



Universität Hamburg



KlimaCampus

School of Integrated Climate System Sciences

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- Frequently asked questions related to the PhD program -

How can I apply for the PhD program of the graduate school?

PhD positions at the KlimaCampus can be found on our website (see <http://www.klimacampus.de/index.php/PhD-Students/234/0/?&L=1> for current announcements), or you can apply for a fellowship (see below). When you start your PhD work at the KlimaCampus, you will be accepted as a PhD student of our graduate school, once your application has been processed.

Is the program open for external applicants or is there a preference for graduates from the MSc program?

The PhD program is open for everybody who does his/her PhD studies at the KlimaCampus providing it is related to climate system sciences.

Do you accept new PhD students regularly? Is there a deadline?

You can become a SICSS PhD student at any time. As soon as you start your PhD studies at the KlimaCampus you can apply for membership at the graduate school.

Where can I apply for a fellowship?

You can apply for a scholarship at organizations such as:

- The German Exchange Service DAAD (<http://www.daad.de/en/index.html>),
- The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (<http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/ICF.html>), or
- The Dr. Schmidt Stiftung (<http://www.dr-schmidt-stiftung.de/richtlinien.html>).

Can I become a SICSS PhD student if I am a PhD student at the University of Hamburg, but not financed by the KlimaCampus?

Yes. In this case, please send us a short application including a letter of motivation (max. 2 pages). The applications are considered on merit.

Do I have to enroll as a PhD student at the University of Hamburg? What are the advantages/disadvantages?

You can decide if you want to enroll as a PhD student. As a PhD student, you get a certificate and a student's ID. With these you can get discounts at many public facilities (e.g. theater, cinema, swimming pools, sports clubs, and so on). You can also get the semester ticket (student's ticket for public transport in Hamburg). PhD students don't have to pay tuition fees. The enrollment fee (including the costs for the semester ticket) is about € 254.50 per semester.

How can I enroll as a PhD student at the University of Hamburg?

You need certification from your supervisor that your planned studies are feasible and that he/she accepts you as a student (Doktorandenbescheinigung). If you don't speak German, your supervisor needs to confirm that you can carry out your studies in English. Please hand these documents in to the student's center (Zentrum für Studierende, address: Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1, 20146 Hamburg, attn. Ms. Engst) together with an informal letter stating that you want to enroll as a PhD student. You need to apply by 15th May if you want to get the documents for the summer term, or 15th November if you want to get the documents for the winter term.

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).

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 after 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.