

# Studying at the University of Passau

What you need to know



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## Our verdant university campus

### The University of Passau

About 13,000 students from some 100 countries are currently studying towards their degrees on our bright, modern campus next to the river Inn and a stone's throw from the town centre and the historical Old Town.

The four faculties of the University offer degrees at the undergraduate, master's and doctoral levels. Currently, four master's programmes – M.Sc. Computational Mathematics, M.Sc. Computer Science, M.A. Development Studies and M.Sc. International Economics and Business – can be studied entirely in English.

### A cosmopolitan university

No other Bavarian university has more of its students spending part of their programme abroad to study, conduct research or gain work experience, than the University of Passau.

The range and depth of language tuition offered by our Language Centre probably has a role to play in this; another reason is that our programmes are very international in their outlook – and with more than 200 international partner universities to choose from, it is difficult not to be tempted to go abroad for a semester or two or even to complete one of our 18 double degree programmes offered in co-operation with our global partner universities.



## An unparalleled student experience

Passau's students benefit from a good staff-student ratio and from studying on an urban campus of manageable size that is located very close to the town centre.

The facilities on campus are of a high standard: there are bright, sunny seminar rooms; lecture theatres equipped with the latest technology; numerous computer rooms; Wi-Fi access exists throughout the campus and our well-stocked library stays open until midnight on most days.

Student satisfaction at the University of Passau is particularly high and our sought-after graduates typically occupy executive posts in business, social and academic organisations in Germany, Europe and indeed all over the world.

## Student life

Throughout the semester, there are plenty of events of all sorts on campus and around town, including sports events, plays, dance events, concerts, comedy shows and poetry slams.

Overall, some 100 student clubs and societies ensure a vibrant cultural and student life on and off-campus; and then there is the Sports Centre with some 40 sports clubs, including acrobatics, climbing, rowing and Yoga.

Many of our students work as volunteers for various causes; others participate in the student parliament or take an active role in one of the student committees (*Fachschaften*). For instance, the Orientation Weeks, which are intended to help new students settle in quickly, are organised by the student committees.

## Career planning and work experience

Whether you're aiming for a career in academia, business, the public sector or an international organisation, qualifications from the University of Passau are well respected and will provide you with the necessary prerequisites for career success.

For international students at the University of Passau, a special careers coach, the iStudi Coach, provides hands-on advice and a full-fledged training programme – the iStudi Pass – to help you become acquainted with the German and regional job market and to maximise your chances of securing an internship during your studies or even a career-entry position after you graduate.

Furthermore, during the semester, the Centre for Careers and Competencies hosts presentations from various professional speakers and once a year brings potential employers right here to our campus for the annual 'Campus meets Company' careers fair.

## Cost of studying and funding options

Students living in Passau should budget for a minimum of €760 per month in living expenses. That is about €60 less than the German average, as calculated by the German Student Services Association (*Studentenwerk*).

### Student services charge and semester bus pass

As a public university, the University of Passau does not charge tuition fees for its degree programmes. However, a semester contribution (*Semesterbeitrag*) of currently €72 is payable each semester: this covers the student services charge of €52 and a €20 bus pass fee, which turns your student ID card into a bus pass valid on all SWP/VBP city buses.



In a lecture theatre

## Student loans and grants

In principle, German students who do not have the means to pay for their first university education are eligible for a public student loan or grant (so-called 'BAföG').

In some cases, international students may also be eligible: if you wish to find out about funding possibilities, it is recommended that you make an appointment with the local BAföG office to determine whether you are eligible for funding.

BAföG is means-tested, which means that your parents' and, if you're married, your spouse's income will be taken into account; it is capped at currently €735 per month. BAföG is usually paid as both a loan and a grant: half is given as an interest-free loan, the other half as a grant.

The funding duration is limited to the standard length of study of the degree programme but can be extended if there are strong grounds to do so, e.g. periods of illness, maternity leave or similar. Repayments on the loan start five years after the end of the degree programme, according to the standard length of study. *Auslands-BAföG* is available to help you finance study or internships abroad.

## Scholarships and bursaries

The University offers *Deutschlandstipendium* scholarships with a stipend of €300 per month for a funding period of one year. German and international students may apply for this at any stage of their degree programme. These scholarships are allocated based on your academic performance and, to a lesser extent, your international profile, dedication to your studies and financial need.

The University also offers other scholarships, as do other public and private-sector organisations in Germany. If you are looking for full scholarships to finance your entire degree programme, there are many organisations in Germany willing to sponsor German and international students.

A scholarship information event is held every semester, giving students the chance to find out what options may be open to them.

Scholarships database of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in English:

[www.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/en](http://www.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/en)

Information on costs and funding on our website:

[www.uni-passau.de/en/costs-funding](http://www.uni-passau.de/en/costs-funding)



## The skyline of Passau

### An ideal student town

Passau is situated near the Bavarian Forest at the confluence of the rivers Danube, Inn and Ilz and is considered one of the most beautiful cities in Germany. After two fires that destroyed much of the town in the 17th century, the Old Town was rebuilt in the baroque style by Italian master builders, which is why you will notice a distinct Italian flair as you stroll through the 'Bavarian Venice', another name by which Passau is known.

With students accounting for almost one-quarter of its population, Passau is very much a student town with many galleries, art studios, bars, cafés, clubs and, of course, beer gardens. Naturally, there is a modern multiplex cinema. A shopping centre and the nearby pedestrian zone offer a lot of excellent eateries and shops, just a short five-minute walk from campus.

Passau is home to a number of cultural institutions, such as the theatre and the *Scharfrichterhaus* – a restaurant, cinema and political cabaret/stand-up stage where many of Germany's most popular contemporary comedians started out. Both have productions and acts running throughout the year.

In addition to this, Passau plays host to numerous annual cultural events, including *Europäische Wochen Passau* – a cultural festival which brings international symphonic orchestras, classical ensembles, theatre companies and artists to Passau for about six weeks every year; the *Eulenspiegel Festival* with predominantly German comedy acts and rock bands; two *Oktoberfest*-style festivals in spring and autumn; and no list of festivals would be complete without the traditional Christmas Market in front of St. Stephen's Cathedral every December.

Outdoor enthusiasts will be delighted at the many opportunities for hiking, climbing, cycling, and alpine and cross-country skiing in the nearby Bavarian Forest; in addition, Passau is not far from the Austrian and Bavarian Alps with their famous skiing areas and mountain biking and hiking trails.





## Food and drink

Students can enjoy a reasonably-priced yet tasty meal in our award-winning refectory ('Mensa' in German), perhaps while sitting on the sunny terrace overlooking the river Inn. Or grab a quick snack between lectures in one of the four cafeterias on campus.

The *NK Cafete* in the Nikolakloster building doubles as a cultural venue, with a fully equipped stage and sound system. Student clubs often book this cafeteria to hold cultural events such as music performances, intercultural events, Improv and other theatre productions throughout the semester.

## Accommodation

The Student Services Association (*Studentenwerk*) is the organisation that runs the catering facilities on campus and the four student halls of residence, all of which are located off-campus in Passau but are quickly reached by bus, bike or on foot. The halls are equipped with laundrettes and common rooms, and all rooms are fully furnished, with internet access. The monthly rent starts from about €200 per month, bills included.

Alternatively, many students find accommodation on the private housing market and often opt for shared flats, thereby reducing the rental cost per person.

If you wish to apply for a room in a hall of residence for the winter semester (September/October to February/March), your application should reach the International office by 15 June; conversely, room applications for the summer semester (March/April to July/August) should reach us by 15 December.

Application form and more details on finding a place to stay:  
[www.uni-passau.de/en/accommodation](http://www.uni-passau.de/en/accommodation)  
[www.uni-passau.de/en/housing-tips](http://www.uni-passau.de/en/housing-tips)

Passau's halls of residence on the *Studentenwerk* website:  
[www.stwno.de/en/housing/wohnanlagen-pa-en](http://www.stwno.de/en/housing/wohnanlagen-pa-en)



## The Central Library

### Our degree programmes

Details on all degree programmes and international double degree options can be found online at:  
[www.uni-passau.de/en/study-options](http://www.uni-passau.de/en/study-options)

#### Faculty of Law

##### Long-cycle undergraduate programme:

Law undergraduate programme

##### Master's programmes:

LL.M. German and Russian Law

LL.M. German Law for foreign graduates

#### Faculty of Business, Economics and Information Systems

##### Bachelor's programmes:

B.Sc. Business Administration and Economics

B.Sc. Information Systems

##### Master's programmes:

M.Sc. Business Administration

M.Sc. Information Systems

M.Sc. International Economics and Business (can be studied entirely in German or English)



## Faculty of Arts and Humanities

### Bachelor's programmes:

- B.A. European Studies
- B.A. European Studies Major
- B.A. Governance and Public Policy
- B.A. Historical Sciences
- B.A. International Cultural and Business Studies
- B.A. Journalism and Strategic Communication
- B.A. Language and Text Sciences
- B.A. Media and Communication
- B.Ed. Secondary Education

### Long-cycle teacher education programmes:

- Primary education
- Secondary education for 'Mittelschule'
- Secondary education for 'Realschule'
- Secondary education for 'Gymnasium'

### Master's programmes:

- M.A. Caritas Science and Values-based Management
- M.A. Development Studies (fully English-taught)
- M.A. European Studies
- M.A. Geography: Culture, Environment and Tourism
- M.A. Governance and Public Policy
- M.A. Historical Sciences
- M.A. International Cultural and Business Studies
- M.A. Media and Communication
- M.A. North and Latin American Studies
- M.A. Semiotics of Texts and Culture
- M.Ed. Teaching and Learning Processes

In a tutorial





## The refectory

### Faculty of Computer Science and Mathematics

#### Bachelor's programmes:

- B.Sc. Computer Science
- B.Sc. Internet Computing
- B.Sc. Mathematics

#### Master's programmes:

- M.Sc. Computational Mathematics (fully English-taught)
- M.Sc. Computer Science (can be studied entirely in German or English)

### The Language Centre

The Language Centre offers courses and programmes in 14 European, Slavic and Asian languages; German courses are available to international students. All language courses are free of charge for enrolled students and most are taught from beginner's to advanced level.

Our language courses can be studied as a subject-specific language programme alongside students' degree programmes. These are available for Law, Business/Economics, Cultural Studies/International Relations and Computer Science/Mathematics, giving students the appropriate terminology for their degree programme as they learn the language.

Languages offered: Chinese (Mandarin), Czech, English, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Thai, Turkish and Vietnamese.



# The Computer Science building

## Transferable skills for academia and business

The Centre for Careers and Competencies offers careers advice and exciting transferable skills courses free of charge to students of all disciplines, covering areas as diverse as presentation techniques, public speaking, intercultural competence, project management and leadership skills.

For doctoral and postdoctoral researchers of all faculties, the Graduate Centre offers a wide selection of courses.

## Applying for a degree programme

For detailed information on the application process, including deadlines and required documents, visit:  
[www.uni-passau.de/en/apply](http://www.uni-passau.de/en/apply)

## German language requirements

The University offers a number of English-taught degree programmes (see list on the left); however, you have to have advanced German language skills to study any of the other undergraduate and master's programmes. To prove that you have the required language skills, you should either have completed your secondary or (part of) your tertiary education in German or provide a German language certificate.

The minimum language requirement is either B2 or C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), depending on the degree programme. Examples of accepted B2 certificates are DSH-1 or TestDaF TDN 3 in all four tested categories. For C1 language skills, a DSH-2 or TestDaF TDN 4(x4) certificate would be accepted as proof. We recommend that you aim as high as possible: the better your language skills, the greater your chances of succeeding at your studies.

Overview of German language requirements:  
[www.uni-passau.de/en/german-skills](http://www.uni-passau.de/en/german-skills)  
German Courses Passau preparatory German courses:  
[www.gcp.uni-passau.de/en](http://www.gcp.uni-passau.de/en)



## Questions? All you need to do is ask!

Academic Advice Service (primary contact for prospective international degree-seeking students)

**[www.uni-passau.de/en/academic-advice](http://www.uni-passau.de/en/academic-advice)**

Phone: +49 851 509 ext. 1150, 1151, 1152 or 1153

E-mail: [advice@uni-passau.de](mailto:advice@uni-passau.de)

Careers coach for international students (iStudi Coach)

**[www.uni-passau.de/en/istudi](http://www.uni-passau.de/en/istudi)**

Phone: +49 851 509 1173

E-mail: [Luisse.Haack@uni-passau.de](mailto:Luisse.Haack@uni-passau.de)

Centre for Careers and Competencies (careers advisory services and transferable skills seminars)

**[www.uni-passau.de/en/zkk](http://www.uni-passau.de/en/zkk)**

German Courses Passau

(preparatory German language courses)

**[www.gcp.uni-passau.de/en](http://www.gcp.uni-passau.de/en)**

Phone: +49 851 509 1708

E-mail: [info-gcp@uni-passau.de](mailto:info-gcp@uni-passau.de)

Graduate Centre

(for doctoral and postdoctoral scholars)

**[www.graduertenzentrum.uni-passau.de/en](http://www.graduertenzentrum.uni-passau.de/en)**

Phone: +49 851 509 1591

E-mail: [graduertenzentrum@uni-passau.de](mailto:graduertenzentrum@uni-passau.de)

Student Registration Office (for enquiries concerning your application or matriculation)

**[www.uni-passau.de/en/student-registration-office](http://www.uni-passau.de/en/student-registration-office)**

Phone: +49 851 509 ext. 1127 or 1128

E-mail: [registry@uni-passau.de](mailto:registry@uni-passau.de)