

# Welcome to the Metropolitan Area Nuremberg

This brochure has been made to share some experiences that students / researchers had when they first came to study / work at FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg. It is not complete, so if you have any additional information that should be shared, please let us know.

## Paperwork

### *Entrance Paperwork*

- FAU will reject you if you make a mistake with the paperwork. Inform Emilia Jarochovska (E-Mail: [emilia.jarochovska@fau.de](mailto:emilia.jarochovska@fau.de)); this can be appealed.
- German universities require a notarized copy of your diploma and other certificates. Most universities offer this service but if this is not the norm in your country, it might take a while.
- You will need to complete your registration in person before the term begins, bringing all original copies of paperwork with you.

### *Government*

- You need to declare your residence at the local city hall (“Rathaus”) when you arrive.
  - It requires proof of residence in the form of a hotel receipt or a contract with a landlord. You need to provide a form (which can be collected from the city hall) with all the details of your contract and the signature of your landlord.
  - They will give you a paper which allows you to do other things, like getting a local bank account, which again is required to get a local phone contract.
- If you come from outside the EU, you will need to get a **Residence Permit**.
  - Start this process as soon as possible.
  - You will need to make an appointment with the “Auslandsamt” and then go again later to fill out the paperwork. Follow the instructions given to you and it will work smoothly. However, they are very busy, so it may take a month or more to get an appointment.
  - The officials will ask questions about religious affiliation and past activities. This is normal in Germany.

### *Driver’s License*

Depending on where you are from, you can get your driver’s license changed into a German driver’s license.

For further information please visit the FAU Homepage: <https://www.fau.eu/study/prospective-students/application-and-enrolment/deadlines-and-documents-for-enrolment/>

or contact the Central Office for International Affairs – Services: <https://www.fau.eu/international/central-office-for-international-affairs-services/>

## Transportation

### *Walking*

- Parking cars partially or wholly on the sidewalk is normal. Be aware of cars seeking to park when walking down certain streets with no hard shoulder.
- Please stay out of the bike lane (often the red, outside part of the pavement) and obey all traffic signals.

### *Bicycles*

- Erlangen and the surrounding areas are very bike friendly.
- Most sidewalks on busy streets have bike lanes and many businesses have bike racks.
- Make sure you have bike lights if you plan to cycle at night.
- The local police department runs a bike auction of lost and found bikes, this happens in October and March each year.

### *Semester Ticket*

- The Semester Ticket allows you to use public transport in the Nuremberg metropolitan area for free.
- The **basic semester ticket** is included in your student fees. It allows you to use all second-class off-peak public transport (before 6am and after 7pm, as well as on weekends). It does not allow first class travel and long-distance travel with ICE, IC or EC trains. You have to register with the VGN to “purchase” it for free using your student number (matrikel nummer) (<https://shop.vgn.de/index.php/tickets>).
- If you will be commuting often, an **additional semester ticket** can be purchased for ~210 €. It allows you to travel at any time on second-class transport. It does not allow first class travel and long-distance travel with ICE, IC or EC trains. You can buy that ticket via the VGN online shop.
- If you only have the basic semester ticket and need to travel on public transport within peak hours, purchase your tickets through the VGN app at a lower price than at the station/on the bus.
- For your semester ticket to be valid you must carry your student ID when you use public transport. They do random checks and if you do not have ID you will incur a fine.

## Accommodation

- Postgraduate students aren't eligible for student halls (“studentenwohnheim”) as they don't have many rooms, so you have to find a room on the private market.
- Living in central Erlangen can be quite expensive, consider living a little further out and cycling/taking the bus to university from lower rent areas.
- Most housing applications start online (e.g. <https://www.wg-gesucht.de/en/wg-zimmer-in-Erlangen.34.0.1.0.html>). Most require an in-person interview. It can take a few weeks to find a suitable place.
- If you are from Europe, try to schedule interviews while you're in town for other things.
- If you are from another continent, you can:
  - Apply a lot while you are at home. Start as soon as you decide to attend FAU.
  - Stay in an Airbnb/hotel for a few weeks while searching for an apartment.
  - Stay with a current student who is alright with guests.
- Further information can be found on the FAU homepage: <https://www.fau.eu/study/prospective-students/accommodation/>

## Shopping

- Most shops close at 6pm or 8pm; this includes supermarkets.
- Bakeries are present all over the town and are a great place to get fresh bread and pastries.
- Germans take their weekends seriously. Most stores are closed on Sundays and on public holidays.
- Shops to know:
  - E-Center, Rewe, Kaufland, Aldi, Lidl, Norma and Netto are grocery stores. Kaufland, Rewe and E-Center have a large selection and cover other merchandise. Aldi, Lidl, Norma and Netto are discount grocer.
  - Gluten free products can be found in the larger grocery stores (Kaufland, Rewe, E-Center)
  - Müller and dm are chemist's shops
  - Thalia is a book shop which has a selection of English books
  - The Arcaden is Erlangen's shopping mall. If you need something, the Arcaden probably has it.
  - Conrad Electronic in Fürth is the closest store which carries voltage converters for those coming from other continents. Most electronics can be found in the Arcaden.
  - There are lots of smaller shops, carrying anything from specialty foods to sewing supplies.
  - There are bike shops all over Erlangen, but for discount bike accessories check out Kaufland.

## University life:

- Exams: You must register to take exams for a course online separately from registering for the course. This is done on Mein Campus (<https://www.campus.uni-erlangen.de/qisserver/rds?state=user&type=0>).
- University sport: University clubs are almost always sports activities supervised by a teacher studying sports. There are an extremely limited number of slots, so sign up ASAP or you'll miss out. The sign up is in the beginning of the semester and will be announced on the homepage of the faculty of sports (<https://www.hochschulsport.fau.de/category/kursangebot/>)

## Things to do in your free time

### *Eating and drinking:*

- Alcohol is served at most establishments. You will not be carded.
- Franconia is famous for Beer and Wine. In the Franconian Swiss you'll find at least one small private brewery in almost every village. The wine region ("Weinfranken") is more in the northwest towards Würzburg.
- You will also find a large variety of good German style food. Nuremberg is famous for its "Nürnberger Bratwurst". Fish farming is also a very important food source. Beerbattered "Karpfen" (european carp) is served in the month with a "r". On Sundays Germans eat (traditionally) roast and dumplings or "Schäufala".
- Turkish and Italian food are found throughout the cities and usually very good. "Doner Kebab" is the most offered fast food in German Cities.
- Even though German style food almost always contains meat, you easily find vegetarian or vegan food. In the internet you will find an overview on the places that serve vegan food (e.g. <https://www.veganguide-nuernberg.de>)

### *Sightseeing:*

- Most cities have castles. Famous historical cities/towns are Nuremberg, Bamberg or Rothenburg o. d. Tauber and are within the range of your semester ticket.
- The Christmas market in Nuremberg is world famous, as well as the Beer fest “Erlanger Bergkirchweih” that is in the time of the Pentecost holidays.
- Natural highlights are the Franconian Swiss and the Altmühltal (where the Archaeopteryx was found).

### *Sport activities*

- Hiking: the Franconian Swiss has a lot of hiking trails and you always can finish your hike with a visit in a nice restaurant with cheap and good local food and beer.
- Climbing: The Franconian Swiss is an El Dorado for rock climbers. If you are climbing, you probably know.
- Lakes: Enjoy the lakes of Dechsendorf, Roth, Brombach and Altmühl. Dechsendorf is only 7 km away from the city center and has BBQ areas at the lake. You also find some BBQ areas at the “Wiesengrund”.
- Cycling: There are a lot of bike trails along of rivers. You can cycle to Bamberg (40 km) by going along the Rhein-Main-Donau Channel to the north.