

Expand your horizon

FH Westküste University of Applied Sciences



Exchange Brochure





Moin and welcome to the FH Westküste University of Applied Sciences*

A short distance from Hamburg, beautifully situated between the North Sea and the Baltic Sea, lies Heide, the home of the FH Westküste University of Applied Sciences.

FH Westküste is a young and modern university that places great value on creating a personal and welcoming environment. The atmosphere on campus is shaped by a strong sense of community and a family-oriented approach to education. Students at FH Westküste come not only from all regions of Germany, but also from countries all around the world. This international diversity enriches academic life and fosters intercultural exchange across all fields of study. The campus itself is surrounded by natural landscapes, offering a peaceful and inspiring setting for academic and personal growth.

This is not only appreciated by us, but also by wild (and harmless) animals like rabbits, ducks or deer who live on campus or in the neighborhood. Sustainability is a guiding principle on campus – from the green rooftops of university buildings to the focus on environmentally conscious teaching and research. Sustainability plays a major role at FH Westküste: there is a wide range of modules and courses on the topic of sustainability, the research institutes focus on sustainable development and last but not least the university has its own energy park, equipped with a wind turbine, solar field, heat pump and hydrogen seasonal storage.

International students quickly feel at ease on our modern, compact campus with the newly furnished library, its bright rooms and good technical equipment. Our university is characterized by small learning groups where the lecturers know the names of the students which ensures that individual questions are also taken into consideration.

If you would like to find out more about our university and staying in Northern Germany, we would like to invite you to browse further. Have fun and hope to see you soon.

*By the way: *Moin* is THE typical greeting in the region. It can be used to replace all kinds of greetings from “Hi”, “Hello”, “Good morning” to “Good evening”, *Moin* is a great icebreaker to get in touch with the Northern German people so it is definitely recommendable to learn this word. The reply is by the way “Moin”.



FH Westküste University of Applied Sciences is located in Heide, a growing mid-sized town (22.500 inhabitants) in Northern Germany. Heide is the capital and commercial center of Dithmarschen in the northernmost German state: Schleswig-Holstein.

Schleswig-Holstein is always among the happiest places in Germany and popular among tourists.

One of the reasons might be the beautiful nature and the two framing seas (North Sea, Baltic Sea). Heide combines rural flair with modern city life and is well connected by train and ferry to places like Hamburg (closest airport), the North Sea Coast and Islands and (for fans of louder music) the Wacken Open Air Festival. Students appreciate the comparably low rental prizes in the student dorm and the short ways on the campus.



The West Coast region of Schleswig-Holstein is also known as the Clean Energy Valley ("Energieküste") as it is the pioneering region in Germany for renewable energy.

Visiting the Energieküste these days is exiting because of the rapid change of the industries and infrastructure in and around Heide.



Campus Life

At the FH Westküste University of Applied Sciences, we attach great importance on personal contact and community. The first contact for international students is often the team of the International Office (IO). The IO accompanies all phases of the stay and organizes events like the Welcome Days for international students. It is typical for German universities that the Student Union (AStA) plays a big role in the campus life. The student union together with the Student Parliament (StuPa) are bodies of the student self-representation.

They represent the student community in exchange with the university, service institutions like Studentenwerk and externally. Every student can engage in the different departments of AStA and profit from its services as well. In Heide the AStA plays a big role as it offers services from student to student: for example the university sport, the newspaper WEST, the merchandise sales, events and excursions and the international department are in the hands of AStA.



Extracurricular offers at FH Westküste — such as monthly events and our newly founded choir — are organized by the faculties, the International Office, and the student union (AStA) to help international students find community and orientation.

AStA and FHWconnect (International Office) are at their side during their first steps in Heide, helping with administrative procedures and planning joint activities with their fellow students from all over the world.

FHWconnect – The Buddy Program at FH Westküste

What is FHWconnect?

FHWconnect helps international students settle in, make connections, and feel at home – both on campus and in everyday life. At the start of each semester, you'll be paired with a local student (your "Connector") who will support you as you begin your studies in Germany. You decide how often and in what way you meet – whether it's for a coffee or at events.

What's in it for you as a Connectee?

- A personal contact who helps you get started and answers your questions.
- The chance to improve your German skills in a natural, everyday setting.
- Support with academic and organizational matters.
- Opportunities to make friends and build your network in Heide and beyond.

Why choose FH Westküste – and FHWconnect?

Studying abroad is a big step. With FHWconnect, you're not alone. You'll be welcomed into an open-minded, international community and supported from day one. It's the ideal way to ease into student life in Germany, while gaining intercultural experiences and personal growth.





Experiences from our exchange students

“I’m an exchange student from Ecuador—a small yet incredibly diverse country in South America, surrounded by the Pacific Ocean, the Andes Mountains, and the Amazon Rainforest. I’m currently pursuing a Master’s degree in International Tourism Management. During my studies, I’ve particularly enjoyed courses such as Intercultural Management, Tourism Planning and Governance, and International Project Management. One highlight was a research project for the Südtirol JazzFestival Alto Adige, where we conducted a comprehensive analysis and provided strategic recommendations. Outside the classroom, I’ve been actively involved in university life—singing in the choir, joining AstA sport activities like dance and canoeing in Friedrichstadt, participating in FH Connect, and celebrating Diversity Day. Social life here is vibrant; in the summer, my friends and I go swimming, have barbecues, cook together, explore local restaurants, or celebrate cultural events. In the winter, we enjoy cozy gatherings and visits to nearby Christmas markets. Personally, I’ve grown more confident and resilient—moving abroad, adapting to a new culture, and overcoming language and bureaucratic challenges taught me a lot. Professionally, studying here has been eye-opening. I’ve discovered the vast potential within the tourism industry—something still emerging in my home country—and have gained valuable insights from experienced professors and real-world projects.” – Camila

“I’m from Turkey and I study Business Administration. During my Erasmus semester at FHW, I also had the opportunity to attend some tourism-related courses that were offered in English. I participated in a few FHWconnect activities like the bowling event, which were fun and helped me meet new people. For me, social life here meant traveling, exploring new places, and spending quality time with friends.

This was my first time abroad without my family, and I stayed here for almost five months. I’ve learned that I can take care of myself independently. It was a valuable life experience – from handling everything on my own to adapting to a different education system and doing it all in a foreign language.” – Alanur









We have a great canteen (Mensa), that offers different menu choices made from local ingredients with vegan/vegetarian options every day. The Mensa has reduced prices for students. For snacks, a quick coffee or late

breakfasts there is also a cafeteria with seats and tables in the foyer of the main building. The Mensa and cafeteria are great places to relax and meet fellow students during your breaks.

Facts about the FH Westküste University of Applied Sciences

ERASMUS+ Code	D HEIDE01
Contact information for the International Office	FH Westküste University of Applied Sciences International Office Fritz-Thiedemann-Ring 20 D-25746 Heide Tel.: 0049-481-8 555-171/-172/-173 Fax: 0049-481- 8 555 101 E-Mail: international@fh-westkueste.de
Faculties	Business Studies and Technology
Study cycles	Bachelor's and Master's
Lecture languages	German and English
Language requirements for exchange students	German: B2 (for lectures in German) English: B2 (for lectures in English) (self-assessment, no certificates required)
German courses for exchange students	A two week orientation course before the beginning of lectures, a German course for exchange students during the semester. Attendance is compulsory for exchange students whose first language is not German.
Modules (courses) for exchange students in English	Our webpage for exchange students contains helpful information and the course list with subjects taught in English for exchange students. 
Master courses of study in English	International Tourism Management M.A. and Microelectronic Systems M.A. are both taught entirely in English. The modules of these courses can only be taken by students enrolled in the respective Master's program. Further information on these courses can be found here or by scanning the QR code. 



<p>German language modules for exchange students</p>	<p>Exchange students with German skills at B2 level or above can also choose modules taught in German. These modules can be combined with modules in English.</p> <p>The module database can be found here or by scanning the QR code.</p> 
<p>Nomination and application deadlines</p>	<p>for the winter semester: 15th July for the summer semester: 15th January</p>
<p>Semester periods</p>	<p>Winter semester: 1st September to 28th February Summer semester: 1st March to 31st August</p> <p>The fact sheet which is available on the International Offices' download page contains the exact and relevant semester dates for exchange students</p> 
<p>Cost of living</p>	<p>735 – 1,000 Euro (depending on your individual spending habits and your choice of residence)</p>
<p>Special features</p>	<p>Accessible campus, no tuition fees, comparably low rents by German standards in the student dorm of Studentenwerk SH (near the campus)</p>

Grade and Credit Point System

FH Westküste University of Applied Sciences uses the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). 30 ECTS credits correspond to one semester in full-time study mode. The grades from certificates and the academic transcript are depicted below in the local and in the

ECTS grading systems. The maximum grade that can be achieved is 1.0 in the local grading system, which would equate to an 'A' in the ECTS grading scale. The minimum grade required to pass an examination is 4.0, which would equate to an 'E'.

Local Scale	ECTS Scale	
1.0	A	Maximum passing grade
1.3	A	
1.7	B	
2.0	B	
2.3	C	
2.7	C	
3.0	C	
3.3	D	
3.7	E	
4.0	E	Minimum passing grade
Below 4.0	F	Fail

Courses of Study at the FH Westküste University of Applied Sciences

BACHELOR

- FACULTY OF BUSINESS STUDIES

- ▶ International Tourism Management
- ▶ Business Psychology
- ▶ Business Law
- ▶ Business Administration
- ▶ Business Administration
(Trilateral degree program)
- ▶ Real Estate Business Studies

MASTER

- FACULTY OF BUSINESS STUDIES

- ▶ International Tourism Management*
- ▶ Business Psychology
- ▶ Business Studies, Media and Psychology
(Online-course, work accompanying)
- ▶ Green Energy
(associated with both faculties)

BACHELOR

- FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY

- ▶ Electronics/Information Technology
- ▶ Industrial Engineering
- ▶ Green Technology

MASTER

- FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY

- ▶ Automation Technology
- ▶ Microelectronic Systems*
- ▶ Green Energy
(associated with both faculties)
- ▶ Industrial Engineering – Digital Business
Administration

* We recommend looking at the links provided on pages 12 and 13. They include courses from programs, which are entirely taught in English – as well as courses from programs, which are mainly taught in German, but include courses in English, which are open to exchange students.





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HEIDE

Living in and around Heide

An affordable and close option for accommodation is the student dormitory run by Studentenwerk SH, the service provider for universities in the state of Schleswig-Holstein. The modern and attractive residential complex is located right next to the campus. Many rooms are furnished, the internet connection is included in the rent and exchange students are able to get in touch with their fellow students quickly. The residents usually share the kitchen and the bathroom. As kitchens are a good place to chat and connect with others, shared apartments (WGs) are recommended for everyone appreciating community. Apartments with a pantry kitchen and a solo bathroom are available as well. All rooms are single bed rooms and the doors can be locked with a key. Studentenwerk SH gives detailed information on the price range per room type and the installations on their website. You can find it [here](#) or scan the QR code.

In addition to the dormitories, there are also private flatshare possibilities in Heide or the surrounding area. Some students also live alone. However, most private apartments in Germany are rented completely unfurnished. We therefore recommend the dormitory option at Studentenwerk SH to our incoming students. The International Office is always happy to provide further information about locations and gives tips on ways to find suitable student accommodation.





The beach of St. Peter Ording is 12 kilometres long! Whether you're looking for a place for swimming and relaxing, for long walks or for all kinds of beach activities and surfing – the town is always worth a visit.



Friedrichsstadt is also called „little Dutch town“ because it was populated by Dutch people in the 17th century. It has a pretty old town with gastronomy and small shops, canals, boat rental and a lot of history to explore.



Did you know?

Public Transport is very well developed in Germany. So you can reach regional excursion destinations like the beautiful towns of Friedrichsstadt and Husum or the popular surfing beach of St. Peter Ording without a car.



The harbour town Husum was a place of inspiration for the German poet Theodor Storm who gave it the name “grey town at the sea”. Husum is actually a colorful place for shopping, sightseeing and for trying the “Krabbenbrötchen”– a bread roll with a topping of the tiny shrimps that are traditionally fished in the North Sea. You can buy them directly from the fishing boats.

#daytrip



The North Sea shore is just out the front door. Meet your lovely neighbors who protect the banks and who are characteristic for Dithmarschen, district that Heide is capital of.

The metropolis of Hamburg is only a one hour ride away. The German government subsidizes public transport so that everyone can travel with affordable offers such as Deutschlandticket. As one of Germany's largest and most popular cities, it has a lot of history and culture and a great nightlife to offer.



#weekendtrip



Fehmarn

Kiel

The Baltic Sea shore is not far away and offers beautiful beaches, great nature and old Hanse cities like Lübeck and Rostock. The island of Fehmarn is a popular spot for surfers and kiteboarders.

Schleswig-Holsteins capital Kiel is only 80 km away. The city is host of the Kieler Woche (Kiel Week), one of the biggest fairs in northern Europe and a world known sailing event.

Hamburg





Travelling by train is the green way to discover Europe and reach almost every corner of the continent.

In the West, Germany shares a border with the Netherlands with Amsterdam as a capital. The city is known for the many canals and attracts tourists. You can reach it within eight hours.

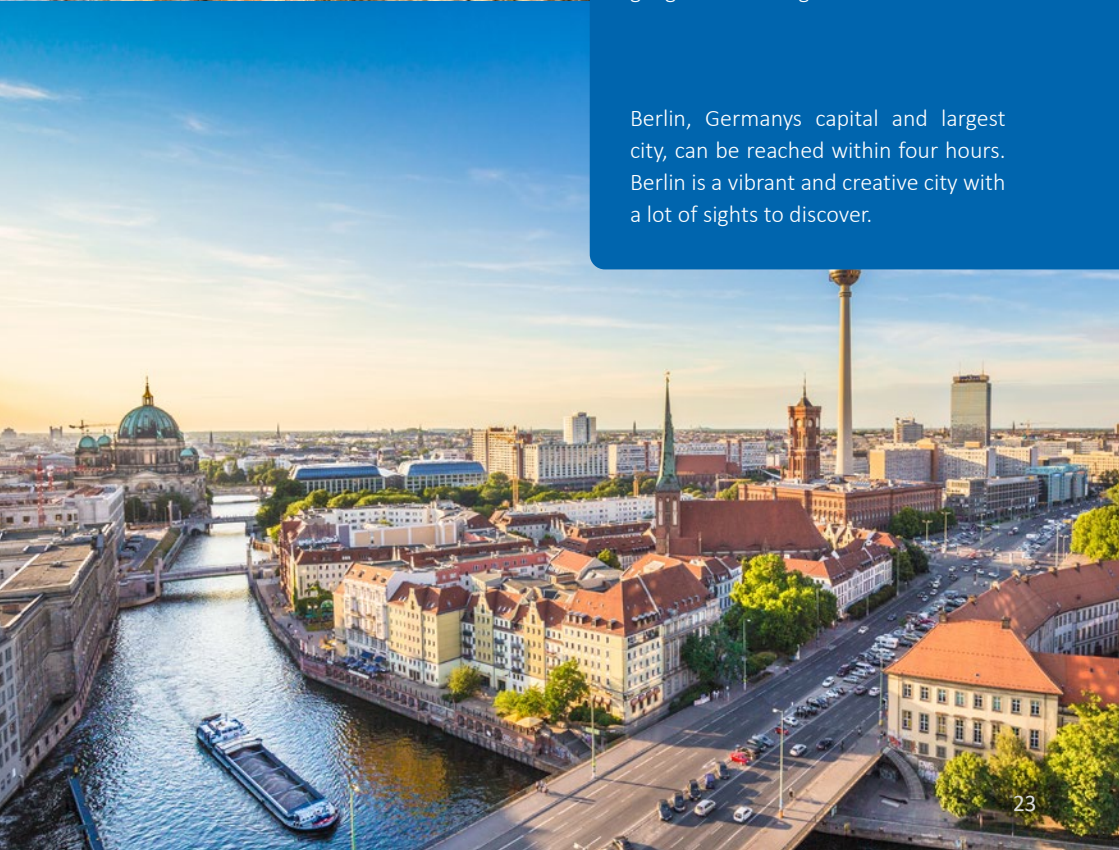
Munich is Germany's southernmost metropolis. You can decide between a visit to its beautiful old town or a hiking trip to the nearby Alps. Munich is host of the world known „Oktoberfest“.



#holidaytrip



Copenhagen is the Capital of Denmark, Germany's northern neighbor. It is a beautiful city with many historical relations to Schleswig-Holstein. It can be reached within a five-hour train ride directly from Hamburg. By the way: Danish is a recognized minority language in Schleswig-Holstein.



Berlin, Germany's capital and largest city, can be reached within four hours. Berlin is a vibrant and creative city with a lot of sights to discover.



How do I become an exchange student at the FH Westküste University of Applied Sciences?

Your way to become an exchange student is very easy:

In the first step, the ERASMUS+ Office or International Office at your home institution nominates you to FH Westküste University of Applied Sciences.

After having received your nomination, we will guide you through the application process and the steps you need to take in order to plan your stay and have a smooth start.

Questions are always welcome!



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