

- ● ● ● ● Cologne University of Applied Sciences CUAS
- ● ● ● ● - Fachhochschule Köln -
- ● ● ● ● Faculty 07
- ● ● Information, Media, and Electrical Engineering

## Information for Incoming ERASMUS Students at CUAS Faculty 07

This text provides information relevant to ERASMUS students who wish to attend courses in Informatics / Computer Science, Communications Engineering, or Electrical Engineering at Cologne University of Applied Sciences, Faculty for Information, Media, and Electrical Engineering. The corresponding Web address is <http://www.nt.fh-koeln.de/vogt/erasmus/index.html>. Information of a more general nature can be obtained from the International Office of the university (<http://www.international-office.fh-koeln.de/>).

### The Faculty for Information, Media, and Electrical Engineering

The Faculty for Information, Media, and Electrical Engineering (IME, Faculty 07) provides bachelor/master programs in Technical Informatics, Electrical Engineering (including Communications Engineering), and Media and Imaging Technology. It is structured into five institutes, the Institute of Communications Engineering, the Institute of Automation Engineering, the Institute of Electrical Engineering, the Institute of Applied Optics and Electronics, and the Institute of Media and Imaging Technology. The Faculty is part of the CUAS Centre of Engineering (IWZ) at Cologne-Deutz.

### Courses Offered

Besides basic courses in Mathematics, Electrical Engineering, Computer Science etc., there exists a wide range of advanced courses students may choose from. These courses pertain either to the field of Information Technology (such as Operating Systems, Data Networks or Database Systems) or to the field of Electrical Engineering (such as High Frequency Technology and Telecommunication Systems). A detailed description of the courses' contents ("Module Handbooks") can be found under <http://www.f07.fh-koeln.de/studium/lehrveranstaltungen/> -> Studienverlauf der Studiengänge (in German; English version at <http://www.nt.fh-koeln.de/vogt/erasmus/ModuleHandbookCologne.pdf>). Note that not all courses are held each semester: Most of the courses take place either in the summer semester or in the winter semester, and some courses are held only sporadically.

A course normally includes classroom lectures (90 minutes per week), classroom exercises (90 minutes per fortnight) and laboratory work (with an average on-site workload of 45 minutes per week). It is concluded by an exam, normally in writing. Due to limited capacities, access to the laboratory part of a course may be restricted. It is advisable to **apply early** and to contact the respective professor beforehand (i.e. shortly after arriving at Cologne).

### Learning Agreement / Course List

A student must list all courses he/she intends to attend in the ERASMUS Learning Agreement. This agreement must be signed by both universities and carry **two signatures from Cologne** – one from the International Office and one from the coordinating professor at the faculty. It is the student's responsibility (with the help of his/her home International Office) to **get hold of the signed agreement in time** and he/she has to present it when arriving at Cologne. If necessary (e.g. due to timetable problems), the list of courses can be modified during the stay at Cologne.

The program of a German student typically comprises five or six courses per semester. The **number of courses** an ERASMUS student can take depends on his background and his prior knowledge. The average ERASMUS student should attend up to three technical courses only (or maybe four) per semester. This limitation accounts for difficulties that are likely to occur (especially language problems, see below) and leaves enough time for other activities (especially language courses). However, students who are technically strong and have a good command of German might take five or perhaps even six courses.

The student should **send an E-mail to his coordinating professor** as early as possible (addresses see below). The E-mail should include the list of courses the student is interested in such that the coordinator can give early advice.

ERASMUS students will receive one **ECTS credit point** more per course than indicated in the module handbooks (e.g. six instead of five) due to their additional efforts.

## Final Projects / Diploma Theses

The ERASMUS program is primarily intended to offer students the possibility to attend courses at a university abroad. Having participated in courses at Cologne, ERASMUS students can possibly work on their final projects and write their diploma theses here (provided that the regulations of their home university allow this and they are accepted by a professor in Cologne). It is, however, **not possible** to come to Cologne and **immediately start with a final project** without prior consent of a Cologne professor. All applications with the term "final project" (or similar) in the proposed ERASMUS Learning Agreement will be rejected – unless they include the name of the advising professor at Cologne. Therefore, before(!) sending the learning agreement, the student must apply for a final project.

The application for a final project has to be sent by E-mail(!) to the coordinating professor at Cologne. This mail must include a convincing and expressive letter of motivation describing the personal strengths and interests of the applicant. The applicant should put considerable effort into writing this letter in order to make him-/herself interesting for us! Furthermore, a C.V. and a list of the courses attended so far (including the marks received) are required. The professor will then forward the application to his colleagues to see if anyone of them is interested. However, there is no guarantee for success. If a professor is interested, he will contact you and propose you a topic – in general, it is not the student who makes proposals.

## Language

As nearly **all courses and exams are held in German**, some knowledge of the language is indispensable. Thus, an ERASMUS student must already have some practical skills in German before he/she comes to Cologne. To extend this knowledge, the university offers a choice of language courses for incoming ERASMUS students. Coming to Cologne without knowledge of German (or with only limited knowledge) will be a guarantee for failure!

## Schedules

The academic year consists of a winter semester and a summer semester. The winter semester usually starts in mid-September and ends in mid-February, the summer semester starts in mid-March and ends in mid-July. The exact dates vary slightly. In 2012, the winter semester begins on Sept. 17. However, due to an examination period most of the courses do not start before the beginning of October, i.e. two weeks later. Many courses are made up of two modules. The first of these modules is held in the winter and the second in the summer semester. Hence it is recommended for foreign students to begin their studies in autumn. To ensure a smooth start, students must install themselves in Cologne at least one week, better **two weeks before courses begin**. In 2012, there will be a **meeting in the week from Sept. 24 to Sept. 28** all incoming students **must attend**.

Students should contact their ERASMUS coordinator in Cologne several months before their arrival, preferably by e-mail (addresses given below). They should provide a short resume of their academic careers so far, especially a list of the courses attended and the marks received hitherto. Moreover, they should describe their motivations for studying in Cologne and (as in the Learning Agreement) give a list of the courses they wish to attend.

Students have to provide for their own accommodation, transport, health insurance etc., the International Office being able to give some support for obtaining a room in a students' residence. Directly contacting the "Studentenwerk", the biggest provider of residences, may also be helpful. Especially the issue of accommodation should be addressed **as early as possible**.

## Contact Persons and Web Pages

ERASMUS contact in the International Office:

- Ms. Janina Knöll (janina.knoell@fh-koeln.de)

ERASMUS contacts in the Faculty:

- BeNeLux: Prof. Dr. Georg Hartung (georg.hartung@fh-koeln.de)
- France: Prof. Dr. Alexander Stoffel (alexander.stoffel@fh-koeln.de)
- Spain: Prof. Dr. Carsten Vogt (carsten.vogt@fh-koeln.de)
- All other countries: Prof. Dr. Rainer Bartz (rainer.bartz@fh-koeln.de)

Web Sites:

- Faculty 07: <http://www.f07.fh-koeln.de/>, <http://www.nt.fh-koeln.de/vogt/erasmus/index.html>
- International Office: <http://www.international-office.fh-koeln.de/>
- Studentenwerk: <http://www.kstw.de> -> "Kultur & Internationales"