

BAVARIAN VILLAGE SEMESTER TRIESDORF, GERMANY

March 11th to July 31st, 2024



GEFÖRDERT VOM



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

INTRODUCTION

Dear students,

Are you considering a semester abroad program for master degree students? The Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences (HSWT) in Bavaria, Germany, invites you to have a look at the Village Semester during summer semester 2024, from **March 11th until July 31st**.

Our campus Triesdorf is situated in a village of about 3,000 residents, where you can sustainably walk or bicycle to local shops, restaurants, and nature. Most of the classes take place at our campus, which forms an integral part of the Triesdorf Educational Centre for Agriculture, Food and the Environment ('Bildungszentrum Triesdorf'), the only one of its kind in Germany. On campus, there are all the amenities you might expect, such as a library and a cafeteria, as well as some unexpected ones - like our dairy and cheese store. Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences was recently voted the most popular university in Bavaria in the 5,000 to 15,000 students category. It also received top marks for teaching and facilities¹.

Guided by HSWT's experienced teaching staff, you will learn about the fundamentals of Sustainable Regional Development and related fields. In small groups, students have the opportunity to develop their personal as well as professional skills. Studying in our international student community will be an exciting learning and cultural experience!

You will enroll in the master degree program "Regional Management". There is a choice of English-language offerings from several of our master degree programs in Triesdorf, as well as a few courses held online in cooperation with the Weihenstephan campus. The education language will be English. German courses and other language courses are also an option.

On the following pages, you will find more details about how you can study and live in our village, and meet new friends. We look forward to welcoming you at the HSWT!

Prof. Dr. Jennifer Gerend

Master degree program coordinator Regional Management



¹ <https://www.hswt.de/news-list/detail/hswt-beliebteste-hochschule-bayerns-in-der-kategorie-5000-15000-studierende> and <https://www.studycheck.de/hochschulranking/beliebteste-hochschulen-b>

LEARNING GOALS FOR OUR BAVARIAN VILLAGE SEMESTER STUDENTS



- Learn about how villages and regions can plan for sustainable futures - and get the job done!
- Connect with experts in the field of regional development and visit best practices
- Establish your own international network during group projects and courses with students from Germany and other countries, as well as in your free time
- Improve your foreign language skills (German, English)
- Gain intercultural competencies
- Get to know the German higher education system at our University of Applied Sciences
- Experience life in a German village in Bavaria



VILLAGE CAMPUS LIFE

Although Triesdorf is one of the smallest university locations in Germany, it does not mean that it is a sleepy place. Over 2,000 people study in Triesdorf, with students from all around the world attracted to the HSWT's academic strength in the green disciplines of agriculture, nutrition, engineering and related fields.

At HSWT, we offer many different student-led sport activities. You can try something new every day and expand your network of contacts and friends.

We don't expect you to study *all* of the time. Triesdorf is well-known for its parties and for its easygoing open-air activities.

Triesdorf is located in the Franconian Lake District. With a variety of activities, ranging from swimming and other water sports to hiking, from enjoying nature to cultural festivals, the region offers many opportunities to enjoy your free time while following an instructive exchange program at our university's campus in Triesdorf. With short distances and a well-developed road network, you can reach seven lakes either by bicycle or by public transport.

For more Information see <https://www.fraenkisches-seenland.de/>



ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

The Bavarian Village Semester is part of our university's internationalization underway through the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) project "HAW.International". The Village Semester is a new study abroad program at the master level. The Village Semester 2024 will host a mix of DAAD scholarship students from our partner universities and colleges in Ethiopia and USA, as well as other semester abroad students.

The village semester classes start on March 18th and end on July 31st, 2024. Students are invited to arrive one week before semester start for welcome and orientation days.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

- Currently enrolled in a master/graduate program related to spatial planning, regional management, land administration, forestry, environmental studies, public administration, landscape architecture, climate change studies and related fields
- Written and spoken proficiency in English language (level B1 CEFR)

HOW TO APPLY

1. Initial Contact

There is a selection process for the Village Semester in Triesdorf.

Students from HSWT partner universities: Please refer to your study abroad advisor/faculty coordinator for nomination. Applicants will receive a link to the application portal.

Students from other universities: If there is no agreement with your university in place, you may study with us as a Freemover. In this case, please send an e-mail to the HSWT International Office exchange-studies@hswt.de

2. Application process

For application via our online application portal, you will need to upload the following documents:

- Resume / CV
- Transcript of Records (in German or English)
- University entrance qualification (e.g. Matura, high school diploma)
- Bachelor's degree diploma
- Proof of English proficiency (either native speaker or certificate of home university or language school certificate)
- Letter of motivation
- Scan of passport
- Passport photo

Application materials for scholarship students must be submitted between July and October 2023, for the 2024 summer semester (start date March 18th, 2024). If a visa is required for the stay in Germany, we recommend sending the applications as early as possible.

Non-scholarships students may continue to apply through November.

For further information on how to apply, please see:

<https://www.hswt.de/en/international/ways-to-the-hswt>

3. Selection and notification

Applications will be reviewed by the program coordinator. Successful scholarship candidates shall be notified by the end of October 2023. Non-scholarship students will be notified on a rolling basis, closing at the end of December 2023.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

HSWT does not charge any tuition, so exchange students only need to pay the semester fee of approximately 70 euros for one semester. Additionally, they will need to cover travel and cost of living. The cost of living in Triesdorf is about 700 to 800 euros per month.

Students can apply for available scholarships in their countries of origin, or search for sponsorship opportunities with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), BayLAT (Link) and other scholarships.

A limited number of full scholarships is available to our partner universities Debre Markos University (Ethiopia) and The Evergreen State College (USA) that will cover travel and cost of living through the DAAD program "HAW.International".

HOUSING/ ACCOMODATIONS

There are various student residences and private rooms for rent. We will support the nominated students in finding accommodations. The rental rate for a single room per month is approximately 250 to 350 euros.

RESIDENCY-RELATED MATTERS

Please inform yourself early about the entry requirements (visa/ residence registration/ residence permit). Non-EU students please refer to <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/visa-service/-/231148>

HEALTH INSURANCE AND OTHER INSURANCES

Students in Germany are required to have sufficient health insurance. This covers the costs of medical treatments and medications in the event of an accident or illness so that it does not have to be paid for privately. Selected students will be advised on how to take out sufficient insurance.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

During the Bavarian Village Semester, students enroll in roughly 30 European credit points (ECTS) for a full-time load. Students can choose from the following modules:

Required modules for Village Semester:	
Sustainable Regional Development 3 ECTS	Interdisciplinary Group Research Project 5 ECTS
Best Practices (Excursion) 2 / 3 ECTS	German as a Foreign Language - Basic Course A1 or A2 (both possible) language center 5 ECTS
Electives for Village Semester:	
Quantitative Data Analysis with R 3 ECTS	Business Informatics and Empirical Social Research 5 ECTS
Landscape as System 5 ECTS	Renewable Energies 2 ECTS
Economic Planning and Management in Forest Industries 5 ECTS	Analyses of the Farm and Food Systems in Germany 5 ECTS
Marketing und Management regionaler Wertschöpfungsketten (German) 5 ECTS	
Language center:	Bavarian Virtual University (VHB):
Intercultural Communication (C1) 3 ECTS	Basics Sustainability 5 ECTS
English for Sustainable Regional Development 2 ECTS	Public Economics 2,5 ECTS
	Regionalism and Global Governance 10 ECTS

You can find the course descriptions below.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

REQUIRED MODULES FOR VILLAGE SEMESTER

SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (831900090)

Hours/week 3 SWS	ECTS credits 3	Lecturer Prof. Dr. Jennifer Gerend, international speakers
<p>Objectives of the course/Learning outcome: By participating in the English language lecture series, students will be able to understand and communicate topics related to regional management and rural development on an international level. They will be able to produce written content in English for various purposes, e.g. a regional management website or an EU funding application. They have basic knowledge of professional English for regional managers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English-language guest lectures as part of the international lecture series • Teaching of basic technical terms • Reading of English texts on regional development and case studies • Listening exercises relevant to the subject • Discussion of sustainability concepts in an international context, regional development policy of the European Union and case studies of rural development • Professional English in conversation, in correspondence and on the Internet (including social media). Practical work with reports and grant applications in English • Preparation of a presentation in English 		
<p>Assessment methods: Participation in international lecture series, oral presentation</p>		

BEST PRACTICES IN RURAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (FIELD TRIP) (830200080)

Hours/week 3 SWS	ECTS credits 3	Lecturers Prof. Dr. Jennifer Gerend and Marina Beck, M.A.
<p>Objectives of the course/Learning outcome: The students gain knowledge about important practical goals and working methods of regional groups of actors and institutions as well as about project concepts and project financing possibilities in a regional context. They have the ability to classify and evaluate best practice projects and regional strategy models.</p>		
<p>Assessment methods: Report on topic related to field trip; active participation in field trip</p>		

INTERDISCIPLINARY GROUP RESEARCH PROJECT (930900220)

Hours/week	ECTS credits	Lecturers
4 SWS	5	Dr. Kateryna Tuzhyk
<p>Objectives of the course/Learning outcome: Students are enabled to answer agricultural related questions in a scientific manner. During this course, all steps of scientific work will be realized: starting with the formulation of a research question, stating a hypothesis, identification of suitable methods to answer proposed questions, data collection and “re-research”, summarizing and presenting results, and finally prepare a written document in paper format.</p> <p>The following topics are proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Water-Food-Energy-Nexus, ● Principles of sustainable agriculture, ● Climate-Smart Agriculture, ● Caring about the “unseen” – soils and groundwater ● Agriculture in 2050 ● Further topic related to regional development <p>Course format: Seminar / working groups of 4-5 students</p>		
<p>Assessment methods: project paper and oral presentation</p>		

GERMAN AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE - BASIC COURSE A1 OR A2, BOTH POSSIBLE (960400030, LANGUAGE CENTER)

Hours/week	ECTS credits	Lecturer
4 SWS	5	Philipp Raab
<p>Objectives of the course/Learning outcome: <i>(For students with prior German knowledge, advanced courses may be offered, either online or as group sessions, depending on the number of participants and skill level)</i></p> <p>Objectives of the course/Learning outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The ability to cope with some simple everyday situations in the foreign language in written and spoken forms of communication as well as to give simple information about studies, university and career wishes. ● The ability to perceive cultural differences and to comment on them in simple statements. ● Development of learning strategies that serve the further development of the students' language skills <p>Course content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Acquisition and practice of basic language skills (listening comprehension, reading comprehension, speaking, writing, grammar, vocabulary) ● Study of areas of practical everyday life and regional studies topics, e.g. simple, short reading and listening texts as well as audiovisual material such as city maps, room reservations, travel descriptions, etc; roleplaying such as simple interviews or telephone conversations etc.; filling out forms with personal details, writing e-mails. 		
<p>Assessment methods: tba</p>		

ELECTIVES FOR VILLAGE SEMESTER

QUANTITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS WITH R

Hours/week	ECTS credits	Lecturer
2 SWS	3	Prof. Dr. Mareike Ließ
<p>In agricultural and environmental sciences, we often deal with multidimensional data sets and non-linear relationships. Numerous agricultural decisions, agricultural and environmental problems require their proper analysis. The statistical software environment and programming language 'R' provides an adequate means to do so.</p> <p>Objectives of the course/Learning outcome:</p> <p>The students have programming skills in R, know how to conduct an exploratory data analysis and know the processing workflow for quantitative data analysis and modelling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to R and RStudio• General concepts: objects, functions, loops• Statistical sampling• Exploratory data analysis• Machine learning for data analysis		
Assessment methods: Report		

LANDSCAPE AS SYSTEM

Hours/week	ECTS credits	Lecturer
5 SWS	5	Prof. Dr. Julia Laube, guest lecturers
<p>Objectives of the course/Learning outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of different landscape concepts and their suitability for planning.• Explanation of environmental factors and land use.• Use of different methods of landscape analysis and assessment using the example of a regional landscape area.• Development and evaluation of landscape functions and ecosystem services for the landscape area, taking various factors into account (dealing with complexity and dynamics)• Presentation and defense of one's own work.• If necessary, basic planning and design methods are also practiced in order to balance the different levels of knowledge of the interdisciplinary study group.		
Assessment methods: Written paper		

ECONOMIC PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT IN FOREST INDUSTRIES (353221010)

Hours/week 4 SWS	ECTS credits 5	Lecturer Prof. Dr. Andrea Stübner
<p>Objectives of the course/Learning outcome: At the end of the module the student will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse business environment in the forest and wood industry • Elaborate and interpret economic plannings • Apply different strategic analyses • Carry out business management using the different management methods • Use quantitative methods of economics 		
<p>Assessment methods: Semester paper (10 weeks to complete the paper)</p>		

BUSINESS INFORMATICS AND EMPIRICAL SOCIAL RESEARCH (392212040)

Hours/week 5 SWS	ECTS credits 5	Lecturer Dr. Aram Aristakesyan, Katja Krauter, Christian Schuh, Dr. Heinz-Peter Wolff
<p>Objectives of the course/Learning outcome: Business Informatics: Upon completion of the module, students will be able to use electronic data processing systems as an instrument to efficiently use electronic data processing systems as an instrument for the rationalization of operational processes such as administration, planning and control and for the procurement and the supply of information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS Word: editing and formatting texts, structuring texts, automatic formatting and numbering, creating glossarys • Power Point: designing presentations, animating text as well as graphic elements • MS Excel: table functions, creating complex tables for economic analyses, sensitivity analyses, designing diagrams, data bank cooperations • Access: conception and structure of rational data banks, designing tables and forms, drafting reports and polls <p>Empirical Social Reseach Methods: The students know the methods of applied empirical social research as well as basic techniques of descriptive statistics and are able to apply them and to derive, evaluate and present results.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduction to the importance of empirical social research; basic empirical social research questions • collecting poll data; • choosing research units; • modes of gathering information, such as interrogation, observation and experimental techniques; • modes of data analysis (IT-supported) 		
<p>Assessment methods: written exam</p>		

RENEWABLE ENERGIES (831800070)

Hours/week 2 SWS	ECTS credits 2	Lecturer Katja Krauter
<p>Objectives of the course/Learning outcome: After completing the module, students are able to know the energy supply situation on a national and international level as well as the related future projections. They are able to determine and compare the economic costs of selected methods of energy generation. They will be able to estimate the macroeconomic and social costs of energy generation, apply utility analysis to evaluate energy generation technologies, and assess energy supply strategies based on cost-benefit considerations.</p>		
<p>Assessment methods: written exam</p>		

ANALYSES OF THE FARM AND FOOD SYSTEMS IN GERMANY (930100350)

Hours/week 4 SWS	ECTS credits 5	Target group Students in Agriculture, Agricultural Engineering	Lecturer Dr. Bernd Müller
<p>Objectives of the course/Learning outcome: Students are able to describe the meaning and form of Agriculture and Food Industry in Germany. They can describe basics of -typical German farms and mid and long term developments - organic farming - agricultural markets and global issues - diversification and business start up - German retail as part of the food value chain - precision agriculture The module includes lectures and excursions.</p>			
<p>Assessment methods: written exam, 120 minutes</p>			

MARKETING UND MANAGEMENT REGIONALER WERTSCHÖPFUNGSKETTEN (386192040) (MARKETING AND MANAGEMENT OF REGIONAL VALUE CHAINS)

Hours/week 4 SWS	ECTS credits 5	Target group the course is in German; German knowledge level B2 required	Lecturer Prof. Dr. Manfred Geißendörfer, Prof. Dr. Peter Breunig
<p>Objectives of the course/Learning outcome: The students understand marketing as the basis of a market-oriented corporate strategy and know instruments as well as and methods of market development and market cultivation, so that they are in a position to design marketing strategies (also in the international context), and to be able to implement them in practice.</p>			
<p>Assessment methods: oral examination, student research project</p>			

LANGUAGE CENTER

INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION (C1) (960500070)

Hours/week	ECTS credits	Lecturer
2 SWS	3	Susanne Kroner
Objectives of the course/Learning outcome: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ability to understand and functionally apply the English language in general contexts, in both spoken and written forms of communication.• The development of cultural sensitivity and the capacity to recognise intercultural problems during international communication settings, as well as to apply strategies of constructive communication in such situations• Development of learning strategies to further the independent development of student's language skills. Course content: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acquiring and improving linguistic abilities (listening, reading, speaking, writing, grammar, vocabulary)• Training of spoken language competence during while engaging with country-specific and intercultural topics in preparation of a stay-abroad (i.e. through projects, case studies, role plays, presentations, etc.)• Training of reading skills through reading material in the context of project work		
Assessment methods: tba		

ENGLISH FOR SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (860500070)

Hours/week	ECTS credits	Lecturers
2 SWS	2	Dr. Gabriel Dorta Mendez, Thomas Bartl Susanne Kroner
Objectives of the course/Learning outcome: <p>Acquiring and developing language skills (listening comprehension, reading comprehension, speaking, vocabulary, grammar in use).</p> <p>- Training of study and subject-oriented communication situations (projects, presentations and discussions on subject-related authentic material).</p> <p>- Oral assignments on topics related to sustainable rural development. Preparation and delivery of own presentations.</p> <p>The module (B2 CEFR) pursues the following competence goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To understand the foreign language in spoken and written form in professional contexts and to use it functionally and competently with largely correct use of a wide range of linguistic means.• To acquire and discuss specialized knowledge in the field of sustainable rural development and regional management in English.• Understand demanding, longer technical texts and lectures in the selected subject area in terms of vocabulary and structures, extract the necessary information from them and comprehend and pass on explicit and implicit information.• Express themselves fluently and communicatively orally and in writing on selected complex topics using extended structures and an extensive general and specialist vocabulary and present their personal statement in a coherent, logically structured and stylistically appropriate manner.		
Assessment methods: written paper or exam		

BAVARIAN VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY (VHB)

BASICS SUSTAINABILITY

Hours/week	ECTS credits	Lecturer
4 SWS	5	Prof. Dr. Robert Feicht
Objectives of the course/Learning outcome: The consistent overstepping of planetary boundaries by humans is the cause of many environmental problems and social tensions regionally, globally and between generations. For sustainable development in the sense of a fair distribution of resources, an interdisciplinary approach to solutions and the consideration of the interrelationships of social, ecological and economic factors and actors are indispensable. The course "Basics Sustainability" teaches the most important sustainability models and analysis methods for sustainable development. From environmental and resource economics, basic methods for a fair distribution of environmental goods as well as environmental policy instruments and tools for sustainable spatial design are presented. With regard to materiality, the goal is the use of renewable raw materials for the production of materials and products, the recycling or pollutant-free landfilling of existing products and materials, and the optimisation of natural processes from a material and energy point of view. Against the background of climate change, students learn about current technologies and developments and assess measures in the field of renewable energy systems in the context of grid expansion, energy distribution and storage technologies.		
Assessment methods: Written examination		

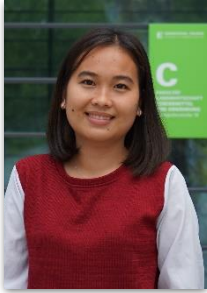
PUBLIC ECONOMICS

Hours/week	ECTS credits	Lecturer
2 SWS	2,5	Prof. Dr. Hanjo Allinger
Objectives of the course/Learning outcome: Public economics focuses on the state's role in attempts to regulate the economy. Some market failures are well known and require state action. Markets can either fail because the market outcome is inefficient or because it is unjust. But how exactly should the state respond to undesired market outcomes? Several general market failures like externalities or public goods will be defined. Students learn about the appropriate state reaction to these market failures to maximize welfare in society. The course offers an introduction to taxation theory and shows which market side has to bear the burden of a tax. Students will learn how to distinguish good taxes from bad taxes. Last but not least, students will be introduced to two completely different approaches to handle justice in a scientific context: exogenous and endogenous justice. In these two fields, they learn to work with different concepts of justice and how to apply them to real world analysis.		
Assessment methods: Written examination		

REGIONALISM AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

Hours/week 2 SWS	ECTS credits 10	Lecturer Prof. Dr. Bernhard Stahl
Objectives of the course/Learning outcome: The course examines the wide spectrum of promising potential and high hurdles regional integration faces. Various regional organizations (ROs) are presented and analysed. The main focus is placed on the analysis of institutional characteristics of ROs (structures, decision-making processes) as well as their role in providing governance functions in the global context. Against the background of inter-regional agreements' increasingly displacing global, multinational agreements, ROs play an increasing role for 'global governance without global government'.		
Assessment methods: Seminar paper		

TESTIMONIALS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SUMMER PROGRAMME (AGRICULTURE; FOOD AND NUTRITION)

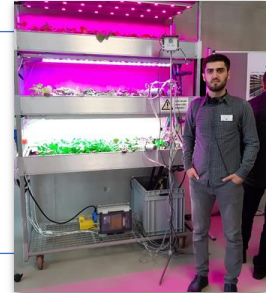


"The people here are very welcoming and students are always supported. The university environment allowed me to focus and study in peace. The most important thing I learned was to communicate with new friends from different nationalities."

Kimmyou Meng, Cambodia, 2021

"For me, the most interesting is the friendly relationship with the professors. In my country, focus is on theoretical knowledge that comes from books that are over ten years old, here the information is always up to date."

Hamza Arifovic, Serbia, 2020



"On campus, students benefit from unique teaching and learning methods and seminar rooms fitted to the latest technical standard. In order to self-study or join online courses, Weihenstephan-Triesdorf provides computer rooms [...] for students. Student life is not only study but also having fun, there is a big hall to make parties for students."

Jasur Abdushukurov, Uzbekistan, 2020

"HSWT is well equipped [...]. The hardworking spirit from all the departments is really encouraging. I hope to be back again."

Emmanuel Amalemba, Kenya, 2021



"I really liked the Triesdorf community, especially the campus [...]. I also appreciated the principle of recycling waste in order to produce renewable energy for the whole city through the technique of biogas. People are nice and I took the opportunity to practice a little German. I liked the weather because it was not too hot and not too cold."

Jasur Yolabal Nataniman, Togo, 2022

"I didn't hesitate when I was offered the opportunity to join the program because it was a chance for me to study in Germany. I liked the way the courses were organized and also the quality. There are farms students can go to and improve their knowledge. I also liked the infrastructure of Germany, the discipline, the cleanliness. It is a good environment for studies."

Paka Abiré Reine, Togo, 2021

