



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



Table of Contents

Preparatory course	2
Freshman Program of the FH Aachen • FH Aachen University of Applied Sciences • Geilenkirchen....	2

Preparatory course



Freshman Program of the FH Aachen

FH Aachen University of Applied Sciences • Geilenkirchen



Overview

Course location	Geilenkirchen
In cooperation with	ACIAS e.V.
Teaching language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">German
Date(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 October 2024 - 31 July 2025
Additional information on dates and mode of study	<p>The Freshman students live and learn on our Freshman Campus in Geilenkirchen, Germany.</p> <p>The Freshman Program is structured so that all participants are well prepared for the final exams. Details on the structure are shown in our academic calendar.</p> <p>Depending on the track chosen, students have different courses. The performance in the courses during the Freshman Program and in the final exams are based on the German grading system.</p>
Description/content	<p>Are you thinking about a Bachelor's degree in engineering, medicine or business & economics in Germany?</p> <p>Do your school certificates not allow you direct access to the German academic system?</p> <p>Do you not yet know German?</p> <p>Do you want to study in English in Germany?</p> <p>Are you curious about studying in an intercultural environment?</p> <p>The Freshman Program has the answers. We make access to the German university system easier for international students.</p> <p>The Freshman Program, the foundation programme (Studienkolleg) at FH Aachen, is a joint programme between the Freshman Institute of FH Aachen and 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 & issuing final certificates. Aachen Institute of Applied Sciences e.V. is responsible for the financial aspects & framework of the Freshman Program.</p> <p>A year in the Freshman Program will benefit you for a lifetime!</p> <p>Students study in an intercultural environment, expanding their intellectual horizons while preparing for a future in today's global economy. The Freshman Campus is only a short train ride away from the German cities of Aachen, Cologne & Düsseldorf as well as near Belgium & the Netherlands.</p>

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

- **German Track FeP** – completely in German – Study engineering, medicine or business & economics. Previous knowledge of German is required.
- **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.
- **English-to-German Track** – transition from English to German – Study with guaranteed admission to selected engineering programmes at the FH Aachen and University of Duisburg-Essen. Previous knowledge of German is **not** required at the time of application.

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 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.

- **German Track FeP:** Students with previous knowledge of German improve their language skills to C1.
- **English Track FeP:** Since you will study completely in English after the Freshman Program, you will improve your English language skills.
- **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.

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

Yes

Average number of hours per week

32

Do course participants have student status?

Yes

Does this course involve taking the university entrance examination or does the course specifically prepare students for this examination?	Yes
Preparation for degree programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor's degree
Preparation for subject groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Bachelor's 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	18

Costs / Requirements / Registration

Costs	21,500 EUR
This price includes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course fees • Accommodation • Accompanying programme • Course fees for language course
Further information regarding the price	<p>Included in the fees are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • subject-related courses • intensive language courses • books and materials • furnished double room • internship (English-to-German Track only) • individual and academic support • extra tutorials – language and subject-specific • health, 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

Academic admission requirements	<p>In order to be admitted to the Freshman Program, you must pass either</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Freshman Program entrance exam (Since the exam includes a maths and language exam, no separate language certificate will be required.) or TestAS, which must be accompanied by an English or a German language certificate.
Language requirements	<p>Depending on your selected field of study (see What Can You Study?), knowledge of English or German will be 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?	No
Do applicants have to have already been admitted to a study programme at your university?	No
Submit application to	<p>All applicants must take an entrance exam: Entrance Exams or TestAS</p> <p>Contact freshman@fh-aachen.de for details.</p>

Services

Is accommodation organised?	Accommodation is arranged by the organiser.
Type of accommodation	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 will be provided for the students. All rooms have free Internet.
Meals	Students can purchase light meals, such as soups, salads, and sandwiches, in our cafeteria, which is open Monday–Friday in the middle of the day. By cooking meals together in small groups, 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



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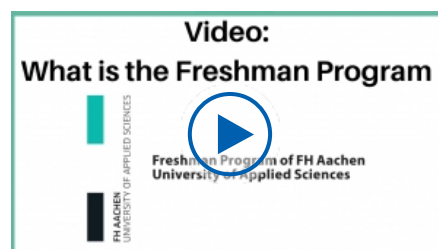
Vivek K.
Student

I have to thank the Freshman Institute 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 Institute. I strongly recommend this programme to anyone who is seriously considering coming to Germany for their further studies.

Our Partners



ACIAS



What is the Freshman Program?

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

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

— FH Aachen University of Applied Sciences —



Freshman Program Campus in Geilenkirchen

© Freshman Institute, FH Aachen

The Freshman Program is an integral part of the FH Aachen and the Aachen Institute of Applied Sciences e.V. (AclIAS e.V.) that enables students who do not meet the standard admission requirements to qualify for admission to German universities. 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 20,000 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

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Freshman Institute

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

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

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

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

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International Programmes in Germany - Database

www.daad.de/international-programmes
www.daad.de/sommerkurse

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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".

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