

## APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR ENGINEERING PHYSICS

We are pleased to learn that you are interested in studying Engineering Physics in Germany. There are some bureaucratic steps to be taken before your enrolment at our university, but we will help you with them as far as possible. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us (see address below). This guide tells you at least one thing: don't panic. Of course studying in a foreign country requires the students to be prepared adequately and hints given in this guide should be taken seriously. But: a lot of foreign students succeed in coming to our university and have a great time here. We wish you much success with your preparations and look forward seeing you here in Oldenburg.

### 1. Get information about the program

All information can be found on our web site <http://www.ep.uni-oldenburg.de> . If you need additional help, please contact:

Martin Reck  
Engineering Physics student support - application enquiry services –  
Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg  
26111 Oldenburg  
Germany

Email: [engineering.physics@uni-oldenburg.de](mailto:engineering.physics@uni-oldenburg.de)  
Tel.: +49 - (0)441 - 798 3560  
Fax: +49 - (0)441 - 798 3698

### 2. Admission requirements

The admission requirements should make sure that students have a fair chance to pass the program successfully. For the Bachelor program the student's qualification must be comparable to the German "Fachhochschulreife" or "Abitur". Since there are so many countries with so many different types of degrees, general rules are not easy to be given. For some countries a secondary school certificate is sufficient. For some other countries successful studies for one or even two years at a university have to be proven. But please note: Admission to the program can only be given on the basis of certified copies. In addition to the scientific qualification, a proof of English proficiency is required. Please see the application form for details.

In the bachelor program the language of instruction is initially English (TOEFL, IELTS or equivalent is required / B2 – level). During the first and a half year all lectures will be given in English, you will learn German in the obligatory German language classes (A2 – level is required). This is a good preparation for visiting advanced lectures, of which several are given in German.

For students who are starting their studies here in the master courses, it is necessary to have an appropriate English language certificate (if English isn't the mother tongue) B2 - level or equivalent, the German „Abitur“ normally fulfills this requirements. Additionally a German proficiency B2 - level) is required, since advanced lectures are being offered in German or in English.

Additional information about the different language certificates can be found here:

<http://www.uni-oldenburg.de/fk3/sprachenzentrum/sprachnachweise/vergleichende-uebersicht-von-ger-niveaus-und-sprachtests/>

The following information can be found under <http://www.daad.de/>

Foreign applicants holding a higher education entrance qualification which is only conditionally comparable with a German qualification may also be admitted to a course of academic studies, but must pass an assessment test, the so-called Feststellungsprüfung (or in full: Prüfung zur Feststellung der Eignung ausländischer Studienbewerber für die Aufnahme eines Studiums an Hochschulen in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland), before they can start studying. Alternatively, proof of one or two successfully completed academic years of study at a higher education institution in the home country may also count.

Responsibility for deciding whether or not a foreign higher education entrance qualification is equivalent to or only conditionally comparable to the German qualification lies with the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs in the German federal states and is made on the basis of evaluation standards. You can check whether your higher education entrance qualification is equivalent to the German qualification on the DAAD admissions database or the database maintained by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (KMK) at [www.anabin.de](http://www.anabin.de) (German language site).

The higher education institutions themselves or the preparatory and foundation courses Studienkollegs which they operate are fundamentally responsible for getting students ready for the assessment test (Feststellungsprüfung) and for setting it. The "Studienkolleg" is a one year preparatory course for students who can not directly study at a university. The "Studienkolleg" in Lower Saxony takes place in Hanover, unfortunately it is held in German. Thus German language is required to enter into the "Studienkolleg".

### 3. Application for admission

**If you belong to the following group you have to apply via the Registrar's Office of the University of Oldenburg:**

- "Bildungsinländer" (= applicants of non-German citizenship qualified from a German educational institution)
- Participants in Exchange Programs
- participants in the program of the Educational Exchange Service (Pädagogischer Austauschdienst)
- DAAD scholarship holders;
- participants in SOKRATES/ERASMUS, ISEP and other programs;
- exchange students within international co-operations and partnerships of Oldenburg University
- Germans with a national school-certificate (i.e. Hochschul- / Fachhochschulreife)

Please follow the following link for direction:

<http://www.uni-oldenburg.de/studium/bewerben-und-einschreiben/>

**If you are an international student please apply via:**

<http://engphy-application.uni-oldenburg.de>

#### 4.1. Closing date for the application

- February 15<sup>th</sup>, for the following summer term (only Master programs)
- August 15<sup>th</sup>, for the following winter term (Master)
- October 15<sup>th</sup>, for the following winter term (Bachelor)

## 4.2. Required documents

Your application needs to include the following documents:

- Final grade of High School / Higher Secondary
- Transcripts of High School / Higher Secondary
- Certificate of English language proficiency (B2 level or equivalent)
- Certificate of German language proficiency (A2 level or equivalent for Bachelor & B2 level or equivalent for Master)
- entrance examination for university (if applicable)
- Final grade of university (if applicable)
- Transcripts of university (if applicable)
- Final grade of assessment test (if applicable)
- Original Aps-Certificate (only for students from China).

## 5. Getting a visa

Most students from outside the European Union need a student visa (not a tourist visa). Issuing a visa is a pretty time consuming process even if all conditions are fulfilled. Thus it is a good idea to ask the German embassy or consulate about conditions and requirements for studying in Germany and in particular for getting a visa as early as possible, latest while sending the application to the university. Since it is so important, let's emphasize it again: although the letter of admission of the university is required for the formal visa application, contact the embassy as early as possible to find further conditions. Please contact the embassy before receiving the letter of admission.

Now for the most important thing: no visa will be issued unless you can prove that you are able to pay for your living expenses in Germany. Thus a financial proof for at least 7800, - € for the first year will be required. Please ask the embassy or consulate about details. Sending an application to us without knowing how to finance your studies is probably a waste of time and money.

You are strongly warned against entering the country as a tourist. A tourist visa cannot be converted into a visa or residence permit for educational purposes, not even by German embassies in neighboring countries.

## 6. Accommodation

If you are looking for help with housing, we strongly recommend using the Accommodation Service for international students (<http://www.studentenwerk-oldenburg.de/en/internationale-studierende.html>).

Or send an e-mail to: [wohnen@sw-ol.de](mailto:wohnen@sw-ol.de)

## 7. Get health insurance

During your stay in Germany, you will need adequate health insurance for yourself (and any person accompanying you). Usually foreign students are insured in Germany at the Statutory Student Health Insurance Scheme (SKV) which costs about 55 Euro monthly. You are eligible for the SKV if you have spent less than 15 semesters studying at a university and are under the age of 30. Please read the extra information in the appendix.

## 8. Arrival in Germany

The nearest airport to Oldenburg is Bremen (about 50km), other airports in the region are Hannover (about 200km), Hamburg (about 300km) and Düsseldorf (about 350km). From these and other airports you can reach Oldenburg by train, timetables of the Deutsche Bahn AG (German Railway) are available in the internet (<http://bahn.hafas.de/english.html>). The bus line 306 will bring you to the university, leave at the final station "Carl-von-Ossietzky-Strasse".

There are two cities named Oldenburg in northern Germany, "Oldenburg in Oldenburg" and "Oldenburg in Holstein". You want to go to Oldenburg in Oldenburg; at times you find the abbreviation "Oldenburg (Oldb)".

## 9. Get your things packed and come to Oldenburg

Please read the description of the climate in Germany in the appendix. You will need rainproof and in particular during winter time warming clothes. Some useful things to take with you: medicines you need, traveler's cheque, some cash for your arrival, camera, hair-dryer, alarm clock, address book, plugs and adapter (230 V, 50 Hz).

You should bring along the following documents:

- a passport valid for the entire period of your stay in Germany
- the letter of admission
- proof of financial resources
- visa (not a tourist visa), if applicable
- originals of your secondary school leaving certificate, your academic qualifications (if applicable)
- possibly confirmation of health insurance or, for students from the European Union, European insurance card or Form E 111
- recent passport photographs (at least 6)
- approx. 200 € in cash for the expenses during the very first days in Germany

We learned that money transfers from foreign countries to Germany are more difficult than one might expect. Transfers tend to take quite long, at times formal problems arise. Just to give an example: one student was asked to sign a form at the bank's branch in his home country -- shortly after arriving in Germany. Thus, ask your home country's bank how the money can be transferred.

## 10. Scholarships

We do not offer scholarships, but there is a large number of possible scholarship donors you can contact.

<http://www.uni-oldenburg.de/en/physics/studies/courseofstudies/ppres/ppre/application/scholarships-and-links/>

## Now enjoy your time in Germany....

### Important Dates

- Deadline for Application: 15.10. for the winter term, but April to July is recommended. Please apply as early as possible since the procedure takes long
- Preparatory Course: Beginning of October
- Lectures: 2 weeks after beginning of the preparatory course

## Appendix

### Living in Oldenburg: People, weather...

Oldenburg is a medium sized town in the North-West of Germany. Due to its moderate size, the inhabitants feel safe and comfortable in the streets. Thus people are friendly and willing to help others, virtually everybody is speaking some English. In the university everybody will speak English. You will meet and co-operate with German students in the Engineering Physics program. These German students enrolled into the program to meet people from other countries and even cultures.

During spring, summer and autumn time temperatures range usually from 10°C to 25°C. In summer temperatures may rise to 30°C. During winter time temperatures usually stay about the freezing point. But -5°C are quite common, -10°C to -20°C might happen. Due to the vicinity of the coast there is a balance between sunny and rainy days. Thus you will need rain clothes as well as warm clothes for the winter period.

### Health insurance

Again: It is obligatory to have an adequate health insurance for yourself (and any member of your family accompanying you). Depending on your home country and your age, one or more of the following items might apply to you:

\* Students from a European Community member state should ask by the health insurance in their home country whether it also recognizes and reimburses the costs for out-patient and in-patient treatment abroad. You then receive a European insurance card. With this card, you may go straight to the doctor in Germany.

\* Students from a country which does not have a social security agreement, must be compulsorily insured, for example at the TECHNIKER KRANKENKASSE (please see attached letter) or AOK. The insurance liability terminates at the end of the 14th subject-related term or when attaining the age of 30. Exceptions such as family reasons, personal reasons or the type of any previous training can result in your compulsory insurance being prolonged.

- If the first two items do not apply, you have to make a contract with a private health insurance company. The most reasonable policy for students up to the age of 35 is an agreement between the German Student Services and the "Union Versicherungsdienst". Insurance cover is channeled through the

Union Versicherungsdienst GmbH  
Klingenbergstrasse 4  
32758 Detmold  
Tel. 05231 / 603-0  
Fax. 05231 / 603-197

E-mail: [info@union-verdi.de](mailto:info@union-verdi.de)  
<http://www.union-verdi.de/dsw-studenten-kv>

Costs are about 44 €/month for males, 66 €/month for females and 42 €/month for children, admission to the university is required.

### Frequently asked questions

\* Where should I take accommodation?

During the first 2 years most lectures will be given in Oldenburg. There is one exception: the laboratory projects will partly take place at the Fachhochschule Oldenburg/Ostfriesland/Wilhelmshaven -- University of Applied Sciences -- in Emden.

You will perhaps go to Emden once a week. This can be done by train in about 1 hour. With your enrolment you get a "Semesterticket" which allows you to use public transport free of charge.

\* Should I attend the preparatory course and what is done there?

Yes. The preparatory course is intended to refresh your knowledge in mathematics and physics and to help you in getting the formalities done. In contrast to the dates given in our brochure, the preparatory course will take place in October.

\* What about fees?

You have to pay a social contribution of about 315 €/Semester. This money pays for membership fee in the Student Union (ASTA), the Semester Ticket and the Student Services to enable the use of student housing, the student's refectory, and sports facilities at reasonable prices.

\* How long does the admission procedure take?

Time between sending the application and getting admission depends on several circumstances that can not be controlled by you or us. Letters often need about two weeks -- occasionally more -- to reach their destination. Usually a decision on admission will be taken about two weeks after receiving the application. Sometimes certificates have to be checked by a central authority, this might take several weeks. Getting a visa at the embassy usually takes 6 to 8 weeks. Thus, send your application early, provide fax and E-mail addresses to speed up communication. At the time you send your application, contact the German embassy.

If you search in the DAAD admission database please keep in your mind that for the Bachelor program the minimum qualification must be comparable to the German "Fachhochschulreife" and that you don't have to prove German language proficiency!

Disclaimer:

We tried our best to make this guide complete and correct. But we are humans and errors might have crept into this text.

This text is partly based on the material from the DAAD, uni assist and the International Students Office (ISO) of the University of Oldenburg.