



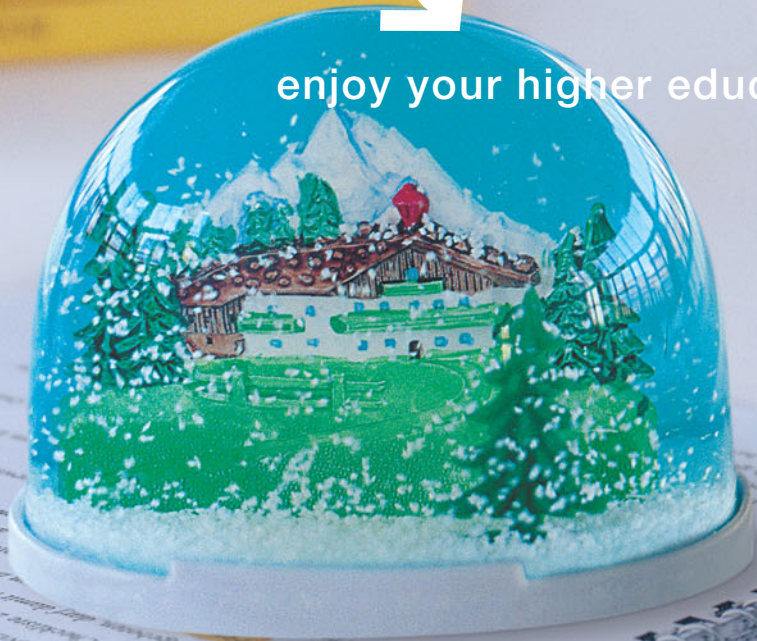
uni:

studying in Bavaria

Bavarian Research Universities



enjoy your higher education



Preface



[The Success of Bavaria's Universities](#) is based on the excellent funding of our higher education system, our performance-oriented staff-recruitment policy and the innovative profile-building strategies of the universities themselves. We intend to continue developing the Bavarian universities, academies of the arts and universities of applied sciences on this solid foundation, thereby maintaining and improving the high quality of Bavaria's higher education system. For in a world of globalized markets and a virtually unlimited flow of goods, science and technology are not only the mainspring of progress: knowledge is a valuable commodity in itself.

In higher education we need outstanding achievements not only now but also in the future. Global competition for intellectual and human resources, for investment, jobs and prosperity demands constant innovation. For this reason we must invest sustainably and robustly in research, science and teaching. Only if we manage to place ourselves in the forefront of technological and, by implication, economic and social progress, we will be able to safeguard our high social and ecological standard in the future.

Studying in Bavaria is efficient. A study by a panel of scientific experts confirmed that the time taken to complete degree programmes in Bavaria is below the federal average in a conspicuously high number of cases. One reason for this is that courses are well organized. We hope that the new Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes will provide a major new impetus for the length of degree programmes to be reduced even further.

A core aim of Bavarian higher education is internationalisation. The number of international students in Bavaria has risen continuously in recent years: More than 20.000 students from abroad - representing about ten per cent of the total - are currently registered within our higher education system. Indeed, it is in Bavaria's own interest to prepare suitably qualified international students for their later tasks by providing them with academic training at a Bavarian university: whether it be because these young academics maintain contact with Germany and Bavaria after they return to their homelands or because they stay with us as highly skilled specialists.

Moreover, our universities are also motors of economic development in our country.

It is only the successful high-tech regions that will attract good academic staff and students, and we want to keep this new elite here when they finish their studies. It is for this reason that the Bavarian State Government, in close cooperation with commerce, industry and local government, has introduced generous development programmes to facilitate the founding of new enterprises; in our new-enterprise centres we convert know-how from the universities straight into marketable products.

This booklet provides an initial insight into the Bavarian higher education landscape. It is designed to provide guidance and to "whet your appetite" for studying in Bavaria.



Dr. Thomas Goppel

Bavarian State Minister of
Sciences, Research and the Arts

Living and studying in Bavaria

[Studying in Bavaria – the Universities](#)_ The Bavarian university sector offers both students and staff high educational standards, a wide range of academic choice and an up-to-date organisational framework. In recent decades, Bavaria has developed from a predominantly agrarian state into a top-notch international location for science and research. Its attraction lies in the fact that Bavaria welcomes international students, academic teaching staff and research scientists and has much to offer them.

If you come to Bavaria, you will find vibrant towns and cities on the one hand and delightful countryside ranging from the low mountains of northern Bavaria to the Alps and magnificent lakes of the south on the other. Not for nothing is Bavaria the most popular German state among tourists from all over the world. Nature provides almost unlimited opportunities for active leisure pursuits: skiing and swimming, hiking and mountaineering, adventure sports, and simply enjoying nature. Bavaria also has more than its fair share of cultural highlights to offer: the world-famous royal castles of Linderhof, Neuschwanstein and Herrenchiemsee, internationally renowned art galleries and museums such as the Pinakothek der Moderne gallery of modern art and design and the Deutsches Museum in Munich and the New Museum in Nuremberg, numerous music festivals throughout Bavaria, theatres large and small, and modern multiplex cinemas: everywhere in Bavaria you will experience culture that is alive – for every taste, for every age-group, and at or within easy reach of every university location.

[Bavaria - a high-tech location](#)_ In recent years, research in Bavaria has acquired world-class stature in many fields. Bavaria is one of the leading high-tech locations in Germany and one of the most attractive commercial and industrial locations in Europe. In order to secure and build on what has already been achieved, the Free State of Bavaria is continuing to invest large amounts of its state budget in science, research and technology. Within the framework of the 'Bavarian Offensive for the Future' and 'High-tech Offensive' programmes, which are without parallel in Germany, the Bavarian State Government has sold its state-owned share of private enterprise, thus raising billions of euros to finance additional investment in innovative projects: an injection of billions of euros into science, research, industry and commerce – and into Bavaria's university sector.

[Variety and innovation_](#) Bavarian universities act as an important stimulus for innovation and progress. For a number of years now, both research and teaching have found themselves in a dynamic process of modernisation and globalisation. For you as an international student, this means that your school and university qualifications are more likely to be recognized, that a wide selection of German (and other) language courses are available, and that some lectures and seminars are held in English. In addition, the Bavarian State Government is making an effort to simplify the law concerning the entry and residence of students from abroad and to help them by providing inexpensive accommodation. Some EU educational programmes such as SOCRATES and TEMPUS promote the international exchange of students and teaching staff.

The Bavarian university landscape is efficient, diverse and sophisticated, consisting of: nine state Universitäten (Universities on the traditional model), 17 state Fachhochschulen (Universities of Applied Sciences), five state Kunsthochschulen (Academies of Arts) and a range of other institutions of higher education run by municipal, church and private bodies. Whereas the Fachhochschulen (Universities of Applied Sciences) as "higher education for working life" offer degree programmes that are closely attuned to the demands of careers in business, technology, and social work, the Universitäten, as the traditional form of university, focus more strongly on academic training. The Kunsthochschulen concern themselves with the arts in their pure (music, theatre and the fine arts) and applied (graphics and design) forms or with film, radio and television.

[Diversified education for research and business - the universities_](#) Degree programmes at Bavarian universities cover the whole range of subjects that are demanded by a high-performance scientific community and a modern job market. Well equipped libraries and laboratories will provide you with ideal working conditions and research facilities. Many universities have installed computer rooms where you can work with a variety of programs. In addition, you can ask for an s-mail account enabling you to use the internet and e-mail free of charge. And this comprehensive offer made available by Bavaria's university sector is absolutely free for all those on first-degree programmes – as a matter of principle.

That also applies to a particularly innovative form of educational provision, Bavaria's on-line university, the so-called Virtuelle Hochschule Bayern (www.vhb.org). It is an interactive multimedia network of all Bavaria's universities, offering top quality lectures by Bavaria's professors on the internet.

Contact-teaching is complemented by the virtual university but is certainly not replaced by it: lectures enable lecturers to have their say, seminars and "exercises" enable you, the student, to play an active role, and (laboratory) practicals and field trips focus attention on the practical realities of the subject concerned.

Your timetable will provide a fixed framework for your studies, but it will also allow you considerable room for manoeuvre: while acquiring the essential subject-knowledge, you can also pursue your own individual interests, both within your subject field and beyond. In most cases, your achievements are assessed and certified for each individual event on your timetable. Each department prescribes the number of certificates you must acquire in order to be allowed to enter for the intermediate and final examinations.

Traditional and new degrees_ The kind of degree that you will be awarded depends on the subjects studied: programmes in the natural, engineering, economic and social sciences normally end with a Diploma Examination. Arts and some social science and economics programmes lead to a Magister Artium (M.A.) degree in one main and two subsidiary subjects or in two main subjects. In theological subjects it is also possible to take an ecclesiastical examination. After your first degree you can go on to acquire a doctorate.

In addition to these traditional German university degrees, there are also new programmes leading to Bachelor's/Bakkalaureus and Master's degrees. These are shorter and are attuned to international demands. Their content is modular, i.e. it is structured in clearly defined units that can be combined and transferred; the examinations do not take place in the middle and at the end of the course, as in the case of other degree programmes, but at regular intervals, awarding you credit points that go together to provide

your overall qualification. If you go to another university, whether at home or abroad, you take the modules and credit points you have been awarded with you.

Contacts and advice_ If you are interested in studying at a Bavarian University, please contact two addresses first. Comprehensive information and advice on studying in Bavaria is available from the German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst – DAAD), Kennedyallee 50, 53175 Bonn (www.daad.de; postmaster@daad.de). If you have any questions relating to individual universities and degree programmes, admission and enrolment, please contact the Akademisches Auslandsamt (the Academic Exchange Office or International Office), which is to be found at every university. They organize introductory events for international students where you will be given valuable tips and can get to know your fellow-students and hear about student initiatives such as political work-groups, the choir and orchestra. The International Offices are also responsible for continuing the supervision of international students, i.e. for providing information with regard to the planning and financing of their degree course, finding accommodation, and dealing with bureaucracy and the authorities, and so on.

The Studentenwerke, the student services organisations, are another important contact at every university. They provide a service package which will help you to plan your stay in Bavaria before you even leave home; and they help you to clear up important questions arising at the beginning of your course: accommodation in a student hostel, insurance cover and language courses, to name just a few. If you have any difficulties with written applications to the authorities, members of the university staff will be there to help you.

Conditions for enrolment_ Check in good time that you fulfil the important conditions for enrolling at a Bavarian University: Check that you have the necessary entrance qualifications! For students who have gone through the German school system, the University entrance qualification is the Abitur, which is normally taken at the age of 19. As a degree-programme applicant from abroad, you must have your further-education school-leaving certificate recognized by the University of your choice; otherwise you will not be accepted. In addition, sports students must prove their suitability by means of an examination and a doctor's certificate; applicants to the Academies of Arts must provide proof of their artistic ability.

Check the entrance requirements for individual degree programmes! Some degree programmes at Bavarian Universities are available to anyone fulfilling the necessary conditions, but some are subject to restrictions of various kinds. If the degree programme of your choice is in the latter group, you must apply for a

place before you can enrol. To find out which degree programmes are subject to restrictions, please contact the Academic Exchange Office or the internet homepage of the University concerned, or the internet website www.stmfk.bayern.de/hochschule/uni/uni.html. Important exception: degree-programme applicants from member-states of the European Union and non-German nationals with a German University entrance qualification must apply to the central clearing office for university places in Dortmund.

At the moment (!) this applies to Diploma degree programmes in Business Administration, Biology and Psychology as well as the degree programmes in Medicine, Pharmacy, Veterinary Medicine and Dentistry, which end in a State Examination. Further information on the central clearing office is to be found at www.zvs.de. The address to send your application to, is: ZVS, 44128 Dortmund, Germany. Make a note of the deadlines after which no applications will be accepted: 15th January for the following Summer Semester and 15th July for the following Winter Semester.

Not a big hurdle: abilities in German_ Check that you have proof of adequate skills in the German language! You must provide appropriate certification of a basic knowledge of German; but do not worry, the Universities are very generous in this respect. If possible, you should acquire enough German to cope with everyday situations and your studies before you leave your home country. German courses are offered by many universities in your own country as well as by German cultural institutes and the Goethe Institute abroad. You can take the “German as a foreign language” examination in your home country, before you start your studies; this is a standard test for German as a foreign language which is held all over the world and is recognized by all Bavarian Universities.

Important dates for admission and enrolment_ Official enrolment is necessary for all degree programmes. To enrol, you must normally appear at the University in person. The Universities will let you know the enrolment dates.

You will save yourself unnecessary waiting time if you ensure that you are in possession of all the necessary documentation before you appear for enrolment: from your officially certified qualifications to (in some cases) stamped and addressed envelopes. At the Technical University of Munich you must under all circumstances send advanced notification of enrolment (a so-called *Voranmeldung*) even if you wish to enrol for a degree programme that is not subject to admission restrictions.

It is an absolute must that you take note of the various enrolment and registration deadlines! Contact the German Academic Exchange Service and the International Office (see above) well in advance - preferably six months before you plan to commence your studies – and enquire as to the qualifications you will need and the deadlines you will have to keep to.

The academic year is divided into semesters. Lectures in the Winter Semester take place from the middle of October to the middle of February, in the Summer Semester from the beginning of April until towards the end of July. The vacations are used for learning, for writing seminar papers, for practical training, or simply for relaxing.

Bavaria offers you the best possible conditions for studying and for enjoying your leisure. Living and studying in Bavaria – come and join us!