Studying in Germany
Studying at the University of Bonn

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WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

1. ‘STUDY CULTURE’
2. ORGANIZING YOUR STUDIES
3. COUNSELING & SERVICE
‘STUDY CULTURE’
Interactive education system

- Active learning attitude expected
- High level of autonomy & self-reliant studying expected
Research skills

• Critical selection, analysis & presentation of information

• Assessment of trustworthiness & relevance of sources (Internet sources in particular)

• Importance of transdisciplinarity
‘STUDY CULTURE’

Time management

• Daily / weekly workload not controlled by anyone

• Time management = one key factor for studying successfully
Attendance & active participation

• No universal compulsory attendance

• Attendance regulations announced in online course catalogue “BASIS” → basis.uni-bonn.de
Attendance & active participation

• ‘Qualification goal’ of a class often believed to be hardly achievable without regular attendance & active participation!

• Aim: Development of key skills
  → essential skills for future job
  → development of key skills requires a high level of (inter)activity
Getting in touch with teachers/ instructors

- Via consultation hours
- Urgent questions can usually be asked after (or during) class and via email

Check out departmental website(s) for contact information!
ORGANIZING YOUR STUDIES
“Vorlesung”/ “Plenum” | Lecture

- Presentation of a particular topic
- Larger audience
- Little to no interaction between students and teacher/ instructor
- Autonomous revision of a lecture expected
“Seminar” | Seminar

- Discussion on a specific topic led by teacher/instructor
- Limited number of participants
- Discussions & active participation expected
“Übung”/ “Tutorium” | Tutorial

• Training skills in preparation for an exam

• Intensive discussion & teamwork

• Practicing subject matters taught in lecture / seminar
s.t. ("sine tempore") = without time = **at the stated time**

c.t. ("cum tempore") = with time = **15 minutes later**

*Akademisches Viertel* = “academic quarter of an hour”

→ Example:
10 s.t. = 10 am
10 c.t. = 10:15 am

→ Check course announcements in BASIS (online course catalogue)!
• Bachelor & Master degree programs consist of modules

• Modules comprise thematically linked courses

• Usually exam at the end of a module

• Completion of a module
  • ECTS credit points (usually called Leistungspunkte / “LP”)
  • Grade

→ Erasmus/ Global Exchange Program students may also attend separate courses (instead of complete modules) and gain ECTS credit points & grade
• Required modules / courses listed on your learning agreement

• Sometimes specific requirements or exams

• You may be allowed to take an exam in another form

→ Please talk to your (Erasmus departmental) coordinator or contact person about specific regulations beforehand. 😊

→ You may also approach your teacher/ course instructor in addition.
German grading scale

- 1,0 – 1,5 = “sehr gut”
- 1,6 – 2,5 = “gut”
- 2,6 – 3,5 = “befriedigend”
- 3,6 – 4,0 = “ausreichend”
- 5,0 = “nicht ausreichend” → failed
List of your courses

ECTS credit points

Individual grades

Issued in English by your (Erasmus departmental) coordinator
= Your personal Uni Bonn account

Generated automatically after enrollment and payment of semester fee

Included in letter with your student ID
→ 1st page, top right corner (next to your postal address)
→ + automatically generated password

Activation and personal password via identity management GOsa² → gosa.gosa.uni-bonn.de

Access to all central digital services
→ personal uni email account, BASIS, eCampus, Sciebo cloud, ...

→ hrz.uni-bonn.de/en/all-services → Uni-ID

Presentation “Digital Services at the University of Bonn“:
available/coming soon on uni-bonn.de/welcomedays 😊

YouTube channel:
“HRZ Universität Bonn“
Your Uni-ID = your personal Uni Bonn email address!

→ Uni-ID@uni-bonn.de

→ To be used as soon as your Uni-ID has been activated: mail.uni-bonn.de

Tipp: Email aliases

→ via gosa.gosa.uni-bonn.de → Mail
→ enter aliases (“Mail-Alias 1/2”) → OK

→ hrz.uni-bonn.de/en/all-services → e-mail
1. **Course registration within registration period**
   - With Uni-ID: via BASIS
   - Without Uni-ID: Contact instructor via email
   - Registration can be withdrawn → Mind the ‘withdrawal period’ 😊

   ➔ **Erasmus students might not be able to register for courses via BASIS** (depends on department) ➔ **Info by coordinator counts! 😊**

   ➔ **Global exchange program students can only register on BASIS for courses belonging to their program**

2. **Exam registration**
   - Uni-ID required for registration via BASIS
   - **No automatic or compulsory exam registration**
   - Registration can be withdrawn → Mind the ‘withdrawal period’ 😊
People who may help you (register):

• Your (Erasmus departmental) coordinator
• Your teacher/course instructor
• Other contact persons

• BASIS support & FAQ
  basis-support.uni-bonn.de
Indigenous Religions in North America - Single View

Description:
Indigenous religions are both easy and hard to define. In one sense, they are easy to recognize in the long history of Western representations—for example, in art, comics, and film—that have created particular associations in the popular imagination, such as shamanic rituals, smoking peace pipes, and communicating with the spirit world. When one digs beneath the surface, however, Indigenous religions are hard to define for at least two reasons. First, they have largely been represented on outsiders’ terms throughout the long history of settler-colonialism and forced Christianization. In this sense, “Indigenous religions” is a relational concept that must be considered in connect to Christian cultures, including the particular forms of state secularism that are practiced in Canada and the United States. Second, as Suzanne Owen points out, many Indigenous communities reject the term “religion,” preferring terms like “spirituality” in order to distance themselves from organized forms of Christianity. What is more, many Indigenous communities view the relationship between culture, “spirituality,” and politics differently than is commonly understood in Euro-Western societies, and thus need to be considered on their own terms. This includes Indigenous forms of knowledge, which tend to stress the relationship between humans, animals, and the land over human-centred notions of progress and development. In this class, we will begin by looking at how Indigeneity has been defined by settler-colonial societies and how this has impacted the ways in which Indigenous communities have defined themselves. We will also explore “new age” appropriations of Native America spirituality, Native American forms of Christianity, as well as the growing resurgence in Indigenous forms of knowledge and practice that increasingly challenge Western notions of religion, science, and progress.

Prerequisites:
Course Requirements (Studienleistungen)
• Electronic teaching and learning management system

• Addition to online course catalogue BASIS

• Upload of course material

• Communication tool between teachers and students

eCampus | Learning management system of the University of Bonn
ORGANIZING YOUR STUDIES – SCIEBO (CAMPUS CLOUD)

→ hrz.uni-bonn.de/en/for-students
COUNSELING & SERVICE

Reach out!
Advise and Service

The University of Bonn offers a wide range of advising opportunities and services for you to use at all stages of university studies. Our advising and service network is here to help you with everything related to academic orientation, application and enrollment, degree progression, academic problems, personal challenges, staying abroad, and career counseling. These services are supplemented by various student counseling bodies and the services of Studienberatung Bonn in the areas of funding, housing, and social affairs.

Subject-Specific Study Advisory Services

These subject-specific study advisory services provide help with detailed questions concerning program contents and progress, modules, and examination regulations, and the opportunities for setting academic priorities during your studies. They are also the point of contact if you want to discuss the possibilities of earning transfer credit for previous coursework and examinations before submitting your application.

Central Study Advisory and Counseling Service

The Central Study Advisory and Counseling Service (ZSB) guides prospective students through the process of gaining information and making decisions, offers advice on choosing a degree program and applying for admission, and helps new students get started at the University. For current students, it serves as a general resource providing guidance and support in periods of academic reorientation and when students experience doubts about their studies or personal problems.

Student Registry

The Student Registry is responsible for handling applications, admissions, and enrollments. It manages issues of absence, deregistrations, data changes, and semester fee payments as well as many other issues in student management.

Advice and support from fellow students

International Office

The University of Bonn's International Office is the contact point for all issues related to international programs and activities. How and when do I plan to stay abroad? What are potential destinations? How do I pay for everything and how do I prepare myself in the best possible way? Comprehensive counseling services are also available for international students to help them structure their studies in Bonn in the best possible way.

Advice and support from fellow students

Central Study Advisory and Counseling Service

Student Registry

International Office

General Students’ Committee (AGS)

Aside from representing students’ political interests, the General Students’ Committee is the central student organization at Bonn University. It advises students on all matters related to university life, provides counseling services, and represents students in their dealings with the university. The General Students’ Committee is the place to go for help and advice on just about any issue.
Zentrale Studienberatung – “ZSB”
(Central Study Advisory and Counseling Service)


• We are happy ...
  ... to answer all your questions around studying
  ... to refer you to the right contact for your inquiry

• Workshops & Coachings (in German)

→ uni-bonn.de/study-advisory-service
Psychological Counseling

In personal meetings, you can obtain counseling— including preventive advice— regarding psychological concerns, insecurities or problems that can have a negative impact on your quality of life or academic success. Our counselors will help you develop new perspectives, your own constructive solutions and strategies to tackle challenges. If needed, we can also advise you on finding therapy and/or put you in touch with someone who will be able to help. In addition, you can take advantage of our group sessions, which focus on specific issues and target groups.

Our counselors

Dipl.-Psych. Claudia Kerp (PP)
pb-zsb@uni-bonn.de
2.217
Quantiusstraße 1
53115 Bonn, Germany

Laura Neufeldt, M.Sc. (PdA)
pb-zsb@uni-bonn.de
2.218
Quantiusstraße 1
53115 Bonn, Germany

Dipl.-Psych. Anne Zilligen (PP)
pb-zsb@uni-bonn.de
2.218
Quantiusstraße 1
53115 Bonn, Germany

Further counseling services and emergency contacts

You can find a selection of the counseling services and institutions available in Bonn in several places, including our Psychosocial Counseling flyer.
International support group “NO WORRIES!“

• Organized by the AStA and the International Office

• Opportunity to meet (online) peer-to-peer in a relaxed and informal setting

• Opportunity to talk about issues and problems regarding student life and get (and give) advice

→ international@asta.uni-bonn.de
Gleichstellungsbeauftragte & team (University gender equality commissioner & team)

• Support students and employees in matters of equality

• Counseling in case of discrimination and harassment

→ gleichstellung.uni-bonn.de/en
Writing term papers & other academic texts

- Schreibberatung (Writing Consultation)

  [link to website](studierendenwerk-bonn.de/en/counselling-social-affairs/writing-consultation/)

- Ask your (Erasmus departmental) coordinator or teachers about contact persons (e.g. tutors) at the department offering guidance and help
Literature divided into

→ main library

→ departmental libraries
Departmental libraries

- *Specific* literature
- Free of charge
- ‘Offline use’ and ‘online use’
Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek (”ULB”)  
(Main library | University and State Library)

- Very broad body of literature  
  → focus: social sciences and humanities,  
  law and economics, theology, psychology  
- Free of charge  
- ‘Offline use’ and ‘online use’

Abteilungsbibliothek MNL  
(MNL branch library)

- Focus: medicine, natural sciences, agriculture  
- Free of charge  
- ‘Offline use’ and ‘online use’
How to use the libraries

- Introductory sessions to using the libraries (digital + on-site)
- FAQs for new students

ulb.uni-bonn.de/en/information-for/first-semester-students
GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS + “STUDIENKOMPASS 2022-23” (IN GERMAN)

Downloads:
→ uni-bonn.de/en/international/campus-international/welcome-days/incoming-guide_en.pdf
→ uni-bonn.de/starting-your-studies → “Studienkompass”

Get your personal printed copies at the “Infobox for studies“! 😊
→ Poppelsdorfer Allee 49
ANY QUESTIONS?
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!
HAVE A GREAT TIME IN BONN AND TAKE CARE!