

Dear Applicant,

We are pleased that you are interested in studying at RWTH Aachen. In the following, we would like to give you some basic information for planning and preparing your studies.

### RWTH Aachen

RWTH Aachen (*Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule*) was founded in 1870 with considerable support from industry. In its wide range of higher education and scientific research, the focus is on engineering sciences. Besides the technical subjects, RWTH Aachen offers courses in medicine, humanities, natural and social sciences, and economics. RWTH is one of the most renowned technical universities in Europe. About 30,000 students are enrolled at RWTH, among them are approximately 4,300 international students. The scientific and educational staff of RWTH consists of approximately 400 professors and 1,500 scientific assistants.

### The City of Aachen

Aachen is a modern city with 250,000 inhabitants, and is also rich in tradition. Its historic centre is characterised by students' lifestyle. As Germany's most western city, it is situated at the borders of Belgium and the Netherlands, surrounded by a very attractive countryside. Aachen's cultural programmes and social activities cater for the large young population of the city.

### Studying at RWTH Aachen

German higher education does not normally have a tutorial system or fixed learning groups. Students are expected to initiate their own study groups. It is a system in which the student acts independently, gaining educational benefits from the system as he or she sees fit, with a certain amount of orientation by assistant staff and fellow students. Students become "formed" by succeeding in the very liberal and open system as is.

For all of the RWTH master programmes, there are specific tutors/co-ordinators who will help the students with general problems concerning the master programme. Nevertheless, students are expected to

organise their studies and examinations themselves. There is no intensive academic counselling as one might have received from international university systems. RWTH students will learn to work on their own and become independent, which is a very important quality when looking for a job.

### Furthermore please note the following points:

#### ● Financing your studies

At RWTH Aachen you do not need to pay tuition fees. For your day-to-day living expenses, you will need at least 600 EUR per month. Please prepare your finances in advance on how you will support your stay in Germany. RWTH Aachen cannot offer you a scholarship or other financial aid, and one cannot finance his or her studies by getting a job.

There are several organisations that offer scholarships, but these scholarships are limited. One of these organisations is the German Academic Exchange Service (*Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst - DAAD*). The DAAD selects students to whom it offers scholarships from specific countries. Please contact the German Embassies, Consulate, or other cultural organisations for further information on the pre-requisites for obtaining a scholarship.

#### ● Accommodations

It is not easy to find inexpensive living accommodations in Aachen. It is true that rooms are available in the student hostels, but many students have to look for housing accommodations on their own. Normally, one has to pay approximately 150 to 250 EUR, or 225 to 400 EUR a month for a two or three room apartment respectively.

#### ● Residence permit

International students who do not belong to the EU countries need a particular visa which will allow them to enter the Federal Republic of Germany. They will have to apply for this visa at a German Consulate or Embassy in their home country. Please contact the German Consulate or Embassy as early as possible (six to nine months before you plan to go to Germany) for details about the steps you should take for getting a visa.

In order to get a visa, you definitely need the letter of acceptance from RWTH, along with certification of how you will manage to finance your study period. In most cases, it takes two months to obtain a visa, but in some countries these procedures take up to four months. It is forbidden to enter Germany with a tourist visa, because it cannot be changed into a residence permit for studies, even if you are in possession of the admission certificate to a German university. In such a case, you would have to return to your home country!

### **Admission for RWTH master programmes**

#### **Formal entrance requirements**

In order to apply to the RWTH master programmes, you should meet the following prerequisites:

You are holder of a first degree (Bachelor of Science or Engineering or equivalent), awarded by an internationally recognised university-level institution. First degrees of private higher education institutions must be officially recognised by the government.

You have performed above average in your undergraduate studies. Please note that applicants who have only averaged a “pass” in their studies are not admitted into RWTH Aachen programmes.

#### **Special entrance requirements**

There are specific special entrance requirements for each master programme. Please find the enclosed list from which you can see whether the specific master programme fits to your individual academic career. Please contact the specific academic advisors in order to ask if you fit to the planned master programme. The academic advisors can also tell you further details concerning the goals and contents of the master programme.

### **Procedure of application**

Please send us your application as early as possible. The earlier you get a letter confirming your admission, the earlier you can start the procedures to get a Visa.

Please find the enclosed application for admission form, detailed information about the application procedure, the documents you should submit, and the language requirements.

### **Deadline for applications**

- for English-taught Master programmes: 1 March (TOEFL-certificate 550/217 or IELTS 6.0 required)
- for German-taught Master programmes: 1 March (for holders of DSH) or 15 January (for holders of ZDaF; you will take part in a German language course starting in April)

Please send your application to:  
RWTH Aachen  
Akademisches Auslandsamt  
52056 Aachen  
Germany