

Fact Sheet 2025

Furtwangen University (HFU)
International Center
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international@hs-furtwangen.de



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Introduction to Furtwangen University of Applied Sciences

Furtwangen University (known by its German acronym “HFU”) focuses on applied learning and research in **mechanical engineering, information and media sciences, business and health sciences** — and has been ranked among Germany’s top universities in a number of these fields by major national publications and surveys conducted amongst students and employers.

With about 4500 **students**, the academic community is large **enough to** enjoy modern laboratories, a highly modern IT infrastructure, and one of Germany’s best academic libraries, yet small enough to maintain a personal touch. Small class sizes, regular personal contact with the teaching staff, and an excellent learning environment help guarantee good results and a positive experience.

Students and staff also benefit from the large international population on campus, as well as the natural beauty of the surrounding regions, including Germany’s renowned **Black Forest**. The enormous range of activities on campus includes over 30 different sports, from skiing and climbing to tennis and mountain biking.

Students generally earn a bachelor’s degree within seven semesters, which includes a semester-long work placement and thesis. In addition, students gain experience through team-oriented project work, or during a study semester abroad at one of our more than 140 partner universities worldwide. Master’s degree programmes at HFU usually take three semesters to complete.

Campus Locations



Furtwangen is the location of the original campus, in the heart of the Black Forest.

Address: Robert-Gerwig-Platz 1, 78120 Furtwangen.

Villingen-Schwenningen is a twin town, 30 km east of Furtwangen. The campus is located in **Schwenningen**.

Address: Jakob-Kienzle-Strasse 17, 78054 Villingen-Schwenningen

Tuttlingen is located 30 km south-east of Villingen-Schwenningen. It hosts the newest campus which is co-funded by industry.

Address: Kronenstrasse 16, 78532 Tuttlingen

Faculties

- I. Computer Science & Applications
- II. Engineering & Technology
- III. Health, Medical & Life Sciences
- IV. Business, Design & Media

Contacts	
International Center	
Head	Ms. Brigitte Minderlein brigitte.minderlein@hs-furtwangen.de
Deputy Head	Ms. Anette Kohler anette.kohler@hs-furtwangen.de
ERASMUS+ Institutional Coordinator	Ms. Brigitte Minderlein brigitte.minderlein@hs-furtwangen.de
Incoming Students	Email: incoming@hfu.eu
Outgoing Students	Email: outgoing@hfu.eu
Faculty Coordinators (responsible for signing Learning Agreements)	
I Computer Science & Applications	
Prof. Dr. Achim Karduck achim.karduck@hs-furtwangen.de	
II Engineering & Technology	
Prof. Dr. Holger Conzelmann holger.conzelmann@hs-furtwangen.de	
III Health, Medical & Life Sciences	
Prof. Dr. Kirsten Steinhausen (Furtwangen Campus) kirsten.steinhausen@hs-furtwangen.de	
Prof. Dr. Erwin Scherfer (Physiotherapy, Freiburg) erwin.scherfer@hs-furtwangen.de	
Prof. Dr. Ulrike Fasol (Schwenningen Campus) Ulrike.fasol@hs-furtwangen.de	
IV Business, Design & Media	
Focus Business (Schwenningen Campus)	
France, Netherlands, Finland	Mr. Raphael Gilles raphael.gilles@hs-furtwangen.de
China (incl. Taiwan), Korea	Ms. Li Fang-Heck li.fang-heck@hs-furtwangen.de
Spanish-speaking countries, Brazil	Ms. Ramona Hummel ramona.hummel@hs-furtwangen.de
Hungary, South Africa	Prof. Dr. Rütger Conzelmann ruetger.conzelmann@hfu.eu
Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Switzerland	Prof. Dr. Michael Lederer michael.lederer@hs-furtwangen.de
UK	Prof. Dr. Uwe Hack uwe.hack@hs-furtwangen.de
All other countries	Dr. Daniel Krause daniel.krause@hs-furtwangen.de
Focus Design & Media (Furtwangen Campus)	
Prof. Dr. Norbert Schnell norbert.schnell@hs-furtwangen.de	

Practical Information	
Fall Semester Dates	
Preferred arrival date	A few days before the Orientation Programme starts (late September)
Orientation Programme (incl. intensive German course)	One week before the start of lectures (attendance is mandatory)
Lecture period (incl. exams)	Approximately 1 October to 25 February
General holidays	No lectures between Christmas (24 th December) and New Year's Day
Spring Semester Dates	
Preferred arrival date	1 March
Orientation Programme (incl. intensive German course)	One week before the start of the lectures (attendance is mandatory)
Lecture period (incl. exams)	Approximately 15 March to 31 July
General holidays	There is a one-week break either at Easter or Whitsun
Application and Nomination Process for Incoming Students	
Nomination deadline	For entry in the summer semester: 15 October For entry in the winter semester: 15 April
Application deadline	For entry in the summer semester: 1 November For entry in the winter semester: 1 May

Nomination and application procedure and required documents	<p>Students must be nominated by their home institution by email (with the HFU Nomination Form)</p> <p>Students will then be contacted directly with further information about the application process (including application link)</p> <p>Students must apply online and upload the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CV/resume • Passport-sized photograph • Subject and grade report, both in the original language and in German or English translation • Letter of motivation • Proof of English or German skills (minimum B1)
Accommodation	
<p>Dormitories are run by student services (SWFR - Studierendenwerk Freiburg-Schwarzwald). Students have to apply directly at the SWFR for a room in the dormitory:</p> <p>FURTWANGEN: Dormitories in Furtwangen : Studierendenwerk Freiburg-Schwarzwald</p> <p>SCHWENNINGEN: Dormitories in Villingen-Schwenningen : Studierendenwerk Freiburg-Schwarzwald</p>	
<p>There are also private dormitories and rooms available.</p> <p>The International Center will provide a list of addresses to nominated exchange students.</p>	
<p>Important: Rooms in the SWFR dormitories (and in most other dormitories) can only be rented for a 6-month period (March to August or September to February)!</p> <p>For rooms in private houses a liability insurance is normally required.</p>	
Cost of Living	
<p>Monthly expenses for room and board in Germany, including health insurance, are estimated to be €992. The cost of living in Furtwangen, Schwenningen, and Tuttlingen, however, is below that of most other university towns in Germany.</p>	
Academic System	
Contact hours	<p>The academic programmes are structured in semester hours per week (Semesterwochenstunde = sws). One semester hour per week (contact hour) equals a lecture of 45 minutes for the duration of one semester. One semester usually consists of about 15 weeks.</p>
Academic Credits	<p>The workload of one semester corresponds to 30 ECTS credits (European Credit Transfer System).</p>
Grading System	<p>Grades range from 5.0 (minimum) to 1.0 (maximum) and 4.0 is the minimum passing grade. 2.5 is considered a good grade</p>
Language of Instruction and Programmes for Exchange Students	
Language specification	<p>Courses are offered in German and partly in English (not on Tuttlingen Campus!). Some degree-programmes are taught entirely in English.</p> <p>On the following website you can check all our programmes and filter for the teaching language Programmes #studyingFUTURE Furtwangen University (hs-furtwangen.de)</p> <p>Exchange students can choose from a variety of lectures taught in English, across the faculties (→ International Semester only on Furtwangen Campus, see below)</p>
Bachelor's programmes taught in English:	<p>International Business Management BA (Schwenningen Campus)</p> <p>International Business Management Bachelor (IBM) (hs-furtwangen.de)</p> <p>International Business Information Systems BSc (Furtwangen Campus)</p>

	International Business Information Systems 100% English (hs-furtwangen.de)
Master's programmes taught in English	Artificial Intelligence and Data Science for Digital Business Management MSc, Smart Systems MSc, Biomedical Engineering MSc, Business Consulting MSc, Precision Medicine Diagnostics MSc, International Business Management MBA, International Management MSc Programmes Furtwangen University (hs-furtwangen.de)
International Semester@Furtwangen Campus (customized programme for exchange students)	Exchange students can choose from a variety of lectures taught in English, across the faculties Academic Director: Prof. Dr. Achim Karduck achim.karduck@hs-furtwangen.de
German as a Foreign Language	
German courses	Our School of Languages and Cultures offers a wide range of language classes. German as a foreign language (DaF) is taught at 5 levels of proficiency as regular courses during the semester. The pre-semester intensive course is only taught at level A1 and A2 SLC Flyer de en 2025.pdf
Insurance	
Health insurance	EU students must bring their EHIC (European Health Insurance Card). Non-EU students must take out a German statutory health insurance (cost around €100 per month) or get an exemption letter, which can be issued by a German statutory health insurance company if the student's international health insurance meets the requirements (which is usually not the case!). With one of the following service providers, Expatrio, Fintiba, or Coracle, students can take out the necessary statutory health insurance online from home. We strongly recommend that students take out a travel insurance for their flight and the first few days in Germany before enrolment
Accident Insurance	Statutory Accident Insurance: Students registered at a German accredited university are covered by law under the Social Statute 'SGB VII'. Insurance cover is provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • during lectures and seminars • revision courses and field trips • public libraries • in different sports at the university • activities of the student body and other university related activities Accidents that occur on campus or on the direct route between home and university or during university sports must be reported to the university secretary. Leisure Accident Insurance is provided by student services (SWFR) (see below).
Liability Insurance	Liability Insurance within university grounds is provided by the student services (SWFR) (see below) Private liability insurance: We strongly recommend students to take out private liability insurance.

Fees	
Exchange students from partner universities are exempt from paying the Administration Fee and the Student Union Contribution. However, they must pay the Student Services Fee.	
Student Services Fee	€66 – includes the following insurances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • liability insurance within the university • theft protection within university grounds • leisure accident insurance (outside the university) For more information check Insurance: Studierendenwerk Freiburg-Schwarzwald (swfr.de)
Visa and Residence Permit for Non-EU students	
Non-EU students must apply for a visa in their resident country. Students from certain non-EU countries can enter Germany without a visa (please check the websites of the German embassy in your home country for details) and apply for a residence permit after arrival in Germany.	
Services for International Students	
Buddy Programme	The International Center runs a Buddy Programme which arranges contact between local students and new exchange students. Before arrival, every exchange student can contact his/her buddy by email. A buddy is a local student who helps new international students to get to know what everyday life at university is like, especially at the semester start.
Orientation Programme and German Seminar	About one week prior to the beginning of classes, the International Center runs an Orientation Programme during which exchange students are provided with important information regarding their stay in Germany. They receive information and support in administrative matters (residence registration, enrolment, immigration, etc.). Two weeks prior to the beginning of classes students can take part in an online intensive German course (for beginners at, or below, B1 level).
Trips and Events	The International Center and the International Student Community (ISC) organize a number of trips and events throughout the year: a 3-day trip to Berlin, day trips to Heidelberg, Constance, Freiburg, Stuttgart and other places, hiking tours, international festivals, movie nights, country presentations, and more.