Events for International Researchers and Families
Winter Semester 2021/22
Our mission is to offer assistance and advice to international academics and their hosts before, during, and after their stay in Aachen regarding generic topics such as:

- Immigration and residence formalities
- Financing your stay
- Developing your career
- Accommodation
- Family and childcare support
- Dual Career
- Language Courses
- University sports and leisure time activities
- Becoming part of the local community

We are working with partners within RWTH, such as the Center for Doctoral Studies, the Language Center, Human Resources, the Career Center, the Family Services Center, and the Dual Career Service. We also cooperate with external partners, for example the Foreigners’ Registration Office, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and EURAXESS.

Throughout the semester, we offer various events. Some of these are dedicated to networking, others provide you with specific information or focus on academic development. Events are free of charge unless indicated otherwise.

We are looking forward to seeing you!

Your Welcome Center Team
Cathrin Urbanke, Lisa Beitzel, Kathrin Fedosov, Jill Hamacher, Kathrin Helsen, Anne Kröger, Andrea Porten

Welcome Center
Super C Building, rooms 5.22-5.24
Templergraben 57 - 52062
Aachen
Email: welcome@rwth-aachen.de
Guided City Tour
September 4, 2021

11 am - 12.30 pm
Registration required: welcome@rwth-aachen.de
Meeting point: Tourist Info Elisenbrunnen, Friedrich-Wilhelm-Platz, 52062 Aachen
For researchers and partners/families

We invite you and your partner or family to join a guided city tour of Aachen. Let yourself be guided through narrow alleys and across historic squares through the 2000 year-long history of Aachen. Experience all facets of Aachen, a modern city with beautiful historic town houses, many old and new fountains and innumerable stories all about the Aachen Cathedral and the Town Hall.

Workshop: Wirksam würzen – Using Spices Effectively
September 27, 2021

3 pm - 4.30 pm
Registration required: welcome@rwth-aachen.de
Online workshop: Zoom link will be provided upon registration
For researchers

Let’s explore the world of spices together with nutritional therapist Ms. Anne Cormann. You will receive a selection of spices from us, which we will then identify in the seminar. In addition, you will learn about effects, backgrounds and the use of the different spices. Apart from the theoretical input on spices and herbs and their effects, we will prepare our own spice mixtures under supervision in the practical part.

Registration is binding: After your registration, we will make an appointment with you to pick up the spices at our offices.
Workshop: Migration, Culture and Care
October 5, 2021

11 am - 1 pm

Registration required: magdalena.marsiglia@gsb.rwth-aachen.de

Online event: Zoom link will be provided upon registration

For researchers and partners/families

This is an event of our partner, the Family Services Center. Find out more: https://www.rwth-aachen.de/go/id/rtsf/file/9-5752/

Culture has a strong influence on how people perceive, receive and provide health care. To know the cultural context in which one communicates about health will help to improve our mutual understanding. This workshop wants to promote intercultural competences and to make people aware of the meanings of health and care in different cultures.
Parent-Child Groups: Weekly playgroups
October 6, 2021

Group 1: 9.30 am - 10.55 am
Group 2: 11.20 am - 12.45 pm

Registration required:
familienservice@rwth-aachen.de
Childcare center Kita Königshügel,
Melatener Straße 30, 52074 Aachen

For parents and their child(ren) up to three years of age

Preparing your stay (Non-EU Citizens with RWTH Employment)
October 6, 2021

1.30 pm - 3 pm

Registration required:
welcome@rwth-aachen.de
Online info session:
Zoom link will be provided upon registration
For researchers (Non-EU citizens with RWTH employment contract)

This is an event of our partner, the Family Services Center, and the Studierendenwerk Aachen.
Find out more:
https://www.rwth-aachen.de/cms/root/Die-RWTH/Profil/Familiengerechte-Hochschule/~zvs/Eltern-Kind-Gruppen/?lidx=1

The Parent-Child Groups are available to students and staff of the university who have children. Under the guidance of a group leader, parents and their child(ren) up to three years of age are invited to get together once a week to sing, play and do crafts in a friendly atmosphere and to get in contact with other parents. The next term will probably be from October until December 2021, in compliance with appropriate Covid 19 protective measures. There is small fee of 15 € altogether for all sessions.

Are you in the middle of preparing your stay at RWTH Aachen University or have you recently arrived from abroad? Are you confused by all the formalities you need to deal with, both before and after you arrive in Germany? Join our online orientation meeting for PhD students, postdocs and guest researchers which helps you navigate the official procedures and answers your questions before and after your arrival in Aachen. We will address the following issues: entry, residence and work permit, finding accommodation, registration of your residence, opening a bank account, taking out health insurance, signing your work contract, applying for your residence permit, application, admission & enrolment for doctoral studies, coming to Aachen with your spouse/children.
Preparing your stay (Non-EU Citizens with External Funding)
October 6, 2021

1.30 pm - 3 pm

Registration required:
welcome@rwth-aachen.de

Online info session: Zoom link will be provided upon registration

For researchers (Non-EU citizens with external funding (fellowship or other))

Are you in the middle of preparing your stay at RWTH Aachen University or have you recently arrived from abroad? Are you confused by all the formalities you need to deal with, both before and after you arrive in Germany? Join our online orientation meeting for PhD students, postdocs and guest researchers which helps you navigate the official procedures and answers your questions before and after your arrival in Aachen. We will address the following issues: entry, residence and work permit, finding accommodation, registration of your residence, opening a bank account, taking out health insurance, signing your work contract, applying for your residence permit, application, admission & enrolment for doctoral studies, coming to Aachen with your spouse/children.
Mahlzeit! – A German Conversation Round
October 12, 2021

Tue 12 pm - 1 pm / every other week
No registration required
Online conversation round: Zoom link will be provided in the e-mail invitation
For researchers with German language skills at level B1 or higher

Guided City Tour
October 16, 2021

11 am - 12.30 pm
Registration required:
welcome@rwth-aachen.de
Meeting point: Tourist Info Elisenbrunnen, Friedrich-Wilhelm-Platz, 52062 Aachen
For researchers and partners/families

We invite you and your partner or family to join a guided city tour of Aachen. Let yourself be guided through narrow alleys and across historic squares through the 2000 year-long history of Aachen. Experience all facets of Aachen, a modern city with beautiful historic town houses, many old and new fountains and innumerable stories all about Aachen Cathedral and the Town Hall.

Jede zweite Woche bieten wir Ihnen mit dieser Gruppe die Gelegenheit, Ihre bereits vorhandenen Deutschkenntnisse auf Niveau B1 oder höher zu üben und nebenbei andere Angehörige der RWTH kennenzulernen. Gesprächsthemen oder Spiele, bei denen man die Sprache gut üben kann, bereiten wir vor. Sie können jedoch gerne jederzeit Themen vorschlagen, die Sie gerade interessieren. Teilnehmen können Sie gerne an einzelnen Treffen. Sie müssen sich nicht für das ganze Semester verpflichten.
Selbstverständlich können Sie während der „Mahlzeit“ auch Ihre Mittagspause abhalten und dabei essen.
German Course: Beginners A1
October 19, 2021

Tue and Thu, 4.30 pm - 6 pm / starts October 19, 2021

Registration required by September 15: welcome@rwth-aachen.de

Online semester course

For researchers

The course does not require any knowledge of German. Its goal is to provide basic skills for active participation in everyday and working life in a German-speaking environment. Topics covered include making contact, family, study and work, languages and countries, daily life, and time and place information. The main focus is on the necessary vocabulary for and the communicative use of reading, speaking and writing skills. At the end of the course you will be able to communicate in everyday situations, e.g. at the university, at work, in the supermarket, in restaurants, at public offices, when looking for accommodation, use appropriate sentences and expressions in everyday university and professional life, introduce yourself, express your wishes and talk about your work, ask and answer questions about your home, hobbies, tastes and interests.
German Course: Everyday Communication in German
October 28, 2021

Mon and Thu, 6.30 pm - 8 pm /
starts October 28, 2021

Registration required by October 18:
welcome@rwth-aachen.de

Online semester course
For partners of international researchers

The course does not require any knowledge of German. Its goal is to provide basic skills for active participation in everyday life in a German-speaking environment. Topics covered include making contact, family, languages and countries, daily life, and time and place information. The systematic development of the necessary vocabulary for and the communicative use of reading, speaking and writing skills are the main focus of the lessons. The development of grammatical structures is linked to the topics and language activities that correspond to the communicative needs. At the end of the course you will be able to communicate in everyday situations, e.g. in the supermarket, in restaurants, at public offices, introduce yourself, express your wishes and talk about your work, ask and answer questions about your home, hobbies, tastes and interests. A mandatory placement test will take place on October 25.

German Course: Technical German B2
October 20, 2021

Wed, 4.30 pm - 8 pm /
starts October 20, 2021

Registration required by September 15:
welcome@rwth-aachen.de

Online semester course
For researchers


Family Event: From Grain to Bread
October 29, 2021

2.30 pm - 5.30 pm

Registration required: welcome@rwth-aachen.de

Meeting point: Gut Paulinenwäldchen, Zum Blauen Stein 26-34, 52070 Aachen

For researchers and partners/families (children aged 3-10)

We will meet for an afternoon together at the organic farm “Gut Paulinenwäldchen” on the outskirts of Aachen. The farm’s education team will organize an outdoor program around grain and bread for us, letting us harvest and grind grain and even make a bread patty from it and bake it over an outdoor fire pit. Moreover, there will be games for children on their large meadow. All families are welcome to bring a delicious spread for the bread. We recommend to wear suitable outdoor clothes for this event on the field, depending to the weather. Maybe bring rubber boots and splash pants for the children.
Workshop: Academic Life in Germany
November 6, 2021

9 am - 3 pm
Registration required:
welcome@rwth-aachen.de
Online info session: Zoom link will be provided upon registration
For researchers

Exhibition: 150 Years RWTH
October 30, 2021

Tue - Sun 10 am - 6 pm / Oct. 30, 2021 to Feb. 13, 2022
You can visit the exhibition anytime on your own!
Centre Charlemagne, Katschhof 1, 52062 Aachen
For researchers and partners/families

The joint anniversary exhibition of RWTH and the City of Aachen at Centre Charlemagne will provide fascinating insights into the history and development of the University. It offers visitors the chance to discover different research highlights and the primary focus of all relevant areas from the past 150 years. In keeping with the anniversary motto of "Lernen. Forschen. Machen.", the exhibition exemplifies how relevant RWTH has been for the City of Aachen and surrounding areas since it was founded and how the University will continue to be highly significant for the local area in the future. This will be conveyed in a range of different research exhibition items – most of which we now use in our everyday lives, or will use in the future. Together, they show the historical development the University has significantly contributed to.

Workshop: Academic Life in Germany
November 6, 2021

This online workshop introduces you to the academic culture in Germany. Learn about expectations, responsibilities, and cultural standards and how to navigate potential challenges. The trainer will also address personality styles and intercultural competencies, the relationship with your supervisor and present different communication strategies and conflict management strategies.
Family Event: A walk across Lousberg
November 5, 2021

10 am - 12 noon

Registration required:
welcome@rwth-aachen.de

Meeting point: in front of SuperC,
Templergraben 57, 52062 Aachen

For researchers and partners/families

We invite all spouses and partners of our international researchers with or without children to join us for a stroll across Lousberg. During our walk, we will pass by a playground and enjoy the beautiful views off Lousberg. The walk is stroller-friendly. Please bring something to eat and drink for you and your family, so we can enjoy a small picnic at one of the playgrounds. Alternatively, we may visit a café along the way.
Join us for a guided tour of the central campus of RWTH Aachen University! Whether you are a newcomer to Aachen or have been here for quite a while, the guided tour offers an interesting look at current research and trendsetting education. Take in a little of the international history of science and local university development.

For researchers

Workshop: Integration into International Teams
November 12, 2021

9 am - 3 pm

Online info session: Zoom link will be provided upon registration

For researchers

Why is it sometimes challenging to work in an international team? What are the required competences for performing in international teams? We all hold our stereotypes and prejudices. In this workshop, we will hear about Geert Hofstede’s indicators to describe different cultural patterns and learn strategies to deal with our different cultural imprint.
Networking Event: Junior meets Senior
November 17, 2021

5 pm - 6.30 pm

Registration required:
welcome@rwth-aachen.de

Meeting point: SuperC, Templergraben 57, 52062 Aachen

For researchers

Join us for a guided tour of the central campus of RWTH Aachen University! Whether you are a newcomer to Aachen or have been here for quite a while, the guided tour offers an interesting look at current research and trendsetting education. Take in a little of the international history of science and local university development.
Preparing your stay (Non-EU Citizens with RWTH Employment)
November 24, 2021

1.30 pm - 3 pm
Registration required: welcome@rwth-aachen.de
Online info session: Zoom link will be provided upon registration
For researchers (Non-EU citizens with RWTH employment contract)

Are you in the middle of preparing your stay at RWTH Aachen University or have you recently arrived from abroad? Are you confused by all the formalities you need to deal with, both before and after you arrive in Germany? Join our online orientation meeting for PhD students, postdocs and guest researchers which helps you navigate the official procedures and answers your questions before and after your arrival in Aachen. We will address the following issues: entry and residence permit; finding accommodation; registration of your residence; opening a bank account; taking out health insurance; signing your work contract; applying for your residence permit; application, admission & enrolment for doctoral studies; coming to Aachen with your spouse/children.

Preparing your stay (Non-EU Citizens with External Funding)
November 25, 2021

1.30 pm - 3 pm
Registration required: welcome@rwth-aachen.de
Online info session: Zoom link will be provided upon registration
For researchers (Non-EU citizens with external funding (fellowship or other))

Are you in the middle of preparing your stay at RWTH Aachen University or have you recently arrived from abroad? Are you confused by all the formalities you need to deal with, both before and after you arrive in Germany? Join our online orientation meeting for PhD students, postdocs and guest researchers which helps you navigate the official procedures and answers your questions before and after your arrival in Aachen. We will address the following issues: entry and residence permit; finding accommodation; registration of your residence; opening a bank account; taking out health insurance; applying for your residence permit; application, admission & enrolment for PhD studies; coming to Aachen with your spouse/children.
Family Event: A visit to the Christmas Market
November 26, 2021

11 am - 1 pm

Registration required:
welcome@rwth-aachen.de

Meeting point: in front of SuperC, Templergraben 57, 52062 Aachen

For researchers and partners/families

We invite you and your spouse/partner or family to enjoy a casual stroll across the Christmas Market and learn about the tradition of Christmas Markets in Germany as well as the tradition of “our” famous Christmas Market in Aachen. To finish we’ll take a mulled wine or hot chocolate and enjoy some food at one of the stalls.
Guided City Tour  
December 4, 2021

11 am - 12.30 pm
Registration required: welcome@rwth-aachen.de
Meeting point: Tourist Info Elisenbrunnen, Friedrich-Wilhelm-Platz, 52062 Aachen
For researchers and partners/families

We invite you and your partner or family to join a guided city tour of Aachen. Let yourself be guided through narrow alleys and across historic squares through the 2000 year-long history of Aachen. Experience all facets of Aachen, a modern city with beautiful historic town houses, many old and new fountains and innumerable stories all about Aachen Cathedral and the Town Hall.
During the Advent season, the historic old town is transformed into a sensual Christmas world. Lights twinkle and the smell of Printen and mulled wine ins in the air. Hear the stories and peculiarities of the former Printenmarkt - better known today as the Aachen Christmas Market.

Info-Event: Midwife, Delivery Room and Others  
January, 2022

tbd
Registration required: christine.sabrowski@gsb.rwth-aachen.de
Online event: Zoom link will be provided upon registration
For researchers and partners

This is an event of our partner, the Family Services Center.
Contact Mrs. Christine Sabrowski for more information: christine.sabrowski@gsb.rwth-aachen.de

There are many questions for expectant parents around the topic of pregnancy and childbirth – the search for a midwife, antenatal classes and regeneration after birth are just some examples. During our English information event, (international) university members expecting a child or planning to get pregnant have the possibility to gain a comprehensive overview about the services and offers of support they can use during this important period of their lives.
Lastly, there will be the opportunity to ask individual questions and to meet other expectant parents and exchange views.
Info Event: Growing up multilingually
January, 2022

Online event: Zoom link will be provided upon registration

Registration required:
christine.sabrowski@gsb.rwth-aachen.de

For parents

This is an event of our partner, the Family Services Center.
Contact Mrs. Christine Sabrowski for more information: christine.sabrowski@gsb.rwth-aachen.de

What chances and conflicts of multilingual education do families face? How do parents promote their child’s language acquisition and education in order to provide a good basis for Kita and school? Questions like these concern many international parents at RWTH. We will offer a short input on the theoretical knowledge of children’s first language acquisition and on up-to-date approaches of multilingualism as a resource. This will be followed by a discussion and open exchange with experts in this field to deal with individual questions and problems. We plan to focus on preschool education and the transition from Kita to primary school.
Join us for a guided tour of the central campus of RWTH Aachen University! Whether you are a newcomer to Aachen or have been here for quite a while, the guided tour offers an interesting look at current research and trendsetting education. Take in a little of the international history of science and local university development.

Prepare your stay (Non-EU Citizens with RWTH Employment)
February 16, 2022
1.30 pm - 3 pm
Online event: Zoom link will be provided upon registration

For researchers (Non-EU citizens with RWTH employment contract)
Are you in the middle of preparing your stay at RWTH Aachen University or have you recently arrived from abroad? Are you confused by all the formalities you need to deal with, both before and after you arrive in Germany? Join our online orientation meeting for PhD students, postdocs and guest researchers which helps you navigate the official procedures and answers your questions before and after your arrival in Aachen. We will address the following issues: entry, residence and work permit; finding accommodation; registration of your residence; opening a bank account; taking out health insurance; signing your work contract; applying for your residence permit; application, admission & enrolment for doctoral studies; coming to Aachen with your spouse/children.
Preparing your stay (Non-EU Citizens with External Funding)
February 17, 2022

1.30 pm - 3 pm

Registration required:
welcome@rwth-aachen.de

Online event: Zoom link will be provided upon registration

For researchers (Non-EU citizens with external funding (fellowship or other))

Are you in the middle of preparing your stay at RWTH Aachen University or have you recently arrived from abroad? Are you confused by all the formalities you need to deal with, both before and after you arrive in Germany? Join our online orientation meeting for PhD students, postdocs and guest researchers which helps you navigate the official procedures and answers your questions before and after your arrival in Aachen. We will address the following issues: entry and residence permit; finding accommodation; registration of your residence; opening a bank account; taking out health insurance; applying for your residence permit; application, admission & enrolment for PhD studies; coming to Aachen with your spouse/children.
Networking: StaffMentor Program  
February, 2022

12 pm - 2 pm

Registration required: welcome@rwth-aachen.de

Meeting point: SuperC, Templergraben 57, 52062 Aachen

For “new and old” StaffMentors and Mentees

Staff Mentors are experienced German or international staff members from all areas of the University who support new international researchers in settling into Aachen and at RWTH. The international researchers, who participate in the program, are called mentees. They come from all over the world to pursue a research stay at RWTH and are happy to have some help settling in!

In this meeting, new and old StaffMentors and their Mentees get together during a lunch-meeting and exchange experiences.

A Walk through Aachen Stadtwald  
March, 2022

tbd

Registration required: welcome@rwth-aachen.de

Meeting point: Parking lot Siegel, Adenauer/Monschauer Straße, 52076 Aachen

For researchers and partners/families

We invite all spouses and partners of our international researchers with or without children to join us for a stroll through Aachen’s Stadtwald (city forest). During our walk, we will pass by several playgrounds and enjoy the beautiful fall foliage. The walk is stroller friendly. Please bring something to eat and drink for you and your family, so we can enjoy a small picnic at one of the playgrounds.
This bilingual information event (German/English) on primary school and enrolment in Aachen is an event of our partner, the Family Services Center. Contact Mrs. Christine Sabrowski for more information: christine.sabrowski@gsb.rwth-aachen.de

At the age of six, children in Germany reach the compulsory school age. Before the enrolment, many parents have questions regarding the registration, school system and school attendance. This event provides answers to the following questions:

- How do I enroll my child in primary school?
- Which different school boards exist?
- Which special offers exist for children who do not (yet) speak German or have another mother tongue?
- How does the cooperation between school and the parental-home work?
Publishing Information

Events for International Researchers and Families
Aachen, October 2021

Published by
The International Office (Dept. 2.2)
RWTH Aachen University
Templergraben 57
52062 Aachen
Germany

Editorial Board:
Welcome Center for international researchers

Layout and Design:
Justus Wilhelm Brügging

Photo Credits:
Martin Braun: Pages 1,7,10,15,19,23,27,31,35
Stefan Hense: Page 39