

M.Sc. Biomedical Sciences – FAQs and Checklist

Will the modules be taught face-to-face, online or in hybrid formats?

Most of the modules will be taught face-to-face. In some modules, online and hybrid formats may be used for specific tasks or exercises.

When should I arrive best in Germany?

We recommend arriving at least 2-3 weeks before beginning of the semester in order to have sufficient time for sorting out accommodation, registration at the city hall etc.

What if I cannot begin my studies on time?

For successful studies it is important to begin with the first day of the semester. A delayed start might ultimately result in an extension of the study time by one year. Please note that a mandatory safety introduction must be attended in order to participate in practical classes in our laboratories. We recommend you arrive already for the orientation days shortly before beginning of the semester.

In case you cannot avoid a delayed start of your studies, please contact:

[Prof. Dr Angelika Muscate-Magnussen | Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg \(H-BRS\)](#)

[Prof. Dr Mike Althaus | Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg \(H-BRS\)](#)

What if I do not receive my VISA in time?

Please note that we do not have any influence on the workflows and decisions of embassies.

What is the study buddy programme?

A study buddy is a more advanced student from our university who assists new international students in finding accommodation, taking out health insurance, in setting up a bank account, in registering for courses, in going to public authorities and in organising the daily study routine. However, fun is an important issue, too: going to pubs and cinemas together, trips to the surrounding area - all this can also be part of a Study Buddy relationship. For more information see here: [The Study Buddy Programme | Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg \(H-BRS\)](#) and register for this programme by sending an e-mail to: studybuddy@h-brs.de

Where can I find information on accommodation, health insurance and procedures around living in Germany?

On the following website you can find all relevant information on these topics: [Checklist and Handbook for International Students | Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg \(H-BRS\)](#)

Additional information on accommodation can be found here: [Accommodation for international students | Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg \(H-BRS\)](#)

Where can I find information on childcare, kindergarden or schools?

Childcare: There are different forms of child minding:

- Children's day-care centres (Kindertagesstätte)
- Child day-care by minders (Kindertagespflege)

In each city, interested parents receive a list of childcare facilities. As a rule, it makes sense for parents to approach the children and youth welfare office (Kinder- und Jugendamt) of their place of residence. The "specialist advice centres for children's day-care centres and day care" (Fachberatungsstellen für Kindertagesstätten und Kindertagespflege) help with finding childcare.

<https://www.h-brs.de/de/information-childcare-studying-parents>
[University suitable for families | Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg \(H-BRS\)](#)

Schools: School-age children are offered a place at a school in their place of residence. The belonging school office will advise in the search for a suitable school.

In case of questions, you can contact [Barbara Michel | Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg \(H-BRS\)](#) by e-mail.

How do I travel to Rheinbach upon arrival in Germany?

We cannot offer any personal travel assistance. We recommend using public transport for travels within Germany. Your study buddy might provide personal advice.

How do I receive my student ID?

After successful enrolment, the university sends out the student ID card, an enrolment certificate and other enrolment documents by postal service. The enrolment documents include further information on your self-registration in MIA. This registration is compulsory to get your login data for central university services.

In case of further questions, you can contact the [registrar's office](#).

How do I receive my Semesterticket?

You need to download the VRS and NRW ticket yourself directly from the Online Ticket Shop NRW (OTS-NRW) of Deutsche Bahn. The ticket to travel within the state of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) is available not earlier than 45 days before the beginning of the semester (01.09. respectively 01.03. of each year).

How do I register for the LEA learning platform and get access to the library?

An introduction to the LEA system, library and e-learning will be provided during the orientation days in advance of the beginning of the semester. For further support, you will find contact details here: <https://www.h-brs.de/en/bib/elearning>

What are “broadcasting fees” and do I have to pay them?

Everyone in Germany who registers their accommodation with the city council will be contacted regarding broadcasting fees which are public law fees. Though in general you don't have a radio or a TV you can watch TV or listen to the radio on your laptop. These fees must be paid either monthly, quarterly, every half year or yearly.

Can I attend German courses at the university?

Yes, you can, and we strongly recommend it. Information on language courses can be found here: <https://www.h-brs.de/en/spz>

Checklist – Be ready for your *M.Sc. Biomedical Sciences* studies @H-BRS

1	Obtain health insurance. (This is legally required in Germany).	
2	Pay the enrollment fee.	
3	Enroll for the degree programme.	
4	Sort out your own accommodation. (Your address is needed for registration at the city hall and opening of a bank account.)	
5	Register at the city hall.	
6	Open a bank account.	
7	If necessary, arrange an appointment with the Foreigners Office (Ausländerbehörde).	
8	Arrange for internet access.	
9	Obtain your student ID.	
10	Obtain your semester ticket.	
11	Register for access to Library and LEA system.	
12	IT: We recommend you have an internet-capable device (tablet/laptop) with a camera and headphones. Install Microsoft Office 365 (free of charge for our students).	
13	Familiarize yourself with public holidays. (Shops and universities are closed).	
14	Familiarize yourself with the nearest location of health services and pharmacies.	
15	Familiarize yourself with emergency phone numbers: Police: 110; Fire brigade and medical emergency: 112	