

Information for Students of the Double Degree Programme in International Economics in Cooperation with the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen

I. Description of the Double Degree Programme

The two-year English-language Double Degree master's Programme in International Economics is jointly offered by the University of Groningen and the University of Göttingen. The programme is a partnership that offers students the opportunity to earn both the Master of Science (MSc) in International Economics offered by the Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Göttingen; and the Master of Science (MSc) in Economic Development and Globalization offered by the Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Groningen.

The curriculum of the Double Degree Programme offers a unique combination of concentrations in various fields of international economic relations. The broad course offerings in Göttingen allow for specialization in fields such as development economics, European integration, economics of Latin America, institutional economics, and quantitative methods. These courses are complemented by the course offerings in Groningen which offer concentrations in international business relations.

The Double Degree Programme was designed to combine economics with business-relevant issues in the area of international business relations. The programme at the University of Göttingen focuses on developing a deep understanding of the dynamics of international economic relations, the functioning of international markets, and the analysis of globally interlinked modern economies. Special emphasis is placed on research-oriented teaching, and applicable methodological and empirical analysis. The University of Groningen programme combines the fields of international business and international economics and analyses the connections between these two fields. Relevant discourse on international economic relations with respect to political economy and business is also offered at an advanced level.

As the MSc in International Economics at the University of Göttingen is a two-year master's programme and the MSc in Economic Development and Globalization at the University of Groningen is a one-year master's programme, the double degree programme enables participating students to complete two degrees within four semesters (that normally would take three years to complete).

II. Curriculum for students from the University of Groningen

The Programme structure from students from Groningen:

Economic deepening (Göttingen)	24 C
Economic specialization (Göttingen)	24-30 C
Electives (Göttingen)	6-12 C
Economic development and globalization (Groningen)	40 C
Master's thesis (Groningen)	20 C

Students in the Double Degree Programme from the University of Groningen will spend their first and second semester in Göttingen (programme start: winter semester). In these first two semesters, students will complete the required courses for the MSc programme in international economics, “Econometrics I”, “International Trade”, “Advanced Microeconomics” and “Macroeconomics of Open Economies”, and electives from the Department of Economics in the student's area of specialization. In terms of specialization, students are required to complete one seminar and, in addition, at least two courses on foreign trade.

The complete course offerings for MSc studies at the Faculty of Business and Economics of the University of Göttingen can be found under the "[Course directory for master's programs](#)". In the specialization area of 24-30 credits, all courses with the codes M.WIWI.VWL (i.e. master courses in economics) and M.WIWI.QMW (i.e. master courses in statistics and econometrics) can be chosen. A minimum of six credits must be completed through seminars, and, in addition, at least 12 credits from courses on foreign trade. Courses on foreign trade are listed in Annex I § 2 of the Examination and Study Regulations of the MA programme in International Economics. In terms of electives (6-12 credits), all courses with the code M.WIWI (i.e. all master courses offered by the Faculty of Business and Economics) can be taken as long as the prerequisites are met. Regulations pertaining to further electives such as language courses or courses in other disciplines are outlined in Annex II § 3 of the above mentioned Examination and Study Regulations.

The complete course offerings of the University of Göttingen for every semester can be found on the "[Vorlesungsverzeichnis](#)" webpage. An overview of courses in English from the Faculty of Business and Economics for every semester is listed on the [webpage](#) of the Study Abroad Advisory.

The 3rd and 4th semester are spent in Groningen where the complete coursework from the MSc programme in economic development and globalization will be completed: You have to attend four mandatory courses, “FDI and Trade”, “Economic Development”, “Country Studies” and the Research Seminar as well as range of compulsory courses from which you can choose in the 3rd semester. Unlike in Göttingen, one semester at the University of Groningen is divided into two blocks, each with its own examination cycle.

In the final fourth semester, students will complete the required courses “International Business Strategy” (block 1) and “Country Studies” (block 2) and write their master's thesis supervised by faculty members from both Groningen and Göttingen.

The complete course offerings of the University of Göttingen for every semester can be found on their [webpage](#).

Information on the double degree programme can also be found online:

University of Groningen website:

<http://www.rug.nl/masters/ddm-international-development-economics/>

University of Göttingen website:

<http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/137933.html>

III. Useful information for planning your stay in Göttingen

1. Semester fees

Students from the University of Groningen enrol for their first and second semester at the University of Göttingen and will remain registered until the completion of the double degree programme.

During their stay in Göttingen, students are not required to pay tuition fees at the University of Göttingen, but are required to pay [service and administrative fees](#).

In return, local student services provided by the “Studentenwerk” are available at [discounted prices](#) (e.g. subsidized food in the cafeteria). Additionally, the service and administrative fee includes a rail ticket, which allows students free transportation on local trains in Lower Saxony and North Hesse, and public bus transportation in Göttingen. The fee also includes entry to cultural events at a reduced fee or even no charge.

Participants from Groningen are exempt from all fees of the University of Göttingen while they are at the University of Groningen.

The [cost of living](#) in Göttingen is at least €750-850 per month.

2. Academic year

In Germany, the academic year is divided into two semesters. The winter term starts on 1 October and ends on 31 March. The summer term is from 1 April to 30 September. Usually, the lecture periods start in the third week of the semester and spans 14 weeks. The lecture period of the winter semester ends in early/mid-February, and the lecture period of the summer semester in mid-July. The academic calendar (including future and past semesters) can be found on the [website](#). Most of the exams are written in the first three weeks after the end of the lecture period. Some blocked courses offers exam already during the lecture period.

3. Accommodation

It is important to organize accommodation as soon as possible because there is a high demand for housing in Göttingen. The [Accommodation Service](#) of the University of Göttingen supports international students in finding a room or an apartment in a student dorm or on the private housing market. Usually, applications for housing through the *Accommodation Service* are possible until 1 June (for the winter semester). Information on the application process including the application form can also be found on the website. Of course, the *Accommodation Service* is also available after that date to help international students to find accommodation.

4. Enrolment

Once arriving in Göttingen, you should enrol at the University of Göttingen. For questions on the enrolment process, please contact the International Office (international.study@uni-goettingen.de), specifically, Ms. Wahdat. Once you are enrolled at the University of Göttingen, you will receive a University of Göttingen student identification card. The student identity card allows you to borrow

books from the university library, to use student services (e.g. the cafeteria) at discounted prices, and along with your card, you will receive your log-in data for “[eCampus](#)” with access to “[FlexNow](#)” (system for exam registration), “[StudIP](#)” (platform with access to course materials) and your University of Göttingen e-mail account.

5. Health insurance

Health insurance is required for all students registered at German universities.

Information for EU/EEA students:

In general, EU/EEA students are covered by the statutory health insurance in their home country throughout the EU. For enrolment at the University of Göttingen, a copy of a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) is sufficient. Nonetheless, its validity, duration, and coverage must be clarified with the health insurance provider prior to your arrival in Göttingen. Due to different health care systems in EU/EEA countries, there are differences in coverage. Students without health insurance coverage in their home country must purchase German health insurance.

Information for non-EU/EEA students:

Non-EU/EEA students require travel health insurance that covers their trip to Germany and back home, as well as for the application of a German student visa. This travel insurance will cover the first weeks of your stay in Germany.

After arriving in Göttingen, German health insurance must be obtained that covers your study duration in Germany. For enrolment at the University of Göttingen, proof of this health insurance is required. As the student health insurance is valid only when the semester starts — 1st April (summer semester), or 1st October (winter semester) — travel health insurance must be valid at least until that point.

Within the framework of the welcome events for international students offered by the [International Student Office](#) before the start of the lecture period, it is possible to purchase German statutory health insurance.

Some health insurance providers also offer the option to purchase the insurance from abroad, e.g.:

Techniker Krankenkasse (TK): <https://en.tk.de/>

DAK-Gesundheit: <https://www.dak.de/dak/mitglied-werden/online-application-1873964.html?cid=0&chn=737&oin=0>

Allgemeine Ortskrankenkasse (AOK): <https://foreignstudents.aok.de/>

For more information, please refer to the websites of the insurance companies and contact them directly.

Important for non-EU students who are older than 30:

After your **30th birthday or your 14th term of study**, you can no longer purchase public health insurance at the favourable student rate. However, some public health insurance funds do offer tariffs for graduates which grant cheaper health insurance rates for one extra term. You can also take out voluntary health insurance with one of the public health funds. The Deutsche Studentenwerk has a general agreement with the UNION Versicherungsdienst and Hanse Merkur Reiseversicherung AG for

students who are not insurable through a public health fund: http://www.internationale-studierende.de/en/on_arrival/health_insurance/what_if_im_over_30/.

Types of health insurances:

In general, there are two types of health insurance: statutory health insurance and private health insurance.

For statutory health insurance, the terms of contract, monthly contributions, and the scope of benefits are regulated by federal law. Key benefits of public health insurance include:

- Full coverage regardless of the treatment cost for procedures that are deemed medically necessary.
- Family members (children/spouse) are co-insured free of contributions.
- Doctors balance their accounts directly with the health insurance fund – there is no need for cash payments and then claiming the money back.
- The contribution for students is almost the same in the German public insurance by the different providers and the rate amounts to about 92 Euros per month.

For private health insurance, the terms and conditions vary from provider to provider, while the scope of benefits and coverage correlates with the monthly contribution. Low-priced insurance schemes normally cover only the basic service. It could happen that in case of sudden illnesses or accidents (but also in case of pregnancy or psychological disorders) the costs of treatment will not be covered. **We therefore recommend a statutory health insurance.**

You should carefully check the advantages and drawbacks of statutory health insurance and private insurance before enrolling, especially if you consider purchasing private insurance. Please note: Once you enroll in a private health insurance policy, you cannot revert to a public health insurance policy!

Please also note that if your private health insurance is recognized for the purpose of your enrolment at the University of Göttingen, you will need confirmation that you are exempt from enrolling in public health insurance (“versicherungsfrei”, “von der Versicherungspflicht befreit”, or “nicht versicherungspflichtig”). Proof of your private health insurance is not sufficient for enrolment. But be aware that you cannot change to a public health insurance scheme for the duration of your studies!

6. German language courses

The [Institute for Intercultural Communication](#) (IIK) offers four-week intensive courses at different levels prior to the start of the lecture period. These courses are especially addressed to international students starting their semester/year abroad in Göttingen. In the winter term, a crash course (requires a fee) usually takes place from early/mid-September to late September or early October.

The [Seminar for German philology](#) institute of the University of Göttingen offers courses during the lecture period which do not require a fee. Additionally there are German courses offered by various institutions of the [University of Göttingen](#).

7. Welcome events

Prior to the start of the lecture period, the International Student Office offers an [introductory week](#) for international students, usually in late September or early/mid-October for the winter semester. At the beginning of each semester, the Faculty of Business and Economics cordially invites all newly enrolled students for [introductory and welcome events](#).

8. Further offers of the International Student Office for international students

The International Student Office can help you settle in, in Göttingen. For instance, you can register for a “[Buddy Service for international degree-seeking students](#)”, where a student will meet you at the train or bus station upon your arrival in Göttingen, accompany you to your flat, and give you a first orientation on site. They can also assist you with administrative matters and orient you on the details of everyday student life in Göttingen.

Furthermore, you can participate in the [InDIGU programme](#) (an extra-curricular offering intended to promote the integration of international students at the University of Göttingen as well as to promote the diversity of an international student body) allowing you to meet students in the same course of study. Finally, the International Student Office offers international and exchange students an orientation to provide all key information on administrative matters.

Further information on the University of Göttingen, the [City of Göttingen](#), cost of living in Göttingen, opening a bank account, etc., can be also found at their websites.

9. Master’s degree certificate

Upon completion of the 120 ECTS (credit) programme, and having satisfied all the graduation requirements of both universities, the student will receive two separate and nationally recognised master’s degree certificates: a *Master of Science in Economic Development and Globalization*, awarded by the University of Groningen, and a *Master of Science in International Economics*, awarded by the University of Göttingen. Both certificates state that the degree was awarded within a joint programme and indicate that the respective certificates are valid only in conjunction with the respective other certificate.

IV. Contacts:

The University of **Göttingen** offers a number of services to help you address any questions and problems in respect to studying in Göttingen. The Service Centre for Students is your first contact point for all questions pertaining to organizational issues for your studies. For technical questions about the degree programme, please contact the Double Degree Programme Coordinator.

Double Degree Programme Coordinator

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Administrative Coordinator

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Service Centre for Students of the Faculty of Business and Economics

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Platz der Göttinger Sieben 3
37073 Göttingen
Oeconomicum, 1st floor, room: Oec 1.135
<http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/479620.html>

- ***Examination Office***
Phone: +49 (0)551 / 39-28822
Email: wiwipa@uni-goettingen.de
<http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/47926.html>
- ***Student Advisory Service***
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<http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/479622.html>
- ***Study Abroad Advisory Team***
Phone: +49 (0)551 / 39-28801
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Contact persons at the University of Groningen:

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<https://www.rug.nl/education/international-students/application-procedure/support/admissions-office>