

# ENGINEERING SUMMER AND



# WINTER SCHOOLS

## Summer and Winter Schools

Studying in Germany – Questions and Answers for Parents

**INTERNATIONAL  
ACADEMY**

**RWTHAACHEN  
UNIVERSITY**

# First Steps Abroad for your Child

It is not an easy decision for parents to let their child take up studies in a foreign country. At RWTH International Academy we understand the concerns parents have, and therefore do not only provide crucial support to our students during their stay, but also create a warm family atmosphere right from the start. This booklet visualizes the benefits international students gain and addresses any particular worries you might have as a parent or guardian. The following pages answer all questions regarding the Summer or Winter School stay of your child.

## Questions answered in this booklet



1. What are the advantages of studying abroad?
2. What are the benefits of a Summer or Winter School?
3. What are the requirements for participating in a Summer or Winter School?
4. What does a Summer or Winter School cost?
5. What can be expected from the program?
6. Are there scholarships my child can apply for?
7. Is a visa needed to enter Germany?
8. Does my child need an insurance?
9. Is Aachen a safe place for my child?
10. What happens if problems arise?
11. In what kind of accommodation will my child live?
12. Where can I find more information?

# Our Mission

Dear Parents,

We are happy that your child expresses the wish to take up studies in Germany and you now consider the opportunities of our educational programs. Studying abroad can be an enriching and exciting experience. But the prospect of an unknown, new social and cultural environment might make you and your child hesitant to take that opportunity.

This brochure will give you a good overview about what studying in Germany is like. Open questions will be answered, putting your mind at ease.

We would be delighted if your child has been inspired to come to RWTH Aachen University to study one of our programs. It is certainly a thrilling and worthwhile choice. The Short Term Programs Team of RWTH International Academy is looking forward to welcoming him or her to Aachen.

For us, RWTH Aachen University and the international student community offer a perfect environment for studying and living and we are sure that your child will enjoy it, too! We are happy to be part of a unique and unforgettable experience in Germany.

Yours sincerely,

  
Katja Walter



**Katja Walter**  
Head of Short Term Programs

# Our Team

The RWTH International Academy has conducted international Summer Schools since 2009. In 2019, the Short Term Programs Team, consisting of the team leader Katja Walter, the three program managers Jan Lühmann, Mareike Botzet and Lea Heckelsberg as well as a team of assistants has welcomed around 500 students to Aachen in a total of 20 different programs.

According to the results of our most recent evaluation, 98% of all students rated the Summer and Winter Schools as “professionally organized” and were very satisfied with the overall support of the team, rating it as “excellent” or “good”.



**Short Term Programs Team**

# RWTH International Academy

As the official academy for continuing education of the RWTH Aachen University, the RWTH International Academy is tasked with promoting and developing the integration of professional and academic education. The goal hereby is to make knowledge accessible to further target groups through application-oriented educational formats and programmes. And, thus, to make a lasting contribution to lifelong learning.

# RWTH Aachen University

## Experience Excellence in Science and Engineering at RWTH Aachen University

With over 260 academic institutes organized in nine departments, RWTH Aachen University is among the leading European institutions of higher education and scientific research. Currently, more than 45,000 students are registered in at least one of the 175 study programs that the university offers. Among these students more than 9,000 internationals have joined us from 130 different countries.

The University's innovative capacity is further reflected in the high number of business start-ups that implement research originating at RWTH Aachen University (currently more than 1,400). As a result, around 32,000 jobs have been created in the region in the last 25 years. Many new products and services originate in Aachen. In our research laboratories and testing facilities, for example, the first all-metal aircraft was developed, as was the diesel soot filter. At our University the world's first wind tunnel and the first particle accelerator were constructed.

## University Ranking

Wirtschaftswoche



Approx. 500 HR managers of top companies are ask about which universities train the best students for the needs of the company. RWTH's results: 1st place in mechanical engineering, 1st place in electrical engineering and 1st place in industrial engineering.

## QS World University Rankings

Approved funding for engineering



Ranks the world's top universities in individual subject areas using four sources: academic reputation, employer reputation, citations per paper and h-index.



# Questions and Answers for Parents

## 1. What are the advantages of studying abroad?

There are many reasons why studying abroad is a life-changing experience. The main reason is that it qualifies young people for professions in a globalized world and thus makes your child's CV look even more impressive. Furthermore, your child's academic English skills will be fostered in theoretical classes and practical exercises.

Foreign experiences shape and enrich your child's personal development by improving soft skills such as self-independency, self-awareness and intercultural communication. In addition to that, your child will benefit from new perspectives and ideas as well as long-life friendships by interacting with fellow international students from all around the world.

Life-changing experience

## 2. What are the benefits of a Summer or Winter School?

RWTH Aachen University has an excellent reputation throughout the world. Our Summer and Winter School programs are structured as short courses taught by lecturers from our university. Your child will participate as a studying guest.

Participants of a Summer or Winter School are becoming familiar with the academic requirements of a German university and can gain additional insights into the field of engineering. Our programs allow students to become acquainted with the German way of life.

Getting to know the  
German way of life



### 3. What are the requirements for participating in a Summer or Winter School?

Your child can participate in our Summer or Winter School programs, if he or she is an enrolled **B.Sc. or B.E. student who has already completed their first year of studies** by the time of their arrival in Aachen. Furthermore, **English language proficiency** is required as it is the language of teaching.

When applying for one of our Summer or Winter School programs, students have to hand in a **motivation letter** stating their future career goals, their **CV** and a **transcript of records**.

After completing one of our Summer or Winter Schools your child will receive a certificate of participation. Those students who pass the final examination (written or oral exam) also receive a grading paper and an executive certificate.

### 4. What does a Summer or Winter School cost?

The course fees contain an ‚all-inclusive‘ package (including i.a. all lectures and excursions, accommodation, breakfast and lunch during weekdays, and a local public transport ticket). Please note that travel expenses to and from Aachen are not included. In addition, participants have to provide their own meals on weekends and in the evening and also bring along a personal budget for their individual needs.

The cost of living in Germany is quite reasonable when comparing it to other European countries. The additional amount of money your child requires is determined by his/her additional needs, such as shopping and leisure time activities. Therefore, it is difficult to calculate exactly how much money your child will need during his/her stay.



#### Application Documents

Motivation Letter
Curriculum Vitae
Transcript of Records



#### Program Fees

2 weeks	1,990 EUR
3 weeks	2,990 EUR
4 weeks	3,750 EUR

### 5. What can be expected from the program?

Our Summer and Winter Schools provide your child with a fantastic opportunity to experience what university life in Germany and the top-ranked RWTH Aachen University is like. The programs are divided into lectures and hands-on-modules as well as social events in the evenings. On weekends, your child will have free time for exploring neighboring countries and cities.

#### Week I - Exemplary Weekly Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9 am					Company Visit
10 am	Welcome Orientation	Lectures in Engineering	Lectures in Engineering	Lectures in Engineering	Case Studies / Lab
11 am					
12 pm	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break
1 pm					
2 pm	Get to know Aachen: Summer School "Scavenger Hunt"	Intercultural Workshop	Case Studies / Lab	Get to know the University: RWTH Campus Tour	Lectures in Engineering
3 pm					
4 pm					
5 pm					
6 pm		Summer School BBQ			
7 pm					
8 pm					Karaoke Night with the Team and your Buddies
9 pm					

Social and cultural events in Aachen and surrounding areas such as intercultural trainings, BBQs, sports events and excursions bring students closer together and strengthen their position in the international student community.

On-site company visits of RWTH's industrial partners and guided tours of RWTH institutes as well as renowned research centers help students to get an idea of their career plans and enables them to build a network with possible employees. After completing these courses your child will have not only broadened his/her engineering horizon but also been inspired socially.



„The four weeks at Aachen were simply exhilarating. The Summer School demanded a great deal of attention which ultimately was rewarded in the project work. The company visits were very helpful as they gave an insight to the up and coming automated technologies adapted by the leading manufacturers in Germany. It really was an experience of a lifetime which I wish to revisit again in the future.“

Vaibhav Prakash, India



## 6. Are there scholarships my child can apply for?

There is a variety of organizations and institutions, which offer scholarships for international students. We recommend contacting your child's home university to learn more about what kind of financial aid is offered.

For some of our programs, RWTH International Academy Scholarships may be available. Applications by female participants are strongly encouraged. The scholarship does not include particular travel expenses. Participants have to provide their own meals on weekends and in the evening and have a personal budget for their individual needs.

Scholarships available

## 7. Is a visa needed to enter Germany?

Depending on the country of origin some students may need to apply for a visa to enter Germany. Since our participants will not be enrolled as students at RWTH Aachen University during the programs, they require a so called „Schengen Visa“ that allows your child to travel in Germany and all European countries that are part of the Schengen Agreement. The visa application process can vary from country to country. Please consult with the German embassy or consulate in your home country.

Schengen Visa needed

## 8. Does my child need an insurance?

All short-time international students in Germany need a travel health insurance when applying for a visa. This ensures excellent medical treatment in case your child needs to see a doctor during their time in Aachen. The international academy furthermore requires a private liability insurance from each student, which is valid for the duration of their stay. By this all eventualities are covered by contract and your child can lean back. A suiting health and liability insurance package called “PROVISIT VISUM” can be purchased directly on our website.

Insurance package  
can be booked online



“The Summer School was a once in a lifetime experience. It was a perfect combination between education and leisure. I experienced a diversity of cultures, lectures and activities. For me, the moments shared with the other participants and the Summer School Team are one of my most treasured memories. I hope to visit Aachen and all its beauty in the near future.”

Jovanka Kuzmanovska, Macedonia



„I gained a lot in terms of knowledge and exposure, to see how good this university is doing and helping the society to grow. Exchanging cultures and making friends were so much fun that I was reluctant to leave the place. I have to say it has been a real privilege to enjoy all the activities and program prepared by the professors and the Summer and Winter School Team. I love the culture in Aachen and definitely will plan a visit in the near future.“

Jun Bin, Malaysia





### 9. Is Aachen a safe place for my child?

While the benefits of studying abroad are immense, the thought of one's child living in another country can rattle the nerves of even the most easygoing parents. In fact, many students report that they were actually surprised by the safety in Aachen when comparing it to the situation in their home countries.

Aachen is a place where the future of our industrialized world is thought out. The University is highly acclaimed internationally for its development of innovative answers to the most pressing global challenges. As a result, numerous research institutions, companies, R&D departments and start-ups have settled in and around Aachen, making RWTH the ideal setting for aspiring students.

Aachen's historic center around the distinctive cathedral, which is a UNESCO world heritage site, is characterized by an international atmosphere and student lifestyle. In the old town quarter and its pubs, restaurants and shops, one can literally touch European history. The great number of students makes student life in Aachen a vibrant and unique experience. Only a few kilometers from the city center, one can find the "Border Triangle" where the frontiers of Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany meet. The attraction of living in this area includes a colorful mix of languages and people as well as short travel distances to cities such as Amsterdam, Brussels, Cologne or even Paris. On the city's doorsteps, the hilly Eifel landscape with its rivers, lakes and forests offers a picturesque countryside.



#### Aachen Characteristics

Historic City Center

Vibrant Student Community

Border Triangle

Germany is a safe country in international rankings. Especially in Aachen, being a medium sized city, it is safe for both men and women to walk around alone, even at night. Nonetheless, common sense and good judgement play a key role in staying safe anywhere in the world. Should there ever be the need, your child can call the police free of charge at any time of the day. German police is regarded as being friendly and reliable.

### Safety in Germany

### 10. What happens, if problems arise?

The Short Term Programs Team offers an emergency phone. Your child can get in touch with us and we will do our best to accommodate your child's needs. The number will be provided to the students just before the start of the program.

In case of medical problems the Short Term Programs Team will be there to arrange a doctor visit and accompany your child there. With his/her international health insurance, your child will receive excellent medical treatment in Germany. To prevent incidents, students will receive all relevant information about the situation in Germany and an introduction to adequate behavior upon their arrival.

### 24/7 emergency contact service

### 11. In what kind of accommodation will my child live?

All boarding houses and student accommodations are located close to the city center and allow easy and convenient transportation within Aachen as well as to neighboring cities. The following information relates to the size and furnishing of standard rooms; but please note that rooms might slightly differ from these standards.

The accommodation will be in a 3- or 4-bed room (gender-segregated) with an ensuite bathroom and free Wi-Fi. Unfortunately, due to the high demand of our programs a choice of rooms is not possible.

### 3- to 4-bed rooms



"Aachen is a very welcoming and diverse city. It was very easy to feel like home in such a beautiful place. I had an amazing experience meeting people from different countries and cultures during the Summer School. I would definitely recommend studying at RWTH to everyone, because you can meet amazing people, learn a lot and find out about opportunities for your future as an engineer."

Lara Tannus, Brazil



## 12. Where can I find more information?

### For general information

[www.summerschool-in-germany.com](http://www.summerschool-in-germany.com)

[www.daad.de/local](http://www.daad.de/local)

### About visas

[www.auswaertiges-amt.de](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de)

### About health insurance

Health insurance is mandatory by law for any student in order to study at a German University. Same applies for our programs. Please make sure that you choose an appropriate insurance for the entire program time span.

We recommend to contact your actual health insurance provider for more information on your travel insurance.

### Listen to Those Who Know

As a parent, you should make a point of talking with other parents of children who have studied abroad, and encourage your child to do the same with other students on campus. Someone who has recently experienced the situation will be able to tell you how things really are. But don't just accept everything you are told. Each person's experiences are unique, and not everyone's advice will apply to your child.



RWTH International Academy  
**Summer and Winter School Office**

Weibo RWTH International Academy  
<http://www.weibo.com/rwthacademy>



[ShortCourses@academy.rwth-aachen.de](mailto:ShortCourses@academy.rwth-aachen.de)

[www.summerschool-in-germany.com](http://www.summerschool-in-germany.com)  
[www.winterschool-in-germany.com](http://www.winterschool-in-germany.com)

## Quick Facts

**Study Format:** Summer and Winter Schools

**Language:** English

**Course Fees:** 1,990 €; 2,990 € or 3,750 €

**Duration:** 2, 3 or 4 weeks

**Requirements:** 1st year of studies completed & English proficiency

**Qualification:** RWTH Executive Certificate

