

# NEWSLETTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



UNIVERSITÄT  
HEIDELBERG  
ZUKUNFT  
SEIT 1386

Dear international students,

Welcome – or welcome back – to Heidelberg University! The winter semester has begun, and many of you have just arrived in Heidelberg. To help you settle in quickly, we have put together a newsletter with useful information about university services, exciting events, and topics of particular interest to international students. We wish you a successful start and hope you enjoy the read!

## How international is Heidelberg University?

Very international – and that's no coincidence! Every year, Heidelberg University attracts students from all over the world as one of the top three universities in Germany. In the winter semester 2024/25, the proportion of international students was over 20%. That means 6,296 people from abroad!

The range of study programs on offer is also becoming increasingly international: 18 English-taught degree programs allow students to study at Heidelberg University even without advanced German skills. And this international spirit goes both ways – each year, several hundred students from the university spend a semester abroad at one of our partner universities or in scientific research facilities worldwide.

Heidelberg University is therefore not only rich in tradition, but also cosmopolitan – and offers a wide range of opportunities for international networking!



## Upcoming events for international students at Heidelberg University

### New to the university and still looking to make friends?

Whether for your studies, daily life, or leisure time, the COMMUNITY platform on Moodle connects students from all disciplines and semesters in a simple, direct, and topic-specific way. Whether you have just arrived in Heidelberg or have been studying here for some time, on COMMUNITY you can upload your own posts, find like-minded people, and get answers to questions about your studies and everyday student life.

University departments and services also use the platform to share specific information about their offers. You can find out more about COMMUNITY [here](#). Click [here](#) to log in directly with your Moodle account.

### Mental Health Week at Heidelberg University

From 20 to 24 October, Univitality Week is all about mental health and well-being in everyday university life. Whether it's lunchtime talks, inspiring lectures, hands-on workshops, or relaxation sessions – the program is diverse, free of charge, and open to everyone. Topics such as loneliness, procrastination, alcohol, and sleep will be addressed, as well as ways to increase resilience and mindfulness. And there will even be stand-up comedy! Further information regarding the program can be found [here](#).

## Spending the holidays away from your family? No reason to be alone!

If you're staying in Heidelberg over Christmas and New Year's, you have the special opportunity to experience German holiday traditions first-hand. As part of the Homestay Programme organized by the International Relations Office, many families, couples, flatmates and individuals in Heidelberg open their doors to international students during the festive season. Whether it's a cozy afternoon with cookies and tea, a traditional Christmas dinner, or New Year's Eve with fireworks and raclette – experience the holidays in good company! If you are interested, you can register [here](#) until 30 November. [Here](#) you will find more information about the Homestay Programme.

## Do you already know ...

### ... the wide range of services offered by the “Advice and Support” team?

The “Advice and Support” team of the International Relations Office not only provides international students with individual counselling and useful information sessions but also offers lots of leisure activities. A particular highlight is the excursion programme, which has recently been resumed! Whether it's a day trip to Freiburg, a guided tour of Ludwigsburg Palace, or an extended weekend in Berlin – these one- and multi-day excursions give you the opportunity to explore Germany, make new contacts, and discover the country and its people alongside with other international students. An overview of all upcoming excursions, dates, and registration details can be found [here](#).

### ...the Heidelberg Christmas market with its winter forest (*Winterwäldchen*) and ice rink?

From 24 November to the beginning of January, Heidelberg's Old Town transforms into a magical Christmas landscape – spread across several locations! In the festively decorated streets, you will find stalls selling handmade crafts, hot drinks and regional specialities – and, of course, the winter forest (*Winterwäldchen*) on Kornmarkt square with over 100 fir trees and a nativity scene. If you're looking to warm up a bit from the winter chill, you can take a spin on the ice rink on Karlsplatz with a view of the castle. All information, opening hours and programme highlights can be found [here](#).

## And don't forget!

Halloween is just around the corner! On 31 October, things get spooky again in Heidelberg. So don't be surprised if you suddenly see vampires sitting in the cafeteria or skeletons wandering through the Old Town. You might even have costumed children ringing your doorbell and shouting “Süßes oder Saures” (trick or treat) – a classic tradition where they are collecting sweets from the neighborhood.

Furthermore, from 22 December 2025 to 6 January 2026, the University of Heidelberg will be closed for Christmas break. During this period, no classes will take place. Take the opportunity to enjoy the festive atmosphere in the city, the peaceful winter days, and some well-deserved time off. And if you are looking for company over the holidays, the Homestay programme offers a wonderful opportunity to connect with local people.

We wish you a good semester start, and enjoy the fall and winter season!

Your International Relations Team

## CONTACT

Advisory and Support Services for International Students  
betreuunginternational@zuv.uni-heidelberg.de

### Imprint

Dr. Alexander Au  
Universität Heidelberg  
International Relations Division  
Seminarstraße 2  
69117 Heidelberg, Germany

