Welcome to Aachen
Welcome Week Program
for New International Students
Winter Semester 2017/18
Welcome

Congratulations on being accepted to study at RWTH Aachen University! As one of Germany’s top technical universities and one of the best-ranked universities worldwide, you will soon be able to make the most of an academically stimulating environment and world-class teaching and research facilities.

With over 50,000 students from over 200 different countries, Aachen city has a vibrant, multi-cultural flair and offers everything you need for a comfortable student lifestyle. We believe that you will one day look back on your time in Aachen as not only an academically enriching experience, but also as a time that broadened your personal horizons, filled with international friendships, intercultural events, art, music, sport, culture and much much more.

Moving to a new city, a new country and beginning a new chapter in your education may also seem a little daunting. There are many hurdles – organizational, linguistic, and financial – that have to be overcome, before you can settle down and focus on your studies and making the most of your time in Aachen. We at the International Office have put together an orientation program and this guide to help you overcome these hurdles and feel at home in Aachen as quickly and as smoothly as possible.

We look forward to welcoming you in person very soon.

Your International Office Team

P.S.: Remember to sign up for the BeBuddy Mentoring Program.

Table of contents

Welcome............................................................................................................................2
Table of contents...............................................................................................................3
Your Welcome Week program.........................................................................................4
Day 1 - Welcome Day program.......................................................................................6
Welcome Day .......................................................................................................................7
Day 2 - Getting organized program................................................................................8
Getting organized .............................................................................................................9
German Country Evening...............................................................................................10
Day 3 - Getting in touch & Getting active program.........................................................11
Getting in touch...............................................................................................................12
Getting active..................................................................................................................13
Day 4 - Faculty Fair program..........................................................................................14
Faculty Fair .......................................................................................................................15
Karaoke Party in Café Madrid.........................................................................................17
Day 5 - Relax & Reflect program....................................................................................18
Relax & Reflect................................................................................................................19
Extras - Campus tours.....................................................................................................20
Extras - Intercultural training..........................................................................................21
Extras - Café Humboldt-Haus.........................................................................................22
Extras - Humboldt-Haus dances...!................................................................................23
Extras - INCAS International Weekend.........................................................................24
Introducing: INCAS.........................................................................................................25
Extras - AEGEE orientation events................................................................................26
Introducing: AEGEE - Aachen e.V..................................................................................27
ASTA - Your student council & AV.................................................................................28
First-year Orientation Week - Erstwoche.......................................................................29
BeBuddy mentoring program.........................................................................................30
International Office Housing Service............................................................................31
Checklist: First Steps after arrival in Aachen.................................................................32
Contacts in the International Office...............................................................................33
How to find us................................................................................................................35
### Your Welcome Week program

#### 25 September 2017

**Day 1: Welcome Day**
- 08:30 Check-in - Audimax
- 09:00 Welcome to RWTH Aachen University - Audimax
- 09:30 International Freshers' Fair - Super C
- 10:00 IT & campus Office - Aula 1, Hauptgebäude
- 10:30 Learning Languages - Aula 1, Hauptgebäude
- 11:30 Applying for residence permit - Aula 1, Hauptgebäude
- 12:30 Café Humboldt-Haus
- 13:00 Café Humboldt-Haus
- 16:00 AEGEE Erasmus Social Drink - Café Bar Zuhause
- 18:00 AEGEE Erasmus Party - Apollo Kino & Bar

#### 26 September 2017

**Day 2: Getting Organised**
- 08:30 Check-in - Audimax
- 09:00 Welcome to RWTH Aachen University - Audimax
- 09:30 International Freshers' Fair - Super C
- 10:00 IT & campus Office - Aula 1, Hauptgebäude
- 10:30 Learning Languages - Aula 1, Hauptgebäude
- 11:30 Applying for residence permit - Aula 1, Hauptgebäude
- 12:30 Café Humboldt-Haus
- 13:00 Café Humboldt-Haus
- 16:00 AEGEE Erasmus Social Drink - Café Bar Zuhause
- 18:00 AEGEE Erasmus Party - Apollo Kino & Bar

#### 27 September 2017

**Day 3: Getting in touch & Getting active**
- 08:30 Check-in - Audimax
- 09:00 Welcome to RWTH Aachen University - Audimax
- 09:30 International Freshers' Fair - Super C
- 10:00 IT & campus Office - Aula 1, Hauptgebäude
- 10:30 Student jobs & career - Aula 1, Hauptgebäude
- 11:30 Learning Languages - Aula 1, Hauptgebäude
- 12:30 Applying for residence permit - Aula 1, Hauptgebäude
- 12:30 Café Humboldt-Haus
- 13:00 Café Humboldt-Haus
- 16:00 AEGEE Erasmus Social Drink - Café Bar Zuhause
- 18:00 AEGEE Erasmus Party - Apollo Kino & Bar

#### 28 September 2017

**Day 4: Faculties**
- 09:00 Faculty Fair - Super C
- 10:00 Lunch with Faculty Student Councils - Super C
- 11:00 Library Tour 1 - Drachenfels
- 12:00 Relax breakfast - Mensa Academica
- 13:00 Afternoon Sports - Sports Center Königshügel
- 14:00 Café Humboldt-Haus
- 15:00 Library Tour 2
- 16:00 Campus Tour 1
- 17:00 Library Tour 3
- 18:00 Campus Tour 2
- 19:00 Karaoke party in Café Madrid - exclusively for new internationals
- 20:00 AEGEE Pub Crawl
- 21:00 AEGEE Funday

#### 29 September 2017

**Day 5: Relax & Reflect**
- 09:00 Faculty Fair - Super C
- 10:00 Lunch with Faculty Student Councils - Super C
- 11:00 Library Tour 1 - Drachenfels
- 12:00 Relax breakfast - Mensa Academica
- 13:00 Afternoon Sports - Sports Center Königshügel
- 14:00 Café Humboldt-Haus
- 15:00 Library Tour 2
- 16:00 Campus Tour 1
- 17:00 Library Tour 3
- 18:00 Campus Tour 2
- 19:00 Karaoke party in Café Madrid - exclusively for new internationals
- 20:00 AEGEE Pub Crawl
- 21:00 AEGEE Funday

#### Extras

- 25 September, 04.00 pm - outside Super C - AEGEE Homie-Goups kick-off
- 25 September, 09.40 am - Drachenfels - INCAS International Weekend
- 29 September, 03.00 pm - City Hall - AEGEE City Tour
- 29 September, 05.00 pm - City Hall - AEGEE Lousberg excursion
- 30 September, 10.00 am - Humboldt-Haus - AEGEE City Rallye
- 30 September, 03.00 pm - outside Super C - AEGEE Funday
- 1 October, 02.00 pm - outside Super C - AV International Party

---

**Note:**
- Main events (all students)
- Social events / extras
- For degree students
- For exchange students
Day 1 - Welcome Day program

When: Monday 25 September, 08.30 am

Where: Audimax building, Wülkerstraße 9, 52062 Aachen, Large lecture hall (AM), second floor

08.30 am Check-in, outside Audimax

09.30 am Welcome to RWTH Aachen University
Welcome Week highlights
University structure and services
First steps in Aachen
- Ms Lisa Stephens, International Office -

10.30 am Welcome to the City of Aachen
- Mr Axel Costard, Stadt Aachen -

10.45 am Short sports break
- Ms Janine Bayartz, University Sports Center -

11.00 am Presentation of 2017 DAAD Prize for particularly dedicated international students
- Prof. Malte Brettel, RWTH Vice-Rector for Industry and Business Relations -

11.15 am Mini intercultural training: understanding Germans!
- Ms Dominika Dudzik, International Office -

11.40 am Meet ASTA – your student union and AV
- ASTA and AV (Ausländervertretung) -

12.00 am International student clubs
- INCAS, AEGEE -

01.30 pm Café Humboldt Haus, Pontstraße 41

02.30 pm Campus tour 1 (central and Melaten), Ticket collection during check-in

04.00 pm Campus tour 2 (central and Melaten), Ticket collection during check-in

05.30 pm Campus tour 3 (central and Melaten), Ticket collection during check-in

Welcome Day

Check-in

Arrive between 8.30 am and 9.30 am to pick up your printed Welcome Week guide and colorful Welcome Week wristband (blue for degree students, green for exchange & visiting students). The wristband is your free ticket to the rest of the week’s events (so don’t lose it) and also a great souvenir. The wristband will also help you to recognize other new international students and help them to recognize you!
If you want to take part in a campus tour, you can pick up a free ticket at the check-in.

Welcome Day

The Welcome Day is the kickoff event of the Welcome Week program and is considered a must for every new international student. After officially welcoming you to RWTH Aachen University, the International Office will provide you with an overview of the structure and various services of the university and explain your first steps in Aachen. You will then learn a little bit more about the city of Aachen before a short interval with the University Sports Center. Professor Brettel will present the prestigious 2017 DAAD prize for particularly dedicated international students and then you will be given a brief introduction to German culture. Your student union ASTA will introduce themselves and explain their services before finally handing over to the international student associations INCAS and AEGEE. There will also be a few surprises in store…
Don’t miss it!
Day 2 - Getting organized program

**When:** Tuesday 26 September, 08.30 am

**Where:** Hauptgebäude (main RWTH building), 55 Templergraben, 52062 Aachen, Lecture hall Aula 1

**08.30 am**  
Studying at RWTH Aachen University  
Basic tools for successful studies & memory strategies  
- Ms Swenja Schiwatsch, Ms Sabine Salentin, Mr Van-Tien Tran & Ms Mei Zhou, Student Advice Centre -

**09.30 am**  
for Degree students:  
Activating your IT Services  
Introduction to Campus Office  
- Ms Miriam Petry, IT Services -

**10.30 am**  
How to find a student job  
Improve your future career prospects  
- Ms Anja Robert, Career Center -

**11.30 am**  
Learning Languages  
- Mr Robert Koch, Language Center -

**12.30 pm**  
for Degree students:  
Applying for and renewing your residence permit  
Legal matters  
- Ms Petra Krey, Immigration Office -

**03.00 pm**  
for Exchange students:  
Activating your IT Services  
Introduction to Campus Office  
- Ms Miriam Petry, IT Services -

**04.00 pm**  
for Exchange students:  
Applying for and renewing your residence permit  
Legal matters  
- Ms Petra Krey, Immigration Office -

**05.00 pm**  
German Country Evening  
- INCAS & AEGEE -

---

Getting organized

The key to a successful time in Aachen is getting the information that you need right from the start. Day 2 will begin with some useful tips for successful studies and effective learning (such as memory strategies) from the Student Advice Centre and Psychological Counselling team. Staff from the IT Center will then guide you through important tasks such as setting up your IT services and creating a timetable and registering for exams in Campus Office. Later on the Immigration Office will tell you everything you need to know regarding applying for and extending your residence permit. The Career Center will guide you through searching and applying for a student job and tell you how to improve your future career prospects on the German job market. Learning foreign languages is highly recommended and the Language Center will tell you how.

We hope that by the end of the day you will feel psychologically prepared and ready to face the challenges of your first semester in Aachen!
German Country Evening

The German Country Evening is organized and hosted by two of the largest and well-established international student clubs: INCAS (Intercultural Centre of Aachen Students) and AEGEE (European Students’ Forum). The two student initiatives are run by students, for students and work in close collaboration with the International Office to provide services and organize various fun intercultural events for international students in Aachen.

At the German Country Evening INCAS and AEGEE will provide you with an insight into the German way of life, interesting facts and figures and peculiarities and quirks of German culture. They will also take a humorous look at “culture shock” and provide some coping strategies.

Afterwards there will be a chance to relax and have a bite to eat. Enjoy yourself, meet some new people and find out how to get involved in INCAS.

Day 3 - Getting in touch

When: Wednesday 27 September, 09.30 am
Where: SuperC, 6th floor, 57 Templergraben, 52062 Aachen

09.30 am International Freshers’ Fair
Get to know the central university services, international student clubs, the city of Aachen Immigration Office and Citizens’ Service and much more!

Tickets for campus tours can be collected from the Info Service Center stand!
Register for the Humboldt-Haus dances...! workshops at the Humboldt-Haus information stand.
Don’t forget to try your luck at the International Office Globe of Fortune and drop by the photo booth for a free photo.

09.30 am Campus tour 1 (central), ticket collection at check-in and Freshers’ Fair
11.30 am Campus tour 2 (central), ticket collection at check-in and Freshers’ Fair

Day 3 - Getting active program

When: Wednesday, 27 September, 01.00 pm
Where: Sports Center Königshügel, Mies-van-der-Rohe-Straße 9, 52074 Aachen

01.15 pm Warm up

01.30 pm Afternoon Sports and Games: Basketball, Dodgeball, Mini Olympic Games, Fitness with music, tours of RWTH gym

05.30 pm Olympic Games Award presentation
Getting in touch

International Freshers’ Fair

The International Freshers’ Fair is one of the highlights of the Welcome Week. On this day we gather together the various university services so that you can pick up information and get as many questions answered as possible on one day and all at one location. Many international student associations will also be present to introduce you to the intercultural scene in Aachen. Don’t forget to try your luck at the International Office wheel of fortune and get a souvenir photo with your new mates at the digital photo booth (#RWTHWelcomeWeek)!

At the Freshers’ Fair you can meet the International Office Info Service Center staff, the Incoming Student Services for exchange students, the BeBuddy and Housing teams, the IT Services, Language Center, Student Advice Centre, University Sports Center, Career Center, Psychological Counselling, the Student Union AStA and Foreigners’ Representation, international student associations such as INCAS, AEGEE, AISA, VCWSA, the Immigration Office and Citizens’ Service of Stadt Aachen and many many more!

Getting active

Afternoon sports and games

Exercise is important for a good work-life-balance and a great way to meet new people. Join us on Wednesday afternoon at the University Sports Center at Königshügel for some relaxed sport and game activities! If you like working out with music, then you may enjoy taking part in a “Fitness with Music” aerobics session. For those who prefer team sports then basketball and dodgeball are on offer. Alternatively team up with your new friends to form a group of 5 to compete in the Mini Olympic Games including a 50m sack race, a welly-throwing competition, a 400m relay and 100m sprint. If a quiet workout is more your thing, then introductory tours of the RWTH gym will be on offer throughout the day. Not feeling so sporty? Bring a picnic and take a seat to watch the events unfold.

Important: Please wear appropriate clothing, as changing facilities are limited. If you wish to take part in the Fitness with Music sessions or enter the sports hall or RWTH Gym, you must bring clean sport shoes with a white sole. For outside activities trainers or basketball shoes are ideal. Studded shoes or football boots are not allowed.

In case of unsuitable weather conditions e.g. heavy rain, the outside events will be cancelled. Participation in the Gym tours and Fitness with Music sessions is still possible.
Day 4 - Faculty Fair program

When: Thursday 28 September, 09.30 am
Where: SuperC, 6th floor, 57 Templergraben, 52062 Aachen

09.30 am  Faculty Fair
Meet your academic advisors, including Faculty Student Councils, Exchange Coordinators and Master Program Coordinators, and ask all your subject-related questions.

09.30 am  Library tour 1, Introduction to library facilities and services
Meeting point: foyer of main university library at Templergraben 61

11.00 am  Library tour 2, Introduction to library facilities and services
Meeting point: foyer of main university library at Templergraben 61

12.30 pm  Lunch with the Faculty Student Councils

02.30 pm  Library tour 3, Introduction to library facilities and services
Meeting point: foyer of main university library at Templergraben 61

04.00 pm  Library tour 4, Introduction to library facilities and services
Meeting point: foyer of main university library at Templergraben 61

09.00 pm  Karaoke party in Café Madrid, Pontstraße 141-149
Remember to wear your wristband!

Faculty Fair

On day 4 of the Welcome Week you will have the opportunity to meet your contacts and academic advisors in the faculties. For Bachelor degree students this is the Faculty Student Councils, for Master degree students the faculty Academic Advisors and for exchange students the Departmental Coordinators (exchange coordinators) of the relevant faculty. The day will start with a 3-hour Faculty Fair (come at any time) during which you can ask your academic questions and find out about any further faculty introduction events. Afterwards you are welcome to stay for the Lunch with the Faculty Student Councils – this is particularly important for Bachelor degree students.
Faculty Fair

Lunch with the Faculty Student Councils

Each faculty at RWTH Aachen University has its own Student Council. The Student Council is made up of experienced RWTH students who have been elected to represent the interests of the student faculty members. The Student Councils are an important source of academic advice providing fellow students with peer-to-peer support and additional course materials such as past exam papers. The Student Councils work together to organize the official First-Year Orientation Week (Freshman Week) of RWTH Aachen as well as various extracurricular events throughout the year.

Come and meet your Student Council members at this event and find out how they can contribute to the success of your studies. Sign up for your tutor group and find out your individual timetable for the First-Year Orientation Week.

A free buffet will be provided by the International Office.

Karaoke Party at Café Madrid

It has been a busy week and you had to digest a lot of information. Now it is time to have some fun and relax at the Karaoke party at Café Madrid, Pontstraße 141-149, exclusively for new international students and Welcome Week helpers. If you can sing, put in your song request and get on stage! If you can’t sing, we don’t care, sing anyway or just enjoy the atmosphere!

Show your wristband for free entry and drinks offers. We are looking forward to a fun evening with you!
Day 5 - Relax & Reflect program

When:  Friday 29 September, 10.00 am
Where: Mensa Academica, Pontwall 3, 52062 Aachen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 10.00 am | Relax breakfast at AcademiCaffé  
Meet at 10.00 am outside the Mensa Academica at Pontwall 3 |
| 11.30 am | Reflections Talk Show  
Super C, 6th floor |
| 02.00 pm | Campus tour 1 (central and Melaten),  
ticket collection at check-in and Freshers’ Fair |
| 03.30 pm | Campus tour 2 (central and Melaten),  
ticket collection at check-in and Freshers’ Fair |

Relax & Reflect

Relax breakfast

Sleep a bit longer or go for an early morning run before joining us for a relaxed breakfast at the AcademiCaffé at the main student dining hall Mensa Academica. AcademiCaffé offers several breakfast deals such as “Französisches Frühstück” for €2.40 (croissant, butter, jam and cup of coffee), “Herzhaftes Frühstück” for €3.20 (2 bread rolls, butter, 1 egg, salami/cheese/cream cheese and 1 cup of coffee) or the “Guten Morgen Frühstück” for €3.70 (2 bread rolls, 1 croissant, salami/cheese/cream cheese, honey/Nutella/jam, butter and one cup of coffee).

If you already received your BlueCard then you can pay by adding credit to your card at one of the card terminals in the Mensa or in SuperC. If you have not yet enrolled, then you can purchase a guest card at the card terminal. There is a €2 deposit for the guest card.

If you arrive late, just come and find us inside the AcademiCaffé

Talk Show: Reflections

Listen to the stories and experiences of international students in higher semesters as they reflect on their own first few weeks and months in Aachen. Ask them questions, find out what they love about Aachen, and hear what challenges they faced in Germany and how they dealt with them. Feel free to stay around and chat afterwards.
Extras - Campus Tours

We are offering two different guided tours of the central campus area and campus Melaten.

Tour: Central

Info Service Center staff will show you around the central RWTH campus. Starting at the student services building “SuperC” you will pass by the Hauptgebäude (main building), the main library, various lecture halls and finish in Pontstraße where there are various restaurants and cafes all tailored to student budgets!

Days/Times: Monday 25 September at 02.30 pm, 04.00 pm or 05.30 pm, Wednesday 27 September at 09.30 am or 11.00 am, Friday 29 September at 02.00 pm or 03.30 pm

Meeting point: in front of SuperC building

Tour: Melaten

Many faculty buildings and research institutes are located at campus Melaten. Get an overview of this vast campus on a free guided tour with Info Service Center staff.

Days/Times: Monday 25 September at 02.30 pm, 04.00 pm or 05.30 pm, Friday 29 September at 02.00 pm or 03.30 pm

Meeting point: at Campus Melaten at the bus stop "Forckenbeckstraße", with bus lines (direction Uniklinik) 33, 73, 22, 12, 70, 3A/B, 103, 173, 30, 80, 23

Important: Registration is not necessary. Just pick up a ticket at the Info Service Center information table either during the check-in on Monday, at the International Freshers’s Fair on Wednesday or at the Faculty Fair on Thursday.

Extras - Intercultural Trainings

What are the norms of German culture? How are these different to those of your own country? What is considered polite in Germany? What values influence behavior and communication?

These are some of the key questions that are addressed in the regular intercultural competence workshops offered by our specialist intercultural trainer. Participation in an intercultural workshop is highly recommended to enhance your personal skillset and to help you understand and ease into a life and culture which may be very different to what you have been accustomed to. Intercultural expertise is a highly-sought after skill, essential not only within your academic life but also for your future career.

An overview of current workshops can be found in the online International Office calendar.

Workshops during Welcome Week:

Wednesday, 27 September 2017: 09.00 am - 12.30 pm
Friday, 29 September 2017: 02.00 pm - 05.30 pm

Please register in advance by sending an email to dominika.dudzik@zhv.rwth-aachen.de
Humboldt-Haus is the intercultural center of RWTH Aachen University, where many international student associations hold their office hours and host various events such as International Tuesday from INCAS, dance workshops, cultural events, themed parties and much more. During the Welcome Week we are opening up Humboldt Haus to serve as a café and informal meeting place.

You can drop by at the following times:

**Monday, 25 September:** 01.30 pm - 05.00 pm

**Wednesday, 27 September:** 02.00 pm - 05.30 pm

**Friday, 29 September:** 11.00 am - 05.00 pm

Dance your way around the world on Saturday 30 September at Humboldt-Haus dances...! Various dance groups will be offering free workshops in a variety of dance styles. So why not give Salsa a try? How about Scottish Country dancing, oriental dance, Mexican Payaso de Rodeo or Vietnamese Bamboo dance? Maybe Pakistani Mehndi Dance or Latin American folkdance are more your style? Whatever you choose, you are bound to have fun and meet some great people. Afterwards show off your new skills at the **dance party in Humboldt-Haus.**

Register for the workshop of your choice or pick up a ticket for the party at the Humboldt-Haus information table during the Freshers’ Fair. Spaces are limited so workshop spaces will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.
INCAS Weekends make it possible to discover new places throughout Germany on a student budget. Once a month on Saturday, you can spend a day with other international students visiting a castle, an interesting city or perhaps even an undiscovered part of Aachen. Regularly check the INCAS website and Facebook page to find out what’s planned next.

Next INCAS Weekend: Visit the historic ruins of Burg Drachenfels and enjoy the beautiful view from the hill top.

When: Saturday 23 September, 9.40 am - 6.00 pm

Further information and registration: incas.we@gmail.com
Contact INCAS for further information.

INCAS is a student organization supported by the International Offices of RWTH and FH Aachen. The INCAS team provide help and advice to international students studying at the universities, international interns and those taking German classes in Aachen. INCAS regularly organize diverse events for students in Aachen and promote intercultural exchange.

Members: 30

Target group: international students, interns and language course participants

Contact
www.incas.rwth-aachen.de
www.facebook.com/INCASAachen
incas@rwth-aachen.de
+49 241 80 98184

Regular events: "International Tuesday" is an opportunity for international students from around the world to come together for a relaxed evening. Takes places every Tuesday at 08.00 pm in Humboldt-Haus, Pontstraße 41.
Introducing: AEGEE-Aachen e.V.

AEGEE, the "Association des États Généraux des Étudiants de l’Europe", is an international student network present in around 200 cities in 40 European countries. Through Europe-wide exchange programs, social and political events on international and local levels, AEGEE aim for a more tolerant, more open and more democratic Europe. Want to become an active European? Help AEGEE organize local events, get in touch with people from many different cultures and experience the great diversity of Europe!

Members: 160
Target group: Erasmus students, international and exchange students as well as local students. Young Europeans!

Contact:
www.aegee-aachen.org
www.facebook.com/AEGEE.Aachen
info@aegee-aachen.org

Regular events:
- Members' meeting: Mondays at 09.00 pm
- Erasmus Social Drink: Mondays at 10.00 pm at Cafe & Bar Zuhause, Sandkaulstraße 109

AEGEE orientation events

AEGEE - European Students’ Forum - have put together a fun-packed orientation program for new international and exchange students. Some of the highlights are:

**AEGEE HOMIE-Group**
Visit the AEGEE information stand at the Welcome Day to sign up to a “Homie-Group” of 10 international and local students who will show you around, help you to get settled and answer any questions you might have. Your opportunity to make new best friends for life!

When: Monday 25 September 2017, 04.00 pm - 05.00 pm
Where: Meet in front of SuperC

**Guided City Tour**
An English-language guided tour of the beautiful city of Aachen.

When: Friday 29 September 2017, 03:00pm - 05:00 pm
Where: Meet at city hall

**City Rallye**
The City Rallye is an AEGEE tradition to welcome new students. Explore Aachen and meet fellow international students in a fun and interactive way. Expect surprises, challenges and a few twists along the way!

When: Saturday 30 September 2017, 03:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Where: Meet in front of SuperC

**Pub Crawl**
AEGEE’s legendary pub crawl event. Teams of thirsty internationals will crawl from pub to pub and compete in 6 challenges to determine this semester’s pubcrawl champions! To join a team, please come to one of the presale dates.

When: Thursday 28 September 2017, 03.00 pm - 09.00 pm
Where: Meet in front of SuperC

**Sunday Funday!**
What’s Sunday Funday? Come along and find out! You are in for a treat.

When: Sunday 1 October 2017, 02:00 pm - 08.00 pm
Where: Meet in front of SuperC

For further details and to sign up for the individual events please contact AEGEE.
ASTA - Your Student Council and AV

The Allgemeine Studierendenausschuss known for short as “ASTA” is the student union of RWTH Aachen University. ASTA are a team of students elected to represent and serve the interests of the student body at RWTH. Aside from their political role, ASTA offer free advice and legal representation in various areas related to student life such as financing your studies, accommodation, studying with a disability, studying as a parent, equal opportunities, taxes and examination regulations. ASTA also organise a range of social activities such as lecture series, poetry slams, improvisational theatre, semester parties and much more.

Contact
www.asta.rwth-aachen.de
www.facebook.com/ASTA.RWTH
asta@asta.rwth-aachen.de
+49 241 80 93792
Or in person at Pontwall 3, 52062 Aachen, Mon-Fri 10.00 am - 02.00 pm.

Ausländervertretung (AV)
The AV (Foreigners’ Representation) are a group of students elected to represent the interests of international students at RWTH. Aside from general advice on life as an international student, AV also organise events and offer free legal advice in difficult situations. Don’t miss AV’s International Party at 10 pm on 29 September in Café Madrid!

Contact
www.av.rwth-aachen.de
www.facebook.com/av.rwth
av@av.rwth-aachen.de
+49 241 80 99153
Or in person at Humboldt-Haus, Poststraße 41, 52062 Aachen, Mon/Fri: 08.00 am - 10.00 am and Tues/Weds: 10.00 am -12.00 pm

First Year Orientation Week - Erstwoche

The First-Year Orientation Week is organised by the Faculty Student Councils and aimed to help freshmen ease into student life at RWTH Aachen and get to know their fellow classmates. A mixture of important information, academic advice and a good dose of fun and games are all to be expected during this event. This is your one and only chance to experience freshman week as a first-year student – so don’t miss it!

When: 2 - 6 October 2017

Official Welcome by Rector Ernst Schmachtenberg
Find out when your faculty greeting takes place here:
http://www.rwth-aachen.de/go/id/vnb

After the official welcome you will be assigned to a tutor group for the rest of the week’s activities.

The City Rally

The City Rally on Wednesday 4 October 2017 is the highlight of the week. Your tutor group will take you to various stations spread throughout the city, where you can play games, win prizes, meet representatives of various university facilities, pick up free gifts and much more.

We look forward to seeing you at the International Office station where you can win prizes at our “Globe of Fortune” game.
BeBuddy mentoring program

Sign up to the BeBuddy mentoring program and we will match you with an experienced RWTH student in your faculty who will help you during your first semester in Aachen. Your Buddy will get in contact with you before you arrive in Aachen, and can offer you help and support in various matters. If you need help understanding something, if you need someone to pick up your room key, if you need someone to go with you to the city administration or Immigration Office: ask your Buddy! Buddies are student volunteers, who may also have other commitments, so it is best to make such arrangements as early as possible.

Sign up online:
www.rwth-aachen.de/bebuddy

International Office Housing Service

5 house-hunting tips:

1. Act fast!
If you see an interesting advertisement, call ASAP to make an appointment.

2. Show interest!
If inquiring by email, include some information about yourself to stand out from the crowd.

3. Be serious!
Use a serious sounding email address to contact potential landlords and include your contact details.

4. Show proof of financial resources
If available, provide proof of income or financial resources.

5. Be prepared for the viewing!
Arrive on time and make a good first impression. Prepare a short “application” including copies of your personal ID, student ID and proof of financial resources.

If applying for a room in a shared flat (WG) be prepared for an informal and perhaps unconventional interview with your prospective housemates.

Detailed information about housing can be found here: www.rwth-aachen.de/housing

Still looking?

Visit the Housing Service information stand during the Freshers’ Fair to make a personal appointment. Please fill in the questionnaire on the housing website and send or give this to us before your appointment, so that we can prepare for your consultation. If you need any further advice on housing issues, contact housing@rwth-aachen.de

Hostels & short term solutions:
www.couchsurfing.com
www.hostel-aachen.de
www.boardinghaus.ac
www.aohostels.com/de/aachen/
www.airbnb.de
Checklist: First Steps after Arrival in Aachen

- Register at the Citizens’ Service (Bürgerservice), also possible at Freshers’ Fair
- Attend Welcome Week and other introductory events
- Open a bank account
- Activate Sperrkonto (blocked bank account) if necessary
- Get your health insurance confirmation or waiver from a German insurance provider
- Enroll at the university
- Pay the student service fee using the bank details provided at enrollment
- Activate your IT services (www.rwth-aachen.de/go)
- Create your BlueCard (www.rwth-aachen.de/selfservice)
- Create a timetable and register for courses using CAMPUSOffice – or if you are an exchange student, contact your Departmental Coordinator instead!
- Apply for a residence permit at Immigration Office (if required)
- Set up third-party liability insurance (Haftpflichtversicherung)
- Like our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/IO.ISC)
- Join a student club, or sport association, find a student job
- Contact the International Office Info Service Center if you have any questions

Contacts in the International Office

Info Service Center

For general questions about organizing your stay in Aachen and what to do when you first arrive, contact the Info Service Center of the International Office. The team will be present at various events during the Welcome Week, but also have daily office hours at the times listed below. Whatever you need to know, the Info Service Center team will be able to point you in the right direction.

Tip: The Frequently Asked Questions website contains information sheets and answers to many common questions regarding studies and life in Aachen: www.rwth-aachen.de/io-faq

You can also find detailed information about various topics on the website “Organizing your Stay”

Contact details

Info Service Center
SuperC, 3rd floor, room 329
Templergraben 57
52062 Aachen

Telephone: +49 (0)241 80 90660
Fax: +49 (0)241 80 92661

www.rwth-aachen.de/isic
www.facebook.com/io.isc
international@rwth-aachen.de

Office hours
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 09.30 am - 12.30 pm
Wednesday: 01.00 pm - 04.00 pm
Contacts in the International Office

Incoming Student Service

The Incoming Student Services team support exchange and other visiting or non-degree students with the administrative aspects of their stay. This includes the application and admission process, enrollment and extension of periods of stay as well as issuing various certificates such as “Certificate of Arrival”, “Certificate of Attendance” and signing your Learning Agreements. For academic matters, please contact your Departmental Coordinator.

If you are an exchange or visiting student, you are welcome to visit us during the office hours below:

Contact details
Incoming Student Services
SuperC, 3rd floor, room 328
Templergraben 57
52062 Aachen

Telephone: +49 (0)241 80 90832
Fax: +49 (0)241 80 90661

www.rwth-aachen.de/exchange-students
incoming@rwth-aachen.de

Office hours
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday:
09.30 am - 12.30 pm
Wednesday: 01.00 pm - 04.00 pm
Phew... it’s going to be a busy week! We hope you have as much fun attending the Welcome Week as we had organizing it. Looking forward to seeing you in Aachen soon!

Bettina & Lisa
Your Welcome Week team

p.s If you missed the Welcome Week then you can find all of the presentations on our website www.rwth-aachen.de/welcomeweek

PUBLISHING INFORMATION

Welcome to Aachen
Aachen, August 2017

Published by
The International Office (Dept. 2.2)
RWTH Aachen University
Templergraben 57
52062 Aachen
Germany
www.rwth-aachen.de/international
international@rwth-aachen.de

Editorial Board:
Lisa Stephens, B.A.
Layout and Design:
Nadine Christine Hermanns, M.A.

Photo credits:
Page 2, 32, 33, 34: Martin Braun
Page 7, 9, 12, 20: Andreas Schmitter
Page 10: Bettina Schuppe
Page 15, 36: Barbara Schray
Page 17: Stefan Hense
Page 16, 19, 21, 24: Nadine Hermanns
Page 22: Andreas Herrmann
Page 23: Tamara Weber
Page 25: INCAS
Page 27: AEGEE - Aachen e.V.
Page 28: ASTA RWTH Aachen
Page 29, 30: RWTH Aachen University
Page 31: Britta Bauer