

Study Abroad Student Handbook







International Office

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INTRODUCTION



Congratulations! You have been admitted to the study abroad program at Jacobs University Bremen. A study abroad experience will be one of the most memorable times in your life and we hope that your stay at Jacobs University will be both academically enriching and personally inspiring.

If you accept our offer for admission, there are a few more steps you will need to take before arriving in Bremen. Consequently, we have produced this student handbook to guide you through your preparations.

As a study abroad student, the International Office will be your central point of contact before, during, and after your stay. We will be answering all your questions or directing you to the appropriate departments. We also will be helping you settle in by organizing activities designed especially for study abroad students:

YOUR CONTACT PERSON

Yuliya Salauyova

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In order for you to know your student status at Jacobs University we have compiled the following definitions:

Visiting Students as Free Movers

If your home university or college does not have an exchange agreement with Jacobs University, you will be studying at Jacobs University as a visiting student.

Visiting Students (from a partner university)

If you are from a university or college that has signed a visiting agreement with Jacobs University, you will be studying at Jacobs University as a visiting student (please ask your International Office for details).

Exchange Students (from a partner university)

If your home university or college has an exchange agreement with Jacobs University, you will be studying at Jacobs University as an exchange student (please ask your International Office for details).

Erasmus Students (from a partner university)

Erasmus is the university exchange program of the European Union. If your university has an Erasmus exchange agreement with Jacobs University in your major, you can study at Jacobs University as an Erasmus exchange student (please ask your International Office for details).



COUNTDOWN TO STUDY ABROAD

The red entries are mandatory and need to be completed by the given deadlines! The black entries are not mandatory but will further help you plan your study abroad.

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	Apply for your visa as soon as possible (if needed). Send visa information to the International Office as soon as you receive your visa (if needed). Contact health insurance company to verify your coverage in Germany Complete the Host Family Program Survey online.
1 m	nonth ahead
	Have a physical health exam with your doctor, at your discretion. Arrange to receive any vaccinations if needed. Refill any prescriptions and collect any over-the-counter products that may not be available in Germany (make sure they are legal in Germany; get a doctor's note authorizing your use of prescription medications you are taking with you). Please note that it is not allowed to mail medicine to Germany.
	Make copies to bring with you and leave one copy at home: Passport and visa
	Tickets and other travel passes
	Jacobs University papers and correspondence, papers you might need for your home institution in order to have your Jacobs University coursework transferred
	Exchange Euros to carry with you and to get you through the first weeks until money can be wired to your new German bank account, get traveler's checks or credit card, if you wish.
	Check if you have a tri-band cellular phone that you can bring with you and operate here with a German SIM card. Ask your cellular provider in your home country to determine if your phone will work in Germany.
1 w	veek to 1 day ahead
	Pack, keeping in mind airline regulations on luggage allowance and on what you can and cannot put in your luggage and carry-ons; also remember to pack clothing appropriate for Bremen's cold winters. Make sure to leave a contact phone number with your family: (Yuliya Salauyova: +49 (421) 200 4315). Place luggage ID tags on each piece of baggage with your name and the International Office address: Jacobs University Bremen, International Office, c/o Yuliya Salauyova, Campus Ring 1, 28759 Bremen, Germany.



THE JACOBS UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

Jacobs University is a private, but independent research university. Located in the north-western part of Germany, Jacobs University is situated in the charming city of Bremen, less than 30 minutes away from the 1,200-year-old city center.

In 2011, Jacobs University celebrated its 10th anniversary. From 120 first students in 2001, we have grown to a community of 1300 students from over 100 countries that study here. For your time in Bremen-Nord, you will become part of our current undergraduate student body of 750 students and of 1 spirit.

Jacobs University offers a transdisciplinary curriculum, employing ECTS credits for all degrees. At Jacobs University, we focus on research within the fields of engineering, natural sciences, the humanities and the

social sciences. We offer 15 majors for students pursuing BA or BSc degrees.

You will live and study in a thriving international community. The language of instruction and of everyday business at Jacobs University is English. So if you want to spend a semester abroad in Germany but study in English Jacobs University is the right choice.

At the same time Jacobs University is undoubtedly German. Our foreign language options that include German language courses with Goethe Institute as well as our Host Family program allow you to improve your language skills and get in touch with the different facets of German culture. A large number of staff and faculty are German. German students studying at Jacobs further bring the German culture onto campus. In addition Jacobs University is involved with the local community. Students are invited to all kinds of activities organized by local clubs.

You will have plenty of possibilities for improving your knowledge of other cultures and languages while studying at Jacobs University. Take a

weekend trip to the Netherlands, make friends with your Zambian roommate, or sign up for one of our various language courses. Jacobs University also hosts a "Country Information Day" throughout the semester, an event in which students are able to present their home country's history, customs, and food to fellow members of the community.



BREMEN: YOUR KEY TO EUROPE



Bremen is a great starting point from which you can discover the rest of Europe. Hamburg and Hanover are only about one hour away. Main train station located in the center of the city is your travelling hub to Berlin, Frankfurt, Munich, Cologne or even Paris. Bremen City Airport is a host to the Ryan Air company that provides inexpensive flights to many exciting European destinations such as London, Amsterdam, Lisbon, Vienna, Prague and more.

As most European Union countries are part of the Schengen Agreement, you won't even need a special visa to visit them – your student visa or residence permit for Germany will be sufficient!



ARRIVAL, VISA, INSURANCES AND ID

When to Arrive on Campus

Students joining Jacobs University are expected to arrive on campus one week prior to the beginning of the Fall/Spring Semester.

ATTENTION:

- The arrival day for Fall Semester 2017 is Tuesday, August 29th.
- The arrival day for Spring Semester 2018 is Thursday, January 25th

In very exceptional cases, students may move into the college on another day. Requests for exceptions must be submitted to the <u>International Office</u>. Please let us know the exact time of your arrival in Bremen as soon as possible. You will be picked up at the Bremen airport or the train station by your host family (if you signed up for one), by International Office (if you arrive in a large group), or by your student advisor (if you arrive individually).

During the **Orientation Week** (O-Week), the last week of August for Fall Semester and last week of January for Spring Semester, you will be introduced to the Jacobs University community, explore the campus and Bremen, and be guided through all formalities such as registration for courses, residence permit application, health insurance, etc.

In general, your classes will begin on **September 1st for the Fall Semester** and **on February 1st for the Spring Semester**. Please check however Academic Calendar for the corresponding year in case the dates have been changed.

Visa Requirements for International Students

International Students coming from:

- the EU
- other European countries (Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Monaco, San Marino, Andorra)
- Australia, Brazil, Canada, El Salvador, Honduras, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, and the United States of America

may enter Germany <u>WITHOUT A VISA</u> and then apply for a residence permit (Aufenthaltsgenehmigung) at the Foreigners' Registration Office (Ausländerbehörde) within the first three months of their stay in Germany.

International Students coming from other countries need a German student visa from a German embassy or consulate PRIOR to entering Germany. This should be done well in advance!

Students from the countries that are allowed to enter Germany without a visa nevertheless may apply for one for the whole duration of their stay instead of applying for residence permit (PRIOR to entering Germany).

A list of German embassies can be found on the website of the German Federal Foreign Office.

If you need/ would like a visa to enter Germany, please apply for a **student visa**. If you come to Germany with a visitor's visa or any other type of visa, this cannot be changed into a student visa. By governmental legislation, you would be required to return home in order to apply for a valid student visa. There are **no exceptions to this regulation**, and Jacobs University would be unable to assist you.

For the visa, you normally will need to present the following documents, but please check with the respective embassy or consulate:

- Visa Application
- Valid passport
- Jacobs University Admission Letter
- Proof of sufficient funding
- Proof of health insurance valid in Germany
- Biometric passport photograph



Proof of sufficient funding: if your university is paying your semester fees or you receive a tuition waiver, you can request from the <u>International Office</u> a letter for the embassy that proves that your fees have been covered fully or partially. You can also request such a letter once you pay your semester fees individually (upon receiving a bill from the accounting).

When you apply for a visa, the process is as follows:

- You provide the embassy or consulate with all necessary application materials.
- The embassy or consulate sends the materials to a central office in Germany. This office forwards the application to the responsible Foreigner's Office, in your case to Bremen.
- The Foreigner's Office checks the visa application and sends a decision to the central office. The office forwards the reply to the embassy or consulate you applied at.
- After that, the final decision about issuing the visa rests with the embassy or consulate you applied at.

Usually, we do not receive any information or details about any specific visa applications. Please allow six to eight weeks (sometimes even more) for your visa application to be approved. In urgent cases please contact <u>Visa</u> Coordinator who can follow up with the embassy and the foreigner's office in Bremen.

Registration with the Local Authorities (Einwohnermeldeamt)

We will help you with this once you get to Bremen. Every person who lives in Germany, regardless of nationality, must be registered with the local authorities (Einwohnermeldeamt) within 14 days after moving in. Even if a person only moves within the city, he/she must register the new address.

To register, the following documentation is needed:

- Anmeldeformular (Registration Form available during Orientation Week at the Registrar's Office)
- A valid identity card or passport
- Name and address of the landlord (Jacobs University)

You will need to take care of the registration with the *Einwohnermeldeamt* only <u>after</u> your arrival at Jacobs University. We will assist you with this formality during the Orientation Days together with the <u>Student Records Office</u>. Through this process, you receive your Proof of Local Registration (*Meldebescheinung*).

Residence Permit

We will help you with this once you get to Bremen. All international students outside the EU who do not have visa for their duration of stay at Jacobs University Bremen need to apply for a residence permit once in Germany. The cost for the residence permit is about €100.

For the residence permit, you normally need to present the following documents:

- Valid passport
- Proof of health insurance valid in Germany / Europe (see below)
- Residence Permit Statement (available in your welcome package)
- Proof of Local Registration (Meldebescheinigung, available during Orientation)
- One or two biometric passport photos
- Proof of enrollment (Immatrikulationsbescheinigung, available during Orientation)

Health Insurance Requirements

For all students in Germany, a special regulation regarding health insurance called "Studentenkrankenversicherungs-Meldeverordnung" (Students' Health Insurance Registration Ordinance) exists. According to this regulation, students in Germany are required to provide the university with a proof of health insurance to be enrolled in a German university and to obtain student visa or residence permit for their studies.

Please note that Jacobs University will not cover medical expenses.

Therefore, Jacobs University requires from students upon enrollment to provide either:

- A proof of insurance with a German public health insurance company **OR**
- A proof of insurance with a public health insurance company from the EU, usually in the form of a European Health Insurance Card OR



A dispensation from the obligation to insure with a public health insurance company (for those privately
insured). The dispensation can only be issued by a German public health insurance company upon
inspection of the private insurance shown by the student.

Dispensations from the obligation to insure with a public company will **not** be granted if:

- Your private foreign or German health insurance covers only a limited period of time, namely less than the entire duration of your studies in Germany.
- Your private foreign or German health insurance has an upper limit for the coverage of outpatient and inpatient treatment.
- The medical assistance covered by the private foreign or German health insurance does not correspond to the coverage offered by the German public health insurance.

Since most foreign private insurances do not fulfill these requirements, it is highly unlikely that they will be accepted for dispensation. Therefore, students should either come with European public health insurance or get a German insurance.

All German public health insurances, by law, charge the same insurance fee for students (circa €90.00 per month) and cover all basic medical treatment. In some cases, e.g., for medicine or for staying in a hospital, one may be required to contribute a small percentage of the expenses. If insured with a German health insurance you will receive a chip card and you won't need to pay any fees when going to a doctor. The total payable amount for health insurance covers both health insurance costs and compulsory nursing care.

You can apply for German public health insurance in advance and use the confirmation when applying for your student visa with a German embassy in your home country. You can also approach German public health insurance companies if you wish to check whether your private home insurance will be eligible for dispensation (especially important for US students).

The following health insurance company is an official partner of Jacobs University:

• TK / Techniker Krankenkasse (information in English), contact Mr. Maik Ziegler

Public health insurance companies are present on campus during the Orientation Period and can be approached regarding your health insurance. The TK holds regularly special sessions during orientation week about health system in Germany during which they are available to offer their services as well as check your home insurances for you.

ATTENTION: Please remember that once you fill in TK registration forms and sign them, you will be registering for your insurance. To avoid double-registration or problems with future cancellation, please only sign/confirm your registration with ONE company!

Third Party Liability Insurance

Third Party Liability Insurance is an obligatory insurance for all students who are enrolled at Jacobs University. The costs for this insurance are included in the University Fee that has to be covered by the student or the student's home university.

Student ID, Campus Card and Semester Ticket

If you have accepted our offer of admission, we would like to prepare your student ID, campus card and semester ticket so that they are available once you arrive on campus. Your campus card is used for paying meals on campus, doing laundry as well as copying and printing. The semester ticket is a personalized ticket for public transportation in and around Bremen.



CAMPUS LIFE AND STUDENT SERVICES

Diversity is a vital part of learning for life, and each college is home to a random mix of class years, academic disciplines, nationalities, and cultural viewpoints – the Jacobs community is a unique microcosm!

Student Activities

Jacobs University expects its students to involve themselves in the campus community. We provide the necessary resources and guidance; you put in the ideas and energy. That way, you are able to develop leadership skills while your campus community grows and benefits along with you. And study abroad students are of course also meant to participate in these activities.

At Jacobs University, you will enjoy a varied student life with activities ranging from African drumming to Indian or Oriental dance, from football (soccer), to basketball, rowing, and even ultimate frisbee. There are about 30 student and sports clubs on campus, including a student run newspaper, a startup competition, an environmental club, and a debating society, but also clubs directed towards making a contribution to the local community such as the Rotaract Club.

And of course, as you may expect on a residential campus, parties and events are frequently organized, from international barbecues to Christmas carol evenings, inter-college football games, country information days, Chinese New Year celebrations, Jacobs Games, or Jacobs University's talent show *Spotlight*.

Host Family Program

As a study abroad student, you will have the opportunity to participate in Jacobs University's Host Family Program, which matches Jacobs University students who would like to know more about the German way of life with interested German families living in the surrounding area. While you continue to have full room and board on campus, your host family offers you off-campus contact throughout the semester. You are invited to your host family's home for dinner, for the weekend, to participate in family outings or just for a cup of tea in town. These relationships are built on mutual interest in each other's culture. This means that all you need to bring is your curiosity and open-mindedness and there will be no additional fees for you. If you would like to learn more about German culture, there is no better way than to join the program during your study abroad semester at Jacobs University.

We only recommend you participate in the program if you are interested in discovering Bremen, getting insights into the German way of life and spending your free time with a German family! If you are interested in having a host family while at Jacobs University, please fill in the Host Family Program Survey.

Student Services Center (SSC)

Which train do I take to get to Hamburg? Where can I find a shop selling computer equipment? How do I make a dentist's appointment? This form I have to fill in is in German! Can you help me? These are typical questions that you may have as a study abroad student. The volunteers of the <u>Student Service Centre</u> are there to answer them for you and assist you with all practical aspects of life.

Services offered include (but are not limited to):

- Assistance in making medical and dental appointments
- Assistance with travel arrangements
- Information about cultural and social activities and events
- Assistance in locating services or vendors in Bremen
- Assistance with German language, customs, and regulations
- And on top they hand you your packages that do not fit into your own mailbox.

Counseling Center

Jacobs University's environment can be very different from that of your home university, and moving to a different country and being away from your family and friends can be stressful. The <u>Counseling Center</u> discreetly helps all students who need some support in managing these changes. The Counseling Center offers workshops dealing with topics such as intercultural understanding, stress management, creative expression, and self-confidence. Group counseling, individual counseling, and walk-in hours are also offered to help those with guestions.



STUDENT HOUSING

As an undergraduate student **you have guaranteed on campus housing** in one of the residential colleges. As soon as we admit you at Jacobs University we book a room for you on campus. Meals are included in your room and board fee, each of the four dining halls can be accessed and meals can be paid for with your personal Jacobs University Campus Card, which you will find in your Welcome Package upon arrival at Jacobs University. This card also serves to charge credit in order to make photocopies and use the laundry facilities.

The residential colleges are in operation for the duration of the academic year (September through early June). You are thus welcome to stay for Jacobs Winter School free of charge, if you will be at Jacobs University for one academic year.

If you attend Jacobs University only for Fall Semester but nevertheless would like to take part in Jacobs Winter School and reside on Jacobs campus, you will be charged an additional fee for the two-weeks stay from January 16th until January 31st. Please note that this will have to be communicated to the International Office by the middle of November to assure that your housing is guaranteed for this period.

Leaving Jacobs University requires a check out appointment for your room with a housing staff member has to take place in any case. If you are spending only your Fall Semester at Jacobs University, your latest check out day will be on January 15th with no check outs available between December 23rd and January 2nd.

If you are leaving after the Spring Semester, your latest check out day will be a week after the end of the reading and examination days.

Please consult our Academic Calendar for further details.

The four colleges are the places where students socialize, organize sporting events, play or listen to music, meet with study groups, take part in cultural activities, and just relax.

- Krupp College (College Ring 4)
- Mercator College (College Ring 6)
- College III (College Ring 7)
- College Nordmetall (College Ring 3)

Each college can house between 200 and 300 students. Jacobs University students live in modern single rooms, with bathrooms usually being shared by two students. Each college serves three meals per day in its dining hall, offering a broad variety of dishes while paying attention to various ethnic tastes and religious beliefs. Every college also has a student lounge, game and TV rooms, snooker and pool tables, a quiet study area and a meeting room. Furthermore, a team in each college office can assist you with various needs. They organize cheer-ups during the midterm and final periods, help you with any problems you may encounter in your college or simply offer vacuum cleaners for you to borrow. You can also find a laundry room with washing machines and dryers, a bike storage space and a party zone in each college.

Tall students are advised to contact the <u>International Office</u> beforehand to ensure that they are allocated a "tall person's room" including a larger bed. In order to qualify for a tall room, students need to be 1.92 meters (or 6 feet 3.6 inches) or taller.

Costs for room and board have to be paid by you or by your home university. Please note that it is not possible to reside outside of campus as intercultural living and learning is part of Jacobs University's core values and therefore an integral part of Jacobs Study Abroad Program.

Bed Sheets

As the bedding sizes differ from country to country, we suggest that you NOT bring any covers for your bed. During the O-week you can purchase new bed-sets for a small fee (ca. €15.00) from the Campus Store. If you arrive late in the evening or really early in the morning, you can pre-order bedding from the International Office. It will be available for you at the security office (porters) together with your welcome package.



STUDYING AT JACOBS UNIVERSITY

During your studies at Jacobs University you will be taking four to six courses per semester (5 ECTS points each). Jacobs students usually take 30-35 ECTS. You are permitted to take fewer courses because we believe that studying at a new university is very demanding and that you should have enough time available to participate in Jacobs University's many clubs and other activities. On average study abroad students take 20-25 ECTS during a semester.

Course Registration

You already made a preliminary course selection in your application. Please check the <u>course catalogue</u> before your arrival, to see if the courses of your choice will take place. Once you have arrived in Bremen, you will receive access to Campus.Net, our online portal with which you can administrate your courses and later access your grades. During O-week a technical helpdesk will be set up to complete your course registration online after consulting with your Jacobs University Academic Advisor.

Over a period of two weeks at the beginning of classes, students have the opportunity to change their class schedules by dropping and/or adding courses. Students are strongly encouraged to finish their course selection as early in the semester as possible and to adjust their schedules so as to avoid loss of time in pursuing their coursework by missing too many lectures. After the add/drop deadline no changes in course schedules are possible.

Classroom Culture

There are at least as many classroom cultures as there are national educational systems, not to mention individual teaching styles. Being an international educational institution, Jacobs University reflects upon cultural diversity in relation to studying processes and works towards transparency in its own classroom culture. Studying at Jacobs University for many students signifies the necessity to understand and adapt to the classroom culture which values a student's ability to work independently, take full responsibility for her/his learning and the organization of the study process, and rely less on the promptness and the scope of the feedback from teachers than might be encouraged in other academic cultures. It is possible that expectations based on your home classroom culture will not be fulfilled in our academic environment, but this is part of the study abroad experience. We believe that being inquisitive about your new academic culture and being open to new learning experiences is the best way to achieve a successful adjustment and a satisfying study process.

Academic Advising

In order to provide guidance with the program of study and course selections, and to help students manage their time at the university to their best advantage, all students are assigned to a specific professor within their-major. This Academic Advisor will be happy to assist you with any major specific questions or concerns.

While attending Jacobs University, you will be expected to respect the standards of our community. Some of those standards are detailed in policies. Before coming to Jacobs University as a study abroad student, you should consult the following resources:

Academic Policies

The official source of information on academic regulations and responsibilities of all enrolled students is the <u>official policies</u> of Jacobs University.

Code of Academic Integrity

The academic community of Jacobs University is part of the international academic community, based on its members' trust in each other. To preserve this trust and to maintain an environment conducive to personal and intellectual growth, all members are expected to act according to these principles of integrity, honesty, and fairness.

Please read the Code of Academic Integrity (including the Appendix to the Code of Academic Integrity).



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

University Tuition and Fees

If you are coming from a partner institution either as a visiting, exchange or Erasmus student, you will be required to pay room & board, university fee and semester ticket. Your tuition fee is charged by your home university.

Erasmus exchange students can receive a mobility grant from the European Union. To find out more, please contact the International Office of your home university.

If you are coming as an **individual visiting student** or free mover, you will be required to pay complete costs of attendance including tuition fee, room & board, university fee and semester ticket.

Please consult <u>Student Financial Services website</u> for more information on tuition fee and related costs. Study Abroad students are not eligible for financial aid or scholarships from Jacobs University Bremen.

Withdrawal from the study abroad program is subject to certain withdrawal obligations, depending on the specifics of the case please consult the Student Financial Services Policy Handbook for further details.

Personal Expenses

The following estimated personal expenses per semester should be considered (these will vary from student to student):

Variable	Costs
Books & Supplies	€100 per semester
Health Insurance	€600 per semester
Laundry	€30 per semester
Clothing & Personal Care	€300 per semester
Miscellaneous Expenses	€450 per semester

Clothing & Personal Care: depends on personal preferences. Personal care includes shampoo, toothpaste, haircuts, and other daily goods and services you may need. Furthermore, please keep in mind that winters in Germany are cold (between 0° and -10° C) and wet and you will need appropriate clothing.

Laundry: eventually everyone has to wash their clothes and washing machines (\in 1) and dryers (\in 0.50) are available in each of the residential colleges.

Miscellaneous Expenses: depends on your personal preferences. Long distance calls, entertainment (an evening out, movies, sports, hobbies), trips, presents (holidays and birthdays) and other items.

First Days Funds and Bank Account

You may open a bank account with the local branch of the "Sparkasse Bremen" or "Deutsche Bank" upon your arrival at Jacobs University. The Student Financial Services Office will supply you with all forms needed to open a bank account. A student bank account is free of charge.

It generally takes a few weeks of processing time before you are able to use your bank account, so please make sure you bring enough cash with you - or that you can easily access your home bank account - to pay your first bills and sustain yourself during your first three or four weeks at Jacobs University.

If you have a Visa or Master Card (American Express cards are not accepted at many places), you can also withdraw funds at one of the cash tellers around town. When doing this, you often pay a certain percentage of the drafted amount as bank charge. Alternatively, contact your local bank to check if they offer withdrawals free of charge at specific German partner banks (e.g. Bank of America and Deutsche Bank)



USEFUL INFORMATION

Electricity

The voltage in Germany is 220/230V. We suggest that you consider purchasing a voltage converter kit to ensure home appliances are not destroyed by different voltage. Furthermore, the plugs may be different from your home countries. While you can buy adapters in Germany, you may want to bring one with you.

Parcels & Customs

Please be aware that any new item that has a declared value over \$50 will usually be charged a customs fee upon arrival. Please let your family and friends know this if they plan to send you any packages from non-European countries.

Medication

If you need any medicine please consult your doctor at home before departure. Please bring all prescriptions and any over-the-counter products with you that may not be available in Germany. Make sure they are legal in Germany and get a doctor's note authorizing your use of prescription medications. Please note that it is not allowed to mail medicine to Germany.

How to get around

Walking, cycling and public transports are the best modes of transport in Bremen - you certainly don't need a car! Bremen has more than 650 kilometers of excellent cycling paths. It takes about 20 minutes by public-transport to get from the Jacobs campus to the city-center.

With this information about what lies ahead of you, we would like to close this handbook. We hope it offers a good insight into your upcoming study abroad experience and student life at Jacobs University.

We look forward to hearing from you, and hope to see you soon in Bremen!

Your International Office Team at Jacobs University Bremen