

UNIVERSITY OF OLDENBURG

Information sheet for the academic year 2017/18

The university

Full name	Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg / University of Oldenburg
Location	Oldenburg, Germany (pop. 166,000+)
Erasmus+ code	D OLDENBU01
EUC Number	28714
Website	https://www.uol.de/en/

The International Student Office (ISO)

Mailing address	Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg International Student Office 26111 Oldenburg Germany
E-mail address for general enquiries & nominations	exchange@uol.de
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Website	https://www.uol.de/en/iso/
Guide	Guide for Exchange Students

Contacts

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Academic calendar

	Winter Semester 2017/18	Summer Semester 2018
Exchange applications are due	July 15th, 2017	January 15th, 2018
Preparatory German courses	September 2017	March 2018
Semester officially begins	October 1st, 2017	April 1 st , 2018
International orientation	October 2 th – October 6 th , 2017	March 26 th – 30 st March 2018
General orientation	October 9 th – October 13 th , 2017	
Lectures begin	October 16th, 2017	April 3 rd , 2018
Christmas break	December 23 th 2017 – Jan. 6 th , 2018	
Lectures end	February 2 rd , 2018	July 6 th , 2018
Examination period	2-3 weeks after lectures end	2-3 weeks after lectures end
Semester officially ends	March 31 st , 2018	September 30 th , 2018

The expected arrival date for exchange students is, at the latest, the day before international orientation begins. Dates in future academic years will roughly correspond to the dates given for 2017/18.

Available courses and credit system

▪ COURSE CATALOGUE

The current course catalogue is available online at (in German):

<https://e.uol.de/plugins.php/veranstaltungsverzeichnis/verzeichnis/index/>

Courses offered in English are available online at:

https://elearning.uni-oldenburg.de/plugins.php/veranstaltungsverzeichnis/englishmodules/seminars?cancel_login=1

Every exchange student will be assigned an academic advisor (departmental coordinator) who will help the student put together a suitable curriculum.

▪ MODULES AND SEMINARS TAUGHT IN ENGLISH

- 1.) While the primary language of instruction is German, several degree programmes at our university are entirely held in English. Also, a number of English-language courses are offered within most degree programmes.
- 2.) Study areas in which those modules are offered are Water and Coastal Management, Microbiology, Renewable Energy, Migration and Intercultural Relations, Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience, Sustainability Economics and Management, English Studies, Computing Science, Engineering Physics, Business Administration, Economics and Law. The majority of these seminars will be held in every academic year. The course catalogue will be updated 2-3 months before the semester begins. Please make sure to select the desired semester (summer or winter term on the left side).
- 3.) The University of Oldenburg has also designed a special English-taught programme for exchange students: *European Studies in Global Perspective* (EuGI). This program can be studied either for one or for two semesters, with at least 24 CP per semester. It incorporates modules on different developments, issues and key aspects in European societies, economies, and cultures, both present and past. The main language of instruction is English. More information can be found here: <https://www.uol.de/euqi/>

▪ CREDIT SYSTEM AND WORKLOAD

The University of Oldenburg uses the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). One ECTS credit point translates into roughly 30 hours of work, of which only a part is spent in the classroom. The workload which regular students aim for is 30 ECTS per semester. An individual course can be worth anything between 3 and 10 points.

Language requirements

GERMAN PROFICIENCY

Generally, the language of instruction at our university is German. This is why **the minimum level required is B1** (Common European Framework of Reference). The fact that the student fulfils this requirement is confirmed by the sending institution when it signs and stamps the application for registration as an exchange student.

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

Students who are planning on taking only classes in English are **exempt from the German proficiency requirement**. Instead, they need to have an **equivalent proficiency in English**; the minimum level required is B1. We kindly ask these students to notify us in the early stages of the application process to make sure that enough English-language courses will be available in the relevant area of study.

LANGUAGE COURSES

We offer intensive German courses on different levels in the weeks leading up to international orientation/semester start.

	Winter Semester	Summer Semester
Beginners' course	Level A1.1 in September	Level A1.1 in March
	Level A2.1 in September	Level A2.1 in March
Intermediate course	Level B1.1 in September	Level B1.1 in March

Fee for each course250 EUR
 Credit points to be obtained.....6 ECTS
 Duration.....4 weeks/ 100 hours total

To sign up for any of these courses, the exchange student needs to apply online by 15 January/ 15 July:

<https://www.uol.de/fk3/sprachenzentrum/sprachen/deutsch-als-fremdsprache/kursangebot/intensivkurse-in-den-semesterferien/>

Courses will take place at a minimum of 10 applicants.

GERMAN COURSES DURING THE LECTURE PERIOD

During the lecture period, there are German courses offered on all levels, for 4-10 hrs per week. These courses are worth up to 9 ECTS credit points if completed and are free of charge. There is a placement test during international orientation.

Application

The following documents are required from all exchange students:

- 1.) **Application for registration as an exchange student**
- 2.) **Copy of student identity card**
- 3.) **Application for accommodation** (see section 8 for details about accommodation options)
- 4.) **Registration for the Buddy-Programme** (if desired)

All documents can be found at <http://www.uni-oldenburg.de/en/iso/studieren/erasmus-exchange-studies-in-oldenburg/apply-for-exchange-studies-in-oldenburg/> and are to be submitted to the International Student Office by e-mail (exchange@uol.de). The deadline for applications is **July 15th for the winter semester** or the full academic year and **January 15th for the summer semester**.

Preparation and arrival

ACCOMMODATION

Our university has several off-campus dormitories. The rooms that are assigned to exchange students are single rooms and are fully furnished; the kitchen and bathroom(s) are shared with other students, and there are in-house laundry facilities. Please note that the rental agreements last for a period of six months and that, for some dormitories, students are asked to pay upfront for the entire period of their stay plus an additional deposit of 1 month's rent. The rent is around 200 EUR to 300 EUR per month.

Alternatively, exchange students can apply for a room in a shared apartment that is rented privately (this is a common arrangement in Germany). This may be a bit more expensive (around 220 EUR to 350 EUR per month), but the rental agreements are more flexible. The application form is the same for all types of accommodation.

HEALTH INSURANCE

German law requires university students to have health insurance. Exchange students from a member country of the European Union, or from a country which has an insurance agreement with Germany (such as Israel, Switzerland and Turkey), are requested to bring their European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or a corresponding letter with them. If none of these are available to them, they should proceed like students from all other countries.

Students from all other countries are recommended to purchase health insurance from one of the German statutory insurance providers. The cost is around 80 EUR per month; purchasing it is part of international orientation. For further information on the German healthcare system, please see this page:

<https://www.1averbraucherportal.de/versicherung/krankenversicherung/en>

TUITION- OR ADMINISTRATION FEES AND SEMESTERTICKET (STUDENT TRANSPORTATION)

Exchange students do not need to pay tuition fees. What they do need to pay is a contribution (administrative fee) of 275,10 EUR that is used to fund the transportation ticket for trains and busses in the area of northern Lower Saxony, the student's parliament and some of the campus facilities. In Germany students don't have to pay any charge to study at a governmental university. This fee must be paid in cash on the first day of the international orientation week.

VISA INFORMATION

Exchange students from the European Union, the EFTA (Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein) and a number of other countries such as the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan and Chile can enter Germany without a visa. All other students need to apply for a visa before entering Germany. As soon as we have received their exchange application, we will send them an admission letter that they can use for their visa application.

While EU citizens can stay in Germany for as long as they want, all others (including those that did not need a visa to enter, such as United States citizens) need to apply for a residence permit within 90 days after their arrival in Germany. Fees for the residence permit cost 110 EUR.

TRAVEL INSTRUCTIONS

Germany has a well-developed public transport system. This makes it very easy to reach Oldenburg from any of the Northern German airports such as Hamburg (HAM), Bremen (BRE) and Hannover (HAJ) or even Frankfurt Airport (FRA). Detailed travel instructions will be provided to the exchange students in due time before they arrive.

INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION

We organize a five-day international orientation week at the beginning of each semester. This serves to familiarize the students with the university, with Oldenburg, and with each other. Orientation includes assistance with formalities, information about the academic side of things (how to register for courses, how to use the library), campus and city tours, a reception at the Mayors and get-togethers such as pub evenings. Therefore we strongly recommend to attend the International Orientation week in order to have a smoothly stay in Oldenburg.

EVENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The International Student Office, together with other university bodies, organises a variety of with excursions, trips, parties, and cultural events. Moreover we take part in the programme 'Discover Lower Saxony and Bremen' offering events and trips in both states.



All Exchange students are also warmly welcome to be part in the ISO-Facebook-group "International Students in Oldenburg" which can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/381382281953392/>

Further information about studying and living in Oldenburg

CAMPUS FACILITIES

The university's two campuses are a bike-ride away from the city centre and within walking distance of each other. They are well equipped with dining facilities, sports facilities (including swimming pool, sauna and a fitness and health centre), wireless internet access and other facilities and services.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT TICKET

The public-transport ticket (*Semesterticket*) that every student receives allows them to travel freely within the region for the full six months of the semester. It is valid for all public transport in Oldenburg and Bremen as well as for the regional trains as far as Hamburg, Hannover and Osnabruck.

LIVING EXPENSES

Students in Oldenburg need around 600 EUR to 720 EUR per month to get by comfortably.

EMPLOYMENT

Exchange students from the European Union are eligible to work in the same way that German students are, without an absolute limit to the number of hours. Non EU-students can work for 120 full days or 240 half days (this amounts to ≤ 20 hours per week) per year once they have received their residence permit.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us under exchange@uol.de

Your

*International Student Office
University of Oldenburg*