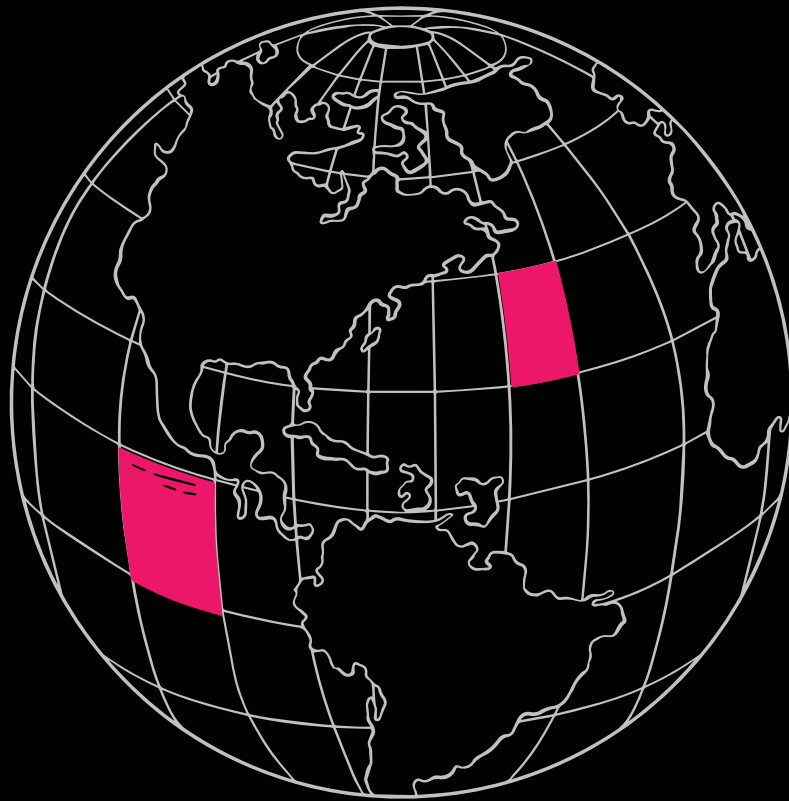


Ways to go abroad

2024/25



Dear KISDies,

There are many opportunities to go abroad during your studies here at KISD for a variety of different reasons.

Gather inspiration and ideas abroad. Make networks and friendships. Leave your comfort zone. Develop yourself further as a designer during your time abroad. Your study credits abroad will be recognized at KISD, TH Köln.

You have already collected some information and would now like to prepare your stay abroad?

Feel invited to explore your opportunities. Please feel invited to get an overview and an orientation at the same time when reading these lines.

Be curious, face bureaucratic hurdles and discover new cultures and different ways of teaching and learning design.

Yours,
Lisa

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Orientation

A semester abroad at one of our many partner universities? Or...

2 years abroad within the MEDes?

Or...

International projects at KISD?

You have plenty of opportunities.

You got the choice.

KISD cooperates in the framework of student exchange, guest lectures or joint projects with [over 80 higher education institutions](#) all around the world.

Talk to incoming exchange students about their home institutions, to the academic staff here at KISD and talk to your fellow students to learn about these partner universities.

The focus here is on semester mobilities and exchange within the [MEDes program](#).

Short-term mobilities, virtual or blended mobilities are further options, same counts for internships abroad, thesis abroad or summer school opportunities.

Scholarships

- [ERASMUS+](#)
- [PROMOS](#)
- [Swiss European Mobility program](#)
- [DFJW/OFAJ to France](#)
- [Fulbright USA](#)
- [HAW.International](#)
- [DAAD Scholarships for students in the field of fine arts/design/films](#)
- [Auslands-BAföG](#)
- Other

Scholarships

ERASMUS+

[ERASMUS+](#), named after the humanist Erasmus of Rotterdam, is a scholarship program of the European Union, which aims to promote student mobility and transnational cooperation between universities and to promote European values.

Funding

Students have the opportunity to take part in a financially supported semester abroad. Funding is possible if there is an ERASMUS+ agreement signed by the participating universities.

ERASMUS+ is not a full scholarship. Make sure you have an adequate funding before going abroad.

Duration

All students have the opportunity to spend up to up to 12 months per study cycle (BA, MA, PhD) abroad.

With ERASMUS+ you don't pay study fees at the host university. You get a simplified admission procedure and temporary enrollment at the host university.

KISD, TH Köln and the host institution support you during the preparation and implementation of your studies abroad.

What do you get?

- ✓ **Financial Support** (minimum 540,- EURO per month).
- ✓ **Special Grants**, so-called social Top-Ups for parents, people with disabilities (>20 GdB), chronically ill persons, students from families of first-time academics families and working students.
- ✓ **Green Travel** for sustainable travel abroad.
- ✓ **Online language course** for the language of instruction at the host university (also local language if applicable).
- ✓ **Simplified recognition** procedure through the obligatory Learning Agreement

Scholarships

PROMOS

[PROMOS](#) is scholarship funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and provided by TH Köln covering travel expenses.

You can apply twice a year to get supported for worldwide mobilities.



Academic scholarship
1– 6 months



Internship
6 weeks – 6 months



Language Course
3 weeks – 6 months



Program-specific Course
(i.e. summer schools)
Up to 6 weeks

Swiss European Mobility Program

The student exchange program with our Swiss partner universities is organized within the [Swiss European Mobility Program](#). The program is based on ERASMUS+. The scholarships for both incoming and outgoing students are covered by the Swiss side.

DFJW/OFAJ to France

The [Franco-German Youth Office](#) is offering scholarships for studying abroad in the field of art and design.

This is a grant for students enrolled in Germany or France who are planning to study at an art, music or design in the other country.

Fulbright USA

With study scholarships, [Fulbright](#) supports one- to two-semester study visits (max. 9 months) at Master's level, which begin in August/September and are completed full-time in the USA.

HAW.International

(Semester and thesis abroad)

The [German Academic Exchange Service \(DAAD\)](#) supports students at universities of applied sciences (*Hochschulen für angewandte Wissenschaften, HAW*) during their stays abroad.

BA and MA students can receive scholarships for a stay abroad as part of their studies or thesis for 1 to 6 months.

Scholarships

DAAD Scholarships for students in the field of fine arts/design/film

[Annual scholarship](#) is provided for a period of study without a degree at a university abroad. Or participation in a postgraduate course (e.g. Master's degree) with a degree abroad.

A stay can also take place at several host institutions in one country.

If you are already in the first year of a 2-year Master's or postgraduate course abroad at the time of application, you can apply for a scholarship for the second year of study.

Ausland-BAföG

The [Auslands-BAföG](#) is a form of state financial aid available to German students who wish to study abroad.

It is a supplement to the domestic BAföG and offers additional financial support to cover the additional costs of studying abroad. These can include travel costs, tuition fees and increased living costs.

Students who do not receive national BAföG may also be entitled to apply BAföG for stays abroad.

Other

There is a variety of other scholarships and fundings available. The Department of International Affairs at TH Köln may assist you to explore further options.

Contact

The Department of International Affairs is the central point of contact at TH Köln for all questions regarding the internationalization of the university. You have decided to go abroad during your studies? The [Team International Mobility](#) is happy to assist with your planning.

Application Requirements

The exchange programs are **open to all** degree seeking students at KISD.

Funding is only available for stays abroad at partner institutions with which we have a valid cooperation agreement.

An exchange is possible for one or two semesters. In our European Network, the [BA/MA European Studies in Design \(MEDes\)](#) it is two years at two different institutions.

BA students can go abroad in their 3rd semester at the earliest.

You are free to register as a so-called freemover independently at universities other than our partners. However, we cannot offer financial or organizational support for such projects.

Here are some more [hints](#) to prepare your application.

Re-registration

All students are required to [re-register](#) each semester by the deadline set by TH Köln. Students are automatically re-registered once they have paid the semester fees and have, if required, submitted all necessary documents.

Leave of absence

You may ask for a [leave of absence](#) for your (not mandatory) study abroad. MEDes students who spend a mandatory year abroad can apply for for an [exemption from the public transport pass](#).

Application Procedure



1st STEP

Apply at KISD, TH Köln

Twice a year the [International Committee](#) at KISD decides about the nominations for all outgoing students.

A nomination does not mean you are automatically admitted at the partner university, but offers you the opportunity to participate in the simplified admission procedure for exchange students.

Internal deadlines

February 1st

for the upcoming winter semester

September 1st

for the upcoming summer semester

To apply choose three possible destinations and a study program you would like to join and prepare:

- a CV
- a letter of motivation (addressed to your first choice partner university)
- a portfolio

How to Apply?

Register with [Mobility Online](#), the online database at TH Köln.

Once you are registered you can login on www.th-koeln.de/mobility with your CampusID and password to complete your personal data and upload your application documents.

Wait for the nomination by the International Committee.

Prepare your application for the partner university you got nominated to. Inform yourself about additional documents you need, like transcript of records or proof of language.

Submit your application to the partner institution in time!

Please keep in mind that partner institutions might have different semester dates and some programs might be really competitive.

Your application will not automatically be forwarded to the partner university, but serve exclusively the internal selection and nomination procedure at KISD.

The decision about your application will be communicated **mid of the month the earliest.**

Application Procedure



2st STEP

Apply at the partner university

Once you receive the information about being nominated, it is your task to take care of the formal application at the partner university and as well take care of the general conditions of the scholarship program (i.e. ERASMUS+).

The final decision about the acceptance is taken by the partner depending on the quality of the application.

It is your responsibility to submit the complete application documents to the partner institution in time.

Depending on the application deadline at the partner university, you can expect an acceptance or rejection from October to December /May to July.

Transcript of Records

Some partner universities require a Transcript of Records (overview of successfully completed courses). To get a transcript first collect signatures of your successfully completed courses! Check [KISDspaces](#) for further information.

Language certificate

In addition, it is possible that you have to submit a language certificate. Inform yourself about the required language level at your university of choice, so that you can still take language examinations if necessary.

You find offers for courses and exams at the [language learning center of TH Köln](#).

Dates to Remember

Study Abroad

Summer semester	Winter semester	
1-2 semester before applying	1-2 semester before applying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform yourself • Collect signatures • Prepare a portfolio and discuss it (i.e. in the mentoring) • Inform yourself about scholarships and deadlines • Start learning a new language if necessary
September 1st	February 1st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KISD, TH internal application deadline
October	March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nomination at the partner university
Oct – Dec	Mar – Jun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application at the partner university • Online Info session for Erasmus Outgoings (mandatory)
Nov – Dec	May – Jul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptance or rejection of the partner university
Jan – Mar	Aug – Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start your time abroad

Your studies abroad

Your courses abroad

In principle, we expect you to study regularly at the host university. The minimum for receiving an ERASMUS grant is 20 ECTS (CP).

In case you do less credits abroad, you might have to refund the (ERASMUS) scholarship).

Stay in touch

We recommend to stay in touch with your mentor and your coordinator here at KISD as well as the colleagues in the Mobility Team of the Department for International Affairs in case you have any questions concerning ERASMUS or Mobility Online.

Re-entry and recognition

Credits

Towards the end of your studies the partner university prepares a transcript of records for you, stating all your successfully completed courses.

In order to get these credits recognised here at KISD, please submit the transcript of records and your course reports about these courses.

Re-Register

Keep in mind you need to re-register at TH Köln (maybe while you are still abroad).

Report

Last but not least write a semester report and discuss it with your mentor.

Contact

at KISD

for all academic matters,
information about partner universities,
learning agreement, recognition

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and of course your mentor,
the professors, the academic and
non-academic staff at KISD

at TH

for all administrative matters,
Mobility Online, ERASMUS+, PROMOS

Department of International Affairs
Team International Mobility

Janina Knöll
Christian Riechel
Jörg Schmitz-Michiels
 outgoings@th-koeln.de

Open [Zoom consultation](#)
Every Tuesday between 10:00 and 12:00

Leave a message and you get a call back.
Tuesday from 10:00h to 12:00h and
Thursday from 14:00 to 16:00h

 +49 221-8275-3772

 In person
Thursday from 10:00h to 12:00h