



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



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Preparatory course



Freshman Program of the FH Aachen

FH Aachen University of Applied Sciences • Geilenkirchen



Overview

Course location	Geilenkirchen
In cooperation with	Aachen Institute of Applied Sciences e.V. (AciAS e.V.)
Teaching language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">English
Date(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 October 2025 - 31 July 2026

Additional information on dates and mode of study

The Freshman students live and learn on our Freshman Campus in Geilenkirchen, Germany.

The Freshman Program is structured so that all participants are well-prepared for the final exams. Details about the structure are shown in our [academic calendar](#).

Depending on the track chosen, students have different [courses](#). The performance in the courses during the Freshman Program and on the final exams are based on the German [grading system](#).

Description/content

Are you thinking about a Bachelor's degree in engineering, business & economics, or medicine, biology & psychology in Germany?
Do your school certificates not allow you direct access to the German academic system?
Do you not yet know German?
Do you want to study in English or German in Germany?
Are you curious about studying in an intercultural environment?

The Freshman Program has the answers. We make access to the German university system easier for international students.

The Freshman Program, the foundation programme (Studienkolleg) at the FH Aachen, is a joint programme between the [Freshman Institute of FH Aachen](#) and the [Aachen Institute of Applied Sciences e.V. \(AciAS e.V.\)](#). The Freshman Institute is responsible for overseeing the quality of the Freshman Program as well as supervising teaching content and issuing final certificates. The Aachen Institute of Applied Sciences e.V. (AciAS e.V.) is responsible for the financial aspects and framework of the Freshman Program.

A year in the Freshman Program will benefit you for a lifetime!

More than 300 students successfully complete the Freshman Program each year. Our motivated and engaged students are from all over the world. Depending on your study preferences and language skills, you can choose from three different tracks offered in the Freshman Program:

- English-to-German Track** – transition from English to German – Study with guaranteed

admission to selected engineering programmes at the FH Aachen or the University of Duisburg-Essen. Previous knowledge of German is **not** required at the time of application.

- **English Track FeP** – completely in English – Study engineering or business & economics in your choice of English-language Bachelor's degree programmes in North Rhine-Westphalia. We **also** offer guaranteed admission to one specific business & economics Bachelor's degree programme at the FH Südwestfalen/South Westphalia University of Applied Sciences. Previous knowledge of German is **not** required.
- **German Track FeP** – completely in German – Study engineering, medicine, biology & psychology, or business & economics. Previous knowledge of German is required.

During the Freshman Program, students receive a solid preparation for university studies, including:

- Engineering: mathematics & physics
- Medicine: biology, chemistry & physics
- Business & economics: business mathematics & economics

Engineering students in the English-to-German Track also complete practical training in the university laboratories.

Join our online seminar: [What is the Freshman Program?](#)

Course Details

Course components

- Subject-specific preparation
- General preparation for studies
- Preparation for academic working methods
- Intercultural training
- Orientation "Living in Germany"
- Excursions
- Preparation for entrance examinations
- Language course

Further information on the language course / language courses

Depending upon your future studies, you will study either completely in German, completely in English or transition from English to German.

- **English-to-German Track:** Start in English and then transition to German, so that you can study in selected German-language Bachelor's degree programmes with guaranteed admission.
- **English Track FeP:** Since you will study completely in English after the Freshman Program, you will improve your English language skills.
- **German Track FeP:** Students with previous knowledge of German improve their language skills to C1.

Learn more! Join our online presentations with Q&A: [What is the Freshman Program?](#)

Recognised language exams offered (e.g. DSH, TestDaF, TOEFL)

Yes

Average number of hours per week

34

Do course participants have student status?

Yes

Does this course involve

Yes

taking the university entrance examination or does the course specifically prepare students for this examination?

Preparation for degree programmes

- Bachelor's degree

Preparation for subject groups

- Engineering
- Mathematics, Natural Sciences
- Medicine
- Veterinary Medicine
- Law, Economics and Social Sciences

Further information on subsequent admission to degree programmes/guaranteed admission

Students who apply to specific Bachelor's degree programmes at the FH Aachen or one of our partner institutions are guaranteed a place in a Bachelor's programme after successfully completing the Freshman Program. See [What Can You Study?](#) for a list of our programmes with guaranteed admission. Our staff assists students with their university applications.

Integrated internships

Integrated internships for specific engineering programmes

Average number of participants per group/course

19

Costs / Requirements / Registration

Costs

21,500 EUR

This price includes

- Course fees
- Accommodation
- Accompanying programme
- Course fees for language course

Further information regarding the price

Included in the fees are the following:

- subject-related courses
- intensive language courses
- books and materials
- final exam fees
- furnished double room
- internship (English-to-German Track only)
- individual and academic support
- extra tutorials – language and subject-specific
- health, incoming, travel health, liability, and accident insurance
- transportation from Düsseldorf airport upon arrival in Germany
- one-year residence permit
- free public transportation in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) (bus & train)
- excursion and sports
- free internet
- security deposit

Academic admission requirements	<p>In order to be admitted to the Freshman Program, you must either</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> complete the Freshman Program entrance exam Since the exam includes both a mathematics and a language exam, no separate language certificate is required. <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> complete TestAS, which must be accompanied by an English or German language certificate.
Language requirements	<p>Depending on your selected field of study (see What Can You Study?), knowledge of English or German is required for admission.</p> <p>Required language levels:</p> <p>If you take the entrance exam, you do not have to submit a language certificate. You will be tested at the level mentioned below during the entrance exam. Students applying with TestAS must submit a language certificate.</p> <p>For English Track FeP and English-to-German Track: English: IELTS 4.5 or TOEFL iBT 53. Prior knowledge of German is recommended but not required for admission.</p> <p>or</p> <p>For German Track FeP: German level B1 with 90% or B2</p>
Do applicants require a higher education entrance qualification recognised in Germany?	<p>No</p>
Do applicants have to have already been admitted to a study programme at your university?	<p>No</p>
Submit application to	<p>All applicants must take an entrance exam: either the Freshman Program entrance exam or TestAS.</p> <p>Apply through our online application portal.</p> <p>Contact freshman@fh-aachen.de for details.</p>

Services

Is accommodation organised?	<p>Accommodation is arranged by the organiser.</p>
Type of accommodation	<p>During the Freshman Program, students live in furnished double rooms with four to eight people in apartments in our student dormitories. Bedrooms are equipped with a bed, desk, chair, and wardrobe for clothing. Kitchens have a refrigerator, sink, stove with burners and oven and basic kitchen supplies. Washing machines are provided for the students. All rooms have free internet.</p>
Meals	<p>Students shop for and prepare their own meals. By cooking meals together in small groups,</p>

students can learn important life skills as well as explore food from other cultures.

Is a social and leisure programme offered?	Yes
Description of social and leisure programme	Excursion, social activities, sports and music
Free internet access	Yes
Support in visa matters	Yes
Pick-up service from train station/airport	Yes



©Freshman Program

Vivek K.
Student

I have to thank the Freshman Program for being the stepping stone for me to pursue my further education in Germany. Often when one considers studying abroad, there are lots of things/challenges to consider and be aware of before coming abroad, but there is no need to worry because all of these formalities will be taken care of by the Freshman Program. I strongly recommend this programme to anyone who is seriously considering coming to Germany for their further studies.

Our Partners



What is the Freshman Program?

Learn about the Freshman Program at the FH Aachen!
See our other videos at
<https://www.youtube.com/@FreshmanInstituteYT>.

» more:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFyey9hjHEo>



Freshman Program campus in Geilenkirchen

© Freshman Program, FH Aachen

The Freshman Program is an integral part of the [FH Aachen University of Applied Sciences](#) and the [Aachen Institute of Applied Sciences e.V. \(AclIAS e.V.\)](#) that prepares international students for admission to German universities if their educational background requires additional qualifications. Participants from around the world live and learn in small groups on campus. Approximately 300 students complete the Freshman Program each year.

The FH Aachen is one of the largest universities of applied sciences in Germany. With roughly 15,000 students, we focus on engineering, business and related fields. Theory and practice are closely interconnected in all programmes. The FH Aachen has a long tradition of internationalisation with about 25% international students. The FH Aachen ranks very highly in the fields of mechanical and electrical engineering and business among the German universities of applied sciences.



University location

Our Freshman Program campus is in Geilenkirchen, a small town of about 28,000 people in a green environment. Shopping, doctors, pharmacies and a hospital are within walking distance. Larger cities such as Cologne, Düsseldorf or Aachen can be reached free of cost via public transport using the student travel ticket.

Contact

[FH Aachen University of Applied Sciences](#)

Freshman Institute


Katherine Stone

Heinrich-Mußmann-Str. 1
52428 Jülich

 freshman@fh-aachen.de

 Course website: <https://www.fh-aachen.de/en/freshman>

 <https://www.facebook.com/Freshman.Institute.FH.Aachen>

 <https://www.instagram.com/freshman.institute/>

 <https://www.youtube.com/@FreshmanInstituteYT>

International Programmes in Germany - Database

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Editor

DAAD - Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst e.V.
German Academic Exchange Service
Section K23 – Information on Studying in Germany
Kennedyallee 50
D-53175 Bonn
www.daad.de

GATE-Germany

Consortium for International Higher Education Marketing
www.gate-germany.de

Disclaimer

The data used for this database was collected and analysed in good faith and with due diligence. The DAAD and the Content5 AG accept no liability for the correctness of the data contained in the "International Programmes in Germany" and "Language and Short Courses in Germany".

The publication is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and by contributions of the participating German institutions of higher education.



Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research