

Global Exchange · Fact Sheet · 2026/27

General Information

Founded in 1457, the University of Freiburg has a long tradition of teaching and research in a wide range of academic fields, from the humanities, natural sciences and engineering, to medicine, law, and theology. Roughly 25,000 students are enrolled, of which 18% are international students. Many of the university's buildings are located in the heart of the city, deeply connecting the university to the local community.

Situated in Southwestern Germany between the mighty Rhine River and the fabled Black Forest, Freiburg – which turned 900 years old in 2020 – is widely known for many reasons: its vibrant cultural scene, its popularity among travelers, its sunny weather (the sun shines more than almost anywhere else in Germany), its primary mode of transportation (bicycles), and for being an old city but a young student town at the same time. Internationally, Freiburg is known as the “Green City”, one of the birthplaces of the German environmental movement. The city's economy and politics are driven by sustainability and environmental protection.

Freiburg's close proximity to France and Switzerland not only shapes the city's and the region's culture, but also creates a unique opportunity for academic life: the University of Freiburg is part of “Eucor – The European Campus”, a trinational alliance that allows students to take classes at all five member universities across the three countries.

Full name

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

English: University of Freiburg
abbreviation: UFR

Visitor Address & Website

University of Freiburg
International Office
Wilhelmstr. 1b
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Germany

www.international.uni-freiburg.de

Director of the International Office

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Contacts for incoming students to Freiburg

Ms. Michelle Lögler (Incoming Service) & Mr. William Phelps
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Ms. Karolin Steinfurth (Baden-Württemberg Scholarship)
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Contacts for outgoing students from Freiburg & exchange balances

Dr. Jens Langer (Asia, Oceania)
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This fact sheet relates to the the University of Freiburg Global Exchange program, which includes only university-wide bilateral and state program partnerships overseas. [For information on Erasmus see the website.](#)

Dates & Deadlines

	Semester 1 (Winter)	Semester 2 (Summer)
Semester dates	1 Oct 2026 – 31 March 2027	1 April 2027 – 30 Sept 2027
Teaching periods	19 Oct 2026 – 13 Feb 2027	19 April 2027 – 24 July 2027
Exam periods	Exams usually take place during the last weeks of the teaching period, but for some classes, exams may be scheduled up to two weeks after the end of the teaching period.	
Nomination & Application deadline <i>for incoming Freiburg Global Exchange students</i>	1 April 2026	1 Nov 2026
Arrival Days <i>for Freiburg Global Exchange students participating in the intensive language course in March/September</i>	early September exact date will be updated	early March exact date will be updated
Arrival Days <i>for Freiburg Global Exchange students arriving for the official semester start</i>	early October exact date will be updated	early April will be updated
Welcome Day (mandatory orientation)	mid-October exact date will be updated	mid-April exact date will be updated
Holidays & vacation periods	All Saints' Day: 1 Nov 2026 Holiday break: 24 Dec 2026 – 6 Jan 2027	Labor Day: 1 May 2027 Ascension: 6 May 2027 Pentecost: 17 May – 22 May 2027 Corpus Christi: 27 May 2027
More information on dates, deadlines & events	www.uni-freiburg.de/go/sem-term	

Application

Application procedure <i>The application link is for exchange students coming to the University of Freiburg within a university-wide exchange agreement ("University of Freiburg Global Exchange"). For information on Erasmus see the website.</i>	Step 1 Partners please complete the nomination sheet you received by email along with the fact sheet. If you did not receive the nomination sheet, please email global-incoming@zv.uni-freiburg.de for the document. Students cannot apply without prior nomination from a partner. Step 2 The Incoming Service team will email the coordinator and the students with application instructions. If you aren't certain that the students have received the instructions, please forward the email. Step 3 Incoming students complete & submit the online application. The following documents have to be uploaded: ▪ Copy of passport page (<i>ID page</i>) ▪ One digital passport photo Incoming students will find the online application at the following link: www.uni-freiburg.de/go/global-bewerbung
Admission	Incoming Global Exchange students will receive an admission letter, a housing offer, and further helpful information ▪ in July for those arriving in October for the winter semester ▪ in January or February for those arriving in April for the summer semester Admission is always granted for one semester only. Students staying for the academic year enroll for the second semester while in Freiburg. Students are enrolled as non-degree seeking students. Admission is limited to the applicant and does not include family members such as spouses and/or children.
Period of exchange	One semester or two consecutive semesters. A two-semester stay (academic year) is the maximum length of the exchange. If a student wants to extend a one-semester stay for another semester, or if a student wants to postpone a stay to another semester, an updated nomination from the partners is necessary.

Academics

Types of coursework available to Global Exchange students	Students can take regular university classes in the eleven faculties & the University College Freiburg (UCF). See more details below. The university's Language Teaching Center (<i>Sprachlehrinstitut</i>) (SLI) offers German language courses & seminars on German culture & history at a lower German proficiency level specifically to exchange students. Students can also take classes at any of the member universities of Eucor – The European Campus.
Areas of study available to Global Exchange students	Students can take classes in all eleven faculties & at UCF with some exceptions listed below. Any class may have a requirement for language proficiency (German, English), academic prerequisites, and study level.
Closed and restricted areas of study	Closed to the exchange medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, molecular medicine, psychology Restricted University College Freiburg (UCF) offers one fully English-language, interdisciplinary Bachelor program “Liberal Arts and Sciences”. UCF is not part of the eleven faculties; it is an additional college offering one degree program. Incoming students in the university-wide Global Exchange can register for classes during UCF's third registration period, during which still open places in classes are filled. During the two prior registration periods, UCF's degree-seeking students and students from UCF-specific exchange partnerships enroll in classes. Therefore a class may not have places left in the third registration round.
Preparatory language courses	Four-week intensive German language courses are offered by the SLI, the Language Teaching Center (<i>Sprachlehrinstitut</i>), before the start of the semester: Course fee + accommodation = approx. 1000-1300 EUR. Courses are available in March, August, & September.
Language courses available during the semester	During the semester, the SLI offers a variety of tuition-waived German language courses and German culture & history seminars at language levels A2-B2 to Freiburg Global Exchange students. Freiburg Global Exchange students will be informed about registration details & deadlines for these courses by email.
Language(s) of instruction	German, with some courses taught in English. For detailed information please use the course catalogue and search for English-taught classes, or consult study advisors at the faculties.

Language requirements	It is strongly recommended that all incoming Freiburg Global Exchange acquire German language skills at a minimum level of A1 (CEFR*) before they arrive or during the preparatory intensive language course. Students who wish to only take English-taught classes do not require proof of German language proficiency. If English is not a student's first language and/or they do not study at an English-language partner institution, proof of proficiency may be required. Regular university classes held in German will require a B2/C1 level in German. Please note that all classes offered by the German Department require a C1 language proficiency. <i>*Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)</i>
Full time course load per semester	The recommended course load for exchange students is 24 ECTS points with no upper limit.
Course catalogue	The course catalog is usually published in July (for the winter semester that starts in October) and January (for the summer semester that starts in April). For more information on courses, course descriptions, contacts etc. please see: www.uni-freiburg.de/go/campus-en and/or contact the study advisors at the faculties.
Course registration	Registration for classes opens in August (for the winter semester) and February (for the summer semester). Registration is mainly online, though some classes may require contacting the professor by email. For questions please contact study advisors at the faculties.
Credit transfer	It is the responsibility of the student to arrange credit transfer with their home university.
Transcripts	Transcripts of records can be downloaded in the student's account. If the home university has different requirements, students should contact global-incoming@zv.uni-freiburg.de before they leave.

Housing

University housing	The International Office will provide accommodation in a student dormitory to Global Exchange participants if the student has indicated that they wish to be placed in a dorm in the appropriate sections of the online application and submitted the application within the deadline.
Types of housing	Student dormitories offer single-occupancy apartments or single-occupancy rooms in shared apartments.
Shared apartment sizes	1-7 people sharing a kitchen and a bathroom. Some entire floors might share multiple bathrooms and kitchens.
Distance to university	Depending on the dorm location and the location of the university buildings in which a student takes classes, the distance to university is 5-15 minutes by tram or bus, 5-20 minutes by bicycle, & 10-40 minutes on foot.
Meals and Dining	No meal plans are included in the housing fees. Dining hall and cafeteria meals are paid per meal with the university ID. A reduced student rate applies.

Arrival

Nearest airports <i>Airport pickup is not offered by the university.</i>	<u>EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg</u> <i>The <u>Freiburger Airportbus</u> runs from the airport to Freiburg main train station. Another option is <u>Flixbus</u>.</i> <u>Frankfurt am Main (Germany)</u> <i>A <u>Deutsche Bahn</u> intercity express train runs from the airport ("Frankfurt(M) Flughafen Fernbf") to Freiburg.</i> <u>Zurich (Switzerland)</u> <i>Travel via <u>Deutsche Bahn</u> or <u>Flixbus</u></i>
Nearest train station	<u>Freiburg im Breisgau Hauptbahnhof (Main Station)</u>

Finances and insurances

Cost of living estimates per month	▪ Accommodation: 270 – 500 EUR ▪ Food: 400 EUR ▪ Clothes: 50 EUR ▪ Study materials: 50 EUR ▪ Semester ticket for public transit: 100 EUR (<i>valid for 6 months</i>) ▪ Health insurance: 110 EUR ▪ Liability insurance: approx. 10 EUR ▪ Telephone, TV, internet: 50 EUR ▪ GEZ broadcasting tax: 18,36 EUR ▪ Miscellaneous: 80-100 EUR Minimum living expenses: 1000 – 1400 EUR per month <i>Note: figures are estimates and intended as an orientation.</i>
Student and administrative fees	All University of Freiburg students must pay administrative fees for non-academic student services offered by the Student Union (<i>Studierendenwerk</i>), including the right to purchase the semester ticket for public transport. Freiburg Global Exchange students pay a reduced rate of currently 103 EUR per semester. All students must pay a 400-500 EUR deposit for dormitory housing which will be refunded at the end of their stay, unless additional costs, e.g. damages, have occurred.
Health insurance	All students need proof of sufficient health insurance in order to be enrolled. A German public health insurance plan is mandatory for exchange students. These plans offer maximum coverage and cost approximately 110 EUR per month. The University of Freiburg will not cover any medical bills for exchange students.
Liability insurance	We strongly recommend purchasing a liability insurance plan (<i>Haftpflichtversicherung</i>). This insurance covers everyday life risks, e.g. unintentionally injuring a pedestrian with your bike or damaging someone else's property.

Scholarships

Baden-Württemberg Scholarship <i>The scholarship is not available for Erasmus students.</i>	Exchange students who receive a placement of 1 or 2 semesters in the University of Freiburg Global Exchange Program are eligible and encouraged to apply for this scholarship. Please keep in mind the strict deadlines. Step 1 Read the current call for applications and the instructions on the website. Step 2 Students complete and sign the application form and submit it to their home university's exchange coordinator. The coordinator has to submit the form via email to bw-stipendium@zv.uni-freiburg.de within the deadline and thereby nominate the student for the scholarship. If a university nominates more than one student, a ranking has to be included. Step 3 The student completes and submits the online application within the deadline. Late or incomplete applications cannot be processed.
DAAD scholarships	The DAAD (<i>Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst</i>, German Academic Exchange Service) offers a variety of scholarships for German and non-German students, PhD students, and researchers. Detailed information can be found at www.daad.de.

Miscellaneous

Center for Key Qualifications	<u>The Center for Key Qualifications (ZfS)</u> offers courses for international students each semester. Courses may cover the following topics: ▪ intercultural competence & studying in Germany ▪ academic writing skills (in German), ▪ a short, practice-oriented intercultural training for incoming exchange students
Resources/services for students with disabilities	For services for students with disabilities please see www.studium.uni-freiburg.de/en/counseling/studying-with-a-disability-or-chronic-illness
Visa Requirements	Nationals from Non-EU Countries have to apply for a visa for educational purposes at a German Embassy in their home country. Nationals from EU-Countries as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, Australia, Israel, Japan, Canada, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea and the U.S. do not need a visa to enter Germany. <u>ALL Freiburg Global Exchange students</u>, whether they need a visa to enter Germany or not, have to apply for a residence permit with the local authorities (Ausländerbehörde) after their arrival in Freiburg. The Incoming Service team supports students with the application.
Emergencies	German universities do not provide emergency phone contacts. For emergencies call the European Emergency Number 112 free of charge to reach police, ambulances, or emergency services. <u>More information on emergencies.</u>

