Hochschule Wismar –
University of Applied Sciences: Technology, Business and Design
Master of Architecture

Frequently Asked Questions

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Architecture: In general

Why Wismar?

There are many reasons why students choose to study at Hochschule Wismar. Our aim is to shape creative architects who are independent, critical and willing to take responsibility for design projects. In order to do this, our accredited study program enables students to work effectively as part of a team and develop strong associative thinking skills. These skills mean that our alumni will be able to cope with the changing professional environment, on both national and international level.
Wismar University is well equipped with very good facilities and offers a pleasant environment for studying. The University is the only place in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern where students can study architecture, architectural lighting design, interior design and design all in one faculty. Many students, therefore, benefit from the opportunity to study architecture alongside students from different design courses and the chance to partake in classes from a related field. Most of our students get a working place in our design studios, where you can work 24 hours, and almost 365 days a year. Students can use our well-equipped workshops such as: the model building workshop; with 3D printers and the cutting plotter, the wood construction workshop, photo studio, multimedia workshop and/or the workshop for printing and set. Another great reason to study at Wismar University is the current lack of student tuition fees. The semester fee goes towards the student union, allowing the university to offer cheap meals at the cafeteria and many activities during the year such as on-campus concerts, student bars, student subscriptions, etc. Please always check the website of the Service Point at Hochschule Wismar for the updated semester fees.

Architecture Program

What is the course structure?

The programs consist of four semesters study with 30 credits in each semester. During the first three semesters of the degree, students attend design projects, take part in elective courses and sketch projects. In total you have to attend three large integrated design projects (each of them with 18 credit points), ten elective courses (with three credit points each) and six sketch projects. Finally, in the last semester you will write your master's thesis. At the beginning of each semester, you have to create your own timetable, by choosing the courses you are interested in. Our main specialization fields are Architectural Design Research, Green Architecture and Architecture in Context. In the first week of the semester, we present the design projects and elective courses we offer, you choose your courses based on your focus and interests. Each term, we will offer new projects and electives. You will get to choose a mentor from the professors, who will offer support in your decisions.

What kinds of excursions will be able to take part in?

Excursions vary each year for the students. In the Master's Degree Program, it's not compulsory, so you're free to take part if you would like. We often combine excursions with workshops and a visit to cooperating universities in Europe and all over the world.

What are the rules of study?

Studies in the Architecture Master's Program are very student-orientated, which means you must be quite self-organized. Therefore, the emphasis is not placed on "teacher-centered teaching" but on seminars and free working in the design studios. Due to this you have to arrange your own schedule according to your

specialization fields, participate regularly in the consultations and take part in scheduled meetings. Importantly, study achievements and goals are defined at the beginning of the semester for every project and are adjusted during the semester to accommodate for progress and any issues encountered. Lastly, participation in the intermediate-presentations and the final presentations of each course is compulsory.

Can I have a part-time job while studying?

If you intend to finance your studies by working part-time, please note that students are only allowed to work a small number of hours (20 hours per week). Please inform yourself in time about the regulations in order not to get problems with your visa or the immigration office (Ausländerbehörde). Students from the following countries are exempted from this rule: European Union (except Bulgaria and Romania) and Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. However, you will need knowledge of the German language as German is the most common language used in architectural offices in Germany. Furthermore, you need to be aware that the Master's Degree Program is scheduled for four semesters as a full-time course.

What possibilities are available for scholarships?

There are very few possibilities of receiving scholarships to Wismar University due to the fact that there are no tuition fees. As the German government funds this program in Wismar, there are limited opportunities for international students to receive further financial support.
In general, the possibilities for EU students to obtain a foreign exchange scholarship are greater than for international students. DAAD – Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (German Academic Exchange Service) promotes the mobility of students within Europe by offering scholarships for all EU exchange students every year within the framework of the ERASMUS program. For more detailed information on the application procedure, please contact the International Office.
International students: ISAP partnerships (International Study and Training Partnerships) with Wismar University in Cuba, Mexico, China, New Zealand, Eastern European countries, Baltic Sea states. If you are studying in one of these countries, you should contact the International Office to ascertain whether there are indeed DAAD funds available for an exchange program with Wismar University. If this is the case, everything else will be initiated by International Office and your own university.

What are the semester dates?

Winter term: 1st September to 28th February, summer term: 1st March to 31st August. There are examinations within the last three weeks of each semester. For detailed information on deadlines keep an eye on the announcement boards around at the faculty approaching examination time.

How much do you have to pay for the study program?

Wismar University is proud of the fact that it does not charge any fees for its on-campus degree courses. You can find the current fees here:
https://www.hs-wismar.de/en/studies/in-studies/manage-your-studies/re-registration/

How much German will I need to know?

The Master's Architecture Program is taught in English and German, but it is possible to study the degree entirely in English. Do you already speak German? With knowledge of the German language, you will have an even larger selection of design projects and elective courses. German language skills will also make your everyday life in Wismar easier (when shopping, visiting the doctor, etc.). For more information about language courses take a look at https://www.hs-wismar.de/en/university/facilities/language-centre/

Are there many international students in Wismar studying architecture?

Numbers of international students in our Master's Architecture Program are growing steadily and currently about half of the students come from abroad. We also receive exchange students in our Master's Architecture Program from our partner Universities from Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, Mexico, China, Thailand, New Zealand, the USA ... Many international students can also be found on campus taking part in study exchanges such as Product Design, Engineering and International Business Management. Our international student body will provide you with the opportunity to learn about different cultural backgrounds, develop friendships and a future network from all over the world.

Application Process

Deadline for application

Application deadline is 15th January for the summer term and 15th July for the winter term.

How do I apply for a position in the course?

All international applicants have to register in the application online portal under: https://www.hs-wismar.de/en/international/from-abroad/degree-programmes/applications-for-full-time-studies/

Questions? Send an e-mail to: international.office@hs-wismar.de

The complete application has to include following documents:

- Official, certified copy of the general or subject-related entrance qualification for universities
- Official, certified copy of original Bachelor Degree Certificate in the field of architecture, including a transcript of records of all semesters together with its certified translation into English or German. The grade point average must be 2,3 or better converted to the German scale
- Motivation letter
- CV and a portfolio of previous work
- **Proof of sufficient command of English (e.g.,TOEFL iBT 80, IELTS 6.0 or Duolingo 110 certificates)**
- Proof of sufficient command of German language for the German-taught Master´s programme: TelC1, DSH2 or Test DaF 4444
- Additional admission requirements in accordance with the regulations of the student's home country.

What is a motivation letter?

A motivation letter is a letter written to the University stating why you wish to study architecture in the Faculty of Architecture and Design, Hochschule Wismar. It should include your personal motivation(s) and your expectation(s) for the study program and what you aim get out of your studies. The format should be similar to a cover letter that accompanies you CV when applying for a job.

What do I need to show in my portfolio?

The portfolio should demonstrate the type of work or projects you have done in the past years during your studies. The purpose of the portfolio is to allow the professors to get an idea of your skills and to prove that you are capable of completing this degree program.

Which documents are accepted as proof of English language?

We only accept TOEFL iBT, IELTS or Duolingo. Other certificates may be accepted, please contact the International Office (e-mail: international.office@hs-wismar.de) for further information.

What will I need for the visa?

Students from abroad wishing to enter Germany will need a student visa (= residence title in the form of the visa in the passport). The visa must have been issued to you by German Embassy or the German Consulate in your home country. Applicants for a place at university and students from the EU, EFTA and from states with which the Federal Republic of Germany has agreed on different regulations, are exempt from this requirement. Enquire at the Auswärtiges Amt (Department of Foreign Affairs) if and what type of visa you require.
https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/visa-service/visabestimmungen-node

Members of a number of additional states are also permitted to enter the country without a visa if they wish to stay in Germany for less than three months. After expiry of this time-limit, they will, however, need a student visa, which can only be applied for in their home country. This means that they must first leave the country again, which will result in high costs and a loss of time. On no account should you enter the country on a tourist visa! A tourist visa cannot be converted into a student visa at a later date.

Wismar and student life

What are the living arrangements for international students?

Most students choose to live in the student accommodation (called 'Wohnheim' in German) in Wismar. These are apartments where students have a private room around 10–20 m^2 and a bathroom shared between two people. Communal kitchens are located separately and shared between a few student neighbors. These are, therefore, a great way to get to know people and make new friends. Places in the student accommodation can be found through Studierendenwerk Rostock Wismar:
https://www.stw-rw.de/en/accommodations/dormitories/wismar.html

Private student flats are also available in Wismar or shared flats with other German students, as the city has a large population of young people. However, these can be hard to find unless you have a good understanding of German. In many cases private flats need to be sought once you are already in Wismar and often demand a high deposit (named 'Kaution' in German). https://www.hs-wismar.de/en/international/from-abroad/accommodation-in-wismar/

What is the average rent?

Rooms in the student accommodation are furnished (with a single bed, desk, bedside table, cupboard for your clothes and a set of shelves/small cupboard. You need to provide your own bed linen and kitchen equipment (can be cheaply bought in Wismar). Some are close to the campus. Equipment: washing-station with slot machine for washing charges, a good data network, partly bicycle room or fitness room in the basement. Costs from 320 to 480 Euro per month (depending on room size). Private apartments are usually more expensive and not furnished.

How far is the accommodation from the university?

The student accommodations are 10–15 minutes' walk from university and a 20-minute walk to the city center. Likewise, most student flats are within a 5–15 minutes' radius of the University.

What are the common types of transport available in Wismar?

Wismar is a city of short distances, so you can walk or go by bike to almost anywhere in the city. Many students choose to buy a bicycle to get around, and these can be bought second hand or rent cheap (Fahrradverleih am Westhafen (Am Westhafen), or Fahrrad Wulf (ABC-Straße). Of course, Wismar has a train station and a main bus station. Trains to and from Wismar can be found at:
https://int.bahn.de/en

What activities are popular for students in Wismar?

Wismar is a relatively quiet harbor city. Most of the student life centres on and around the University campus. At lunchtimes most students meet at the Mensa, the student cafeteria, where you can receive simple dishes for under 5 Euros. There is a student bar/club on campus called "Block 17" and a café.
Activities: "Wonnemar" is an adventure and fun pool, sports pool, sauna world and fitness club located only five minutes from campus. The Hochschule also offers a range of sports facilities for free, as well as the local football clubs and Rugby team in Wismar.
Offer of the University Sports Center: https://www.hs-wismar.de/en/hochschule/einrichtungen/sportzentrum/
There is also the Academic Sailing Club Wismar, whose primary goal is to bring the joy of sailing closer to those interested in sailing. https://www.akademischer-segelverein-wismar.de/
Bürgerpark, Poel Island, the entire Baltic coast offer wonderful landscapes and also plenty of beach.

Is much English spoken locally?
English is not a language that is common in Wismar. Most students and professors are fluent in English, however around the city it is common that people will only understand a little bit of English.

What are the normal living costs as an international student?
The expenses of students vary greatly. The level of expenditure depends, for example, on the age of the student and the type of accommodation. Nevertheless, there are guideline values about monthly expenses. On average, they are around 950 Euro per month (Source: https://www.daad.de/en/studying-in-germany/living-in-germany/finances/). You must be in a position to finance your studies abroad at the University of Wismar.

“From abroad” gives a good overview online https://www.hs-wismar.de/en/international/from-abroad/