

Virginia Tech & Ruhr-Universität Bochum Exchange Program 2017 Welcome to Bochum!



We are happy to welcome you in Bochum from **June 06 - July 31!**

Contacts in Bochum

Your advisor during your stay will be Ms. Sulamith Frerich. Feel free to contact her should you have any subject-related questions:

Jun.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Sulamith Frerich
Academic Coordinator
IC 3/I63
Phone: +49-(0)234 32-26496
frerich@vvp.rub.de

Diana Keddi
Academic Contact Person
IC 4/I47
Phone: +49 (0)234 32-26689
keddi@vvp.rub.de

For any organizational/logistical questions you may have, do not hesitate to contact us in the International Office:

Jonna Haensel-Neumann
Exchange Programs Coordinator
SSC I/249
Phone: +49 (0) 234 32-25425
international@rub.de

Meike Schaich
Incoming Contact Person
SSC I/225
Phone: +49 (0)234 32-27248
meike.schaich@uv.rub.de

[Website of the International Office](#)

[Map of the University](#)

Book Recommendation: [Culture Smart! Germany](#)

The UniverCity Bochum

Bochum is located in the Ruhr area, in the heart of Europe. Multiethnic and hospitable by tradition, the Ruhr area was once the industrial center of Germany but has now shifted to an area of culture, science and technology, with a high density of institutions of higher education. For these reasons, the Ruhr area was even named Cultural Capital of Europe in 2010. People from 130 countries currently study or carry out research at Ruhr-Universität Bochum, one of the biggest universities in Germany (with around 43.000 students). About 600 of these are international exchange students, approx. 700 are international PhD students and more than are 3.000 international students.

For more information about the city and area please check out the following links:

- Information about the area: [Metropole Ruhr](#)
- A general overview of the city:
[Homepage of Bochum Tourism](#)
- Most important places in Bochum: [Bochum Events & Locations](#)
- Find your way around Bochum: [Bochum City Map and Guide](#)

Arrival and Departure

You will need to book your flight yourself. The easiest airport to fly to would be Dusseldorf International Airport (not! Dusseldorf Weeze), however train connections to Bochum are easy from most German airports (such as Frankfurt (2 hours train ride), Berlin, Hamburg or even Amsterdam in the Netherlands).

Keep in mind that if you fly to an airport in our state (Dusseldorf, Dortmund, Cologne/Bonn) you will be able to take the regional trains to Bochum free of charge with your NRW Ticket. If you book a flight to another city, like Frankfurt, you will have to pay for your train ticket to Bochum (about \$120 one-way). To get information on trains and to book train tickets [click here](#). We would be happy to answer any further questions about traveling to Bochum.

Once you have booked your flight, please send us your flight information. We would appreciate if you could fly in groups. That would make it easier for us to organize a special pick-up service with our student buddies.

A few weeks before you arrive we will contact you to arrange a time for your pick-up and tell you who will pick you up at the Bochum train station or Dusseldorf International Airport and bring you to your dorm room on campus.

Enrollment at the University (“Einschreibung”)

During your stay, you will be enrolled as an exchange student at our university. Within one week after your arrival, the Social Contribution Fee (not a tuition fee) of about 300,- EUR is to be paid. Enrolling has many benefits:

- Cheaper lunches in the cafeterias
- Reduced admission to museums
- Reduced prices for sports courses and the University’s Gym “UNIfit”
- A “student status” in Germany
- A **public transportation ticket** for the entire state of North-Rhine-Westphalia. This “Semester Ticket” will ensure free transportation to other interesting cities in our state, like Dortmund, Essen, Dusseldorf, Cologne, Aachen and Munster.

In order for us to successfully enroll you at our university, you need to take the following steps:

- Fill out the pre-enrollment form [online](#)
- Send the following documents via email to meike.schaich@uv.rub.de
 - Passport photo for issuing your student card (high resolution)
 - Copy of your passport
 - Transcript of Records
 - Résumé

German Course

Part of your summer school program is a 60 hour intensive German Course offered by the Department German as a Foreign Language (DaF) of Ruhr-Universität Bochum. All costs will be covered by the International Office.

Health Insurance

For your stay in Germany, you will need to purchase health insurance. You may find and buy a policy online. These are some providers valid for your enrollment at RUB.

- [AXA](#)
- [HanseMerkur \(Care Concept\)](#)
- [Mawista](#)

Accommodation

We have reserved a room in one of the student union's dormitories in Bochum for you. You may move in at the earliest on June 6 and should move out at the latest on July 31, 2017 (moving out is only possible on weekdays). Rent will be about 300,- EUR per month. Depending on the dormitory, bedding is either included or can be rented for 4,- EUR per month. Please note that a deposit of one month's rent is to be paid in advance. The rent can be paid after your arrival via bank transfer or together with the deposit in advance. Further information regarding your accommodation will be provided at a later date.

Transportation

Here are three helpful links for schedules and any questions about transportation:

- [Map of Bochum's local traffic](#)
- Fares, information and schedule of the [local network](#)
- Fares, information and schedule of national/international [trains](#)
- Fares, information and schedule of national/international [buses and trains](#)

Hochschulsport Bochum

RUB offers a university wide sports program with several different courses run by students and professionals. For more information [click here](#). To participate in as many of the courses as you like you will have to buy a membership card ("Sportkarte") which costs 18,- EUR. Then, you are free to choose your courses from the program and reserve a spot. Some courses charge an extra fee apart from the purchase of the membership card, though many of them are free. You may also register for the University's Gym "UNIfit". Please ask us for further details if you are interested.

Welcome Event

We will have a small welcome at Ruhr-Universität Bochum after your arrival where you will receive information about your program – and you meet your contact persons from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and from the Department German as a Foreign Language. The date, time and location of the welcome event will soon be announced.

Viele Grüße aus Bochum! We look forward to seeing you!