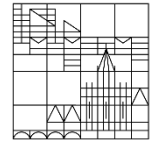


Master's program
Social and Economic
Data Science

Student Handbook

Universität
Konstanz



Department of Politics and Public Administration



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University of Konstanz

Department of Politics and Public Administration
78457 Konstanz | Germany

Homepage MSc SEDS:

polver.uni.kn/seds

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Table of Contents

Welcome	1
1. The Master's program Social and Economic Data Science	2
1.1. How do I find important information about the program?	2
1.2. The program and its structure	3
1.3. Term dates study year 2024/25	4
1.4. First week of lectures in Konstanz	4
2. Arriving and travelling in Germany	5
2.1. Arriving in Konstanz	5
2.2. Travelling in Germany and Konstanz	6
2.3. Accommodation for Students	8
2.4. Temporary accommodation upon arrival in Konstanz	9
3. Practical Information	9
3.1. Contact information at University of Konstanz and the city	10
3.2. Mailing lists	11
3.3. Tuition and fees	11
3.4. Mensa card & copy card	12
3.5. University Library	12
3.6. University email-address, VPN & Wi-Fi	13
3.7. Sports in Konstanz	13
3.8. Equal opportunities at University of Konstanz	14
4. Additional information for international students	14
4.1. Orientation Program (OriPro)	14
4.2. German language courses	14
4.3. Health Insurance and registration at the City Council	15
4.4. Opening a bank account	16
4.5. Accommodation for international students	17
5. Glossary	18
6. University Map	19

Welcome

Dear Students of the MSc Social and Economic Data Science,

On behalf of the principal investigators of the Master's program in Social and Economic Data Science (SEDS), I would like to welcome you to the University of Konstanz. We are very happy to have you 'on board'.

As part of the digital revolution, the amount of data available on human behaviour and social interactions has been exponentially increasing. Those new data sources have the potential to bring about fundamental changes with the research questions we can ask and answer. Yet, the knowledge and skills required to access and use those data simply do not exist within a single discipline. Therefore, the SEDS program brings together the expertise from various academic fields represented in six different departments at the University of Konstanz (Dept. of Economics, Dept. of Politics and Public Administration, Dept. of History and Sociology, Dept. of Computer and Information Science, Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics and Dept. of Psychology). The skills acquired will make you highly employable in a job market for data scientists that is rapidly growing (polling firms, market research institutes, online marketing positions, as political advisor, or consultant).

A leading position in research and teaching can only be sustained if the participating departments continue to take responsibility for their highly motivated and skilled students: we guarantee personal and flexible support at any time. If you have any questions, problems or ideas, do not hesitate to ask me and my colleagues, especially Ms Katharina Arendt, the coordinator for the Master's program. She will be your first contact person in any matter.

This Student Handbook might help you prepare your time in Konstanz and will hopefully answer many of the first questions you may have about the program and practical issues.

I look forward meeting you in October and wish you a successful and pleasant time of studies at the University of Konstanz.

Yours sincerely



(Prof. Dr. Peter Selb)

Chair for Survey Research

1. The Master's program Social and Economic Data Science

The Master's program in Social and Economic Data Science offers you the opportunity to specialise in the collection, processing and analysis of quantitative social science data. Today's information society is characterised by an ever-growing abundance of data from sources as diverse as administrative records, surveys or network logs. However, such data merely provides the "raw material of knowledge", and it takes well-trained analysts to detect meaningful structure, and to extract relevant information from these sources. The SEDS program is tailored to meet these requirements. It brings together the expertise from various academic disciplines such as econometrics, statistics and computer science. The program thus has a broader theoretical and methodological scope than specific Master's programs in statistics or survey methods.

1.1. How do I find important information about the program?

At the University of Konstanz, students have a high degree of self-determination when it comes to organizing their studies. To support this autonomy, the SEDS coordinators operate an extensive website that is constantly updated. Therefore, we would like to ask you to take a look at the Master's homepage if you have any questions regarding the program: polver.uni.kn/seds

If there are any further questions, you are welcome to reach out to the named contact persons.

Fachbereich Politik- und Verwaltungswissenschaft
Master Social and Economic Data Science

Universität Konstanz

Fachbereich Forschung Studium Service und Beratung International

Fachbereich Politik- und Verwaltungswissenschaft > Studium > Master > Master Social and Economic Data Science

Master Politik- und Verwaltungswissenschaft +

Master Social and Economic Data Science -

Curriculum
How to apply
First-year students
Exams and Master Thesis
Data Science Project and Internship
Study Abroad
Alumni & Career
AK SEDS
Contact

Double Degree-Optionen +

MSc Social and Economic Data Science (SEDS)

Why study Social and Economic Data Science in Konstanz?

The digitalization of various domains of society has produced an abundance of data about human behaviour and social interactions. Inside and outside academia, specialists with a solid background in

Kontakt
Katharina Arendt
Program Coordinator MSc Social and Economic Data Science
E-Mail schreiben

1.2. The program and its structure

The Master's program in Social and Economic Data Science has a duration of four semesters (two years) and begins in the winter semester (October). The language of instruction is mainly English. The program consists of modules with courses and seminars, the Master's thesis and it comprises a total of 120 ECTS credits.

In the first two semesters, students focus on the subject area Foundation of Data Science. Depending on the Bachelor's degree prerequisites, students will take a selection of recommended courses totalling at least 18 ECTS-Credits and the compulsory course "Introduction to Computing for the Social Sciences" for 9 ECTS. We will provide you with assistance in the selection of courses that fit your Bachelor's degree prerequisites.

In the higher semesters, the following advanced modules have to be covered: Computer Science (18 ECTS), Statistics (18 ECTS), Programming and Scripting (12 ECTS), and Social Science Applications (18 ECTS). In each module there is a wide range of different courses that can be selected. An overview of the structure of the program can be found here: [Curriculum](#).

The updated course catalogue for the next semester will be provided on this side before the semester starts: [Course Catalogue](#). Here, you can also find previous semesters' course catalogues to get an initial idea of your options. More detailed information about the courses can be found on [ZEuS](#) the official study portal of the University, a few weeks before the semester starts.

Students complete their Master's thesis (24 ECTS) with a processing time of four months and a Colloquium (3 ECTS). Following the successful completion of the modules of the Master's program, students are awarded the degree of Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Social and Economic Data Science by the University of Konstanz.

Module Structure MSc Social and Economic Data Science		
1st + 2nd semester	2nd + 3rd semester	4th semester
Introduction to Computational Methods for the Social Sciences (9 ECTS)	Advanced Methods: Computer Science (18 ECTS)	Colloquium (3 ECTS) + MA- Thesis (24 ECTS)
Foundations of Data Science (18 ECTS)	Advanced Methods: Statistics (18 ECTS)	
	Programming and Scripting (12 ECTS) Social Science Applications (18 ECTS) – Internship, DSP	

1.3. Term dates study year 2024/25

Winter semester 2024/25

Semester start:	1 October 2024
Semester end:	31 March 2025
Introductory week:	14 - 18 October 2024
Start of lectures:	21 October 2024
End of lectures:	8 February 2025
Lecture-free period:	23 December 2024 - 7 January 2025

Summer semester 2025

Semester start:	1 April 2025
Semester end:	30 September 2025
Lecture period start:	7 April 2025
Lecture period end:	19 July 2025
Lecture-free period:	16 - 22 June 2025

Please find up-to-date information and information about future study years here: [Semester dates](#).

1.4. First week of lectures in Konstanz

Please note that it is very important to attend the first week of lectures in both semesters at the University of Konstanz, since professors and lecturers use the first session of their courses to present the content and all the organisational details, for example about presentations, term papers, etc. You are not obliged to stay in every course you visit in the first week, but you can make a more and better informed choice after it. The number of participants in each course is limited. It may happen that the number of students attending a course is higher than the places available. If this is the case, either a parallel course will be organised or a ballot will be used to decide which students are allowed to enrol in the course. Usually there is no need to worry about it.

2. Arriving and travelling in Germany

2.1. Arriving in Konstanz

For information on train connections in Germany, see: [Deutsche Bahn](#).

For information on train connections in Switzerland, see: [SBB](#).

For local buses in Konstanz, see: [Stadtwerke Konstanz](#).

Via Zurich/Switzerland

Perhaps the easiest way to get to Konstanz is to take a direct train from Zurich/Zurich Airport to Konstanz. Trains leave every half hour and the journey takes about 1 hour 20 minutes. From the city center and the airport itself there are direct connections or connections with one change. We recommend you to download the smartphone app "SBB Mobile", because there you can sometimes find discounted tickets. You can also buy your ticket online or at the airport in euros or Swiss francs. In addition, there are long-distance buses from the city center (see <http://www.flixbus.de>, tickets need to be booked online in advance).

Via Stuttgart

From Stuttgart Airport: Take the S-Bahn to Stuttgart main station. Trains leave about every hour to Singen, where you change to the train to Konstanz. The journey takes about 3 hours. Please note that construction work is currently taking place at Stuttgart main station, so the journey can also take considerably longer and several changes may be necessary.

Via Frankfurt am Main

There are hourly trains from Frankfurt Airport/Train Station to Konstanz. A change of trains is required in Stuttgart/Singen, Baden-Baden or Offenburg. The journey takes about 4.5 hours.

Travelling from Konstanz Central Station (Hauptbahnhof) to the Student Residences

Sonnenbühl Ost, Jakob-Burckhardt-Str. 35, 78464 Konstanz

Sonnenbühl West I, Werner-Sombart-Str. 37, 78464 Konstanz

Sonnenbühl West II single apartments, Werner-Sombart-Str. 37, 78464 Konstanz

Take bus number **9A or 9B or 14** from bus stop "Bahnhof" to bus stop "Jakob-Burckhardt-Straße". West I and West II are next to the bus stop, Sonnenbühl Ost is about 5 minutes' walk away (If you take the bus number 9B get off at the bus stop "Sonnenbühlstraße" to reach Sonnenbühl Ost).

Europahaus, Rheingutstr. 40, 78462 Konstanz

Take **any bus** at the bus stop “Bahnhof” to “Sternenplatz”, change for the other side of the road and take bus number **9A** to bus stop “Gartenstraße”, then it’s an about 10 minutes’ walk. You can also walk from the train station to the Europahaus and Paradies student residences, which takes around 15 minutes.

Petershauser Bahnhof, Gustav-Schwab-Str. 7-13, 78467 Konstanz

Take bus number 2 or 3 or 12 from the bus stop “Bahnhof” to bus stop “Friedhof”. It is about 10 minutes’ walk away. Alternatively you can also take the train (SBB Seehas) from “Bahnhof” to “Petershausen”, then the student housing is right next to the station.

Jungerhalde, Am Schmerzenmösle 10-42, 78464 Konstanz

Take bus number 1 or 4/13 (don’t mess up with 13/4) from the bus stop “Bahnhof” to bus stop “An der Steig”. You can walk from there within 10 minutes.

2.2. Travelling in Germany and Konstanz

Travelling in Germany

Bahncard

If you travel frequently by train in Germany, the Bahncard might be of interest to you. This card offers a 25 or 50 % discount on rail fares and is valid for one year. You can buy it at the DB (Deutsche Bahn) counter at Konstanz Central Station as soon as you have an address in Germany. Note that there is also a student discount, which you can get by showing a certificate of enrolment (student card). You can also buy the Swiss Bahncard at the SBB counter in Konstanz main station, which gives you a 50% discount on the fare. In addition, there are special offers for group travel (from 1-5 persons) in the Baden-Württemberg region (see: [Baden-Württemberg Ticket](#)).

Deutschland- Ticket

The Deutschland-Ticket is a nationwide subscription ticket introduced in Germany for local and regional public transport services. It simplifies the fare system and aims to increase public transport usage by offering a flat fare of 49 euros per month. You can purchase it [here](#).

Travelling in Konstanz

Students' Travel Card

The “**Studi-Ticket**” is a student travel card at a special price of € 58.80. It is valid for one semester (1st October - 31st March or 1st April - 30th September) and can be used on all Konstanz **bus lines**, the “**Seehas**” **train between Konstanz and Wollmatingen**, and the **ferries between Konstanz and Meersburg** (with the card, your **bike is also free** on the ferries). To use the travel card, you need to present your student ID with the current proof of enrollment and a photo identification together with the travel card. The “Studi-Ticket” is available at the Seezeit Shop in the foyer of the University and at the kiosk in front of the Seerhein Centre. It is also possible to buy a mobile version of the “Studi-Ticket” by downloading and registering on the App “My Konstanz” (available on Google Play and Apple Store).

Travelling in Baden-Württemberg

JugendticketBW

If you are younger than 28, you can also get a “JugendTicketBW” for travelling within Baden-Württemberg at a price of € 160.50. It is valid for one semester (1st October - 31st March or 1st April - 30th September) and can be used in all busses and trains within Konstanz and all regional transportation (e.g. busses, RE, IRE, but no ICE). The ticket can be purchased online via the VHB-website and needs to be picked up at Seezeit Service Center some days after.

Bike

Konstanz is a bike-friendly town, and the region around Lake Constance provides an ideal setting for short and long trips with your bike. So bring your bike with you, or buy a bike at one of the bike stores in Konstanz, at one of the regular auctions of the police, or consult the boards at the university. A website for finding second hand bikes (and many other second hand items like furniture etc.) is Ebay Kleinanzeigen: [eBay Kleinanzeigen Konstanz](#).

If you got a flat tire or other problems with your bike, the students' counsel (StuVe) runs a self-help bicycle workshop (“Fahrradselbsthilfewerkstatt”) at the university campus. Assistants and tools are available for free repairs. For further information see [Bicycle Repair Shop Uni Konstanz](#). There is also a bike rental at the university. Here you can rent a bike for yourself and your guests for 2€ per day (deposit: 50€ per bike). For every student 60 rental days are permitted. Bookings have to be made online at [Bike Rental](#).

Attention: You should always secure your bike with a strong bike lock; otherwise your bike might be stolen!

How to get to the university

Information about how to get to the university can be found here: [Your way to the university](#).

2.3. Accommodation for Students

Accommodations in Konstanz are unfortunately neither cheap nor easy to find. You are therefore strongly advised to deal with this issue as early as possible. The International Office provides an exhaustive overview over all options you can resort to for finding an accommodation under the following link [International Office - Accommodation](#).

Private Accommodation

Most of the 12.000 students at the University of Konstanz live in private rooms or shared apartments in the City of Konstanz. Being already in Konstanz improves your chances of finding a nice room as it gives you the possibility to get in touch with likeable beforewards, which is often a requirement for obtaining a room. You are therefore strongly advised to check room offers at webpages like www.vierwaen.de , www.wg-gesucht.de or www.studenten-wg.de at the beginning of August. Or check the accommodation offers on the announcements boards across the University campus.

Student Residences in Konstanz

If you do not want to search for private accommodation in Konstanz, there are a number of student residences offered by the Student Service ([Seezeit Studierendenwerk Bodensee - Accommodation](#)). Please apply here: [Seezeit Application](#).

Important: You can only move into your student residence on weekdays and only at the times stated on your confirmation of reservation. Students arriving at other times need to arrange temporary accommodation for themselves or ask someone else (e.g. your Buddy) to get the apartment key from Seezeit for them!

Private Residencies

There are also some private student residences where you can apply for, for a listing of these please have a look at the respective information provided by the International Office [International Office - Accommodation](#).

2.4. Temporary accommodation upon arrival in Konstanz

If you obtain a place in a student residence, but are unable to arrive during opening hours, you need to make arrangements for alternative temporary accommodation. The International Office has a list of affordable hostels and hotels in Konstanz under “Temporary housing“: [Accommodation](#). Here you can also find information about long-term accommodations.

3. Practical Information

Before and after the start of your Master's program, many things have to be organised and many questions are likely to arise. Don't hesitate to ask the responsible persons at the university, or at the town offices!

Useful Internet Links

- [Homepage of the University of Konstanz](#)
- [Homepage Master Social and Economic Data Science \(SEDS\)](#)
- [Student-Service-Centre](#)
- [International Office](#)
- [Language Institute \(SLI\)](#)
- [Student Accommodation - Seezeit Studierendenwerk Bodensee](#)
- Homepage of the [Resident's registration office](#)
- [Region and the town of Konstanz](#)

3.1. Contact information at University of Konstanz and the city

Department of Politics and Public Administration

Katharina Arendt
Program Coordinator
MSc Social and Economic Data Science (SEDS)
Tel. +49 (0)7531 88-4494
Email: seds.admin@uni-konstanz.de
Room: D328

Student-Service-Centre (SSZ)

Tel.: +49 (0)7531 / 88-3636
Email: [contact form](#)
Website: [Student Service Centre](#)

International Office

Amaia Epalza Zubiaurre & Tamara Weber
Tel.: +49 (0)7531 88-3219
Email: degree.students@uni-konstanz.de
Website: [International Office](#)

Student Services Konstanz (for student accommodation)

Seezeit Studierendenwerk
Universitätsstr. 10
D-78464 Konstanz
Tel.: +49 (0)7531 88-3951
Email: studentisches.wohnen@seezeit.com
Website: [Seezeit Accommodation](#)

Language Institute

Tel.: +49 (0)7531 88-2419
Email: sli@uni-konstanz.de
Website: [Language Institute \(SLI\)](#)
Room E711

Resident Registration Office/Bürgerbüro

Untere Laube 24
D-78462 Konstanz
Tel.: +49 (0)7531 900-800
Email: buergerbuero@stadt.konstanz.de
Website: [Bürgerbüro - Stadt Konstanz](#)

Office for Foreigners' Affairs/Ausländerbehörde

Untere Laube 24
D-78462 Konstanz
Tel: +49 (0)7531 900-0
Email: auslaenderamt@stadt.konstanz.de

3.2. Mailing lists

The different departments at the University of Konstanz (administration, professors, and students) share important and interesting information via mailing lists. All MSc SEDS students will be automatically added to the MSc SEDS mailing list.

Subscribing to the following mailinglists is also recommended: For the mailing lists of the Department of **Politics and Public Administration**, please register at [Mailing list Politics and Public Administration](#). For the “Mailing list of the Department of **Computer and Information Science** please see under “Departmental mailing list”: [Mailing list Computer and Information Science](#). For the mailing lists of the Department of **Economics**, please register at [Mailing list Economics](#). For the mailing lists of the Department of **Psychology**, please register at [Mailing list Psychology](#).

3.3. Tuition and fees

All students of the University of Konstanz must pay a social contribution each semester to the Student Services (“Studierendenwerk”), which currently amounts to € 179/semester (more detailed information [here](#)). This contribution supports the work of the Student Services and facilities such as the student residences, the refectory and cafeteria, various counseling centers and the kindergarten. Payment of this contribution is a prerequisite for registering at the University. The payment must be transferred from a bank account. The admission number stated on the letter of admission must be given when transferring the social contribution.

For students from outside the EU/EEA countries, there can be additional tuition fees. Please find more information about university fees here: [Fees and scholarships](#)

Bank account:

Universitätskasse Konstanz
BW-Bank Konstanz
Purpose of payment: admission number (see the transfer form)
IBAN: DE 92 6005 0101 7486 50 12 74
BIC/SWIFT: SOLA DE ST

3.4. Mensa card & copy card

The student service (Seezeit Studierendenwerk) offers daily meals, beverages and snacks at the University Mensa. As an enrolled student, you will get a UniCard with which you can profit from the reduced prices. Menu options and opening hours can be found here: [Seezeit Mensa](#).

There are two other cafés on campus. The [CampusCafé](#), in the entrance area between the R and A buildings, and the [BibCafé](#), in the University Library. You can only pay there with your chip card or bank card. Like the canteen, the cafés have also switched to cashless payment

You can also use your UniCard as copy card for the printers and copying machines in the library. Although you use the same chip card, be aware that there are different loading terminals for the Mensa and the library copying machines. The money you load on the card at the library can only be used for the printers, not for meals at the Mensa, and vice versa.

3.5. University Library

The Library (“Bibliothek der Universität Konstanz”, [KIM Library Konstanz University](#)) is the central institution for documentary research at the University of Konstanz. As an enrolled master's student, you can borrow books or other media using your UniCard. Besides books, you can also find hundreds of workplaces with and without PCs, group work spaces, printer and copy machines, charging station and much more at the library. Konstanz students can also use the Fachhochschule library, which is very convenient if you live near the city centre or in Europahaus and Paradies student residences. All KIM service hours are listed [here](#).

Writing Center

The Writing Center, located in the Library, offers personal assistance with writing term papers, structuring texts, and organizing the timing of major papers. The website also features



collaborative writing appointments and helpful materials on how to approach a written submission. The service can be a great support and is highly recommended. Please find the website here: [Writing Center](#).

3.6. University email-address, VPN & Wi-Fi

Following registration at the University, each student automatically receives a personal e-mail address. You can activate the account on your own, following the instructions you receive with your official enrolment letter, or ask for help at the User Help Desk of the Computer Centre (“Beratung des Rechenzentrums”): BA433 (Tel.: +49 (0)7531 88-3919, Email: support@uni-konstanz.de). The help desk provides assistance to students who have any kind of software related problem or do not know how to set up the university Wi-Fi or VPN (remote access) settings. Instructions on how to install a **VPN** (remote access) and university **Wi-Fi** can be found here: [Wi-Fi access](#) and [Remote access \(VPN\)](#).

3.7. Sports in Konstanz

A wide variety of sport activities are open to all students and staff of the University. Most activities take place at the University's sports facilities. At the beginning of each semester, the complete sports program is published online. Registration and payment can only be carried out via the Internet. In short, first you need to buy a “Sportticket” and then you can select the courses of your choice, both bookings require individual payments. **Important:** Be aware that there are some courses which have a really high demand. If you want to visit one of them, be online at the exact minute their booking is enabled. For the following semester the respective date is:

uniSport: 1st of October at 2pm

Further information is available from the University Sports Office (“Hochschulsport”):

Room: G 206

Tel.: +49 7531 88-2640

Email: hsp@uni.kn

Website: [Hochschulsport](#)



3.8. Equal opportunities at University of Konstanz

The University of Konstanz treats equal opportunities and gender equality very seriously. The University Senate has set up the Equal Opportunities Council which is committed to promoting the careers of female academics and gender studies. Workshops, such as rhetoric courses, information for junior researchers and diverse career planning seminars are regularly offered to female students, doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers. Further important fields of the Equal Opportunities Council are advice and information on financial assistance for female students and researchers, combining studying or a career with a family, the project “Family-Oriented University” and the improvement of the safety of women at the University, including advice and assistance in cases of sexual harassment. You can find more information about the council here: [Equal Opportunities](#). For further information contact Ms. Marion Woelki, Room E 604. Tel.: 882032, Email: gleichstellungsrat@uni-konstanz.de.

At the Faculty of Law, Economics and Administrative Sciences, the person responsible for gender equality questions and trust person is Professor Christian Breunig, Room D313, Tel.: +49 (0)7531 88-3293 , e-mail christian.breunig@uni-konstanz.de.

4. Additional information for international students

4.1. Orientation Program (OriPro)

The International Office offers an orientation program for new international Master students of all disciplines. During the program, you will receive help with your formalities and paperwork, you get to know the German university system and meet with other international students. The program is free of charge and will take place from **7th October 2024 - 10th October 2024** at the University of Konstanz. Please **register until the 15th September 2024** if you want to participate. We highly recommend participating in the program! More information on how to register and contact persons can be found under the following link: [OriPro Master](#).

4.2. German language courses

Many of the courses offered for the SEDS Master's program are taught in English. Nevertheless, it is strongly recommended to all foreign students that they improve their language skills: It not only broadens their future career options, but also helps them to integrate and feel comfortable in Konstanz and Germany.

Also be aware that some university procedures such as online course registration are only offered in German. Because of this, students are strongly advised to enrol in the September Language course.

Go Konstanz

Go Konstanz is a German Intensive Language Course. It offers four weeks (**4th September - 30th September 2024**) of daily German lessons at the University of Konstanz. The course fee is 350€ for new Master students. You can find more detailed information and the registration form here: [GO Konstanz](#).

German Courses offered by the Language Institute (SLI)

The SLI of the University offers German language courses (and many other different languages) that you can take during the semester. They are **free of charge** and offer different levels of difficulty, however, the Language Institute does not offer courses for beginners (Basic Level I/A1). Students with no or little knowledge of German are therefore strongly advised to take part in the September or March intensive language courses. More information here: [SLI Language Institute](#). You can't register for them now, because they are part of the normal course plan. For further information on the courses offered in German as a Foreign Language, please contact Doctor Peter Kelbel, e-mail: peter.kelbel@uni-konstanz.de.

German courses are also offered by other institutions besides the university, such as the [Humboldt Institut](#), the [Sprachendienst Institute](#) or [Inlingua](#).

Tandem program

In combination with a language course, having a tandem partner to practice with can be a great opportunity to learn German and teach your own language! You can find information about how to find a tandem partner here: [SLI Language Tandem](#).

4.3. Health Insurance and registration at the City Council

In order to enrol at the University of Konstanz, all students (international and German) must have health insurance. Here students have three options depending on age and their nationality: they can get a statutory German health insurance, a private German health insurance if they are older than 30 years, or the European health insurance card / EHIC.

Before enrolling, degree seeking students from EU/EUA countries and Switzerland must present the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) to a German statutory health insurance company and receive a confirmation of freedom to choose a health insurance fund (this is a free procedure and students do not have to pay any money for it).

Students from non-EU/EEA countries are obliged to take out German health insurance. Students under 30 years of age can register with a German statutory health insurance company for about €105-€110 per month. Students who have reached their 30th birthday must take out private health insurance. Considering students from non-EU/EEA countries please be aware that the travel insurance that is accepted during the visa application process at the embassy is not sufficient for the enrolment at the university. Further students from Turkey, Tunisia and former Yugoslavia (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia) can follow a different procedure due bilateral agreements on social security. For further information please visit the website of the Internationals Office informing about health insurances [International Office - Health Insurance](#).

Moreover, students must register themselves at the Resident Registration Office. If you participate in **OriPro** (see 4.1), you will get help in registering at the Registration Office. Otherwise, it is highly recommended to book an appointment online beforehand.

Resident Registration Office (“Bürgerbüro Konstanz”)

Untere Laube 24, 78462 Konstanz
Tel: +49 (0)7531 9000
Email: buergerbueero@konstanz.de

4.4. Opening a bank account

Students are advised to open a bank account at a German bank and in some cases (students who live in student residences) it is compulsory to do so, as payments are only accepted from a German bank account. For example, the “Deutsche Bank” offers a free bank account for students. The easiest accessible banks or respectively their bank automatons in Konstanz are currently the “Sparkasse” and “Volksbank”. To open a bank account, students must present the following documents at the bank: a passport or EU-ID and their acceptance letter from the University of Konstanz. Opening a bank account should be one of the first steps when moving to Konstanz, as most formalities you have to do upon your arrival (getting a phone, insurance, etc.) request a German bank account. You will also receive help with opening a bank account during **OriPro** (see 4.1).

4.5. Accommodation for international students

Accommodations in Konstanz are unfortunately neither cheap nor easy to find. You are therefore strongly advised to deal with this issue as early as possible. If you get a room at SEEZEIT (student union) via the early bird option of the International Office, the contract is for **one year** only.

After that, an extension can be requested, but unfortunately it is often not approved. Therefore, please start looking for a new room **early (at least 4 months before the end of the contract)**. You can also ask older SEDS students or join forces with students from your year. Common websites for finding private accommodation are the following: www.vierwaen.de, www.wg-gesucht.de or www.studenten-wg.de. Often it is also worth posting a request on these sites.

The International Office also provides an exhaustive overview over all options you can resort to for finding an accommodation under the following link: [International Office - Accommodation](#). (For a shorter overview, please see chapter 2.3 – Accommodation for Students).

Important: You can only move into your student residence **on weekdays** and only at the times stated on your confirmation of reservation. Students arriving at other times need to arrange temporary accommodation for themselves or ask someone else (e.g. your Buddy) to get the apartment key from Seezeit for them! Further, bedlines can be borrowed for a fee of 15€ from the Accommodation Office for as long as you are in rented accommodation, everything else like for instance towels must be brought by oneself.

5. Glossary

It might be the case that some terms and abbreviations regarding studying may be new or unclear to you. We have therefore listed and explained the most important ones:

cr (credit points) / ECTS (European Credit Transfer System): Points given for the successful completion of a course. The number of points expresses both the significance of the course and the workload for the student.

Kolloquium (colloquium): A form of tuition, which is not graded and is characterised by discussions between the lecturer and students about the subject matter prepared by the students. The colloquium is often employed for exam/master's thesis preparation.

Matrikelnummer (Matriculation number): This is your primary identification here at the university. Please quote it with every enquiry and exam. Please have your student ID ready, so you can always provide the number.

Modul (module): A unit of study comprising several courses, which build methodically upon one another or belong together regarding content.

Praktikum (internship): The aim of this tuition form is to acquire practical skills e.g. by conducting experiments in the natural sciences.

Semesterwochenstunden (SWS): The duration of a course in hours per week during the semester.

Seminar (seminar): Here, the lecturer and students work together on the subject matter. Generally, each participant presents a paper in class and also in written form. After the presentation, a discussion takes place building on the active involvement of each participant.

Übung/Tutorat (tutorial): These are generally offered as complementary classes for the lectures. In tutorials, students can revise in detail the subject matter of the lecture on the basis of concrete examples and practice certain skills under the instruction of the tutor.

6. University Map

UNIVERSITÄT KONSTANZ (Stand 05/2024)

