

Fresher's Issue
Winter Semester 2026/27
Fachschaft Anglistik, Amerikanistik
und Keltologie



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Welcome!

Dear students,

the student representatives of the department of English, American and Celtic studies (Fachschaft Anglistik, Amerikanistik und Keltologie) want to welcome you to the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms University of Bonn! Congrats, you have taken the first step towards finishing your degree!

Starting a new study can be a daunting and stressful process, but don't fret, because we are here to help guide you and make your first weeks in Bonn as agreeable as possible. In this guide, we want to give you whatever tips we think could be the most useful to you while settling in.

We are here for you!

During the traditional Ersti-Week, the department and the university offer various activities for students to get to know each other and find out more about the practical side of studying. You can find a timetable including the most important dates and places-to-be further down. However, your contact with us does not have to end after the first weeks. Members of the Fachschaft can frequently be found in our office on the second floor of the Rabinstraße in room 2.054. We also organise get-togethers of different kinds, such as tea talks with your lecturers, flea markets or speed friending afternoons all throughout the year. If you want to stay up-to-date on all things Fachschaft, feel free to follow us on instagram at [@fs.anglistik.bonn](https://www.instagram.com/fs.anglistik.bonn).

Without further ado, we wish you all the best in your studies and that you enjoy your time in Bonn.

Your Fachschaft Anglistik, Amerikanistik und Keltologie

First Things First – So Where Do I Start?

You have been accepted to your degree and are ready to start the semester - or are you? Here is a quick overview of the things you need to know and do when starting your studies.

- You will already have received your **student ID** (Matrikelnummer, a series of eight numbers), **Uni-ID** (a mixture of letters and numbers) and **student e-mail address** during the online enrollment. This remains your ID throughout your studies at Bonn University. Make sure to use this e-mail address and include your student ID for any written correspondences in the context of your studies. Your Uni-ID can be used to sign in to BASIS, E-Campus, the university's e-mail service and Eduroam.
- Your **digital student ID card** and your **semester ticket** is available through the **Uni Bonn App** on your phone. With the semester ticket, you can use any regional public transport all across Germany for free.
- You can find any relevant dates and deadlines in the [“Studienjahrkalender”](#) of Bonn University.
- **Course enrollment** is done over [BASIS](#). The Deadline is from 28th September until 8th October 2026. The Fachschaft offers office hours during Fresher's Week for students who need help with BASIS and registering for their courses.
- You can request a **library card** over the Online Formular on the [ULB Website](#).
- In case you have recently moved to Bonn, remember to **register** with the municipality. It may take some time to get your appointment, so don't procrastinate too much on doing this, as you can be fined otherwise. After you've registered, you should also check whether you need to register with the Rundfunk to pay the **“Rundfunkbeitrag.”**
- New **Master students**, who didn't complete their BA in Bonn, need to register with the **“Prüfungsamt.”** The deadline to do so is 11th December 2026. This date is non-negotiable. Further information can be found on the website of the [Prüfungsamt](#).
- The university has various [cafés and canteens](#) for students to make use of. Pay conveniently with your credit or debit card. Please show your student ID at the checkout to receive the student price.

An Overview of Your Fresher's Week

Your classes start on 12th October 2026, but until then, here's some fun AND practical things to do in the days leading up to and past your first days as a student. Almost all our events will be held at Rabinstr. 8, room details see below. You can just come by, no need to register.

05.10. – 09.10.	Fresher's Week		
Mon, 05.10.	How to Uni	10:00 – 11:30	Rooms 7+8
	Basis Office Hour	12:00 – 14:00	
	B.A. Celtic Studies Info Event	14:00 – 16:00	Room 6
	Kennenlernnachmittag	16:00 – 18:00	Rooms 7+8
Tue, 06.10.	Freshers Breakfast	09:30 – 11:30	Rooms 7+8
	B.A. English Studies/B.Ed. Englisch Info Event	16:30 – 18:00	Hörsaalzentrum Poppelsdorf, HS 1 (Friedrich-Hirzebruch-Allee 5)
Wed, 07.10.	Basis Office Hour	12:00 – 14:00	Rooms 7+8
	M.A. Applied Linguistics Event	15:00 – 17:00	Room 6
	Popquiz	17:30 – 20:00	Rooms 7+8
Thu, 08.10.	Ersti Welcome	From 12:00	Hauptgebäude (Aula/Arkadenhof)
Fri, 09.10.	Rallye	From 13:00	Meeting point tba
Sat, 10.10.	PhilFak Flunkyball Tournament	From 15:00	Hofgarten

Save the Dates:

Mon, 12.10.	Master Meets Speedfriending	18:00 – 20:00	Room 8
Tue, 13.10.	M.A. English Literatures and Cultures Info Event	12:15 (Prof. Dr. Gymnich's class)	Hauptgebäude, HS XVI
Tue, 13.10.	M.A. North American Studies Info Event	16:00	Room 2.025

What is the “Fachschaft”?

Technically, the Fachschaft is every single one of you, the student body of the IAAK. We, who work under the name of Fachschaft or **FAAK**, are the elected student representatives. In that function, we work to support our fellow students, help with questions, and represent our students' concerns, opinions, and perspectives on an institutional, faculty and university-wide level. If there are any questions or concerns, however small or unimportant they may seem, students are always invited to contact us or stop by our office to talk. We also offer a trained awareness team who can help you and is present during every event. Of course, we also do fun stuff! We organise events not only for fresher's week but all throughout the semester and invite all students and friends of the IAAK to join us. Past events have been book- and flea markets, tea talks, quizzes and much more.

Every student can join the Fachschaft and help with events and day-to-day business. **If you are interested feel free to join us for one of our weekly meetings.** Since the IAAK has several different degrees students from all disciplines and levels are welcome. For those of you who do Celtic Studies, we also recommend checking out the **Fachausschuss Keltologie** who are a sub-body of the FAAK and specifically represent students from their discipline.

For more information follow us on Instagram, check out our website, or send us an e-mail!

FAAK:

Instagram: [@fs.anglistik.bonn](https://www.instagram.com/fs_anglistik_bonn)

Website: www.iaak.uni-bonn.de/fachschaft/en/faak

Mail: faak@uni-bonn.de

Fachausschuss Keltologie:

Instagram: [@kelten fa bonn](https://www.instagram.com/kelten_fa_bonn)

Website: www.iaak.uni-bonn.de/keltologie/en/studium/fachausschuss-keltologie

Mail: keltenfa@uni-bonn.de

What classes do you need to take in your first semester?

At University you will need to book your classes yourselves. You can do this via Basis (basis.uni-bonn.de). It can be very confusing when applying for your classes for the first time so feel free to join our How-To-Uni Event and our Basis Office Hours. Information for further semesters you can find in the [Studienverlaufsplan or the Modulhandbuch](#).

These are the classes that you should take in your first semester if possible:

Bachelor's Degree Programs:

English Studies Kernfach and Zweifach (Major / Double Major):

Introduction to Literary and Cultural Studies

- Lecture and Übung
- here you need both classes

Introduction to Language and Communication

- Lecture

Language I

- All new students of English (apart from those with English as a minor subject), need to take the [PLACEMENT TEST on eCampus](#) before registration
- Please note your level when you are applying for one of the Language Skills I courses and ONLY GIVE PRIORITY to those classes!

English Studies Begleitfach (Minor):

Introduction to Literary and Cultural Studies

- Lecture and Übung
- here you need both classes

Introduction to Language and Communication

- Lecture

English Studies Lehramt (Teaching Degree):

Introduction to Literary and Cultural Studies

- Lecture and Übung
- here you need both classes

Introduction to Language and Communication

- Lecture

Language I

- All new students of English (apart from those with English as a minor subject), need to take the [PLACEMENT TEST on eCampus](#) before registration
- Please note your level when you are applying for one of the Language Skills I courses and ONLY GIVE PRIORITY to those classes!

Keltologie (Celtic Studies):

- Kelten und Keltologie
- Die keltischen Literaturen I

Master's Degree Programs:

English Literatures and Cultures:

Take the two compulsory modules offered in the winter semester:

- Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century British Literatures and Cultures
- Postcolonial Literatures and Cultures

Both modules consist of two seminars, which you both need!

North American Studies:

- Literature and Theory (lecture, Übung and seminar)
- Two elective modules of your choice

Applied Linguistics:

Take the following three modules:

- Applied Linguistics – An Overview
- Intercultural Communication
- Methods in Applied Linguistics

All modules consist of two classes, which you both need!

English Studies Lehramt (Teaching Degree):

- English Linguistics LA
- North American and Postcolonial Literatures and Cultures LA

Studierendenwerk

(Lennéstraße 3, 53113 Bonn, Mon-Fri 9:00-14:00)

The "Studierendenwerk Bonn" is a centre for student services. They can help you with many aspects surrounding the student life that are not specifically connected to your studies. especially if you do not know your way around yet. Their website and office hours can provide you with information about student housing, financial aid, student jobs, or the daily canteen menus.

We definitely recommend checking out their website as there are many new things to discover. → www.studierendenwerk-bonn.de/en/

A small selection of important topics that the Studierendenwerk Bonn covers that may be especially relevant for first time students are:

- Eligibility for financial aid (What aids are there? Where and how to apply?)
- Student housing (Where and in what type of apartment?)
- Canteens (What canteen is closest to you? What are their opening hours and what are the daily menus?)
- Counselling (Consultations, studying with impairments)
- Job fair (Job listings specifically for students)
- Studying as a parent (Daycare locations?)

Some more things to keep in mind...

In certain cases, you can apply for a Nachteilsausgleich to have more time for exams etc.

Please refer to the [official page of the Prüfungsamt about the Nachteilsausgleich](#).

Support Your Local Bookshop and Library!

During your studies you will have to buy a number of books. The Fachschaft wholeheartedly recommends you support Bonn's local bookshops and not the big companies.

Here is a list of some local bookshops that you could consider:

Altstadtbuchhandlung Breite Str. 47 53111 Bonn Mon-Fri: 10:00-18:30, Sat: 10:00-14:00 altstadtbuchhandlung-bonn.de	The Art of Books Bonner Talweg 28A 53113 Bonn Tue-Wed, Fri: 10:00-14:00 & 15:00-19:00 Thu: 10:00-14:00 & 15:00-20:00 Sat: 10:00-15:00 theartofbooks.de
buchLaden 46 Kaiserstraße 46 53113 Bonn Mon-Fri: 10:00-19:00, Sat: 10:00-16:00 www.buchladen46.de	Bücher Bartz Gottfried-Claren-Straße 3 53225 Bonn Mon-Fri: 09:30-18:30, Sat: 09:30-14:00 buecherbartz.buchhandlung.de
Buchladen Le Sabot Breite Str. 76 53111 Bonn Mon-Fri: 14:00-18:30, Sat: 12:00-16:00 www.lesabot.de	Buchhandlung Jost Hausdorffstr. 160 53129 Bonn Mon-Fri: 09:00-18:00, Sat: 09:00-14:00 www.buchhandlung-jost.de

You can also order books from their websites to your home! So you don't even have to go to those shops if you don't live nearby.

Besides the university's libraries, there is also the [City Library](#):

Stadtbibliothek Bonn

Mühlheimer Pl. 1

53111 Bonn

Tue-Fri: 10:00-19:00, Sat: 10:00-14:00

Glossary

- **“s.t.” and “c.t.”:**
These abbreviations may be found next to the time indications for your classes. “s.t.” stands for sine tempore and means that your class starts exactly at the indicated time. “c.t.” stands for cum tempore and means that your class starts 15 minutes after the indicated time.
- **AStA:**
The “Allgemeine Studierendenausschuss” of Bonn University advocates for all students at the university.
- **IAAK:**
The department for English, American and Celtic Studies at Bonn University, or “Institut für Anglistik, Amerikanistik und Keltologie” in German.
- **BAFöG:**
This is an acronym for Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz and a program for students to receive financial aid. This is not a scholarship but a federal financial aid that students with insufficient funding can receive. How much funding a student receives is calculated on an individual basis.
- **LP:**
LP stands for Leistungspunkte, different universities might call them credits, CP (credit points) or ECTS (European Credit Transfer System). Each point roughly requires 25-30 hours of work, so if you take a course that has 5 LP, you should calculate with an overall workload of 125-150 hours for the entire semester.
- **Student ID/matriculation number:**
This is an individual number assigned to you, that you should ideally know by heart.
- **Module:**
A module typically consists of several courses in the same research area. The courses do not have to be taken at the same time; **lecture:** A type of course that usually requires very little involvement with one lecturer presenting the lecture slides and a large audience of students.; **seminar:** A format of course that has much less students and typically involves participation from the students including e.g. group work; **tutorial:** Tutorials take place in smaller groups to accompany lectures.
- **Semesterbeitrag:**
or the “semester fee” is the fee that has to be paid every semester to stay enrolled at the university. The fee can differ each semester and usually is around 360 €.
- **Studienleistung:**
Usually every course requires a Studienleistung, which must be completed during the semester. This can be a presentation, minutes/protocol, an essay etc.
- **Prüfungsleistung:**
If a course requires a Prüfungsleistung, this typically means that a student needs to take an exam or a term paper to complete the course.

Resources for Students

AStA Endenicher Allee 17, 53115 Bonn Mon-Fri 10:00-15:00 AStA Shop Endenicher Allee 19, 53115 Bonn Mon-Fri 11:00-15:00	Philological Library (incl. English Studies) Rabinstraße 8, 53111 Bonn Mon-Fri 9:00-20:00
Fachschaftsroom Rabinstraße 8, 53111 Bonn Room 2.054	ULB Adenauerallee 39-41, 53113 Bonn Mon-Sun 8:00-24:00
Psychological Counseling with the Student Advice center Poppelsdorfer Allee 49 (2nd floor), 53115 Bonn rooms 2.009 and 2.012 Thu 10:00-11:00	MNL Friedrich-Hirzebruch-Allee 4, 53115 Bonn Mon-Sun 8:00-24:00
Student Advice center Poppelsdorfer Allee 49, 53115 Bonn Mon, Tue, Thu 9:30-12:00 and 13:30-16:00	IAAK Lecturers of Trust Hanna Bruns (2.059) Don Lowman (2.027) Awareness office hours Hanna Bruns offers weekly office hours on Thursdays 15:00-17:00 Or write an email to one of them (h.bruns@uni-bonn.de ; dlowman@uni-bonn.de)
Studierendenwerk Bonn Lennéstraße 3, 53113 Bonn Mon-Fri 9:00-14:00	Hofgarten Mensa Regina-Pacis-Weg, 53113 Bonn Mon-Thu 8:30-14:30, Fri 8:30-14:00