Fact Sheet 2026-27

Incomings Overseas | January 2026

1. Contact details

Our name in English	Technical University of Darmstadt
Official Abbreviation	TUDa
University Homepage	www.tu-darmstadt.de
Homepage	www.tu-darmstadt.de/international
Postal Address:	Technische Universität Darmstadt International Relations Overseas (VIIIc) Karolinenplatz 5 64289 Darmstadt GERMANY
Contact persons	Dr. Jana Freihöfer, Dean of International Affairs Dr. Cyntia Sandes Oliveira, Head of International Relations Overseas **Incomings to TUDa** Christian Tischer: Afrika, Americas, Asia-Pacific overseas-in@zv.tu-darmstadt.de **Outgoings from TUDa** Julia Fitzthum: North- and South America, Africa overseas-out@zv.tu-darmstadt.de Lars Bergmeyer: PR China, India, Korea, Iran, Israel, Australia overseas-out@zv.tu-darmstadt.de Dagmar Bergwitz: Japan, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, Singapor overseas-out@zv.tu-darmstadt.de

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2. Introduction

Technical University of Darmstadt is a public research university of 25.000 students in the city of Darmstadt, and is one of Germany's leading technical universities. We have 13 departments and about half of our students study engineering, a third natural sciences and about 15 percent social sciences and humanities. Our researchers work in three major fields that transcend the boundaries of individual disciplines: Energy and Environment – Information and Intelligence – Matter and Materials.

Darmstadt is a city in the center of Germany with 160.000 inhabitants, located in the metropolitan region Frankfurt-Rhine-Main. With two other universities of applied sciences, the European Space Agency, the particle colliders GSI and FAIR and other research institutes having their home in Darmstadt, the city is also known as "City of Science". Darmstadt is very well connected to Europe and the world by its proximity to Frankfurt International Airport.

Darmstadt offers plenty of green spaces in and around the city, is considered very safe, is walkable, has a well-functioning public transport system with trams and buses and is generally considered a city that is easy to live in.

Each semester between 200 and 300 exchange students from European and Overseas partners spend a semester or two at TU Darmstadt. During that time students take courses in English or German, learn German, spend time in Darmstadt and its neighborhood, enjoy sports and cultural activities at TU Darmstadt, travel through Europe and make friends with TU Darmstadt students and other incoming exchange students. Come and join us!

3. Eligibility

- Full-time enrollment at partner institution
- Degree-seeking student status at the home university is to be maintained throughout the stay at TU Darmstadt
- 2 years in an undergraduate program before starting the stay at TU Darmstadt
- Applicants must be of good academic standing

4. Departments and academic offerings

TU Darmstadt has 13 departments and offers 29 study programmes for non-degree seeking incoming exchange students. Incomings are enrolled in one of the programmes, which offer a rather large selection of courses and allow students to choose courses from other departments as well: Each department has a dedicated contact person for advising students on courses and syllabi, the departmental advisor.

Department	**Study Programmes for Incoming Exchange students**
Dept. 01: Law and Economics	Business Administration - Betriebswirtschaftslehre; Industrial Engineering - Wirtschaftsingenieurwesen; Business Informatics - Wirtschaftsinformatik
Dept. 02: History and Social Sciences	German Studies - Germanistik; History - Geschichte; Philosophy - Philosophie; Political Science - Politikwissenschaft; Sociology – Soziologie
Dept. 03: Human Sciences	Pedagogy - Pädagogik; Psychology - Psychologie; ~~Sports Science - Sportwissenschaft~~
Dept. 04: Mathematics	Mathematics – Mathematik
Dept. 05: Physics	Physics – Physik
Dept. 07: Chemistry	Biomolecular Engineering - Molekulare Biotechnologie (offered in cooperation with Biology); Chemistry – Chemie
Dept. 10: Biology	Biology – Biologie
Dept. 11: Materials and Earth Sciences	~~Applied Geosciences - Angewandte Geowissenschaften~~; Materials Science – Materialwissenschaft
Dept. 13: Civil and Environmental Engineering	Civil Engineering and Geodesy - Bauingenieurwesen und Geodäsie; Environmental Engineering – Umweltingenieurwissenschaften
Dept. 15: Architecture	Architecture – Architektur
Dept. 16: Mechanical Engineering	Mechanical Engineering - Sustainable Engineering
Dept. 18: Electrical Engineering and Information Technology	Electrical Engineering and Information Technology - Elektrotechnik und Informationstechnik; Information and Communication Engineering

Dept. 20: Computer Science	Computer Science – Informatik
Interdisciplinary Study Programmes - Studienbereiche	Computational Engineering; Mechanics - Mechanik ; Mechatronics – Mechatronik

Further information on the departments, their courses, contact persons.

5. Course load, grading, course calendar

- A German semester runs 24 weeks – 16 weeks of classes, 4 - 6 weeks self-study and preparation for exams and 3 - 4 weeks exam period. We recommend exchange students (graduate & undergraduate) to take between 18 ECTS and 30 ECTS (full course load for degree-seeking students) per semester. Further information on ECTS credits and the recognition of your academic achievements can be found on our website. The calculation of ECTS credits is explained here.
- Course Catalogue: published in TUCaN in September for winter and March for summer semester. Further information on the departments, their courses, departmental advisors.
- How to find courses? Since the course catalogue is only available shortly before your exchange semester starts, you have to use current and old course information from TUCaN and module handbooks (those contain the ECTS credit points and syllabi) to check if a stay at TU makes sense for you. Most courses are offered each winter or each summer semester. Please contact the departmental advisor of your prospective host department for detailed questions on courses.

6. Academic Year

Overview of current and future semesters on our website.

General timeline:

	Winter semester	Summer semester
Nomination	March 31	September 30
Online application	April 30	October 31
Admission results	May	November
Orientation & language course	September	March
Lecture period	October – February	April – July
Exams	February, March (most incomings leave at the end of February)	August, September (most incomings leave at the end of August)
Issue of transcript of records	April, May	October, November

Exam periods: In case exchange students leave before the examination period, there are two options:

- The student arranges an earlier exam with the TU Darmstadt professor(s).
- The student arranges a proctored exam at their home university with the TU Darmstadt professor(s).

7. Costs

Exchange students are exempt from paying tuition but are required to pay a semester contribution of approx. €340 per semester. This includes free public transport in Germany (the exception are high-speed trains) and access to the services of Studierendenwerk Darmstadt (cafeterias, dorms and more). Due to rising energy costs and a general inflation, prices have been rising in Germany in the last years. A good orientation is the monthly budget required by the German government for the visa or residence permit application of Euro 992 per month. A breakdown of costs can be found on our website.

8. Language Requirements for incoming exchange students

Students have the option to study in German or English. The main language at TU Darmstadt is German. A growing number of courses for advanced bachelor and master students is offered in English. You can choose which proof of language proficiency to hand in, English or German:

- English: B2 or better for students planning to study in English. We accept established English language tests such as e.g. TOEFL or IELTS not older than 2 years as well as reliable tests from the home universities

language center. Tests should contain sections on reading, listening, speaking and writing. When using the TOEIC test, please do the TOEIC Speaking & Writing too.
Minimum requirements:
TOEFL iBT:

- For exams taken before January 21, 2026:
  Minimum total score: 72
  Minimum section scores: Reading: 18, Listening: 17, Writing: 17, Speaking: 20
- For exams taken on or after January 21, 2026:
  Minimum total score: 4.5
  Minimum section scores: Reading: 4.5, Listening: 4.5, Writing: 4.5, Speaking: 4.5

IELTS: 5.5 overall
Students from universities where English is the language of instruction don't have to show proof of English language proficiency.
OR

- German: B2 for students planning to study in German. We accept a transcript of record showing the level of the language course, evaluation from German department professor or home universities language center, established tests and certificates such as TestDaf, DSH, Deutsche Sprachdiplom (DSD)…)
- Further information can be found on our website.

9. Nomination and application

Nomination: TU Darmstadt requires an official nomination by the home university (by email to overseas-in@zv.tu-darmstadt.de).

	Nomination deadline
Winter semester	**March 31**
Summer semester	**September 30**

Application: is made through our online portal. Only complete applications are processed:
www.tu-darmstadt.de/incoming

	Application deadline
Winter semester	**April 30**
Summer semester	**October 31**

- Regular **Exchange** Students: Please choose "Overseas" as the type of framework in the section "Current studies and requested stay".
- **Double-Degree** Students from Brazil/China/USA: Please choose "DD-Overseas" as the type of framework.

After receiving the complete application and documents, we will issue a letter of admission ("Zulassung") which will be sent via email to the incoming exchange student and the home university approx. 4 weeks after the application deadline. The admission letter is important for the visa application/residence permit.

10. Visa

All students with non-EU citizenship need to prove that they have sufficient financial means to live in Germany. Either for the visa application or the residence permit. You are required to have at least €5.952 for a semester or €11.904 for a year at TU (€992 per month). There are several ways to prove that, depending on the embassy, consulate or foreigners administration you apply at:

1. Scholarship: proof of a (full-) scholarship, stating duration and amount of monthly allowances
2. Self-financed stay: limited-withdrawal bank account (also known as **blocked account**)
3. **Bank account statements:** from your bank account showing that you have at least €5.952 for a semester or €11.904 for a year at TU in your account. Application for residence permit at Darmstadt: Must be a German bank account

International students who do not come from a member state of the European Union (EU) usually need a visa before travelling to Germany:

- Make sure your passport is valid until at least 6 months after the end of your stay in Germany.
- Please contact the German embassy of your home country **at least four months** prior to your departure to Germany in order to obtain information on the specific visa regulations for your home country and make an appointment.
- Students from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Singapore, Uruguay and USA can enter Germany without a visa. Students who plan to reside within Germany and the European Schengen Area for MORE than 90 days are required to apply for a residence permit after arrival in Germany. During the application process, you are not allowed to travel outside Germany or take up any form of employment. You will need at least €5.952 for a semester or €11.904 for a year at TU on the blocked account in September (starting your stay in winter semester) or March (summer semester). Please inform yourself before coming to Germany.
  The European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) will be introduced at the end of 2026.
- Students from PR China and India: you have to apply through the APS in your country (PR-China: A-Verfahren/India: Process A), we will provide you with a group application number.

More up-to-date information about the necessary steps for visa application and the proof of financial means is on our website.

Recommendation: Some providers offer a very convenient online blocked account, e.g. www.expatrio.com or www.coracle.de. Expatrio also offers a statutory health insurance from our partner health insurance TK (Techniker Krankenkasse). These providers are known for reliable service and user-friendly platforms.

11. Health Insurance

Exchange students studying at TU Darmstadt for one or two semesters and double degree students **are required to purchase a statutory German health insurance** (Gesetzliche Krankenversicherung) in order to be able to register as student at TU Darmstadt.

Further information for Degree-Seeking Students (double degree) as well as Exchange students from Non-European Countries can be found on our website.

- The insurance coverage is for one full semester (winter semester: October 1 – March 31; summer semester: April 1 – September 30) and will automatically continue if not cancelled by you.
- Every German statutory health insurance charges the same rate for students. TU Darmstadt cooperates with the health insurance “Techniker Krankenkasse” or “TK”.
- It is possible to sign up for health insurance in advance if you need a confirmation for the visa application.
- September OR March: The arrival month is not covered by the statutory health insurance. Students participating in the Orientation & Intensive German Language Course in September (winter semester) and March (summer semester) must purchase travel health insurance for those months (all times and places not covered by the health insurance of your home country and the statutory German health insurance) before departure to Germany.

12. Accommodation

Accommodation is available, but cannot be guaranteed due to limited capacities. TU Darmstadt does not have its own dormitories but cooperates with other public providers in Darmstadt. Our colleagues from the Exchange Students Housing Assistance ESHA help incomings find accommodation. The typical accommodation we can offer is a single room (furnished with bed, chair, table, wardrobe) in a shared apartment in a student dorm. The rental period is six (September to February, March to August) or five months (October to February, April to August). Monthly rent typically ranges between €400 and €600.

13. Arrival/Orientation/German language course

- The arrival day is the first working day in September or March.
- The orientation program "The Experience Weeks" or "X-weeks" for incoming exchange students start on the second or third working day in September (for the winter semester) and in March (for the summer semester). More information can be found on our website.
- Simultaneously with the X-Weeks, we offer a 4-week Intensive German language course for all incoming students. The courses are **free of charge**. Additionally, continuing German language courses are offered throughout the semester (also free of charge).

14. Special Programmes

For the following programmes different application deadlines and regulations apply:
Double Degree:

- Double Degrees with Escola Politécnica of the University of São Paulo
- Double Degree Mechanical Engineering (FZD) with Tongji University Shanghai
- Double Degree Material Sciences with Tongji University Shanghai

Short-Term Programmes:

- International Summer University (ISU) – *German Engineering and Language*
  - Beginning of June to middle of July
  - Two weeks virtual + four weeks in Darmstadt
  - Combination of engineering courses (mechanical or electrical track), intensive German language courses, an intercultural course, company visits, social and cultural activities
  - www.tu-darmstadt.de/isu
  - summer@zv.tu-darmstadt.de
- International Research Experience Programme IREP selected partners only
  - Research internship programme
  - Summer: End of May to beginning of August
  - Spring/Fall: April-June/October-December
  - www.tu-darmstadt.de/irep
  - irep@zv.tu-darmstadt.de