

UNIVERSITY OF OLDENBURG

Factsheet for exchange partners for the academic year 2019/20

The university

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

International Office

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Academic calendar

	Winter Semester 2019/20	Summer Semester 2020
Exchange application deadline	July 15, 2019	January 15, 2020
Preparatory German courses	September 2019	March 2020
Semester officially begins	October 1, 2019	April 1, 2020
International orientation	September 30 – October 4, 2019	April 6 – 9, 2020
General orientation	October 7 – 11, 2019	
Lectures begin	October 14, 2019	April 14, 2020
Christmas break	December 23, 2019 – January 4, 2020	
Lectures end	February 2, 2020	July 17, 2019
Examination period	2–3 weeks after lectures end	2–3 weeks after lectures end
Semester officially ends	March 31, 2020	September 30, 2020

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 above.

Available courses

Course Catalogue

The current course catalogue is available online at: <https://e.uol.de/plugins.php/veranstaltungsverzeichnis/verzeichnis/>

Courses offered in English: <https://e.uol.de/plugins.php/veranstaltungsverzeichnis/englishmodules/>

Note: Please make sure to select the desired semester in the website options (scroll down bar)! Courses for future semesters are available only shortly (~2 months) before the semester starts. For a general overview of what will be offered please check current or former semesters.

When admitted, 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.) Study areas in which English-taught courses are offered include 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.
- 2.) Our English-taught programme **European Studies in Global Perspectives (EuGI)** is especially designed for exchange students. It can be studied for one or two semesters, with at least 24 credit points per semester. It incorporates key issues and various aspects in European societies, economies, and cultures, both present and past. <https://uol.de/eugl/>
- 3.) Our English-taught **Wadden Sea programme** is offered in summer semesters. The programme aims at students of environmental or marine sciences or an environmental management related programme (advanced students). <https://icbm.de/en/internatstud>

Language requirements

German proficiency

Students who want to attend German-taught courses are required to have a **minimum language proficiency of level B1** (Common European Framework of Reference). This requirement has to be confirmed by the sending institution by signing/stamping the application for registration as an exchange student (page 2 of the form).

English proficiency

Students who are planning on taking only English-taught courses are **exempt from the German proficiency requirement**. Instead they need to have an **equivalent proficiency in English**; the minimum level required is B1 resp. 4.0 (IELTS), 42 (TOEFL-iBT) or 550/120/120 (TOEIC). 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

Intensive German Courses During semester break

We offer intensive German courses on various levels during the weeks leading up to international orientation/ the start of the semester. Courses take place as soon as 10 applicants have been accepted. Course fee is 250 EUR, credit points to be obtained: 6 ECTS. Duration of the intensive course: 4 weeks, 5 hours instruction per day (100 hours in total). To sign up the exchange student needs to apply online by January 15/ July 15: [Sign up for an intensive German language course](#)

	Winter Semester	Summer Semester
Advanced beginners	Level A2.1 in September	Level A2.1 in March
Intermediate Level	Level B1.1 in September	Level B1.1 in March

German courses during the semester/ lecture period

During the semester German courses are offered on levels A1.1 to B2.2 (6 hours per week, 9 ECTS) and are free of charge. We also offer theme-based courses for learners at upper intermediate and advanced level (e.g. grammar course, creative writing, Business German). A placement test takes place during international orientation. [German courses during the semester](#)

Summer School

Our **summer course on German language and culture** is designed for students learning German. The intensive course stretches over 4 weeks in mid-July until mid-August and includes excursions and various opportunities for immersion into German culture. [Summer course](#)

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 ECTS.

Application for exchange studies in Oldenburg

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**
- 4.) **Registration for the Buddy-Programme** (if desired)

All [application documents](#) are to be submitted to the International Student Office by scan/e-mail at exchange@uol.de. The deadline for applications is **July 15 for the winter semester** or the full academic year and **January 15 for the summer semester**. Please note: there might be further requirements for our Wadden Sea programme.

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. Kitchen and bathroom(s) are shared with other students. In-house laundry facilities are provided. Please note that rental agreements last for a period of six months. For most 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 ranges from 180 to 300 EUR per month. Alternatively exchange students can arrange 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. Please notice that students have to arrange for private accommodation by themselves.

Health insurance

In Germany the law requires everyone to have health insurance. International students from EU countries or from countries with a social security agreement with Germany (such as Israel, Switzerland, and Turkey) can use the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). International students from all other countries should find out if their health insurance from their home country covers their stay in Germany. If it does, then written proof of this is needed. If not, then a German health insurance policy is required. **We strongly recommend to opt for a public health insurance (statutory health insurance).** This costs about 90 EUR per month and can be organised during the International Orientation Week.

Fees

Exchange students do not pay tuition fees. What they do need to pay is a semester contribution (administrative fee) of around 310 EUR (exact amount will be confirmed in early 2019) that covers the transportation ticket (semester ticket) and some of the campus facilities. Students should transfer the fee to the university's bank account before the start of their exchange semester/enrolment and keep a proof (screenshot, printout, etc.). Banking details can be found on the letter of admission, which will be sent to the students in due time.

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). If you travel by train, make sure to book train connections to **Oldenburg (Oldb)** (not Oldenburg in Holstein).

International orientation and events

We organise an international orientation week prior to the beginning of each semester. We strongly recommend attendance: <https://uol.de/international-orientation>

During the semester we maintain a varied calendar of events. Students can join our International Dinner, International Games Night or Karaoke at the university's Intercultural Meet-Up, or go sightseeing Germany on our excursions: [Calendar of Events](#)



All exchange students are warmly welcome to be part in our Facebook group [International Students in Oldenburg](#)

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 from each other. They provide university restaurants, sports facilities (including swimming pool, sauna and a fitness centre), wireless internet access and other facilities and services.

Public transport ticket (Semesterticket)

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 regional trains all over Lower Saxony.

Living expenses and employment

Students in Oldenburg need around 720 EUR per month to get by comfortably: [table on estimated expenses](#)

Exchange students from the European Union are eligible to work in the same way that German students are. There is no absolute limit to the number of working 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 any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.