Events for International Researchers and Families
Winter Semester 2022/23

Foto: Kurt Beyer
International Office - Welcome Center
The Welcome Center greets you and your family and wishes you all the best for your stay in Aachen!

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 Young Academics, 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 regular 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, Kathrin Fedosov, Jill Hamacher, Anne Kröger, Andrea Porten

Welcome Center
Super C Building, rooms 5.22-5.24
Templergraben 57
52062 Aachen
Email: welcome@rwth-aachen.de
Mo and We
10:30 am – 12 pm / starts October 17, 2022

Registration required by September 30:
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.
Workshop: Academic Life in Germany
October 19, 2022

9 am - 3 pm

Registration required:
welcome@rwth-aachen.de

Online info session: Zoom link will be provided upon registration

For researchers

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.
Parent-Child Groups: Weekly playgroups
October 19, 2022

Group 1: 9.30 am – 11 am
Group 2: 11.15 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

This is an event of our partners, 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 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 be from October until December 2022. There is small fee of 13 € altogether for all sessions.
Family Event: Pumpkins
October 29, 2022

2.30 pm – 5.30 pm

Registration required: Christine.Sabrowski@zhv.rwth-aachen.de

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

For researchers and partners/families (children aged 3 and older)

Join us for an afternoon together at the organic farm “Gut Paulinenwäldchen” on the outskirts of Aachen. The farm’s educational team will organize an outdoor program around pumpkins, which have become an increasingly important part of fall decorations, activities and recipes in Germany. If the pumpkins keep growing, we will carve lanterns or faces out of the pumpkins and cook a delicious soup from the pumpkin flesh!

Moreover, there will be games for children on their large meadow.

We recommend to wear suitable outdoor clothes for this event on the field, depending to the weather. Maybe bring rubber boots and mudpants for the children.
Preparing your stay (Non-EU Citizens with RWTH Employment)
November 8, 2022

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, 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.
Workshop: Childcare in Aachen
November 10, 2022

12 pm - 2 pm

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

Online event: Zoom link will be provided upon registration

For researchers and partners/families

What exactly is a „Kita“, what does a childminder do and how do you find suitable childcare for your children?
We will give you an overview of different options for early childhood education in Aachen: How is Kita-childcare organized and what costs should you expect with the different childcare facilities in Aachen?
Our Family Service advisors supply information on exclusive childcare institutions for RWTH members and answer individual questions.

Event of the Family Services Center
Preparing your stay (Non-EU Citizens with External Funding)
November 10, 2022

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.
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.
Info Session: Elterngeld, ElterngeldPlus und Elternzeit
November 16, 2022

4 pm - 8 pm

Registration required: RWTH-SingleSignOn

Online: Zoom link will be provided upon registration

For researchers

This is an event of the Family Services Center. Find out more:
https://www.rwth-aachen.de/go/id/rtsf/file/9-8781/

The info session IN GERMAN provides detailed information on
the regulations of parental allowance and parental leave and
gives tips on planning and use.
The Parental Allowance and Parental Leave Act is intended to
give mothers and fathers the opportunity to use parental leave
and parental allowance flexibly and as closely as possible. How
can you benefit from the design options? What are the chal-
genesis and options for families?
Workshop: Integration into International Teams
November 17, 2022

9 am - 3 pm

Registration required: welcome@rwth-aachen.de

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: StaffMentor Program
November 25, 2022

12 pm - 2 pm

Registration required:
welcome@rwth-aachen.de

Meeting point: Humboldt House,
Pontstraße 41, 52062 Aachen

For “new and old” StaffMentors
and Mentees

StaffMentors 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 potluck lunch-meeting and exchange experiences.
Family Event: A visit to the Christmas Market
November 30, 2022

11 am - 1 pm

Registration required:
welcome@rwth-aachen.de

Meeting point: 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 10, 2022

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.
Campus Tour
January 28, 2022

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 External Funding)
February 9, 2022

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.
Preparing your stay (Non-EU Citizens with RWTH Employment)
February 14, 2022

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, 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.
Info-Event: Primary School in Aachen
Spring, 2022 tbd

Registration required:
welcome@rwth-aachen.de

Online event: Zoom link will be provided upon registration

For parents

This bilingual information event (German/English) on primary school and enrolment in Aachen is an event of our partner, the Family Services Center.

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?
Campus Tour
March 25, 2022

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.
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