

Fact Sheet 2023



Furtwangen University (HFU)
International Center
Robert-Gerwig-Platz 1,
D-78120 Furtwangen, Germany
<https://www.hs-furtwangen.de/en/planning/international/>
Email international@hs-furtwangen.de

Introduction to Furtwangen University of Applied Sciences

Furtwangen University (known by its German acronym "HFU") focuses on applied learning and research in **mechanical engineering, information and media sciences, business and health sciences** — and has been ranked among Germany's top universities in a number of these fields by major national publications and surveys conducted amongst students and employers.

With about **5,000 students**, the academic community is large enough to enjoy modern laboratories, a highly modern IT infrastructure, and one of Germany's best science libraries, yet small enough to maintain a personal touch. Small class sizes, regular personal contact with the teaching staff, and an excellent learning environment help guarantee good results and a positive experience.

Students and staff also benefit from the large international population on campus, as well as the natural beauty of the surrounding regions, including Germany's renowned **Black Forest**. The enormous range of activities on campus includes over 30 different sports, from skiing and climbing to tennis and mountain biking.

Students generally earn a bachelor's degree within seven semesters, including a semester-long work placement and thesis. In addition, students gain experience through team-oriented project work, or during a study semester abroad at one of our more than **140 foreign partner universities worldwide**.

Master degree programmes at HFU usually take three semesters to complete.

Campus Locations

- **Furtwangen** is the location of the original campus, in the heart of the Black Forest.
Address: Robert-Gerwig-Platz 1, 78120 Furtwangen.
- **Villingen-Schwenningen** is a twin town, 30 km east of Furtwangen. The campus is located in **Schwenningen**.
Address: Jakob-Kienzle-Strasse 17, 78054 Villingen-Schwenningen.
- **Tuttlingen** is located 30 km south-east of Villingen-Schwenningen. It hosts the newest campus which is co-funded from industry.
Address: Kronenstrasse 16, 78532 Tuttlingen

Faculties at Furtwangen Campus

- **Digital Media (DM)**
- **Computer Science (IN)**
- **Health, Safety, Society (GSG)**
- **Business Information Systems (WI)**
- **Business Administration and Engineering (WING)**
- **Mechanical and Medical Engineering (MME)** – (only Electrical Engineering BSc and Smart Systems MSc)

For exchange students the so called "**International Semester Furtwangen Campus**" comprises English-taught classes from all the Furtwangen-based faculties.

Faculties at Schwenningen Campus

- **HFU Business School (W)**
- **Mechanical and Medical Engineering (MME)**
- **Medical and Life Sciences (MLS)**

Faculty at Tuttlingen Campus	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industrial Technologies (ITE) 	
International Center	
Director	Brigitte Minderlein min@hs-furtwangen.de
Deputy Director	Anette Kohler koa@hs-furtwangen.de
ERASMUS+ Institutional Coordinator	Brigitte Minderlein min@hs-furtwangen.de
Scholarships	Ulrike Waldvogel wul@hs-furtwangen.de
Incoming Students Email: incoming@hs-furtwangen.de	
Furtwangen Campus	Julia Hennig heju@hs-furtwangen.de
Schwenningen Campus	Petra Balasta bal@hs-furtwangen.de
Tuttlingen Campus	Susann Schmidt susc@hs-furtwangen.de
Web	https://www.hs-furtwangen.de/en/planning/international/international-students/
Outgoing Students	
Furtwangen Campus	outgoing-fu@hs-furtwangen.de
Schwenningen Campus	outgoing-vs@hs-furtwangen.de
Tuttlingen Campus	outgoing-tut@hs-furtwangen.de
Web	https://www.hs-furtwangen.de/studium/studienablauf/auslandssemester/
Contact Address for Sending Transcripts (all campuses)	
Outgoing-fu@hs-furtwangen.de	
Faculty Coordinators (responsible for signing Learning Agreements)	
FURTWANGEN CAMPUS	
International Semester Furtwangen Campus	Prof. Dr. Achim Karduck ka@hs-furtwangen.de
Computer Science (IN)	Prof. Dr. Achim Karduck ka@hs-furtwangen.de
Digital Media (DM)	Prof. Dr. Norbert Schnell sor@hs-furtwangen.de
Business Information Systems (WI)	Prof. Dr. Eduard Heindl hed@hs-furtwangen.de
Business Administration and Engineering (WING)	INCOMINGS to HFU: Prof. Dr. Ulrich Kallmann kalu@hs-furtwangen.de OUTGOINGS from HFU: Prof. Lutz Leuendorf leu@hs-furtwangen.de
Health, Safety, Society (GSG)	Applied Health Sciences (AGW), Safety and Security Engineering (SSB): Prof. Dr. Kirsten Steinhausen stek@hs-furtwangen.de Physiotherapy (PT): Prof. Dr. Erwin Scherfer se@hs-furtwangen.de
Mechanical and Medical Engineering (MME)	Electrical Engineering (ELA), Smart Systems (SMA): Prof. Dr. Ekkehard Batzies batz@hs-furtwangen.de
TUTTLINGEN CAMPUS	
Industrial Technologies (ITE)	Prof. Dr. Erwin Bürk be@hs-furtwangen.de
SCHWENNINGEN CAMPUS	
Medical and Life Sciences (MLS)	Prof. Dr. Ulrike Fasol fau@hs-furtwangen.de
Mechanical and Medical Engineering (MME)	Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Kukral kuk@hs-furtwangen.de
HFU-Business School (W)	Regional Coordinators:
	France, Netherlands, Finland: Raphael Gilles gira@hs-furtwangen.de

	China (incl. Macau, Taiwan): Li Fang-Heck fh@hs-furtwangen.de
	Spanish-speaking countries, Austria, Turkey, Brazil: Alejandro Pastor paa@hs-furtwangen.de
	Hungary, South Africa: Prof. Dr. Rütger Conzelmann cor@hs-furtwangen.de
	Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, Namibia: Prof. Dr. Michael Lederer led@hs-furtwangen.de
	UK: Prof. Dr. Paul Taylor tay@hs-furtwangen.de
	USA, Canada: Prof. Dr. Melanie Seemann seme@hs-furtwangen.de
	Korea and other countries not listed here: Prof. Dr. Frank Kramer krf@hs-furtwangen.de

Fall Semester Dates	
Preferred arrival date	A few days before the orientation programme starts (late September)
Orientation programme (incl. German intensive course)	One week before the start of lectures (late September). Attendance at the orientation programme is mandatory.
Lecture period (incl. exams)	Approximately 1 October – 25 February
General holidays	There are no lectures between Christmas (24 December) and New Year's Day (1 January)
Spring Semester Dates	
Preferred arrival date	1 March
Orientation programme (incl. German intensive course)	One week before lectures start (early March). Attendance at the orientation programme is mandatory.
Lecture period (incl. exams)	Approximately 15 March – 31 July
General holidays	There is a one-week break around either Easter or Christian Pentecost.
Application for Incoming Students	
Nomination deadline	For entry in the spring semester: 15 October For entry in the fall semester: 15 April
Application deadline	For entry in the spring semester: 1 November For entry in the fall semester: 1 May
Application procedure and required documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must be nominated by their home institution by email • Once they have been nominated students must apply online <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Online Application: https://www.hs-furtwangen.de/en/planning/international/international-students/ • CV/resume • Passport-sized photograph • Subject and grade report, both in the original language and in German or English translation • Letter of motivation • Proof of English or German skills (at least B1)
Housing	
Type of housing available:	The International Center arranges accommodation for all exchange students

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Furtwangen Campus Rooms are available in dormitories owned by the SWFR (Studierendenwerk Freiburg) Student Houses Großhausberg: Studierendenwerk Freiburg-Schwarzwald (swfr.de) • Schwenningen Campus Rooms are available either in dormitories owned by the SWFR (Studierendenwerk Freiburg) or in private houses. Dormitories in Schwenningen: Dormitories in Villingen-Schwenningen: Studierendenwerk Freiburg-Schwarzwald (swfr.de) • Tuttlingen Campus Rooms are only available in private houses. <p>Important: Rooms can only be rented for a 6-month period (March to August or September to February)! Rooms booked through the International Center in the above named SWFR-dormitories for short rental period (one or two semesters) are charged a monthly supplement of 15 Euro. For rooms in private houses a liability insurance is normally required.</p>
Cost of living:	The monthly expenses for room and board in Germany, including health insurance, are estimated to be 934€. The cost of living in Furtwangen, Schwenningen, and Tuttlingen, however, is below that of most other university towns in Germany.
Academic System	
Contact hours:	The academic programmes are structured in <i>semester hours per week</i> (<i>Semesterwochenstunde = sws</i>). One <i>semester hour per week</i> (contact hour) equals a lecture of 45 minutes for the duration of one semester. One semester usually consists of about 15 weeks.
Academic credit:	The workload of one semester corresponds to 30 ECTS credits (European Credit Transfer System).
Grading system:	Grades range from 5.0 (minimum) to 1.0 (maximum) and 4.0 is the minimum passing grade. 2.5 is considered a good grade.
Language of Instruction and Programmes for Exchange Students	
Language specification:	Courses are offered in German and partly in English (not on Tuttlingen Campus!) Some degree-programmes are taught entirely in English. Exchange students can choose from a variety of lectures taught in English, across the faculties (→ International Semester only on Furtwangen Campus, see below) A list of all courses currently being offered on all bachelor's and master's programmes, as well as a list of electives, organized by the location where they are offered, and a list of courses which are not taught in German can be found here https://www.hs-furtwangen.de/en/planning/studyingathfu/programmes-electives-and-language-courses-offered/
Bachelor programmes taught in English:	International Business Management B.A. https://www.hs-furtwangen.de/studiengaenge/international-business-management-bachelor/ International Business Information Systems B.Sc. https://www.hs-furtwangen.de/en/programmes/international-business-information-systems/
Master programmes taught in English	Smart Systems M.Sc., Biomedical Engineering M.Sc., Business Consulting M.Sc., Medicine Diagnostics M.Sc, International Business Management MBA, International Management M.Sc., Precision Medicine Diagnostics M.Sc.
International Semester for Exchange students	Furtwangen Campus only Course Director: Prof. Dr. Achim Karduck https://www.hs-furtwangen.de/en/planning/international/programmes-taught-in-english/
German as a Foreign Language	
German classes	German as a foreign language (<i>DaF</i>) is taught in 5 levels of proficiency as regular courses during the semester. The pre-term intensive course is only taught in level A1 and A2 https://www.hs-furtwangen.de/en/planning/studyingathfu/language-courses/german-courses/

Insurance	
Health Insurance	<p>EU students must bring their EHIC (European Health Insurance Card).</p> <p>Non-EU students must take out a German statutory health insurance (cost around 100 Euro per month) or get an exemption letter, which can be issued by a German statutory health insurance if the student's international health insurance meets the requirements (which is usually not the case!). With one of the following service providers Expatrio, Fintiba, or Coracle students can take out the necessary statutory health insurance online from home.</p> <p>We strongly recommend that students take out a travel insurance for their flight and the first days in Germany before enrolment.</p>
Accident and Liability	We strongly recommend students to take out accident and liability insurance.
Fees	
Exchange students from partner universities are exempt from paying the administration fee and the Student Union contribution. However, they must pay the Student services fee.	
Student services fee	66 Euro (includes accident, liability and theft insurance on the University grounds)
Visa Information	
Non-EU students must apply for a visa in their resident country. Students from certain Non-EU countries can enter Germany without a visa (please check the websites of the German embassy in your home country for details) and apply for a residence permit after their arrival in Germany.	
Services for International Students	
Pick-up Service	The International Center offers a pick-up service for exchange students from partner universities. Degree-seeking students in international study programmes should contact their respective programme coordinator.
Buddy Programme	The International Center runs a Buddy Programme which arranges contact between German students and new exchange students. Before arrival, every exchange student can contact his/her buddy by email. A buddy is a German student who helps new international students to get to know what everyday life at university is like, especially at the semester start. Everyone knows how important the first impressions of a new town or a new country can be and how nice it is to have someone you already know when you arrive.
Orientation Programme and German Seminar	<p>About one week prior to the beginning of classes, the International Center runs an orientation programme during which students are provided with important information regarding their stay in Germany. They receive information and support in administrative matters (residence registration, enrolment, immigration etc.).</p> <p>Two weeks prior to the beginning of classes students can take part in an online intensive course in the German language (for beginners at or below B1 level).</p> <p>For successful completion of this programme (including German language course) students can gain 3 ECTS.</p>
Trips and Events	The International Center and the International Student Community (ISC) organize a number of trips and events throughout the year: a 3-day trip to Berlin, day trips to Heidelberg, Konstanz, Freiburg, Stuttgart and other places, cross-country skiing, hiking tours, international festivals, movie nights, country presentations and more.