

FAQ ONLINE WELCOME WEEK SUMMER TERM 2020 OPEN CONSULTATION: ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS?

Link to Facebook Group "RWTH Welcomes Internationals:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/708655583228602/learning_content/

Download the recorded zoom session "Open Consultation: Any further questions?" at

<https://gigamove.rz.rwth-aachen.de/d/id/qfQUzu6R34LTNx> (Password: OpenConsultation)

FAQ OF INFO SERVICE CENTER: <https://www.rwth-aachen.de/cms/root/Studium/Im-Studium/Internationales/~inno/FAQ/?lidx=1>

TOPICS MENTIONED IN THE INFO SERVICE CENTER (international@rwth-aachen.de) FAQ WEBSITE:

- Transport in Aachen ? Options, applications...
- GEZ / radio fee
- Health insurance
- Opening a bank account

... AND MUCH MUCH MORE!

QUESTIONS ASKED AND ANSWERED IN THE OPEN CONSULTATION:

- Can you tell us about the COVID-19 situation in Aachen as of today?

Nothing has changed since Monday morning. We are not sure how the situation will be until the end of April. The University is closed and within the city of Aachen there is nothing much to do as everyone should stay at home.

Regarding crossing the borders: The admission letter of RWTH might not always help, although the opinion of the policemen at the border can differ. This is not something we can influence, unfortunately.

About travelling to Germany: you will need to decide yourself depending on the current situation in your country and Germany. Please note that it depends on the regulations of the specific countries. Unfortunately it is not possible to answer the question quite precisely, if you can travel to Aachen or not. E.g. if Germany lifts the ban on entry for non-EU students but you are still on lock down in your home country, you will not be able to leave your country so it does not only depend on the regulations in one country.

PLEASE CHECK the website of RWTH Aachen regularly as you can find links on the current development:

<https://blog.rwth-aachen.de/corona/>

<https://www.rwth-aachen.de/corona>

- Is the university opening physically or virtually on 20 April?

The current plan is to open the University physically by 20 April. However, it might change within the two weeks depending on how the situation evolve. We cannot predict if that will be the case or not.

- If I enroll in only 2 courses (15 credits) this semester, are there any consequences?

An average of 30 Credit Points is recommended per semester. You do not HAVE to manage them every semester. You have 3 extra semesters as international students for the case you need a longer time to get the missing credits. If you take a bit less than 30 credit points you would have to make it up in your future semesters.

It is more important that you follow a reasonable and realistic plan of studies instead of taking up too many courses, especially at the beginning and possibly fail some exams.

- Is it possible to attend the German language placement test conducted by the Language Center online from my home country?

Since the Language Center is currently updating its offer and its processes for summer term 2020, please refer to the language Center at info@sz.rwth-aachen.de and at www.sz.rwth-aachen.de. In case the placement tests cannot be conducted physically, the Language Center will look for another solution for you.

- I am an exchange student, I have a German language course in my Learning agreement. In that case, do I have to pay the fee ?

Yes, you will have to pay for the German course fee. Depending on the amount of hours you are choosing for the German course, you will have to pay the fee for either 4 hours 8 hours. Please check the website www.sz.rwth-aachen.de

- On my RWTH Aachen Single Sign on, it is showing that I am currently not enrolled in any course. Why?

If you are experiencing problems with RWTHonline during course registration: Please send us a screenshot to international@rwth-aachen.de so that we can forward your request to the right service.

- Can I sponsor my wife based on student visa and she works full time?

Please contact the embassy to find out if you can sponsor your wife if it is a procedure for the visa. If it is for the application for residence permit, then contact the Immigration Office.

- My embassy requires an official letter from the university stating the dates of classes and that the classes will be online for now. Who should I contact for this?

The Admission Department can issue a document stating the planned dates of classes as of today. Regarding the digital classes, you should get the confirmation from your academic advisor (www.rwth-aachen.de/fachstudienberatung)

- Which are the scholarships or financial support programs that non-EU students can apply for?

RWTH itself does not offer any scholarship for degree students. We cooperate with the DAAD which offers many scholarship opportunities. You can apply for two kinds of scholarships during your studies based on your grades. please contact us at international@rwth-aachen.de for more information on where to apply for scholarships.

DAAD Prize for particularly dedicated international students: if you have good grades and are very committed in international extra-curricular activities, you can be nominated by the University (RWTH institutions, AStA and student associations...) for 1000€ Prize. the DAAD Prize is handed out during the Welcome Week. More information at: <https://www.rwth-aachen.de/cms/root/Die->

[RWTH/Aktuell/Pressemitteilungen/Juni-2019/~bxupm/DAAD-Preis-2019-fuer-auslaendische-Studi/?lidx=1](https://www.rwth-aachen.de/aktuell/pressemitteilungen/juni-2019/~bxupm/DAAD-Preis-2019-fuer-auslaendische-Studi/?lidx=1)

- How many ECTS will I receive for German lectures?
If you are an exchange student, you should find the amount of credits on your Learning Agreement if you have included a German course. If not, you can find this information on the Language Center website or on RWTHonline on the course page.
- I have submitted a request to a RWTH service 3 days ago but I have not received any answer. How long does it take to process my emails / Application / documents?

Please note that due to smart working, all of our processes need to be done online. It means that the amount of inquiries we receive is way higher than usual and that we will need a few days (approx. a week) to answer. We kindly ask you not to send your email several times and to refrain from calling our services so that your request gets processed faster.

- During the registration of courses in RWTHonline, the last step is to choose minimum 5 groups. Can you please explain why and how to choose the groups?

In some cases, for instance seminars and tutorials, the students are divided in smaller classes which take place at different times and sometimes have the same content. You need to choose several time slots to higher your chances of getting a spot in a seminar or tutorial of your preference, either because the topic is more interesting for you or because it fits your schedule better.

- Is the public transport stopped in Aachen due to COVID-19?

Buses are still running but they use the schedule for Sundays or public holidays. Check www.ASEAG.de to find the timings on the left side of the website.

- How can I do the city registration at the moment?

Please check the kick-off video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2f8lvBOQzs>). Towards the end the first steps in Aachen are explained and especially how to deal with city registration at the moment.

- I am enrolled, but not yet in Germany. Did the public transport office sent the ticket after enrollment? If the letter was returned, how can I get it?

In case you have provided the International Office address during enrollment, your Semesterticket has probably arrived at our office. As soon as we will be working at the office again, we will notify you if your ticket has arrived so that you can pick it up when we will be open again.

In case you have provided an address in Aachen but your name was not on the mailbox, the ticket has been returned to the bus company. In that case, you can just pick it up at the customer service of ASEAG with your personal ID.

- Is it possible to get a Fiktionsbescheinigung having temporary accommodation? Or can I ask for an extension of my Visa at Aachen's immigration office?

Generally, it is possible to get a temporary residence permit (Fiktionsbescheinigung), which is a temporary visa you get if you do not fulfill some of the requirements for the residence permits (i.e. financial support). It is only possible to get the Fiktionsbescheinigung in case you have registered your address in Aachen. If you have only a temporary accommodation in Aachen you do not have the option to get a Fiktionsbescheinigung.

If you need to extend your VISA please contact your EMBASSY. The Immigration office cannot extend your visa.

- Do you have any information about the rents as some of the international students contracts has been started from 1st of April 2020 but due to the situation they are unable to get to the Aachen. Is it true that we have to pay the complete rent despite the current situation?

This depends whether you are renting a room at a private dorm, Studierendenwerk or on the private market. Each institution has their own regulations. Some give discounts for the month of April in case you are not able to travel to Aachen and move into your room. In any case, Studierendenwerk does not cancel the reservations. Regarding the rent for the month of April, you should contact the manager of your dorm at Studierendenwerk: <https://www.studierendenwerk-aachen.de/en/start-1015.html>

If you have a private accommodation it depends on the landlord - generally it is more complicated. Usually you would have to pay the rent from the day your contract starts. Please contact housing@rwth-aachen.de in case you are having any trouble with this.

- Can the University help me find an internship that is mandatory for my Bachelor or Master program?

Unfortunately, the International Office cannot provide you any internship nor help you find one. You can get in touch with the faculty in case they have partnerships with specific companies.

- Can my exchange stay be postponed to summer semester 2021?

Yes, you can postpone your exchange stay to summer term 2021. Write an email to incomings@rwth-aachen.de with your personal details, your request to postpone to summer term 2021 and if you have a written confirmation from your home university, please attach it to you email. In any case it is extremely important you first ask your home university if you can postpone before you do it at our office.

- Should I defer my admission/deferment or not? What is your opinion?

Please look at the FAQ from Day 2 HOW TO ENROLL at RWTH Aachen University, this question has already been answered.

- Is there any central portal from where we can volunteer for such intercultural activities?

The website of the "Certificate International" gives you a good overview of intercultural activities you can participate in, such as being a member in a student club, participating in a workshop on intercultural communication, participating in the BeBuddy program and much more!

<https://www.rwth-aachen.de/cms/root/Studium/Im-Studium/Engagement-Freizeit/Engagement-International/~bqxx/Zertifikat-Internationales/?lidx=1>

- Can the University help me with the processes at the embassy (speeding up processing, influence process...)?

Please note that the University does NOT play any role in your visa or residence permit.

- I didn't write my matriculation number when transferring money for fees. To whom should I mention it?

Please refer to the FAQ of Day 2 "Enrolling with RWTHonline"

- When will enrollment start for the Winter 2020/2021 Intake for the students who have deferred from summer to winter semester?

The enrollment for winter term will start from 1 August until 31 October for degree students and 31 December for exchange and visiting students.

- Where can I find inexpensive furniture and household items once I will be in Aachen?

Please refer to FAQ of Day 4 Talk Show. There is a tip about buying second hand furniture.

PLEASE ASK:

- ANY VISA RELATED QUESTIONS AT THE EMBASSY
- RESIDENCE PERMIT QUESTIONS AT THE IMMIGRATION OFFICE
- ENROLLMENT AND DEFERMENT QUESTIONS AT THE ADMISSIONS DEPARTMENT (int-zugang@rwth-aachen.de)
- COURSE-RELATED QUESTIONS AT THE FACULTY
- IT RELATED QUESTIONS TO THE IT SERVICEDESK

PLEASE CHECK OUT FAQ AND VIDEOS PROVIDED DURING THE WELCOME WEEK ON LATECOMER WEBSITE:

<https://www.rwth-aachen.de/cms/root/Studium/Vor-dem-Studium/Internationale-Studierende/Welcome-Week-fuer-internationale-Studier/~cjqnl/Latecomer-Programm/lidx/1/>