

# Energy Masters Technische Universität Berlin

## Student Guide



2024

Welcome to TU Berlin!

This guide provides you with information regarding the steps necessary prior to your arrival in Berlin, the first steps upon arrival and practical details about our university, the campus, your program, and the city. If you have questions, please feel free to ask us.

We are looking forward to welcoming you here in person. We are doing our best to ensure that the time coming will be an exciting and inspiring experience, both academically and personally.

*Your Masters in Energy Team*

February 12, 2024

## Contents

General Information .....	3
Academic Calendar 2024 - 2025 .....	3
Teaching and Studies .....	4
University's Structure .....	4
Types of Courses .....	5
<b>Overview</b> .....	5
Lectures ( <i>Vorlesung</i> ) .....	5
Tutorials ( <i>Übung</i> ) .....	5
The Academic Program Guide .....	6
Online Catalog for Additional Courses at TUB .....	6
International Student Counselling .....	6
<b>Psychological Counselling of TU Berlin</b> .....	7
<b>Counseling of TU Berlin for students with disabilities</b> .....	7
Career Service .....	7
Mentoring Program of TU Berlin for International Students .....	8
Application Considerations .....	9
Requirements .....	9
Total estimated costs .....	9
Potential sources of funding .....	10
Pre-arrival .....	11
Visa .....	11
Fee payment .....	11
Accommodation .....	12
<b>Dormitories</b> .....	12
Health Insurance .....	14
<b>Students from EU / EEA countries and Switzerland</b> .....	14
<b>Students from Other Countries</b> .....	15
<b>Health insurances providers</b> .....	15
Upon Arrival .....	16
Money, banks, and business .....	16
Communication .....	17
<b>Mobile Phone</b> .....	17
<b>Internet</b> .....	18
<b>Electricity</b> .....	18
Transportation .....	18

Registration of residence .....	20
<b>At TU Berlin</b> .....	20
<b>At the authorities (<i>Ausländerbehörde</i>)</b> .....	20
Language .....	21
Shopping.....	23
Health, Arts and Entertainment .....	23
Working in Germany .....	24
Uni Life .....	25
TU Berlin .....	25
The Programs on EUREF Campus.....	26
The Chair for the Management of Energy and Resources .....	27
Institute for Urban Planning and Housing Munich .....	27
The Chair for Work, Technology and Participation.....	27
EUREF .....	28
Uni customs, uni laws .....	28
The first few days .....	28
Your student ID card .....	28
IT at TU Berlin: TubIT.....	29
e-Learning and the pandemic .....	30
Time and place of lectures .....	31
Exams and papers .....	31
Excursions / Company Visits / Company Presentations.....	32
Tutorials and Academic Coordinators .....	33
Semester break.....	33
Master Thesis and final grade.....	34
Student's representation and activities.....	34
Sports.....	34
Lunch .....	35
Copy shops and printing .....	35
Special requirements .....	35
Libraries .....	35
TU Berlin Main Campus Map .....	37
EUREF Campus Map.....	37
Berlin City Life .....	40
Life after Studying.....	41

## General Information

Welcome to the *Technische Universität Berlin*! Here, you will be one of the circa 35,000 students who are enrolled at TU Berlin, of whom circa 27% are foreign nationals. Currently, about 366 professors, 49 guest professors, and 2,653 research associates are involved in teaching and research. The university alumni and professor list include several US National Academies members, two National Medal of Science laureates and ten Nobel Prize winners. TU Berlin offers more than 40 bachelor's degree programs and more than 70 master's degree programs with an emphasis on engineering and natural sciences, as well as economics, social sciences, planning sciences, and humanities.<sup>1</sup>

Technische Universität Berlin  
Straße des 17. Juni 135, 10623 Berlin (Charlottenburg)

Telephone: +49 (0)30 / 314 – 0

TUBS GmbH –  
TU Berlin ScienceMarketing  
Hardenbergstr. 16 (HBS 1, room 510)  
10623 Berlin (Germany)

Phone: +49 (0)30 / 314 23288  
Fax: +49 (0)30 / 314 12323288  
Email: [contact@master-in-energy.com](mailto:contact@master-in-energy.com)

## Academic Calendar 2024 – 2025

Winter Semester: October 1 – March 31

Lecture period: October 14 – February 15

Winter Holidays: December 23 – January 4

Public Holidays:

October 3     German Unity Day

March 8       International Women's Day

Summer Semester: April 01 – September 30

Lecture period: April 15 – July 20

Public Holidays:

March 29     Good Friday

April 1        Easter Monday

May 1          Labor Day

May 9          Ascension Day

May 20        Whit Monday

---

<sup>1</sup> Edited International Student Guide 2018 TUB, p.8

Please note the difference between the semester dates and the “lecture period”. In the German system the “lecture period” is traditionally when all regular lectures take place, whereas exams, including retakes, may occur outside of this period. For more details on the exact dates, please visit [this](#) site.

## Teaching and Studies

Studying at TU Berlin (and German institutions of higher education in general) requires self-initiative. The academic program guide of your specific field of study provides information about which modules are to be taken and what type of examination is required.

Owing to the Bologna process, TU Berlin, like most German universities, has finished the transition from the old study structure to the undergraduate (Bachelor level) and graduate (Master level) program system and the curricula of the study courses have also changed accordingly. They are comprised of modules with lectures, tutorials, seminars, projects, ... etc.<sup>2</sup>

## University's Structure

The universities of Berlin are organized according to the principle of academic self-administration, the most important constituents being the Academic Senate, the Council, the Board of Curators and the President. The President acts as the head of the University and is elected by the Council for a period of two years.

Faculties independently organize their curricula, research projects, and the work plans of all employees. The deans, elected among the professors, represent their school and oversee all matters of research and teaching.

Naturally, students are engaged in university politics as well. The official and most influential student organization is the *Allgemeiner Studentenausschuss* (General Student Committee), ASTA for short, which is usually formed by a coalition of several student parties. Apart from political activities, the ASTA offers a wide range of student services and activities, such as group travel for students, inexpensive movie viewings, and much more.

---

<sup>2</sup> Edited International Student Guide 2018 TUB Berlin, p.9ff

#### TU Berlin's Faculties:

- I Humanities
- II Mathematics and Natural Sciences
- III Process Sciences
- IV Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences
- V Mechanical Engineering and Transport Systems
- VI Planning - Building - Environment
- VII Economics and Management

## Types of Courses

### Overview

The most important types of courses at TU Berlin are (Integrated) Lectures (*Vorlesung*), Tutorials (*Übung*), and Company Visits and Presentations (*Exkursion*). The main differences lie in the aim of the courses, the number of students per instructor and the kind of participation expected from the students, e.g. presentations, discussions, homework, etc. They also vary in their examination requirements, i.e. the type of examination or proof of academic achievement.

#### Lectures (*Vorlesung*)

A *Vorlesung* primarily consists of a lecture held by a professor or external expert and provides an overview of certain main points in a particular subject. Although student participation is minimal, you are always welcome to ask questions. The ratio of students to lecturers tends to be larger but can vary from one course to another. In many cases, a written exam concludes the lecture.

#### Tutorials (*Übung*)

Tutorials are designed to go into full detail concerning the theoretical material of a lecture and are usually conducted by an assisting lecturer or teaching assistant. Here the emphasis lies in the practically oriented application of what you have learned in the lecture, e.g. calculations. An *Übung* requires more interaction between the students and the instructor and your active participation is desired. The classes are generally medium in size.

An Integrated Lecture (*Integrierte Vorlesung*) combines the concept of the lecture with that of the tutorial. Hence, the lecturer is either a professor or an assisting lecturer and the lecture will be discussed during the seminar.

## The Academic Program Guide

The academic program guide sometimes referred to as the program syllabus, comes with all the relevant information: time, schedule, team, ... etc. All the modules, tutorials, excursion, company presentations, and additional information such as literature, are to be found there. The schedule is announced within the academic program guide for each specific intake as early as possible. It may be accessed through the [homepage](#) or when enrolled via our online learning platform [Moodle](#).

## Online Catalog for Additional Courses at TUB

You may take additional courses at TU Berlin, which are listed in the online course catalog - the *Vorlesungsverzeichnis*. You can find the online course catalog on the Platform [Moses](#). Although TU Berlin offers an increasing number of courses being held in English, most lectures and courses are conducted in German.

## International Student Counselling

If you need assistance in administrative matters, please contact our administrative team Sandra Lubahn, Laura Lehmann, and Alina Pfeifer.

Phone : +49 (0)30 / 314 23288

Fax : +49 (0)30 / 314 25582

Email : [contact@master-in-energy.com](mailto:contact@master-in-energy.com)

Here you may also receive a certification of passed exams (for completed modules only) and the current study account for (governmental) authorities, scholarships, BAföG, application purposes, and other important documents.

In addition, the International Student Counselling of TU Berlin is responsible for international students and provides guidance and help in all other administrative matters.

### Student Counselling

Dr. Fred Mengerling

Telephone: 314 - 24 691

Email: [fred.mengerling@tu-berlin.de](mailto:fred.mengerling@tu-berlin.de)

Room: H 0055

Tuesday, Thursday 09.30 - 12.30

### Counselling by Tutors

May Said / Yani Carmen Zegarra Jara / Ertan Ozel /  
Berra Akbas

Telephone: 314 – 24 359

Email: [binstud@international.tuberlin.de](mailto:binstud@international.tuberlin.de)

Room: H 0051

Tuesday, Thursday 09.30 - 12.30 and 13.30 - 16.30

### General Counselling and Events

Gabriela Rabe

Telephone: 314 - 24 411

Email: [gabriela.rabe@tu-berlin.de](mailto:gabriela.rabe@tu-berlin.de)

Room: H 0054

Tuesday, Thursday 09.30 - 12.30

### Extension of Residence Permits

Telephone: 314 - 24 359

Email: [binstud@international.tuberlin.de](mailto:binstud@international.tuberlin.de)

Room: H 0051

Tuesday, Thursday 09.30 - 12.30 and 13.30 - 16.30

## **Psychological Counselling of TU Berlin**

Email: [psychologische-beratung@tu-berlin.de](mailto:psychologische-beratung@tu-berlin.de)

Room: H 0059 – H 0062

Appointments are arranged through contact via e-mail

## **Counseling of TU Berlin for students with disabilities and chronic illnesses**

Email: [barrierefrei@tu-berlin.de](mailto:barrierefrei@tu-berlin.de)

Room: H 0058

Individual appointments are arranged through contact via e-mail

Open Counselling Sessions: H 0070, Tuesday 10.00 – 12.00

## **Career Service**

While studying, company presentations and visits are organized to increase your network and introduce you to selected companies and teams. You may review the companies in the academic program guides of the last intakes on the respective homepage of the [programs](#).

In addition to that, career services of TU Berlin help you plan your career while you are still studying and after graduation. They organize training workshops and events regarding topics such as applications for jobs and job start, career planning, key competencies, working abroad, etc.

The online database “[Stellenticket TU Berlin](#)” contains internships and job offers for students, practically-oriented final theses as well as traineeships and other starting positions.

TU Berlin, Career Service

Email: [career@tu-berlin.de](mailto:career@tu-berlin.de)

On site consultations: Wednesday, 13.00 – 14.30

Room: Ernst-Ruska-Building, Hardenbergstraße 36a, ER 386

Digital [Zoom consultations](#): Thursday, 10.30 – 11.30

Internet: <https://www.tu.berlin/careerservice/>



## Mentoring Program of TU Berlin for International Students

Mentoring courses are intended to make learning easier for international students at TU Berlin during the first semesters. They are offered in addition to regular courses. The mentoring program is related to the current tutorial and exercise tasks of the lecture, i.e. there is no additional homework to be done, but instead, they offer the possibility to apply the learning content of the lecture and to discuss and clarify open questions. Taught by academic staff or student tutors, they offer help related to the following topics:

- Elimination of academic difficulties
- Preparation for exams
- Orientation at the start of your studies
- Introduction to ways of learning and teaching at the university<sup>3</sup>

### Academic counsellor:

Dr. Nazir Peroz

Telephone: 314 - 27 897, Email: [peroz@tu-berlin.de](mailto:peroz@tu-berlin.de)

Room: FH 519, Wednesday 10.00 - 12.00

### Tutorial counsellor:

Jelisaweta Kamm

Telephone: 314 - 25 494

Email: [jelisaweta.kamm@campus.tu-berlin.de](mailto:jelisaweta.kamm@campus.tu-berlin.de)

Room: FH 516, Thursday 14.00 - 16.00

---

<sup>3</sup> Edited International Student Guide 2018 TUB Berlin, p.22ff

## Application Considerations

### Requirements

Admittance will only be granted to students fulfilling the official requirements. Ultimately, the contents of these programs are advanced. Have a close look at the curriculum, make sure that you feel able to cope with the workload and requirements and that you can catch up on topics, which you are not yet familiar with.

The program is made up of individuals from all over the world, with different academic backgrounds and work experience. For you to gain the most out of your study experience here in Berlin, it helps to be open to new experiences, has curiosity and eagerness to learn, independence, sensibility for culture, and a good dose of endurance – especially when it comes to tackling the bureaucracy in Germany. Also, carefully consider the following:

- Finances – Do you have enough funds to last the entire one to one and a half years for your studies, living expenses, and other financial obligations?
- Notice period – For those who are working, how long is your notice period?
- Flexible work arrangements – If you are working in Berlin, is your employer willing to allow you to take days off to attend the course and prepare for examinations? If your company is located elsewhere, does your company offer off-site working arrangements?
- Family members / significant other – Do you intend to relocate alone or with other people?

### Total estimated costs

In comparison to other major German cities such as Munich, Frankfurt or Hamburg, Berlin has a relatively low cost of living. With a monthly budget of 1000 € to 1200 €, one can manage to lead a fairly comfortable student life. That said, the shortage of accommodations in Berlin has been driving up the rent in recent years. Depending on your choice, you could pay anywhere between 350 € for a room in a shared apartment or dorm room, 600 € for a studio apartment, to 1200 € for a two-room apartment. On average, it should cost 400 € to 600 € for fair student accommodation. Beware of scam ads!

Other major expenses are food, health insurance, entertainment, possibly furniture,<sup>4</sup> household appliances, and private German language courses. Several websites provide a breakdown of these cost components, e.g. [Numbeo](#) and [Mawista](#). As of this Wintersemester 2023/24, public transportation within Berlin and Potsdam will no longer be covered under the student ticket, included in your MBA / MBL fees for the duration of your studies, meaning that it will also become part of the student's monthly expenses. (See the section on '[Fee Payment](#)' for more details.)

---

<sup>4</sup> Many private rooms and apartments in Germany are rented out unfurnished, some do not even come with a lightbulb. These are however much cheaper compared to furnished apartments.

## Potential sources of funding

There are a few ways to (partially) fund your education besides your personal savings. You could approach your employer, who may sponsor you, or design a flexible work arrangement with you such that you can continue earning while studying. There are also part-time job opportunities in Germany, although many of these usually require some degree of German proficiency.

There are also scholarships for which you may apply. Please bear in mind that the application deadlines for many scholarships are quite early, therefore please apply as soon as possible. Below is a non-exhaustive list of scholarship providers and search aggregators. There are many more which you could find like those from your home country.

- [DaKa Berlin](#)
- [TU Berlin Career](#)
- [DAAD](#)
- [Mystipendium.de](#)
- [FindAMasters.com](#)
- [E.ON - VISIT](#)

More potential sources of funding for international students [here](#) on the TU Berlin Website.

## Pre-arrival

Congratulations on getting accepted into the program! Here are some tips for you to prepare yourself for your upcoming studies and stay in Germany. Try to find some time before the beginning of the course, to find accommodation and to have your paperwork in place so that you avoid distractions from your studies once the program starts. Feel free to arrange a meeting with your administrative team after you arrive in Berlin and ask us questions – we are here to assist you.

## Visa

Many foreign students must apply for an entry visa at the German Embassy in their home countries before they arrive in Germany. We strongly suggest that you check the exact conditions and procedures at the German embassy in your home country now. As it may take months to process your visa, it is wise to book an appointment with the embassy as early as possible. Often you may apply for a visa appointment with the university's application confirmation. Please note that it is not possible to apply for a student visa upon arrival and that a tourist visa cannot be converted to a student visa. The [Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst \(DAAD\)](#) provides further Information on this.

The entry visa must be converted into a residence permit within 90 days upon arrival in Germany. More information on this will be covered under [Registration of residence and residence permit](#). Note the distinction, the visa will allow you to enter the country, the residence permit will allow you to stay for the purposes of studying.

Please follow the instructions given by the German embassy exactly to avoid rejection of your application due to incomplete documentation. When in doubt please contact the German embassy to clarify any questions before your appointment. Citizens from the EU, EFTA, and some other countries do not require an entry or student visa and can apply for the residence permit upon arrival in Germany. The regulations can be found on the website of the [German Foreign Office](#).

## Fee payment

The tuition fees cover all courses and materials. Since October 2023, the regular administration fees no longer include the semester ticket for using public transport in the Berlin city area (tariff zones ABC). Please check the [regular administration fees](#).

MBA/MBA fees can be easily paid by Flywire. Flywire provides a secure global payment network that simplifies paying your fees from your home country and countries around the world. Payment options can include bank transfers, credit cards, e-wallets and more, typically in your home currency for most countries.

Once having been admitted into the MBA/MBL program, you will be issued invoices via Dearm Apply in which a Flywire payment link can be found. The payment must be made through this link as this channel automatically includes the invoice number and applicant ID number in the payment transaction. (Otherwise the payment may not get properly processed.)



You may consider opening a new bank account, which can be easily accessed in Germany. See more on this in the section on [money and banks](#).

## Accommodation

### Dormitories

#### Studentenwerk Berlin

All official dormitories in Berlin are administered by the Studentenwerk Berlin, a state agency supporting students. The rooms are generally small studios or single rooms with shared kitchen and bathrooms. Some are also available for families. They are generally furnished with a bed, a wardrobe, a desk, and chairs. The prices of the rooms depend on size and furnishing. The average rent is about €350. The dormitories' distance to our campus does not influence the price of the room.

The first month's rent and a deposit of one and a half month's rent plus €10 administration fee in cash are due when you move in. The deposit will be refunded (depending on the room's condition) when you move out.

You can cancel it up to three weeks before the beginning of the rental agreement without any explanation. After this deadline, the Studentenwerk will charge you one month's rent. Note that dormitory rooms must always be rented for the whole semester, i.e. until the end of February/March or end of August/ September.

Apply as soon as possible with your student ID (or, if this is not yet available, with your letter of admission):

#### [Studentenwerk Berlin](#)

Consulting & Service Point, Hardenbergstr. 34, Room 6, D-10623 Berlin

email: [infopoint@studentenwerk-berlin.de](mailto:infopoint@studentenwerk-berlin.de).

#### Private Dormitories

Other private dormitory options are the [Student Village Schlachtensee](#) or the [House of Nations](#) where you have to apply independently<sup>5</sup>.

---

<sup>5</sup> Edited International Student Guide 2018 TUB Berlin, p.26

### Temporary Residence

If you need a temporary place to stay until a room in a student residence is free, you may book an inexpensive stay in a hostel or youth hotel. Look out for the [Tourist Information Berlin](#) or the [German Youth Hostel Association \(DJH\)](#).

### HousingAnywhere

The platform [HousingAnywhere](#) offers a choice of furnished accommodation that you can securely book online. The booking confirmation is also valid as proof of an address for your visa application. To help you find and book your new home abroad from trusted advertisers, TU Berlin recommends HousingAnywhere, the international booking platform for student accommodation. HousingAnywhere works together with universities and institutions worldwide to help international talents easily and safely book their room abroad by connecting them with outgoing exchange students, private landlords and host families. HousingAnywhere was created to allow everyone to book a room from ANYWHERE, you do not even have to visit the apartment in person. All listings include clear descriptions of what is included in the price and what is not. Tenants pay the 1st month's rent and booking fee online to HousingAnywhere which transfers the rent to the advertiser only 48 hours after the tenant moves in. This way both tenants and advertisers are safe and secure! In case the room is not as advertised, tenants are 100% reimbursed.

Sign-up [here](#) to receive:

- A 20% discount on the booking fee
- A partner student badge that grants you priority access to all rooms;
- Real time notifications on any new room available;
- Priority assistance via [vip@housinganywhere.com](mailto:vip@housinganywhere.com)

In Berlin, it is quite usual for students to live in shared apartments. You can live in an apartment with friends or even strangers, whom you would often get to know in an interview before moving in. Here are some additional links you may find useful, for single as well as shared apartments:

Flat-share Agencies / Helpful Websites

- City Mitwohnzentrale, Linienstraße 111, 10115 Berlin, Tel. +49 -30 - 19 430,  
Homepage: [www.city-mitwohnzentrale.com](http://www.city-mitwohnzentrale.com)  
E-Mail: [berlin@city-mitwohnzentrale.com](mailto:berlin@city-mitwohnzentrale.com)
- Zeitraum Wohnkonzepte, Immanuelkirchstr. 8, 10405 Berlin (Prenzlauer Berg), Tel. +49 - 30 - 441 66 22 (Prenzlauer Berg),  
Tel. +49 30- 322 33 00 (Charlottenburg)  
Homepage: [www.zeit-raum.de](http://www.zeit-raum.de)  
E-Mail: [info@zeit-raum.de](mailto:info@zeit-raum.de)
- Websites:
  - [www.studenten-wg.de/](http://www.studenten-wg.de/)
  - [www.studenten-wohnung.de/](http://www.studenten-wohnung.de/)
  - [www.wohngemeinschaft.de/](http://www.wohngemeinschaft.de/)

- [www.wg-gesucht.de/](http://www.wg-gesucht.de/)
- <https://www.kleinanzeigen.de/>
- [www.immowelt.de/](http://www.immowelt.de/)
- [www.freiraum-berlin.com](http://www.freiraum-berlin.com)
- [www.immobilienscout24.de](http://www.immobilienscout24.de)
- [www.coming-home.org/](http://www.coming-home.org/)
- [www.craigslist.org](http://www.craigslist.org)

Finding suitable housing on the free market is getting more difficult every year – so please plan enough time for your search. When trying to find a place for your own, beware of scam ads, particularly in the most popular sites for shared apartments.

## Health Insurance

To get enrolled at the TU Berlin, you will have to prove enough health insurance if you are under 30 years old.

From 01.01.2022, the electronic exchange of reports will take place between the statutory health insurance funds and the universities for those with statutory insurance in Germany. If you are required to provide current proof of health insurance, please contact your current health insurance company and arrange for it to be reported to the TU Berlin.

If you have not yet reached the age of 30, you will need proof of health insurance to enroll at the TU Berlin. To do this, contact a German statutory health insurance company. They will send the TU Berlin a notification about your health insurance status.

You are NOT legally insured in Germany!

If you are not subject to compulsory insurance in Germany, for example, because you are privately insured or insured abroad (e.g. EHIC, German-Turkish Social Security Agreement), then you will require an exemption from compulsory insurance in Germany. Please contact a statutory health insurance fund of your choice, quoting our dispatch number H0002271, and arrange for the notification of exemption to be sent to TU Berlin.

Important information:

- An exemption from compulsory insurance is valid for the entire duration of your studies in Germany and cannot be revoked. Please keep a certificate of exemption. Exception: If there is at least one month without student status between de-registration from the previous degree program and enrolment in a new degree program, then you can decide again whether you want to be exempted from compulsory insurance or whether you want to be insured by law.
- If you take up employment or self-employment in Germany, you must be insured according to the regulations that apply here.

- Proof of existing private health insurance or existing health insurance abroad (e.g. EHIC, German-Turkish Social Security Agreement) will NOT be recognized for services and will be rejected.

Here you can read about it again: <https://www.tu.berlin/go1328/>

This means that students must contact the health insurance company and arrange for electronic transmission - this can always take some time - so always stay in contact with the respective health insurance company!

### **Students from EU / EEA countries and Switzerland**

If you are a citizen of another European Union state, you can be waived from the German statutory health insurance requirement. If you have a form with the title "E 111" or a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), or if you have statutory health insurance in your home country, please go to any German statutory health insurance provider and obtain a waiver. This will change if you get employed or if you start self-employment in Germany. In this case, you must be insured according to German law.

### **Students from Other Countries**

If you have statutory or private health insurance in your home country or you have private or family health insurance in Germany, you can go to any German statutory health insurance provider to obtain a waiver.

Important information: The waiver cannot be rescinded; it applies for the entire duration of your studies in Germany.

### **Health insurances providers**

List of all German statutory Health Insurance Provider:

<https://www.krankenkassen.de/gesetzliche-krankenkassen/krankenkassen-liste/>

Providers near TU Berlin:

[AOK, Barmer, TK](#)

Note that applicants above 30 years old are not eligible for German public health insurance unless there is proof of "previous insurance" covering either a total of 24 months within the last five years or at least one year (12 months) uninterrupted insurance prior to registration with a German statutory health insurance organization.



## Upon Arrival

First, please come see us – we will be delighted to welcome you in person.  
Contact us via mail for an appointment.

## Money, banks, and business

Make sure you have access to enough funds especially in the first couple of weeks or even months. Students from outside the EU are often required by the German embassy to open a blocked account to receive a visa, but only gain access to this account after [registration of residence](#). To make sure you have a sufficient amount of money at the beginning of your stay, we advise you to take precautions and either carry an emergency amount of cash or make sure that you can get cash sent to you via other channels, perhaps via money transfer or other bank cards from which you can withdraw money internationally.,.

In Germany, we pay either in cash or more commonly by EC cards (a card system currently specific to Germany and a few other countries), which you will get once you have a valid account in a bank in Germany.

In general, banks are closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays while shops are closed by law on Sundays and public holidays. October 3rd is such a public holiday (Unification Day). Nevertheless, many restaurants, gas stations, and convenience stores (*Späti*) are open on Sundays and public holidays.

For certain transactions you will need your proof of address (*Anmeldebestätigung*.) in addition to your national ID (for EU students) or passport (for non-EU students), so we suggest you carry a the *Anmeldebestätigung* and ID or passport whenever you intend to deal with official authorities or when looking for an apartment.

Students who are required to open a blocked account should do so either with an online service, such as Fintiba, or Deutsche Bank. You may find further information regarding the blocked account [here](#).<sup>6</sup>

You may generally opt for opening a bank account in Germany anyway. This can be done at one of several online banks. You can find an overview [here](#). Many students have also reported good experiences with [TransferWise](#), which allows you several options for transferring funds. Please note that some of the online banks will not accept customers from certain countries. Due to the tax code, the United States may be problematic, other countries face political challenges.

For those who prefer brick and mortar, you may go to the Sparkasse, Berliner Volksbank, or Commerzbank. Local branch offices have excellent services for students, such as no-commission savings accounts, online banking, ... etc.

---

<sup>6</sup> We do not endorse any service, this is intended to provide you with the best possible information.

**Deutsche Bank**

Otto-Suhr-Allee 6/16, 10585 Berlin (Charlottenburg)

Telephone: 34 07 - 0

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10.00 - 18.00

Wednesday, Friday 10.00 - 16.00

**Berliner Sparkasse**

Rankestr. 33-34, 10789 Berlin (Charlottenburg)

Telephone: 869 869 69

Monday, Thursday 09.30 - 18.00

and Friday 09.30 - 16.00

**Berliner Volksbank FinanzCenter**

Kurfürstendamm 46, 10707 Berlin (Charlottenburg)

Telephone: 306 3330 0

Monday through Friday 10.00 – 18.00

**Commerzbank**

Tauentzienstraße 9, 10789 Berlin (Charlottenburg)

Telephone: 230 853 0

Monday, Wednesday 09.00 - 16.00

Tuesday, Thursday 09.00 - 18.00

Friday 09.00 - 14.00

## Communication

### Mobile Phone

A local SIM-card and phone number are advisable. Prepaid SIM-cards are sold over the counter at discounters such as ALDI, Kaufland or Lidl, and for most mobile carriers (T-Mobile, Vodafone, O2, etc.) you must have proof of residency to acquire a contract. Electronic retailers such as Saturn or MediaMarkt offer prepaid over-the-counter SIM-cards as well. Please make sure we always have your current phone number(s), address, and email address.

The country code of Germany is +49. Berlin landlines begin with “030”. Mobile phone numbers start with “01” in Germany. When calling landlines from mobile phones, dial 030+phone number. All TU Berlin landlines phone numbers begin with 314, for example, +49-30-314-23096.

For police, emergencies dial 110. For medical and fire emergencies dial 112.

### **Internet**

The TU Berlin hosts [EDUROAM](#) (world-wide roaming access service) on the main campus and our own free Wi-Fi on the EUREF campus; we will provide you with the access codes upon arrival.

### **Electricity**

Electricity in Germany and Europe, in general, is 230 V, 50 Hz. Most chargers for laptops, cell phones, and general appliances work with 110 V and 60 Hz as well as 230 V and 50 Hz (information is either etched onto the charger itself or printed on a sticker) but be sure to check that before plugging a device in, to avoid accidents or being stranded without a charger for your device. You can purchase plug adapters upon arrival at the airport. Often you can exchange the cable between wall socket and charger. Some find it clever to bring a multi-socket from home.

### **Transportation**

As of this Wintersemester 2023/24, semester fees for students of the TU Berlin no longer cover the use of public transportation in Berlin and Brandenburg. This decision was made by the TU Berlin student parliament, leaving it to the Berlin Senate to ensure that mobility is guaranteed for all students. In the future a 29 Euro ticket for the AB area and a 19 Euro ticket for students in Berlin should be offered.

Until then, here are some monthly ticket alternatives for students:

- [The BVG Deutschlandticket](#): 49 €/month, includes all public transport, including regional transport.
- The [Jobticket](#) (discounted Deutschlandticket) for a maximum of 34.30 €/month through your employer.
- [The BVG Monatskarte Ausbildung](#): For trainees and students, starting at 61 €/month, depending on the desired fare zone in Berlin.
- [The VBB Umweltkarte](#): starting at 91 €/month, depending on the desired fare zone in Berlin.

You can find an overview of all the [VBB monthly cards](#) and the [BVG ticket options](#) online on their websites. Regardless of its type, your ticket must be provided upon control.

Berlin has much to offer and not only within its city limits! Public transport is very reliable, and generally a good option and safe to use, even at night; on the weekends, many underground and bus lines run all night. Find out when and where public transport goes on the website of the [BVG](#), where announcements about scheduled works and delays are published as well.

You can also download the BVG smartphone app for on-the-go consultations and real-time notifications on any delays. Their app considers closed lines, construction work, or delays and automatically offers an alternative route. Google Maps also offers accurate directions.

The main means of transport are *U-Bahn* (tube/subway); *S-Bahn* (city railway); *Straßenbahn* (tram); *Bus* (bus), and, for larger distances, *Regionalexpress* (regional train). The German railway system is owned and operated by [Deutsche Bahn](#).

If you are planning to rent or buy a car in Germany (or join one of the many car-sharing services), you must have an International Driving License. This is only valid for the first six months, after which you must obtain a German license. (If your license was issued from outside of the EU.) Remember that for renting anything, you will be asked to prove your residence within Germany (i.e. bring confirmation of registration of residence, your *Anmeldebestätigung*).

The rather well-developed bike lane system and the flat city landscape make cycling easy and enjoyable, and many students find cycling to be an efficient form of transport here in Berlin. There are plenty of places that rent out bicycles or you can buy a new or second-hand one, online or on a flea market. Be sure to invest in a decent bike lock, since bike theft is a common issue. Second-hand vendors should provide a proof of purchase/origin of the bike.

An alternative is to sign up for a city bike service. These bikes are available at special stations throughout the city. The registration is free of charge. Before renting your first bike, you will be required to deposit a credit of 1 € which can be used in all fare types. These are very practical since you don't have to worry about them once you return them to a station, you can use this service in all the other cities that have it available as well. The entire service can be accessed via a smartphone app, which makes it very practical: [Deezer nextbike](#).

However, this changes every few years, and free providers are becoming more and more. Here is another tip: [Swapfiets](#). The concept is based on a typical story: a few friends had a good idea - and have implemented it! The idea is simple. For a fixed amount per month, starting at € 19,90, you get a swapfiet and they make sure your swapfiets always works. All bikes have the original blue front wheel. They also offer a long-term rental including repairs for € 17.50 a month.

On the EUREF Campus, many companies are offering to lease electric scooters and electric shared cars – check them out! An important route for us is the bus line M46, which runs from the EUREF campus to TU main campus every ten minutes.

## Registration of residence

Germany is a bureaucratic country, so get the paperwork done as soon as you can! It's an obstacle as bureaucracy always is, so attack this giant early. It is best to book an appointment online at the [Service Portal Berlin](#). Please be aware that the process to take an appointment might take some time.

International students, who are not EU citizens, and who live in Germany for a period exceeding 3 months are required to obtain a residence permit if they did not get a visa for the whole time of their stay. This applies equally to students who applied for a study or entry visa before entering the country since this visa expires after 3 months. You can apply for the residence permit either through TU Berlin or at the office of the responsible authorities (*Ausländerbehörde*).

### At TU Berlin

We suggest also to use TUB service on this issue. The advantage is that it is on the main campus and the process is facilitated by the university; the disadvantage is that it takes about four weeks to finally receive the residence permit, during which you must leave your passport there. For further residence permit questions or to make an appointment, you can reach our colleagues at [binstud@international.tu-berlin.de](mailto:binstud@international.tu-berlin.de).

### At the authorities (*Ausländerbehörde*)

Here the advantage is that you will receive your residence permit on the same day you apply and have a wonderful opportunity to get acquainted with the proverbial German bureaucracy. The disadvantage is that the *Ausländerbehörde* (Foreigner's Registration Office) is not located in the university's vicinity and that you always have to wait in line no matter how early you get there.

You need (including copies!):

- Valid passport
- A recent biometric photo (passport-size)
- Application form (Antrag auf Erteilung eines Aufenthaltstitels)
- Proof of financial support
- Proof of health insurance
- Certificate of enrollment, admission letter or student ID card (ID Card is desired!)
- Proof of primary residence in Berlin
- Application fee: 100 € for the initial issuance of the residence permit and 93 € for extension

**Ausländerbehörde des  
Landeseinwohneramts**  
Keplerstraße 2, 10589 Berlin  
Telephone: 90269 - 4000  
Email: [abh@labo.berlin.de](mailto:abh@labo.berlin.de)  
Hours:  
Monday 7 am–2 pm  
Tuesday 7 am–2 pm  
Wednesday 8 am–2 pm  
Thursday 9 am–5 pm  
Friday 8 am–12 pm

Newcomers in Berlin, as well as Berliners relocating within the city, are obliged to register their new residence at any local citizen center (*Bürgeramt*). For this, you need

a document from your landlord (*Wohnungsgeberbestätigung* - lease confirmation).<sup>7</sup> Do this as soon as possible: the legal requirement is within 14 days; however, this can be flexible if there is a longer waiting time to secure an appointment at the *Bürgeramt* (which more than certainly is the case). You need this registration document for all other bureaucratic issues.

For a list of bureaucratic terms, see table (1).

German	English
Landeseinwohneramt	Residence registration authority
Meldestelle	Local registration office
Anmeldung	Registration
Formular	Form
Anmeldeformular	Registration form
Mietvertrag	Rent contract
Aufenthaltserlaubnis	Residence permit
Zulassungsbescheid	Admission letter
Immatrikulationsbescheinigung	Enrolment certificate (from uni)
Arbeitsvertrag	Employment contract
Kontoauszug	Bank statement
Befristet	Temporary
Unbefristet	Permanent

Table 1: German terms relating to registration

You can go to any *Bürgeramt* in the city, it does not have to be the one nearest to where you live. The *Bürgeramt* in the Schöneberg Town Hall has been recommended for two reasons: first, it is within walking distance from the EUREF-Campus; and second, they have an antique ‘*paternoster*’-elevator in the back of the building which still runs so you can go for a round and another round and another round while you wait for your appointment. At the end of the process, you will receive a “*Meldebestätigung*”, i.e. your proof of registration of residence, which serves as your proof of address and registration here in Germany. You can find further information in English [here](#).

Keeping a (digital) copy of your registration confirmation with you is recommended, along with a copy of your passport, visa, and other important documents. It is also useful for libraries and other institutions/companies, which may wish to see proof of address to register you and let you borrow or rent material.

## Language

Companies, which are hiring, expect you to speak German or at least be open and active about acquiring proficiency. Most Germans speak English in various degrees of fluency.

---

<sup>7</sup> Effectively a document stating that you stay at a certain address signed by anyone registered here.

Polish, Turkish, Arabic, Spanish, Russian, and French are among the most common other languages, and there are communities from all over the world in the city. Improving your language skills is always advisable, living in a country where the language you are trying to learn is spoken is the easiest way to learn a language. Even if you are not planning (yet) on staying in Germany after your studies, improving your language skills will always be a plus on your CV. To really learn a foreign language and to improve one's level of knowledge, taking classes is essential. Recommendable online English-German dictionaries are [Pons](#), [Leo](#), and [dict.cc](#), for whole phrases and context [linguee.de](#); the authoritative German-German database is [duden.de](#). For specific terminology and technical terms, use the multilingual database of the European Commission [IATE](#). Signposts, street signs, and many websites are in German only. LEO and DeepL offer a smartphone app to translate from many different languages into German (i.e. from Spanish, English, Russian, Italian, Chinese, etc.); they are free and work on both Android and iOS devices.

The course instruction and common language on the EUREF Campus between students, supervisors, lecturers, and professors is English. The TUB has certain recommendations regarding the style of writing in English, which can be found on the website of the [TU International Affairs](#). Since the program's language is English, you will likely improve your command of this language as well.

The TU student organization "Language and Culture Exchange" ([Sprach-und Kulturbörse, SKB](#)) promotes the exchange of cultural and linguistic knowledge in Berlin. They offer cultural events and inexpensive language courses for all students of Berlin universities. Once enrolled, you can register for one of the many language courses and clubs at the TU. Address for registration: Sprach- und Kulturbörse der TU Berlin, Hardenbergstr. 36, room EW024, 10623 Berlin. Courses are offered at various time intervals, but we strongly recommend registering for such courses first thing at the beginning of the semester. German beginner classes might be held on the EUREF campus; we will inform you about the enrollment procedure at the beginning of term. These classes nevertheless cost a small fee. For practicing any language skills, you may want to visit the [Culture Café](#) or Kulturcafé organized by SKB.

Here are some private schools that are also recommended:

- [Goethe-Institut](#)
- [Deutschakademie](#)
- [Babylonia](#)
- [Die deutSCHule](#)
- [Berlin Volkshochschule \(VHS\)](#)

The latter (VHS) is the government's low-cost alternative to learn pretty much anything. They have integration courses for immigrants, language courses, craft courses among many other things.



## Shopping

Since Berlin is a capital city, there is hardly anything you cannot find or a specialty shop for it. Besides the more mainstream shopping centers such as KaDeWe, Alexa, or Mall of Berlin, there are many other shopping areas as well as countless shops for anything you would like to purchase. Vintage and second-hand shops are popular and can be found all over the city, for example, [Humana](#). Vegetarian, vegan, halal, organic shops and restaurants with cuisine from all over the world can be found easily. For electronics, see Conrad Electronics, Saturn or MediaMarkt. The food section at [KaDeWe](#) is well-known in Berlin. You are likely to find specialties from your countries here. (This is more a novelty than a real suggestion.) For groceries and household necessities, there are numerous supermarkets all over Berlin. The most budget-conscious students can check out Aldi, Lidl, Penny, and Netto. Mid-range ones include Edeka, Rewe, Kaufland, and Real. It is easy to find organic and vegan food in the mid-range supermarkets and specialized stores such as Bio Company and Alnatura. There are plenty of Turkish and Asian supermarkets as well as outdoor markets too.

For clothes, shoes, and everything else, Schloßstraße in Steglitz is a popular address, between U-Walther-Schreiber-Platz and S-Rathaus Steglitz. Alexanderplatz is another good, mid-range shopping area. Top-notch brands can be found around Kurfürstendamm, or “Kudamm” as we call it in Berlin. If you are out for a more serious shopping trip, there is the [Berlin Designer Outlet](#) approximately one hour away, but still covered under the transport semester ticket.<sup>8</sup> [Dussmann](#) in Friedrichstraße near S-Friedrichstraße offers a comprehensive selection of new English fiction and non-fiction books, language course books, city guides, and of course all kinds of books in German. Many second-hand bookshops stock literature in foreign languages.

If you need to furnish your new room/apartment, you can find furniture at Ikea, Bauhaus, second-hand shops, flea markets, Facebook groups (e.g. sell your stuff), and [Kleinanzeigen](#). Some people might want to consider buying a bicycle in this bicycle-friendly city. A second-hand bicycle will cost between 70 € and 200 €.

## Health, Arts and Entertainment

The German health care system is among the best in the world. Your health insurance allows you to access all its services. You can find a list of hospitals in Berlin [online](#). Some hospitals offer special services for international patients as well.

The closest doctor’s clinic to our campus is [“Gemeinschaftspraxis Kaiser-Wilhelm-Platz”](#), at Kaiser-Wilhelm-Platz 1-2 (wheelchair accessible).

There are about 40 emergency stations (Notaufnahmen) in Berlin that are available for emergency use 24 hours a day; follow this [link](#) to find them.

---

<sup>8</sup> It is located within zone C of the transport network.



In Germany, there are drug stores (“*Drogerie*”) such as DM or Rossmann, selling health-care products that are unrestricted as well as personal hygiene products; and then there are pharmacies (“*Apotheke*”), which are run by university-trained pharmacists, who can fill prescriptions and can usually advise you professionally and point you to the nearest doctor. In Europe, the markets for pharmaceuticals are still separate by country. That means that the instructions are often in German only. Often prices for pharmaceuticals vary considerably within Europe.

Throughout the city, you can find emergency pharmacies (Notapotheker) doing night shifts and weekend services. Every day (or night), alternate pharmacies provide this service; the address of the nearest one is always on display on the outside of any pharmacies. You can also find the opening hours and addresses of the emergency pharmacies in each area by clicking on your area (*Bezirk*) on [this website](#).

## Working in Germany

According to §16 of Germany’s “[Aufenthaltserlaubnisgesetz](#)”, Students from outside of the E.U. are allowed to work in Germany up to 120 full days or 240 half days (a full day is 8 hours) per year without a permit. Lecture times are scheduled purposely to allow for some leeway; however, consider that in addition to the lectures, you will need time for preparation, practice, and general studying: these are all full-time study programs.

TU Berlin offers only limited career services. You may want to browse for jobs offered by the [government’s job search engine](#). Actual jobs within TU Berlin can be found on the [respective website](#).

There are many companies and start-ups on the campus, many of whom have employed students in the past. A comprehensive list can be found on the [EUREF website](#). Don’t be shy to approach these or other companies in English. We also have a blackboard on the campus where internships and networking events are posted.

As for student’s jobs, there are plenty of websites and TU Berlin has its own student’s job center “[Heinzelmännchen](#)” (Hardenbergstraße 34, 10623 Berlin) for the usual student jobs.

After graduating, you may extend your *Aufenthaltserlaubnis* (residency permit) for up to another 18 months to seek a position in this country. For this, you must prove that you are applying for positions. During this period, you may work outside your profession. On this issue as on all other issues, check with the [International Student Counseling](#) service of TU Berlin.

## Uni Life

### TU Berlin

Committed to the principles of excellence and quality, TU Berlin offers outstanding performance in research, teaching, and excellent skills for the students. The Technical University of Berlin is consistently ranked among the top academic institutions in the world. Notable alumni include Carl Bosch, Gustav Hertz, and many other noble prize winners and entrepreneurs.

These programs uniquely link the natural and technical sciences with economics and social sciences, producing talents that are the technological world leaders of the future.

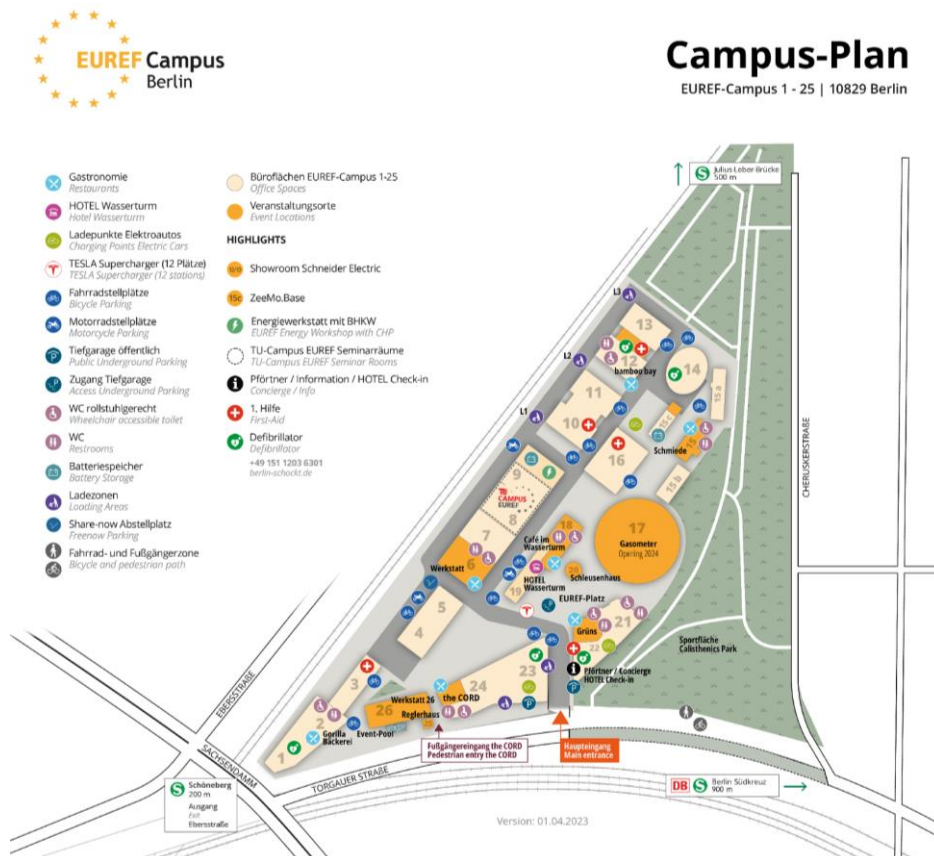
For more information about the various programs offered, please visit [the TU website on lectures and other events](#). As a member of TU Berlin, you are free to attend additional lectures and courses in any faculty. The main campus Charlottenburg of TU Berlin is situated in the heart of the “City West” area around Ernst Reuter Platz, not far from the Zoologischer Garten station and Kurfürstendamm. It is the largest contiguous inner-city university campus in Europe. The majority of the TU Berlin institutes and the main administrative building, the international student counseling, and [Studentenwerk](#)<sup>9</sup> offices are located here. The largest *Mensa* (student canteen) in Berlin, the main library, and the economics library are situated here too. In addition to the main campus, there are two other campuses in Berlin, in Wedding and Schöneberg. The lessons for the energy-related English language MBA and MBL programs are mainly conducted on the EUREF Campus in Schöneberg. Information on the campus’ locations and public transport connections can be found on the TU website. [TU campus plans](#) can be found there as well.

---

<sup>9</sup> Their websites provide information on housing, job search, and so forth.

## The Programs on EUREF Campus

The main study location is on the site of the European Energy Forum (EUREF) around the historical Gasometer in Berlin-Schöneberg. The exact address is “EUREF-Campus 9, 10829 Berlin”. The Campus is the setting of an innovative community including applied research, economic, and policy consultancies mainly based on the philosophy of sustainability.



The advanced master programs that TU holds at the campus Schöneberg /EUREF have their own organizational structure since they are interdisciplinary in scope. Instead of being in one of TU's main faculties (I-VIII), they are supervised by a Joint Commission ('GKmE') with members from all faculties involved. The chairman of this Joint Commission is Prof. Joachim Müller-Kirchenbauer, who is hence considered the dean. The organization of financial matters etc. lies in the responsibility of TUBS GmbH, a limited company, and a subsidiary of the TU Berlin.

The coordinators of the EUREF programs have their office in Charlottenburg, **Hardenbergstrasse 16, 5th floor, rooms 507- 510**. Please make an appointment before seeing your coordinators there, so that we can be well-prepared. The academic team will especially be helpful when it comes to discussing master thesis and other academic questions.

## The Chair for the Management of Energy and Resources

Prof. Müller-Kirchenbauer chairs the [Department for the Management of Energy and Resources](#) centrally positioned at the Faculty for Technology and Management (faculty VII). The chair tackles energy issues simultaneously from the angles of technology and management. It unites the competences of engineering and planning on the one hand side and of management on the other and is thus well-positioned to help to realize central elements of TU Berlin's Strategy for the Future, which identifies Energy Systems and Sustainable Resource Management as a core research topic and contributes to the successful realization of the "*Energiewende*" in Germany and worldwide. Prof. Müller-Kirchenbauer's professional track record includes creation and establishment of the Chair for Gas Supply at the [Institute for Petroleum Engineering](#) TU Clausthal, Deputy Director Energy Regulation at the German [Federal Network Agency](#), consultancy projects for German and European regulators and ministries such as the [European Commission](#), and a leading role at the [Research Centre Jülich](#).

## Institute for Urban Planning and Housing Munich

Prof. Julian Wékel is the director of the Institute for Urban Planning and Housing Munich (ISW) run by the German Academy for Urban and Regional Spatial Planning, where he is also the Scientific Secretary and member of the executive committee. He has worked for more than 20 years in leading positions of planning authorities in Hamburg, Frankfurt, and finally, Berlin, where he was planning director from 1992 until 2001, responsible for the entire urban planning and city development. From 2001 until 2016 he taught urban design and strategic planning at the University of Technology Darmstadt and was a dean at the Faculty of Architecture. Furthermore, his long-term comprehensive experiences in city planning have brought him to universities in China, France, the United States, and Vietnam as a guest professor or lecturer. Prof. Wékel's current academic interests focus on the practical requirements of the complex term "sustainability." Specifically, the challenging combination of its multifaceted economic, social, ecological, cultural, and technological dimensions within the field of urban development and as a global challenge for integrated planning approaches and strategies.

## The Chair for Work, Technology and Participation

Prof. Hans-Liudger Dienel, academic director of the Master in Sustainable Mobility Management, chairs the Department for Work, Technology, and Participation in Faculty I (Humanities and Education) at TU Berlin. He was the director of the Center for Technology and Society and president of the International Association for the History of Transport, Traffic, and Mobility. His department covers both technological and managerial aspects of transport and mobility. He is an expert for the future of transport and mobility, transport policies, sustainable development, and stakeholder engagement. In the last years, Prof. Dienel and his staff were involved in numerous international, European, and national projects on these subjects. The chair runs an

advanced research group on the future of mobility, vocational studies, and industry forecasts.

## EUREF

EUREF is an acronym for the [European Energy Forum](#), a private initiative on the former Schöneberg gasworks area, now a live laboratory for the *Energiewende* and home to research institutes and businesses, that are active in the areas of energy efficiency and mobility. Among these are the [Mercator Institute](#), [Schneider Electric](#), [Deutsche Bahn](#), and [Cisco](#), to mention a few. The campus is a popular destination for conferences and symposia; it is about energy, but also synergy. TU runs English language advanced masterclasses on this campus, and the TU Forschungscampus (TU Research Campus) is developing an integrated energy and mobility concept: The local smart grid and energy system of the campus supplies all the buildings with carbon-neutral energy, using wind, solar, and biogas, intelligent load management, and a micro smart grid. The electric vehicles on the premises are part of applied research on “mobility-2-grid”. Many of the buildings on the campus have been newly built in recent years and are LEED-certified efficient buildings. The deployment of renewables covers up to 80-95 % of the campus’ energy consumption. For sports on the campus, there is a beach volleyball court and a fitness center.

## Uni customs, uni laws

The earliest predecessor of our university was founded in 1770, so there is a long history and some academic customs worth knowing (since they may differ from the ones in your home county). For example, students never clap hands at the end of a lecture but knock on the table instead. Note that your coming late may leave a negative impression with the lecturer and with your fellow students whom you disturb. The same code of conduct is expected for online classes.

## The first few days

We will start the master’s program jointly with a few days of orientation, where we will show you the main campus in Charlottenburg, the EUREF-campus in Schöneberg, the main institutions, libraries, and the city and introduce you to the IT system and facilities on the campus. You will meet your class – excellent people from all over the world with whom you will spend quite a lot of time in the first academic year. All have work experience in their field of studies – backgrounds vary considerably. Your fellow students constitute the core of your valuable future global network in the energy sector.

## Your student ID card

Upon enrollment, you will be issued a matriculation number and a student ID card. The card serves as both your TU Berlin student ID and your TU Berlin library card. It is covered by your enrollment fee and is mailed to you once you have activated your tubIT account and sent to your address in Berlin unless you choose to have it sent to the office (Main Campus, Building FH) for it to be picked up there.

There are many digits on these cards, of which six are printed slightly larger than the rest – these six digits are your “*Matrikelnummer*”, i.e. your matriculation number; you will often be asked to provide it, for examples in exams, which are anonymous to help your supervisors with impartial correction.

The computer pools at TU Berlin are open to all students and administered by TU Berlin's IT-Service-Center tubIT. Permission to use the computer rooms does not come automatically with your admission to study. When picking up your student ID card you will also receive an information letter containing a password with which you will be able to set up your tubIT Email account. Once you have set up your account you are also allowed to use the computer pools of TU Berlin. If you are already registered with Eduroam you will also be able to use it at TU Berlin.

The Mensa Card is the only way to pay your meals in the main student cafeteria (Mensa) and you can also use it in the Studentenwerk's cafeterias throughout the campus of TU Berlin and all the other universities in town. Unfortunately, there is no opportunity to use this card on the EUREF Campus.

To obtain a Mensa Card you need:

- TU Student ID Card/ Admission Letter
- €1,55 (deposit)

You can obtain the card at the registers in the TU Mensa, preferably between 11.15 and 11.45 or 13.30 and 14.30 when it is less busy.

The deposit will be refunded after you return the card. The card can be charged with money through the machines in the foyer of the Mensa (ground floor) and the area of the food counters (first floor, near the registers).

If you lose your student ID card, you must go to the 'campus center' in the university's main building in Charlottenburg. They will help you out.

#### **Campus Center**

(Room 0030, TU main building).

Opening hours:

Mo - Thur: 9:30 bis 15:00

Fri: 9:30 bis 14:00

## **IT at TU Berlin: TubIT**

Upon enrollment, you will specify a password which of course will be eminently important – you will need your password for all these services so make sure to remember it! There are many [IT services](#) you can use, such as tubCloud for central server storage of all your data (even private, music, etc.) so that you can work from everywhere and backup your data. You can also use that to create and maintain your own literature list online. The IT service department at TU Berlin is called TubIT; they



run a one-stop-shop at the main campus where you can go if you need IT support at Einsteinufer 17 / Building EN Room 024 on the main campus Charlottenburg.

The online learning platform of TU is called Moodle, where you will find all information regarding the schedule, the modules, and the lectures as well as most of the relevant materials. All students have access to the platform, which is administrated by the directors of study, supervisors, and project assistants. The first thing you must do is fill out your profile including a picture and introduce yourself with a forum post. There is a 'news forum' (or 'announcements' forum) to which you will be automatically subscribed so that you receive an additional email whenever an announcement is posted on that thread. There is also a "general discussion" forum from which you may or may not opt-out; this is where you should post your questions if you believe them to be relevant for all members of your program. This forum will also reach professors, supervisors, research assistants, lecturers, and everyone else in your program.

A short introduction to Moodle and the other IT services will be given to you at the beginning of the course. Setting those up properly and understanding the functionality is a must-have. Check the online platform frequently, ideally daily, since this is where crucial information for your course will be uploaded. Make sure you check in the lecture-free time periods between semesters as well, so that you don't miss any deadlines. If something has been posted there, it is considered "delivered", and you have been informed. Sometimes, lecturers or supervisors prefer the online delivery over oral announcements, in case of absence of some students in in-house events, whereas everyone is on Moodle.

There are several networking/alumni groups on platforms such as LinkedIn, which you are invited to join once enrolled. In the past, students have also set up their own groups on other networking platforms, which you are of course free to do.

## **e-Learning and the pandemic**

In the summer semester of 2021, we had to shift our teaching media from the very dynamic learning atmosphere on campus almost completely to online teaching and learning. The already present e-learning platform Moodle stayed the main platform for the exchange of course material as well as submission of assignments and completion of certain written examinations. Since winter semester 2021/2022, we switched back to in-person classes on campus, providing online access to course material to students who may not be able to make it to Germany on time due to visa issues. Should the German government, the state of Berlin, or the TUB have certain rules, which prohibit in-person classes for a given period of time, we will be well-prepared to implement online classes – whether live or recorded – so that you are able to benefit from all course content as expected. In such a case, you would have pre-recorded videos as lecture material, live online lectures in one virtual classroom per class, several "break-out sessions" serving as separate virtual rooms for group discussions and/or you would be working on projects individually or in groups. More methods of online learning would be added as is seen as didactically fit for your courses.

## **Time and place of lectures**

The lectures of the course are generally scheduled to take place in building number 9 (Haus 9), ground floor, EUREF Campus. Lecture schedules vary slightly according to your program. Details are published in the “The Academic Program Guide. Please be on time to avoid disturbance to the class. Furthermore, punctuality is highly regarded in Germany. During the lecture, you must, of course, abstain from using your mobile phones. Lectures may be recorded for internal use. Lecture attendance is strongly recommended whereas tutorials and peer group sessions are optional. Each module will end with a written examination, paper, or presentation based on the contents of the lectures. You may bring laptops or other electronic learning devices. Free Wi-Fi is available on campus and you can access the seminar rooms outside of lecture times (08:00 - 17:00 hours during weekdays) for studying and discussions. Photocopy and scanning machines are available on campus for a small fee or for free.

Lecture materials will be uploaded for you on the online platform Moodle as soon as we receive them from the lecturers. To some extent, you will be provided the course materials in print as well. Please understand that because lecturers prepare their lectures fresh for every session, the material most often is uploaded directly before the lecture rather than in advance.

## **Exams and papers**

Each module concludes with an examination. Whatever your background is, some of the topics and methods will pose a challenge to you and require new ways of thinking and working. Especially in the international and interdisciplinary groups, you will be placed in, your open-mindedness to new ways of thinking and cooperating is asked, and will help you develop your intercultural skills, which are crucial to working on projects in your study program as well as in the work-life that awaits you afterward. The grading systems in schools and universities are all comparable because they are based on ancient tradition. How the German grading system looks like is shown in table (3).

The method of calculation of the grades of the individual exams and papers, combined with the grade of your master thesis to form your final grade is described in the Examination and Study Regulations of your program.

A written (e-) exam, paper, presentation, or portfolio concludes each module. Everything that was taught in the lectures, tutorials and compulsory company visits within the module may be subject to examination. Exams start on time! In case students want to withdraw from an exam, they must inform the competent body at least one day before the exam date. Otherwise, the exam may be rated as failed. A failed examination may be repeated twice. For further details, please refer to the official Study and Examination Regulation. Attendance is obligatory. In case of a portfolio exam –



which means that there are several tests, papers, or presentations to pass the module – you may only withdraw before the first part of the portfolio exam. This means that once one part is completed, you must take part in all other parts of the portfolio exam and cannot withdraw from it without consequences. An exception can be made in emergency cases, if those are proven within five days following the exam or the first part of the portfolio exam.

An exam may be retaken only if the previous exam was a failure, receiving a grade below 5,0 and this can be done up to three times. The retake exams usually take place at the beginning of the following semester. Note that if you miss the resetting, you may have to wait up to a year until the same module exam is offered again. An oral re-take may be offered in some cases. This is generally the final attempt for that module. If you fail the final attempt, you will be expelled and can't complete the program.

Grade	Text	Declaration
1.0	sehr gut (very good)	pass
1.3	Sehr gut (excellent) –	pass
1.7	Gut (good) +	pass
2.0	gut (good)	pass
2.3	Gut (good) –	pass
2.7	Befriedigend (satisfactory) +	pass
3.0	Befriedigend (satisfactory)	pass
3.3	Befriedigend (satisfactory) –	pass
3.7	Ausreichend (sufficient) +	pass
4.0	Ausreichend (sufficient)	pass
4.3	Nicht ausreichend (unsatisfactory)	Nicht bestanden (fail)
4.7	Nicht ausreichend (unsatisfactory)	Nicht bestanden (fail)
5	Nicht ausreichend (unsatisfactory)	Nicht bestanden (fail)

Table 3: Module Grading System

## Excursions / Company Visits / Company Presentations

The online platform is also used for announcements and to register for extracurricular events. Such registrations may have their own deadlines, e.g. you may have to register

to attend or submit passport details, so make sure to check the platform regularly to not miss such announcements. Some excursions form part of the curriculum and may be part of the exam; some excursions are extra-curricular and a pure illustrative add-on or career service. For the latter, depending on what it is, the number of participants may sometimes be restricted due to the capacities of the host; in these cases, there is a first-come-first-serve policy upon registration on the platform.

Excursions offer great insights into the practice of your profession and are good fun as well. At excursions, to be at a certain meeting point in time may well be crucial, since group, hosts, and coordinators cannot wait for latecomers nor answer their phone. Some excursions may require adequate clothing, especially strong shoes. Please understand that there is no right to participate should you fail to comply with formal requirements. Of course, we respect our host and must inquire before taking photos and are generally subject to the rules of their house.

## **Tutorials and Academic Coordinators**

Tutorials deepen the material and prepare you for the papers and exams of the master course. They offer the possibility to discuss lecture topics in a small working group, ask questions, and generally support lectures and students' learning process. Tutorials are mostly held by Ph.D. students or academic staff rather than by professors. Often, tutorials serve to prepare you for the exams and have the form of question and answer sessions; in tutorials, you and your fellow students will be asked to speak and contribute. Only sometimes new material is conveyed. Each program has one or two academic coordinators. They develop and maintain the program, supporting lecturers, assisting lectures, sometimes holding tutorials, preparing and pre-correcting exams and papers, and organizing excursions. Talk to them – your questions, feedback, and suggestions are highly valued and appreciated. Contrary to popular belief, they cannot read minds, so please approach them. They may sometimes be the bearers of bad news, too. But they will always be there for you.

## **Semester break**

Depending on your program, you will have several weeks free between the terms as well as some time off around Christmas. This time is officially not termed “holiday”, but “lecture-free time”, because that is what it is – time useful for you to deepen your studies according to your personal field of interest, to prepare for the coming term, for internships, for family visits, for educational trips in Germany and Europe. Prepare yourself for this lecture-free time early to gain the most of it. At the end of the lecture-free time, just before the start of the new terms, the exam resetting's are offered; and if you need to take one of these, you will certainly want to use the time ahead for preparation.

If you are planning to work or wish to apply for a work-study program, spent some time researching companies that may offer you a placement. Your professors and

supervisors are not holding lectures and tutorials in the lecture-free time, they spend more time on other things such as the writing and editing of papers, correcting master theses, research, programming models, building up infrastructure, networking, attending conferences and so forth.

## **Master Thesis and final grade**

With your master thesis, you prove that you can work independently and scientifically on a given problem of your field of study within a limited time frame (§43 AllgStuPO). Just how much time you have for the thesis is specified in the regulation of your program. This also means that you cannot expect to know your topic before the time starts. There is an application process to the Master Thesis and you may offer suggestions and communicate your specific field of interest so that your coordinators and professors may “tailor” a topic to your interest; you cannot, however, expect to know the exact title or topic before the time starts running, since this would jeopardize the idea of limited time. For everything else on this topic, please refer to the subsequent regulations. The same applies to your final grade, which will be composed of the grade of your master thesis and the grades of the other modules in your program: check your specific regulations on this.

## **Student's representation and activities**

In German universities, students participate in decision making and can exercise certain rights. You too are encouraged to take the initiative. You may use the rooms for extracurricular events that you organize such as discussion or workgroups, interest groups, even hobby groups or clubs.

Some official uni committees require a student representative to be present; the most important of this is the *Prüfungsausschuss*, the examination board of your program. This body supervises everything that has to do with exams regarding fairness. It is comprised of three professors, one research associate and one of your classmates, whom you must elect within the first couple of weeks in the program. [AStA](#) (*Allgemeiner Studierendenausschuss*) is the general TU Student's Committee. It is a public body elected by the students of TU, so you too will receive mail inviting you to vote! AStA represents the students in the institutional framework of the university, offers individual advisory service, and helps you organize your own events. It resides at the main campus and offers a special advisory service for international students. There also is the BaFöG and Social Advisory Service assisting you with financial and legal issues. The address is: AStA TU Berlin, Straße des 17. Juni 135, D-10623 Berlin.

## **Sports**

TU offers a wide range of [individual and team sports](#). For most classes and groups, online registration is required before attending. As with language courses, classes and groups are starting throughout the year, however, early registration is highly recommended to get you started in time. Needless to say, sports are great to keep you

fit and make friends. Students from the EUREF programs meet regularly to play football; check out social media. Berlin's many parks are ideal for cycling and running. The huge former airport Tempelhofer Feld is great (and probably unique in the world) for skateboarding, rollerblading, kite land-boarding, etc. Around Berlin there are many lakes, so you can go canoeing, rowing, swimming, or whatever water sports you like; TU Berlin operates a boathouse near Spandau. In the wintertime, Germany's south features the Alp mountains, ideal for skiing, in the summertime, you can travel to the Baltic or the North Sea.

## Lunch

Lunch is important – for your well-being and form lasting relationships. As a university student of Berlin, you may dine at all canteens and cafeterias ("*Mensa*") of the [Studentenwerk](#) (Association of Student Services), which offer affordable meals in all universities in Berlin. There is currently no Mensa at the EUREF Campus though; the nearest is at HWR Badensche Straße, two bus stops away. The main Mensa of the TU is at Hardenbergstr. 34 on the main campus. There are several restaurants and a café on the EUREF Campus and more outside within walking distance.

For the use of the Energy Masters programs, there is a small kitchen with a microwave and kettle that you may use during your breaks to prepare your own lunch. Tap water is drinkable.

## Copy shops and printing

You can make a reasonable number of photocopies or print outs on the campus for free. Apart from that, the nearest print shop is [Sprintout](#) on the corner of Akazienstraße with Grunewaldstraße; it is rather large and easy to find. All libraries have scanners and copy machines which are available for a small fee; ask the staff or other students on how to use them. Many students have found smaller local copy shops more helpful and at times also cheaper.

## Special requirements

The campus Schöneberg, lecture halls, offices, and all institutes are wheelchair accessible. There are wheelchair-accessible toilets available. If you have any other special needs, please let us know.

TU Berlin operates a [family office](#) and students with small kids have a right for some compensation for hardship (i.e. prolongation of master thesis time frame). There is no Kindergarten on TU Campus EUREF, albeit one immediately next door. Studentship operates a [daycare on the main campus](#) and in the neighboring [University of Arts](#).

## Libraries

The [Berlin State Library](#) is a general research library with more than 11 million books, among them many in English and other languages. There are two Reading Rooms,

one huge one in Potsdamer Str. and one large one in Unter den Linden. Registration at *Staatsbibliothek* costs €30 per year but is highly recommended, especially because it holds a huge amount of English language books on European and international law. Like all libraries mentioned here, 'StaBi' offers interlibrary and outside loans (*Fernleihe*) as well so you can order books from any other library in Germany, and in Europe. [FU library](#) holds approx. 800,000 volumes and many databases as well. The libraries specialized in Economics/Business and Law may prove most useful for your studies. You can register there as an external user and enjoy all the benefits of the FU library. The [University Library TU](#) in Fasanenstr. 88 on the main campus holds over 2 million volumes and is the first address for MBA/MBL students. It also has several specialized departments in various locations such as the [Bibliothek für Wirtschaft und Management](#) (economics and management) department or [Bau- und Stadtbaugeschichte](#) (construction and urban construction history). As a member of TU, you can use all TU libraries for free. Also, if you need a specific book that you can't find, let your coordinators know – they may be able to convince the libraries to fast-track order new books!

On the campus, we hold a small but very much up-to-date library on energy issues, particularly in energy law. Outside examination periods, you can borrow these books for a certain time. In examination times, the books must be returned on the same day. You may scan parts of books as well.

Note that borrowing books is free – but not returning them in time can be costly.

You can check the availability of workspaces before going to a TU or UdK library [here](#).





## TU Berlin EUREF Campus Map

<b>A</b>	<b>Architekturgebäude - Architecture Building</b> Straße des 17. Juni 152	<b>FH</b>	<b>Fraunhoferstraße 33-36</b>	<b>RDH</b>	<b>Rudolf-Drawe-Haus – Rudolf-Drawe House</b> Fasanenstraße 89
<b>A-F</b>	<b>Architekturgebäude Flachbau</b> <b>Architecture Building, low-rise</b> Straße des 17. Juni 152	<b>H</b>	<b>Hauptgebäude der TU Berlin - Main Building</b> Straße des 17. Juni 135	<b>SE-RH</b>	<b>Reuleaux-Haus, Eisenbahnlehranlage</b> <b>Railway Teaching Facility</b> Straße des 17. Juni 135
<b>AM</b>	<b>Alte Mineralogie - Old Mineralogy</b> Hardenbergstraße 38	<b>HBS</b>	<b>HBS Building</b> Hardenbergstraße 16-18	<b>SG</b>	<b>Severin-Gelände – Severin Campus</b> Salzufer 17-19, Dovestraße 6
<b>AMP</b>	<b>Anwendungszentrum Mikroproduktionstechnik</b> <b>Applied Microproduction Engineering</b> Pascalstraße 13-14	<b>HE</b>	<b>Hörsaalgebäude Elektrotechnik</b> <b>Lecture Room Building for Electrical Engineering</b> Straße des 17. Juni 136	<b>ST</b>	<b>Steinplatz 2 – Steinplatz Building</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Bauingenieurgebäude - Civil Engineering Building</b> Hardenbergstraße 40A	<b>HF</b>	<b>Hermann-Föttinger-Gebäude</b> Müller-Breslau-Straße 8	<b>TA</b>	<b>Technische Akustik - Technical Acoustics</b> Einsteinufer 25
<b>BA</b>	<b>Alter Bauingenieurflügel (im Physikgebäude)</b> <b>Old Civil Engineering Wing (Physics Building)</b> Hardenbergstraße 40	<b>HF-LA</b>	<b>Energielabor - Energy Laboratory</b> Müller-Breslau-Straße 8	<b>TAP</b>	<b>Technische Akustik Prüfhalle</b> <b>Technical Acoustics, Testing Site</b> Einsteinufer 31
<b>BEL</b>	<b>Kindergarten, Gerhard Ertl Center, Hybrid Lab</b> Marchstraße 6 und 8	<b>HFT</b>	<b>Hochfrequenztechnik - High-Frequency Engineering</b> Einsteinufer 25	<b>TC</b>	<b>Technische Chemie - Technical Chemistry</b> Straße des 17. Juni 124
<b>BH-A/</b>	<b>Bergbau und Hüttenwesen, Altbau und Neubau</b> <b>Mining and Metallurgy, Old &amp; New Building</b>	<b>HL</b>	<b>Heizung und Lüftung - Heating and Ventilation</b> Marchstraße 4	<b>TEL</b>	<b>ehem. Telefunken-Hochhaus - Former Telefunken-Tower</b> Ernst-Reuter-Platz 7
<b>BH-N</b>	<b>Ernst-Reuter-Platz 1</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>Kraftfahrzeuge - Motor Vehicles</b> Straße des 17. Juni 135	<b>TEM</b>	<b>Transelektronenmikroskopie - Trans Electron Microscopy</b> Marchstraße 10
<b>BIB</b>	<b>Universitätsbibliothek der TUB &amp; UdK</b> <b>University Library, TUB &amp; UdK</b> Fasanenstraße 88	<b>KF</b>	<b>ehem. Kraft- und Fernheizwerk</b> <b>Former Power and Heating Plant</b> Fasanenstraße 1A	<b>TK</b>	<b>Thermodynamik und Kältetechnik</b> <b>Thermodynamics and Refrigeration Engineering</b> Straße des 17. Juni 135
<b>C</b>	<b>Chemiegebäude - Chemistry Building</b> Straße des 17. Juni 115	<b>KT</b>	<b>Kerntechnik - Nuclear Engineering</b> Marchstraße 18	<b>V</b>	<b>Verformungskunde, Zentraleinrichtung</b> <b>Hochschulsport (ZEH)</b> <b>Plastic Deformation, Office for TU-Sports</b> Straße des 17. Juni 135
<b>E</b>	<b>Elektrotechnische Institute, Altbau</b> <b>Electrical Engineering Institute, Old Building</b> Einsteinufer 19	<b>KWT</b>	<b>Kraftwerkstechnik und Apparatebau</b> <b>Power Plant Engineering and Apparatus Engineering</b> Fasanenstraße 1	<b>VWS</b>	<b>ehem. Versuchsanstalt für Wasserbau und Schiffbau,</b> <b>Zentralwerkstatt</b> <b>Former Testing Site for Hydraulic Engineering and</b> <b>Shipbuilding, Central Workshop</b> Müller-Breslau-Straße 15 (Schleuseninsel)
<b>E-N</b>	<b>Elektrotechnische Institute, Neubau</b> <b>Electrical Engineering Institute, New Building</b> Einsteinufer 17	<b>L</b>	<b>ehem. Lebensmittelchemie</b> <b>Former Food Chemistry Building</b> Müller-Breslau-Straße 10	<b>W</b>	<b>Wasserbau und Wasserwirtschaft</b> <b>Hydraulic Engineering and Water Resources Management</b> Straße des 17. Juni 144 und 144A
<b>EB</b>	<b>Erweiterungsbau - Annex Building</b> Straße des 17. Juni 145	<b>M</b>	<b>Gebäudeteil Mechanik - Mechanics</b> Straße des 17. Juni 135	<b>WF</b>	<b>Werkzeugmaschinen und Fertigungstechnik</b> <b>Machine Tools and Manufacturing Engineering</b> Fasanenstraße 90
<b>EMH</b>	<b>Gebäudeteile Elektromaschinen (EM) und</b> <b>Hochspannungstechnik (HT)</b> <b>Electric Machine and High Voltage Engineering</b> Einsteinufer 11	<b>MA</b>	<b>Mathematikgebäude - Mathematics Building</b> Straße des 17. Juni 136	<b>Z</b>	<b>Poststelle, Druckerei, Materialausgabe</b> <b>Post, Printers, Material Outlay</b> Straße des 17. Juni
<b>ER</b>	<b>Ernst-Ruska-Gebäude – Ernst-Ruska Building</b> Hardenbergstraße 36A	<b>MAR</b>	<b>Marchstraße 23</b>		
<b>EW</b>	<b>Eugene-Paul-Wigner-Gebäude</b> <b>Eugene-Paul-Wigner Building</b> Hardenbergstraße 36	<b>MB</b>	<b>Müller-Breslau-Straße 11-12</b>		
<b>F</b>	<b>Flugtechnische Institute - Aeronautical Institutes</b> Marchstraße 12, 12A, 12B, 14	<b>MS</b>	<b>Mechanische Schwingungslehre - Mechanical Kymatology</b> Einsteinufer 5		
		<b>PC</b>	<b>Physikalische Chemie - Physical Chemistry</b> Straße des 17. Juni 135		
		<b>PTZ</b>	<b>Produktionstechnisches Zentrum</b> <b>Production Engineering Centre</b> Pascalstraße 8-9, 13-14		





## Berlin City Life

Our university is located in the heart of Berlin, one of the world's most famous metropolitan cities. The city is vibrant with scientific activities and research, with more than 200,000 people studying and teaching at Berlin's research institutions. In addition to the 4 public and 18 private universities, more than 60 research institutions and organizations are located here, among them the [Max-Planck-Institutes](#) and the [Fraunhofer Institute](#). There are countless meetups, hackathons, fairs, congresses, and so on every day. If you get to know about events relevant to your course, please share this knowledge.

Berlin is a cosmopolitan city with people from all over the world contributing to the cultural diversity and vivacity of the city. History is evident everywhere and this too makes the city so interesting. It has undergone numerous political changes in the last centuries, which have uniquely shaped its architecture, culture, and atmosphere. The previously divided Berlin has become one of the most dynamic metropolitan cities in the world. Berlin is famous for its cultural life: The city offers more than 150 museums, more than 40 theaters, and 400 art galleries, and numerous other types of event locations. Many popular museums are located on the "Museum Island" in Mitte; there is the Jewish Museum in Lindenstraße and the Mauermuseum at Checkpoint Charlie, chronicling the Cold War years.

The city has plenty of concert and event halls such as the Berliner Philharmonie, the Staatsoper, the Friedrichstadtpalast, etc. offering music and dance. Berlin hosts the world-famous international film festival, 'Berlinale', and plenty of other festivals and events. There are plenty of restaurants, cafés, and bars in almost every neighborhood. The most popular areas for going out are Mitte, Kreuzberg, Neukölln, and Friedrichshain, but also Schöneberg.

The rivers Spree and Havel, numerous lakes and parks form part of the urban area, compose the landscape of Berlin. All this makes Berlin the city so interesting to explore and live in. Nearby Potsdam, the 'Versailles' of Prussia, has many baroque palaces and beautiful gardens and lakes – plus, of course, research institutes and libraries too. Other attractions more off the beaten track are the flea markets (*Flohmärkte*), which are open usually on the weekends and offer great finds. The most popular ones are those of Tiergarten, Mauerpark, and Treptow. Popular and helpful websites for city life in Berlin are public [Berlin.de](#) and private [Tip](#) and [Zitty](#).

In the winter months, it can be very cold in Berlin, especially if you are not used to the German weather conditions, make sure to keep yourself warm and maybe visit some of the many places like Christmas markets (open during November and December), or some ice skating, maybe visiting some cozy restaurants or cultural events such as concerts and many more places apart from your campus, you are welcome to go and explore.

## **Life after Studying**

You are now one of the few people worldwide of your age well versed in your specialist field of study, and you have through your program already gained access to the circuit. You have, through research, studying, participation in summer schools, exchange programs, conferences and excursions, extensive knowledge of the field of energy in Germany, in Europe, and the world. Naturally, at some point you will remember the time spent studying at the EUREF campus of TU Berlin with some sweet melancholy, hopefully remembering it as among the best times of your life. This is where you have found international friends for your lifetime and connections to many older and more experienced scholars and professionals in the sector. You can now also give back in part what you have received, slowly growing into the other, senior side of the business, and the teaching, be it as a Ph.D. student or professional. Who knows, maybe in a few years' time it will be you serving as a lecturer, tutor or supervisor in one of our programs, welcoming young professionals from all over the world. You are now part of the vast and growing alumni networks of the Academic Directors, the lecturers, of TU Berlin, and the EUREF campus.

Welcome, and welcome back.

We wish you all the best for your future!