



Universität Hamburg
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clisap^o

**INFORMATION GUIDE: FIRST STEPS TO TAKE FOR
NEW MSc ICSS STUDENTS**

FALL 2016



Orientation week, class 2015

Start of the semester: 1 October 2016

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1. Welcome!

SICSS Office members would like to warmly welcome you as new student in the interdisciplinary MSc program “Integrated Climate System Sciences”, starting in October 2016.

This booklet provides you with information on the preparations needed before coming to Hamburg and guides you through the first steps after your arrival. For an easy start we recommend you to arrive towards the end of September at latest.

The booklet consists of issues regarding a) enrollment with Universität Hamburg, b) the School of Integrated Climate System Sciences (SICSS) and c) living in Hamburg.

The bullets below serve as a general checklist of the most important steps you have to take with regards to the preparation of your studies in Hamburg:

- The admissions notification of the university will be uploaded in your STiNE account in the section “Documents” on 11 May 2016.
- Enrollment at Universität Hamburg is due by 25 May 2016. (see 2.1 Information on Enrollment at Universität Hamburg)
- non-EU citizens: Apply for a Student Visa immediately after receiving our acceptance letter – visa processing can take up to several months (see 2.2 Entry visa)
- Find accommodation in Hamburg (see 4.1 Accommodation)
- Make sure to participate in the Orientation Week for MSc ICSS Students (first two weeks in October - more information to follow)

1.1 Who is who at SICSS

SICSS Head



Prof. Dr. Annette Eschenbach
Institute for Soil Science

SICSS Office



Dr. Ingo Harms
SICSS Coordination



Katja Grannis
MSc Program

Aike Beckmann, MSc Program:
Academic Affairs



Dr. Berit Hachfeld
PhD Program



Julika Doerffer
SICSS Outreach

2. Things to do before you arrive

2.1 Enrollment at Universität Hamburg

Once you have received the official admission letter at your STiNE account (11 May 2016) you **must accept the place within the given acceptance deadline (25 May 2016)**. Detailed information on enrollment can be found on the website of the Campus Center, the student support center. Campus Center staff is responsible for all issues with regards to enrollment at Universität Hamburg:

http://www.uni-hamburg.de/campuscenter_e.html

Campus Center

Alsterterrasse 1

20354 Hamburg

Service Telephone +49 40 42838-7000

or via the online contact form:

http://www.uni-hamburg.de/campuscenter/beratung/kontakt/kontaktformular-bewerbung-und-zulassung_e.html

2.2 Entry visa for Germany

Non-EU citizens

Foreign students have to apply for their visa for Germany well before the start of the stay – at best apply immediately once you have received the admission letter.

Prior to your visa application, make sure to check the up-to-date requirements with the German Embassy in your home country!

If you are a non-EU citizen pursuing your MSc studies in Germany, **you should not enter Germany on a tourist or Schengen visa**. You would have to return to your home country as tourist or Schengen visas cannot be changed into a residence permit in Germany.

EU citizens

If you are an EU national or a national of those countries for which the European Community has abolished the visa requirement, you do not need a visa. You can enter Germany with a valid passport or ID. Information on visa regulations including visa fees and a table of the countries whose citizens require/do not require visa are available at <http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/> > English > Entry & Residence > Visa regulations.

2.3 Health Insurance Certificate

Health insurance is mandatory for everybody residing in Germany. This is also true for all students during their stay in Germany. In order to enroll as a student, you need to provide a proof of health insurance or a copy of your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). Students from EU countries who have an EHIC can usually keep their health insurance that covers any necessary medical treatment within the European Economic Area (EEA). More information is available at the German embassy in your country.

How to get Health Insurance in Germany as foreigner?

Students who are younger than 30 years will find health insurance companies (*Krankenkassen*) in Hamburg on the internet: AOK, Barmer, Care College, DAK, GEK, HEK, HKK, HMK, IKK, KKH, Knappschaft, TK.

This alphabetical list of health insurance companies is not exhaustive. Although we do not recommend explicitly any of the health insurance companies, we have identified contact persons from the *Barmer Krankenkasse* (Christian Metzger, Christian.Metzger@barmer-gek.de) and *Techniker Krankenkasse* (Silke Arnold, Silke.Arnold@tk.de) who are familiar with the situation of international students of the MSc program ICSS. They can provide you with the preliminary certificate needed for enrollment and visa application. If you wish to take this service, please contact one of them directly.

If you are more than 30 years old, you will have to seek private Health Insurance. [Union Versicherungsdienst GmbH](#) is a good option for you.

3. School of Integrated Climate System Sciences (SICSS) and Universität Hamburg

3.1 Orientation Week at SICSS

The School of Integrated Climate System Sciences offers an orientation week for all new first semester students. This week includes information on SICSS, the MIN-Faculty (mathematics, informatics and natural sciences faculty) and Universität Hamburg. You will also get information on the German education system and the MSc ICSS program. Since 2013, we also offer a cross-cultural training for new MSc ICSS students as part of the Orientation Week. Besides this, several excursions to climate related institutes and sites will be organized, as well as social activities to get to know your fellow students.

This week has proved to be very beneficial to our students as it eases the process of adaption and settlement. We strongly encourage all new students to participate. **The**

orientation week takes place in the first two weeks of October. You can soon find the preliminary program on our website: www.sicss.de

3.2 Fields of knowledge in Math and Physics

A list of basic knowledge in Math and Physics required for the Master's program is added to this booklet. This list shall assist you in preparing well before coming to Hamburg. Refreshing your skills in mathematics and physics before the start of the program is essential, since the program starts immediately with full speed.

3.3 Subject Specific Regulations & Module Handbook

The subject specific regulations or *Fachspezifischen Bestimmungen (FsB)* for the MSc ICSS are subject to the general examination guidelines for MSc programs at the MIN Faculty. The FsB are available on the [website of SICSS](http://www.sicss.de) as well as at the official website of Universität Hamburg: <https://www.geo.uni-hamburg.de/en/studium/master.html>.

In addition to the FsB, the module handbook comprises information on the examination type, requirements, workload and course contents: <https://www.clisap.de/fileadmin/C-GradSchool/C2-MSc-Program/C2.2-Documents/Modulhandbuch-2016.pdf>

PLEASE READ THE *FsB* AND THE MODULE HANDBOOK CAREFULLY! A better understanding for the program beforehand will help you start well prepared into the course of studies.

3.4 Language Classes

Universität Hamburg offers a number of languages courses at different levels, most of them free of charge for students.

German as a foreign language courses are offered by the Adult Education Center. You can choose between block courses during the semester holidays and courses on a weekly basis during the semester: http://www.uni-hamburg.de/allgemeinsprachen/kurse/deutsch-als-fremdsprache_e.html.

The **Adult Education Center** in cooperation with Universität Hamburg offers courses for beginners and intermediate learners: http://www.uni-hamburg.de/allgemeinsprachen/kurse_e.html

For more advanced learners, the **University Language Center** is the place to look for language classes: <https://www.uni-hamburg.de/en/sprachenzentrum.html>

If you want to learn German in your own time before you arrive in Hamburg, you will find a German beginners' course in ten short parts at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/talk/>. Key language and transcripts, images and video clips accompany each part.

3.5 PIASTA – International Office, Universität Hamburg

The PIASTA team (Intercultural Living and Learning) offers guidance and support for international students at Universität Hamburg. For a smooth and successful start at Universität Hamburg, you will find detailed information in the PIASTA brochure “First steps for new students”. You may download the handbook here: www.uni-hamburg.de/piasta

4. Living in Hamburg

4.1 Accommodation

Accommodation is a hot topic in Hamburg and therefore we recommend you to take care of the issue as soon as you can; and certainly before the study program starts in October. There are several options how to find a room:

Student residences administrated by the Student Union (application recommended!)

We strongly recommend new students from abroad to apply for a furnished room in student residences. You can stay in these residences at the favorable price of around EUR 230 – 300 / month. It is unlikely to find better rates elsewhere in Hamburg.

Check for apartments, shared apartments or rooms for rent available in Hamburg at <http://www.studierendenwerk-hamburg.de/studierendenwerk/en/wohnen/>

Make sure to apply for a room at least three months before you will be arriving at

http://www.studierendenwerk-hamburg.de/studierendenwerk/en/wohnen/how_to_get_a_place_in_a_hall_of_residence/

To increase the chances to get one of these popular rooms, we recommend leaving the choice for preferred residence open.

Student residences administrated by other landlords

There is generally a waiting list for student residences; thus, an application is not a guarantee for a place. We therefore advise you to contact a few student residences

administered by other operators. These operators charge monthly between EUR 200 to EUR 360 for a single room (subject to changes). You will find a list of student residences, addresses and email-addresses at http://www.studierendenwerk-hamburg.de/studierendenwerk/en/wohnen/wohnanlagen_anderer_traeger/

Private rooms of flats

There are several websites listing private rooms and flats to let (all in German):

<http://www.zwischenmiete.de>
<http://www.studenten-wg.de/>
<http://wg-gesucht.de>
<http://www.studenten-wohnung.de>
<http://www.immowelt.de>
<http://www.immobilienscout24.de>
<http://www.studentenwohnungsmarkt.de>
<http://www.homecompany.de> (charges a fee)

Hotels and hostels

If you have to stay at a hotel or hostel for the first few days in Hamburg, check out <http://www.jugendherberge.de>, <http://www.instantsleep.de/index.en.php>, <http://www.aohostels.com/en/hamburg/hostel-hamburg/booking/>, or <http://www.hamburg-tourism.de/en/search-booking/hotels/search-hotel/>.

If you need to find a place to stay for just a few days, www.airbnb.com might be worth a try.

4.2 Expenses

Expenses mainly depend on your individual lifestyle. To give you an idea of the costs for living in Hamburg, we give you some indication for several activities:

Accommodation: EUR 350-400 (in a student residence you might be lucky and pay a bit less (EUR 230-300), private rooms are usually more expensive.

Health Insurance: EUR 60-80

Cell Phone: EUR 10-20

Food&Drinks: EUR 300 (depending on eating out or not)

Semester fee: EUR 310 per Semester

Thus, with approximately EUR 750-800 per month you can reasonably survive in Hamburg. To get further information on the costs for living, please visit this website:
https://www.study-in.de/en/plan-your-stay/money-and-costs/cost-of-living_28220.php .

4.3 Information on studying in Germany

Information on “studies in Germany” and how to arrive and settle in Germany are available at the DAAD database:

<https://www.daad.de/deutschland/in-deutschland/en/>

<https://www.daad.de/deutschland/en/>

Please also check these links for information on studying in Germany:

<http://www.study-in.de/en> (general information on student life in Germany)

<http://www.deutschland.de/en> (Basic facts about Germany)

<http://www.about-germany.org/life/traveltips.php> (travel tips)

4.4 General information on Hamburg

City of Hamburg:

<http://www.uni-hamburg.de/piasta/willkommen.pdf>

<http://english.hamburg.de/>

Thank you for your attention!

We do not make claim that the information given in this booklet is accurate or exhaustive. The information provided is for general informational purposes only.