips to Berlin, Brussels and other cities. Please register as early as possible as places fill up quickly. This is also a good way of getting to know other international students at RheinAhrCampus and RheinMoselCampus.



Living in Germany

When you leave your home to live in a foreign country, there are a number of things worth considering before you set out.

MONEY IN GERMANY

The national currency of Germany has been the Euro (EUR) ever since 1999. People in Germany use their credit cards more reluctantly than other Western European countries. They prefer cash or a card issued by their local bank over credit or debit cards. The majority of places will, however, accept payment by credit cards, but small shops or discount supermarkets like Lidl or Aldi will not. There are many ATMs where you can draw money from but still, it is best to have some ready money on you just in case.

COST OF LIVING

It is very difficult to estimate what the living expenses would be for a student here in Remagen, since this of course depends on the standard of accommodation, food and entertainment. However, the calculations below should give you an idea of what your costs would be. The average living costs for students for a month are around 750 Euros per month.

ACCOMMODATION

For a room in town, sharing with other people, you can expect to pay between 250 Euros and 350 Euros per month. A room in the dormitory is 240 Euros including heating etc. You also have to pay a deposit in advance, normally two months' rent.

FOOD AND DRINK

For a glass of beer or a bottle/can of coke you will have to pay between 2.50 and 3.50 Euros in an average bar. Basic groceries are widely available at a relatively low price. The prices for food depend on where and what you would like to eat. There is a wide range of nice restaurants as well as fast food places that you can choose from if you want to go out for lunch or dinner.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

If you like going to the cinema, this would cost you between 7 Euros and 15. And remember that most films are dubbed into German! Special cinemas in Bad Godesberg, Koblenz, Bonn and Cologne offer films in the original versions with German subtitles. You can use your Hochschule Koblenz Student Card to get movie tickets at student prices.

CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Given that in every culture there are different values, beliefs and behaviours that govern life, here are a few things that you may want to consider when coming to Germany. Please keep an open mind and be prepared that unexpected things may happen to you contrary to your expectations.

POLITENESS

Germans are very polite and hospitable and also respect a person's right to privacy. If you need help, ask for it and people will gladly help.

DRINKING

The acceptance of alcohol consumption varies from culture to culture. In some countries drinking is an absolute taboo, while others may be more tolerant. In Germany, beer and wine drinking is more of a cultural and social activity than in some other countries; keep this in mind when going to the local "Kneipe" (pub). Drinking in public is becoming more and more accepted, however this behaviour is not seen as desirable.

WINE

This is a specialty of the Rhine and Ahr valley with a multitude of vineyards and local wine producers. Each year, the towns in the region celebrate a wine festival, where you can sample the local produce and watch the crowning of the Wine Queen.

PUNCTUALITY

Germans are known to be very punctual at official meetings and events (e.g. the classes at the university). They might even try to arrive a few minutes before the meeting is scheduled. If you are coming from another city, do take into account possible train and bus delays, so you

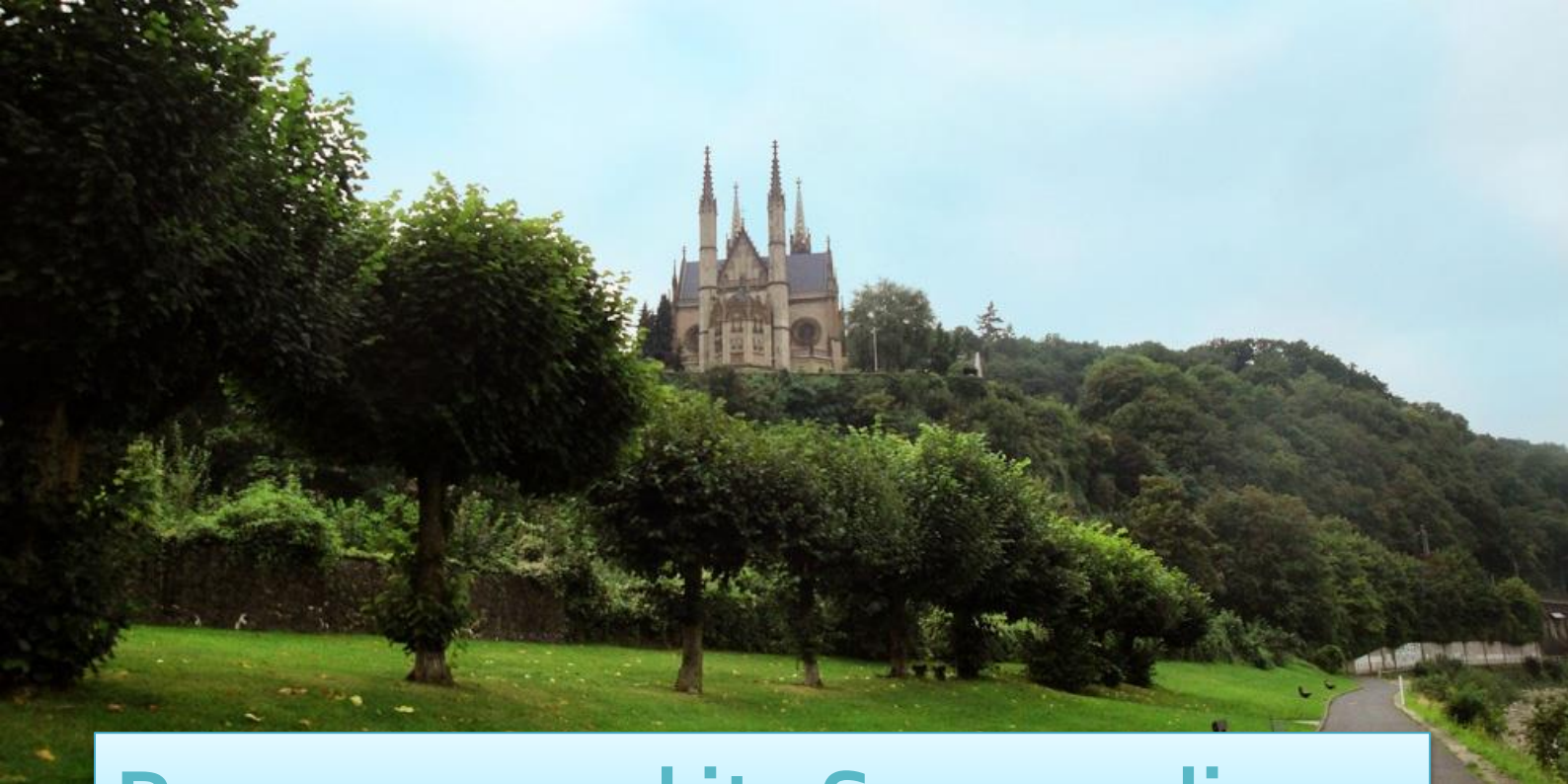
should take at least one train or bus ahead of schedule so that you can still be on time for your classes and appointments.

However, if you have a more informal gathering with your student friends, do not count on them showing up on time, they might well be ten or fifteen minutes late.

LANGUAGE

The official language in Germany is of course German. If you want to enrol for seminars taught in German at the university, a good level of German is required. If you think your German is not that good, you can look out for seminars taught in English and still get credits. The use of English here in Germany is quite widespread. All the students here at RheinAhrCampus can understand and make themselves understood using the English language; this is also the case for most Germans in general.

RheinAhrCampus offers courses in German during the semester for all exchange students. And we can also help you find intensive German language courses if you want to learn more.



Remagen and its Surroundings

THE TOWN OF REMAGEN

“Die Stadt Remagen” - a pleasant place to live. Whether you are a big-city person or someone who enjoys the calm friendliness of a small town with a close community, Remagen is ideal for you. The town is situated on the river Rhine, near Bonn, between Cologne and Koblenz. Here, life is peaceful and therefore good for studying. If you feel like experiencing city life around you, you can take the frequently running commuter trains to Cologne or Koblenz free of charge anytime you want, because the fare is covered by your Semesterticket.

The promenade along the river Rhine offers a splendid view of the river Rhine. The landscape around Remagen is green and luscious, and is ideal for an extended walk or a cycling tour. Remagen has all the services and comforts you might want, for instance, shops, restaurants, weekly markets where you can buy fresh food, flea markets in the summer and a Christmas market in winter.

For more information about Remagen, please visit the official web site:

<http://www.stadt-remagen.de/>

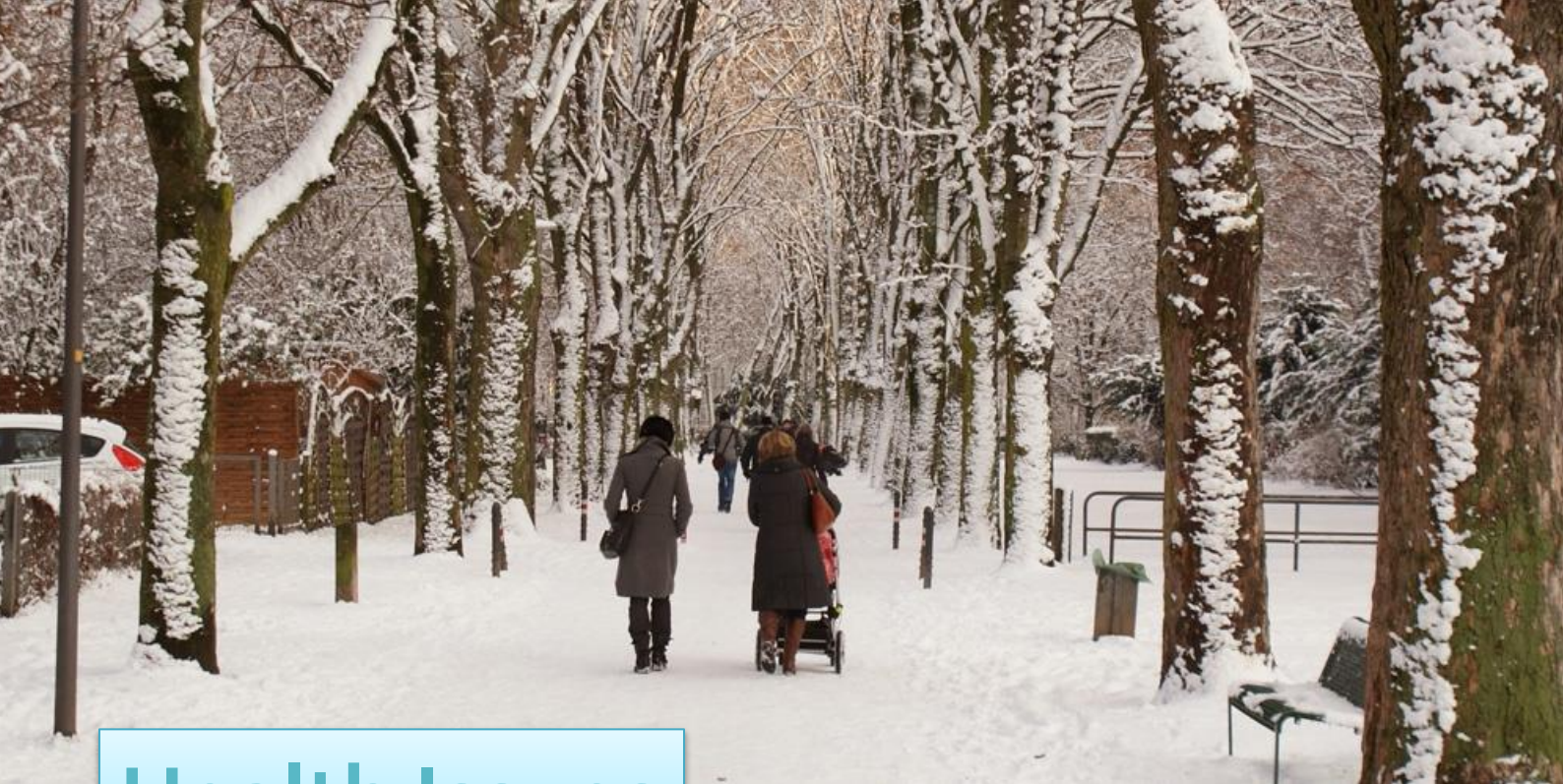
THE SURROUNDINGS

One particular appeal of Germany is that, unlike in most developed countries, the village culture has not disappeared. Most of the small towns that spread over Rheinland Pfalz are very nicely kept and provide a scenic view. The infrastructure for trekking and cycling around these panoramic towns is exceptionally good. If, for a change, you would like to go to one of the three big cities (Koblenz, Bonn and Koeln) that are close to Remagen, see above how you

can get there. All three of these cities provide excellent opportunities for adventures and amusement. Be sure to take the opportunity to explore the area. In case you should get lost, people are generally very helpful and happy to show you around.

TRAVELLING BY TRAIN

One of the easiest ways to travel around Germany is by train. The train connections are very good, especially along the Rhine. Do not forget to use your student-ID-card for free travelling around Remagen. The official internet address of the German Railways ("Deutsche Bahn") is: www.bahn.de. Here you will find train schedules and special offers for train tickets. In order to get a discount on all your train tickets for one year, you can buy a "BahnCard" when you arrive in Germany. Two of these "BahnCards" by Deutsche Bahn might be of interest to you. "BahnCard 25 for students" costs 39 Euros (2nd class) and provides a 25% price reduction. And "BahnCard 50 for students" which costs 118 Euros (2nd class) and provides a 50% price reduction. A passport photo and an address are required. Which one would be best for you depends on how much you are planning to travel during the card's validity. Travelling from Remagen is very easy since you are only a short distance away from the larger cities Koblenz, Bonn and Cologne, and only a few hours away from the rest of Europe.



Health Issues

EMERGENCY, DOCTOR AND AMBULANCE

A general emergency service is available at this telephone number: 116 117
Local Emergency Number: 02641 836666
Emergency doctor and Ambulance: 112

WINTER IN REMAGEN

Although the winters in the Remagen area are relatively mild for Germany, the region still experiences a few weeks of cold weather around freezing point every year between November and March.

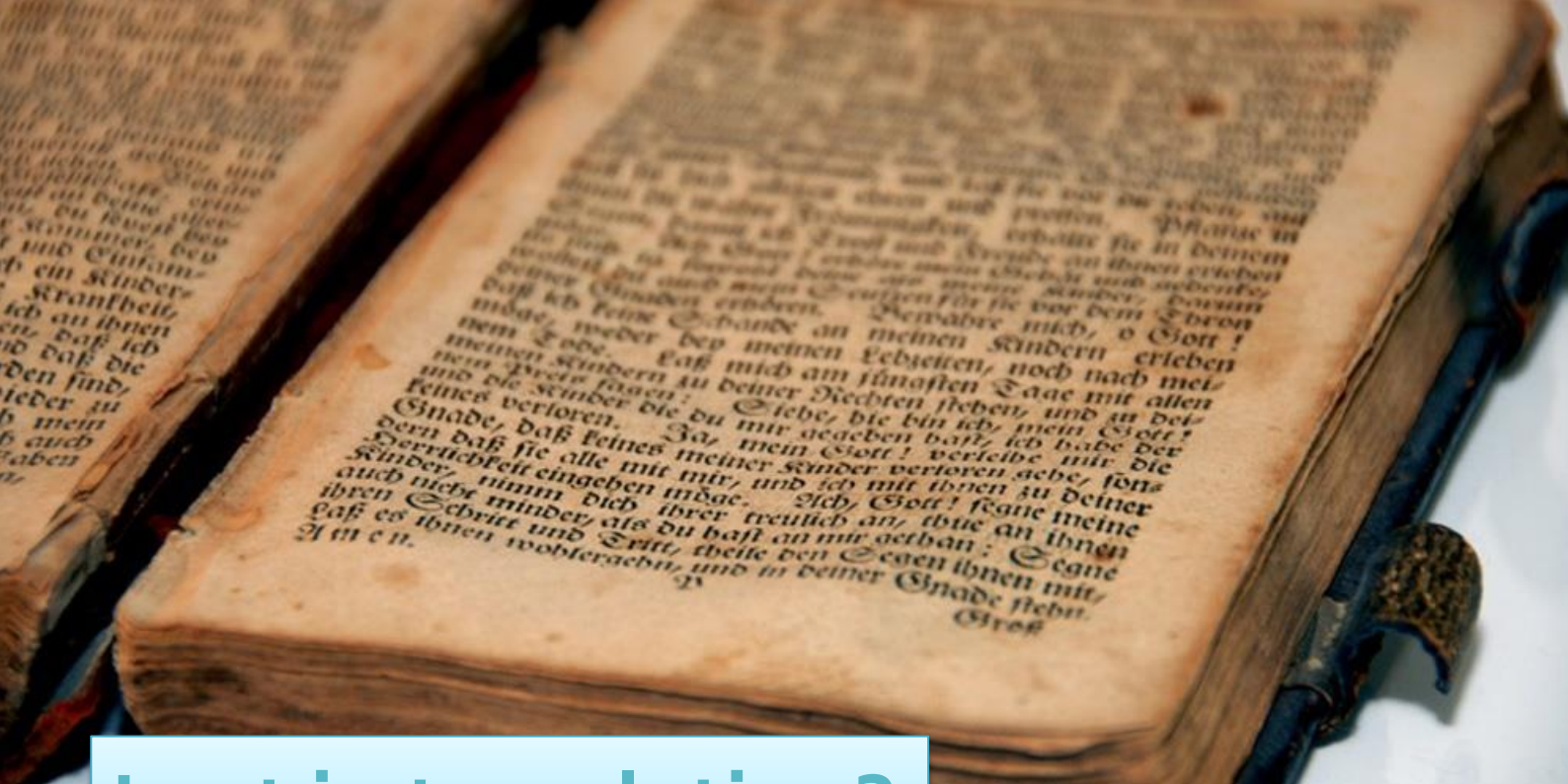
MEDICAL SERVICES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Doctors in Remagen are listed on the Remagen website:

[http://www.stadt-remagen.de/Leben Freizeit Familien Bildung/Gesundheit Notfall/Aerzte-Therapeuten/](http://www.stadt-remagen.de/Leben_Freizeit_Familien_Bildung/Gesundheit_Notfall/Aerzte-Therapeuten/)

Ask other students for recommendations, make an appointment and see how you get on with your chosen doctor.

In the evening, at night and over the weekend, some pharmacies are open for emergency situations and needs. The nearest pharmacy that is open is listed on every pharmacy door. Information also by telephone at (0 18 05) 25 88 25 53424



Lost in translation?

Here is a glossary of academic items you will find useful during your time here:

ABITUR: the final oral and written examination at high school level (A-levels). Entitles you to study at a university

ASTA: elected student representatives, performing a series of services for students as well as doing campus political work. They have several thematic working groups

AUSHANG: a sheet of paper on the bulletin board, giving you up-to-date information

DEKAN: elected head of a department; dean

DEUTSCHER AKADEMISCHER AUSTAUSCHDIENST (DAAD): The German Academic Exchange Service provides information for students from abroad in Germany and for German students going abroad. They also offer scholarships for German and international students. Visit their web site: www.daad.de for useful info. They also offer online German language courses for free!

DOZENT: a teacher at a Fachhochschule or Universitaet

FACHBEREICH: a "school" or department in the sense of a college or faculty within the University of Applied Sciences

FACHHOCHSCHULE: type of university placing special emphasis on applied teaching. Research activities focus on the needs of business and industry.

FACHSCHAFT: is the student body within a given department. It has official representation within the student government.

GERMAN ACADEMIC EXCHANGE SERVICE: see Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst

IMMATRIKULATION/ EINSCHREIBUNG: formal enrolment procedure for official admission into a university

KLAUSUR: a written exam of one to four hours, usually at the end of the semester

LEHRBEAUFTRAGTE: part-time teachers at universities of Applied Sciences, recruited because of their specialized business experience

LEISTUNGSÜBERSICHT: a certificate that shows the exams a student has taken during a program (transcript of records). The grades are: 1 = excellent; 2 = well above average; 3 = average; 4 = pass; 5 = fail.

MENSA: the main student cafeteria

NATURWISSENSCHAFTEN: the natural sciences

N.N.: (lat. nomen nominandum) is used instead of a name and means that the lecturer is yet to be appointed.

PRAESIDENT/PRAESIDENTIN: the official head of a university; president.

PROFESSOR: members of permanent teaching staff, usually with a PhD degree, responsible for a special field within their department.

PRUEFUNGSAMT: the Departmental Examination Office regulating and conducting exams (Pruefung) according to the rules laid down in the Pruefungsordnung by the Department and the Examination Board (Pruefungausschuss).

RUECKMELDUNG: procedure of re-registration at the beginning of each semester by paying the Semesterbeitrag

SEMESTER: divides the academic year into two periods. The Wintersemester is from mid-September to the end of February, the Sommersemester from March to the end of August.

SEMESTERBEITRAG: individual student's contribution per semester to student services provided (not to be confused with tuition fees).

SEMESTERTICKET: comes as part of your Semesterbeitrag and entitles you to free public transport for the semester within the region between Koeln and Koblenz. Your student ID serves as the ticket.

SEMINAR: form of teaching that requires the students' active participation and a written and/or oral exam at the end of the semester is generally required. Sometimes presentations are part of the course work and exam.

STUDIARENDEWERK: a non-profit service organization for students that runs various services, student residences, cafeterias, kindergarten, federal scholarships etc.

TUTORIUM: informal group tutorial covering what has been learned in a lecture, often conducted by a senior student.

UEBUNG: learning takes place in a smaller group. It also finishes with an exam.

UNIVERSITAET: type of university where the main emphasis is on theoretical knowledge and research, the furthering of knowledge in general.

VORLESUNG: Lecture, i.e. a lecturer presents her/his topic while students take notes. At the end of the lecture students are invited to ask questions.

Useful Internet sites that you may want to visit:

www.hs-koblenz.de/rac/index/ - RheinAhrCampus web page, which is a good place to start

www.asta-remagen.de - AStA homepage at RheinAhrCampus

www.ractivist2010.de – The site for RheinAhrCampus business students with interesting info

www.hs-koblenz.de - Official home page of the Hochschule Koblenz that RheinAhrCampus is a part of. Be sure to look at the International Office pages! There you will find the Semester Program with trips to places of interest in the area

www.remagen.de - Official page of the town of Remagen.

www.bruecke-remagen.de - The museum of the famous "Bridge at Remagen", now a peace museum

www.bahn.de -The German railway company. Here you can find offers, prices and timetables

www.tennis-center-remagen.de - If you want to play tennis during your stay

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