



School of Integrated Climate System Sciences

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- Frequently asked questions related to the MScICSS Program -

When is the application deadline for the MSc program?

From the class of 2010 onwards, the application deadline will be the end of March. However, we would request that you send your documents as early as possible, so that we have time to check that nothing is missing, well before the end of March.

How can I apply for the MSc program?

Send us a letter of motivation including a short résumé and a photo, a copy of your BSc certificate or a transcript of records of essential BSc credit points, a copy of your higher education entrance qualification (school leaving certificate), and copies of your English certificates by March 31, 2010. In April, the Committee will select candidates. You will hear from us (1) if you have been selected for admission, (2) if a preparatory course is recommended or obligatory, and (3) on the necessary follow-up steps.

Which requirements do I need to fulfill if I want to apply for the SICSS MSc program?

The application requirements for the MSc program are a BSc in related subjects such as geophysics, geosciences, meteorology, oceanography, or at least 90 credit point equivalents and an adequate proof of English proficiency.

Are there any tuition fees?

Yes, the tuition fee of the University of Hamburg is € 375,- per semester. We do not claim any further charges for our program. Additionally, students of the University of Hamburg have to pay administrative charges (including the costs for the student's ticket for public transport) which total about €254.50 per semester.

How can I get a scholarship?

You could apply for a scholarship at organizations such as

- the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD (<http://www.daad.de/en/index.html>) or
- the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (<http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/ICF.html>).

You could also contact

- the Studierendenwerk (<http://www.studierendenwerk-hamburg.de/start.php?rubrik=finanzen&&sprache=english>) or
- Ms. Bärbel Launer from the International Office (http://www.verwaltung.uni-hamburg.de/vp-2/5/Studierende/SPASAntrag_e.html)

for guidance concerning your personal situation.

Is it possible to defer the tuition fees?

Students from EU member states or states belonging to the European Economic Area under the age of 45 can defer the tuition fees (with no interest fees). Please sign the according paragraph on the tuition fee document ("Studiengebühren") which can be found on your online application account, and hand it in to the Team for Student's Affairs (Team für Studierendenangelegenheiten, see <http://www.verwaltung.uni-hamburg.de/vp-1/3/33/personal.html>).

If you are not citizen of the above mentioned states, you can defer the tuition fees (with no interest fees) as well. Anyhow, in this case you have use an application form. The form can as well be found in the documents on your online application account. It needs to be filled out and handed in to the Team for Student's Affairs (Team für Studierendenangelegenheiten, see <http://www.verwaltung.uni-hamburg.de/vp-1/3/33/personal.html>).

After the deferral period (usually the period of your MSc studies), you will have to settle all deferred fees in one payment. If at this point of time you earn less than € 30,000 per year, you can apply for an extension on your repayment (again without having to pay interests).

Is it possible to study on a part-time basis?

Yes, it is generally possible to study on a part-time basis. For our MSc students, decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.

Once accepted as an MSc student, which documents do I need to matriculate as a student at the University of Hamburg?

To matriculate at the University of Hamburg, you need to fill in the matriculation form which can be found on your online application account after 21 August, and hand it in to the university together with a health insurance certificate and certified copies of your BSc certificate and your higher education entrance qualification (school leaving certificate).

Where can I get health insurance?

As a student, you are obliged to insure yourself with state health insurance (Gesetzliche Krankenversicherung) which offers reduced membership rates for students. If you are older than 30, however, or you have already studied for more than 14 semesters, you will be required to pay higher rates. You can, for example, insure yourself at the following institutions:

- Betriebskrankenkasse BKK (address: Hamburger Straße 197, 22083 Hamburg; phone: 040/298080),
- Allgemeine Ortskrankenkasse AOK (address: Schlüterstraße 22, 20146 Hamburg; phone: 040/2023-2210), or the
- Techniker Krankenkasse TK (address: Schlüterstraße 18, 20146 Hamburg; phone: 040/6921-6216).

What happens once I have enrolled as a student at the University of Hamburg?

Once enrolled, you will be asked to transfer the tuition fees (€ 375,-) and the administration charges (€ 252,-) to the University of Hamburg. You will then receive your enrollment confirmation and your semester ticket (student's ticket for public transport in Hamburg).

Where can I find accommodation?

Most private advertisements can be found in the Wednesday or Saturday edition of the Hamburger Abendblatt (Hamburg's newspaper with highest circulation) or on the website <http://immonet.abendblatt.de/>. If you prefer to live in shared accommodation (German: Wohnungsgemeinschaft, or simply WG) , you could also check special websites for student's ads, such as <http://www.campus-hamburg.de/anzeigen/wohnboerse.html>, or <http://www.studenten-wg.de/> or <http://www.wg-zimmer.de/wgz/content.php?content=index&PHPSESSID=372fa859ea819c745f078828908cb025>.

If you are interested in dormitory accommodation, please check the homepage of the Studierendenwerk (<http://www.studierendenwerk-hamburg.de/start.php?rubrik=wohnen&&sprache=english>). Please note that to get a room in one of the dormitories you need to apply some months before the beginning of the semester. Once the semester has begun, you can only be put on a waiting list, and it can take several months before a room becomes available.

What else do I have to do once I arrive in Germany?

Within the first week of arriving in Hamburg, you are obliged by law to register at the Registration Office (e.g. at the Bezirksamt Eimsbüttel, address: Grindelberg 66, first floor, 20144 Hamburg; phone: 040/42801-2102). You can also register at the Hamburg Welcome Center (<http://welcome.hamburg.de/english/>; address: Alter Wall 11, 20457 Hamburg; phone: 040/42828-0). They also provide special services for foreigners coming to Germany.

Does the KlimaCampus offer German courses?

If you are interested in learning German, please have a look at the website of the International Office of the University of Hamburg (http://www.verwaltung.uni-hamburg.de/vp-2/5/Studierende/Sprachveranstaltungen/Deutsch_e.html). You can also take courses at the Volkshochschule VHS (http://www.vhs-hamburg.de/vhsspezial/deutsch_als_fremdsprache.cfm). Unfortunately the website is only available in German, but you can contact the VHS info desk directly (phone: 040/42841-3238, e-mail: DaF@vhs-hamburg.de) to get information about current classes in English.