

Degree programmes taught in English

at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität
Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU)





Welcome to the Heart of Europe

At the heart of Europe lies the metropolitan region of Nuremberg—home to one of Germany’s oldest and most distinguished universities: Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU), founded in 1743.

We offer the ideal innovation-driven environment to 38.000 students from around the world to kickstart their careers in Engineering, Economics, Natural Sciences, Medicine, Law, and the Humanities. In many fields, our university counts among the major global players in higher education with connections to universities all around the world.

The unique advantage of the University is that subjects do not exist side by side, but together—because collaboration across disciplinary boundaries is a top priority at FAU. This is evidenced by the multi-faculty key research priorities as well as the numerous interdisciplinary degree programmes and the research centres spanning several disciplines. This strength feeds directly into students’ education because research and teaching at FAU are intertwined, bringing the latest breakthroughs and insights straight into the classroom. A Master’s degree at FAU enables students to seamlessly continue into doctoral studies if they wish.

At FAU, you will not amass huge student debts: under Germany’s education system no tuition fees are charged in most courses. You do not have to pay to receive an excellent education!

International students thrive at FAU, not least thanks to our broad range of degree programmes taught in English. You will join a young, bustling community fluent in English and open to cultural exchange, so it is easy to settle in. For our international degree programmes, which are exclusively



taught in English, proof of knowledge of the German language is not required at the time of your application and enrolment and will not affect your application in a negative way. However, a basic knowledge of the German language is of paramount importance for living and seeking a job in Germany. FAU offers a wide range of opportunities to learn German in a fast and effective way and will support you in such endeavours.



Engineering

MSc Advanced Materials and Processes (MAP) (Elite degree programme)

This elite Master's degree programme is a unique combination of chemical and biological engineering with materials science and engineering. By providing students with a cutting edge education, MAP is training the next generation of engineers with the skills necessary to produce innovative materials in the most efficient and sustainable way. MAP is built around the following four focal subjects: Advanced Processes, Biomaterials and Bioprocessing, Computational Materials Science and Process Simulation, Nanomaterials and Nanotechnology, with students specializing in two out of four from the second semester onwards.

The intensive study of these topics together with the associated project work as well as practical applications, an industrial internship and soft skills provide students with broad career opportunities in industry as well as in academia. MAP is one of the cutting-edge programmes supported by the Bavarian Elite Network.

MSc Advanced Optical Technologies (Elite degree programme)

As part of the Elite Network of Bavaria, MAOT provides training in modern optics—a key technology for the 21st century. Erlangen is a leading centre for optics. The PhD programme SAOT, the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Light, the Fraunhofer Institutes, and the Bavarian Laser Centre collaborate with MAOT. The course covers six subjects: Optics in Communication, Optics in Medicine, Optical Material and Systems, Optical Material Processing, Optical Metrology, and Computational Optics, Physics of Light. The interdisciplinary lectures are held in small groups by experts in engineering, physics, and medicine.



MSc Advanced Signal Processing and Communications Engineering (ASC) (Elite degree programme)

Digital technologies are about to enter all aspects of human life creating various challenges for society. In order to maintain economic competitiveness and foster sustainable development, we need to construct a society build upon knowledge and innovation. Machine learning, communications and multimedia technology in all aspects of society is a key component towards this end. This elite master program aims for a decisive contribution in that respect individually educating extraordinarily skilled students targeting these upcoming challenges.

MSc Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Today, life and the world of work are all part of the information society. A number of innovations throughout the world are based on ensuring an increasing volume of information can be exchanged efficiently and processed intelligently. Various components have to interact with each other in nearly all electronic devices. A knowledge of both hardware and software is required to be able to successfully develop such systems. ICT combines the most important areas of electrical engineering, electronics, and communications engineering, as well as computer science. Interdisciplinary technology of this nature is vital for most tasks and products in high-tech industries. ICT technologies are also used in the automotive sector, for example, or for the development of embedded systems.

MSc Chemical and Biological Engineering

This Master's programme is aimed at educating engineers for careers in the chemical, petrochemical, and pharmaceutical industries, in biological and environmental process technology or in the energy sector, and at preparing them for the complex tasks in these fields. A balance between practice and theory and an orientation towards industrial and social developments is achieved in a curriculum including both fundamentals and modern topics from current research, and by close cooperation with the relevant industries. Although several lectures are held in English some of them are also held in German. Knowledge of the German and English language (B2) is required to apply for this programme.



MSc Communications and Multimedia Engineering (CME)

This programme emphasizes the fundamental concepts of advanced communications and multimedia as a preparation for cutting-edge research and development. CME technologies have experienced rapid growth and have attained high economic importance worldwide. Examples are numerous in digital speech, audio and video coding, digital transmission, and communication networks. The high-profile, research-oriented faculty entertains strong links with domestic and international high-tech industry and helps students establish contacts with leading companies in audio technology, medical systems, and mobile and optical communications.

MSc Computational Engineering

This programme is an innovative discipline fusing the expertise of established engineering fields, computer science, and applied mathematics. It was created in response to an increasing demand for high-performance computing in a variety of scientific and technical fields. Students will be perfectly prepared for the new challenges in simulation and modelling. In addition, it is possible to obtain an MSc degree in the honours track of the Bavarian Graduate School of Computational Engineering (BGCE, www.bgce.de) or a double degree with the Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) in Switzerland.

MSc Medical Engineering, branches of study Medical Image and Data Processing (IDP) Health and Medical Data Analytics (HMDA)

The programmes are technical and research-driven Master's degrees with a specialized focus on medical needs. Students are familiarized with systematic and instrumental methods and acquire professional and methodological skills. Thanks to the interdisciplinary content, graduates are highly qualified for a career in medical image and data processing. Methods for developing software systems in medical engineering are taught, ranging from basic algorithms for image improvement, image reconstruction, and image registration to computer-aided diagnostic support and hospital information systems. In addition to that, the HMDA branch offers a profound education in innovation and entrepreneurship.



Sport Science and Sports

MA Physical Activity and Health

This programme provides graduate students with knowledge and practical experience in the field of physical activity and health promotion. Its areas of emphasis are physical activity and exercise for disease prevention and rehabilitation. Students are trained in: conceptualization of intervention strategies, programme implementation within specific settings and/or target groups (e.g. vulnerable groups such as the chronically ill or ethnic minorities), quality assurance, and scientific evaluation.



Natural Sciences

MSc Chemistry

This degree programme has a strong focus on research and is divided into three main modules: Organic Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry and Physical Chemistry. During their studies, students may focus on a variety of different research areas, among them catalysis, molecular materials, food chemistry, bio(in)organic chemistry, electrochemistry, interface phenomena, and technical chemistry.

MSc Integrated Life Sciences

Understanding biological systems often necessitates a solid background in physical and mathematical methods. ILS students acquire a strong knowledge of mathematical and physical methods to analyze and describe biological processes quantitatively. Structure-function relationships of proteins, DNA sequence analysis, and complex interactions between biomolecules or cells are typical areas of application. Students will obtain advanced knowledge and methodological skills with a focus on two of the three different directions: Mathematical Modelling and Systems Biology—Bioimaging and Biophysics—Biological Structures and Processes.

MSc Physical Geography: Climate and Environmental Sciences

Environmental processes and dynamics encompass many aspects of physical systems on global, regional and local scales. Accelerating climate change alters hydrological processes and biogeochemical turnover rates, affect landscape dynamics and ecological systems. These changes impose fundamental research challenges and, as a consequence, increase the volume of spatial data. They are studied by the Institute of Geography in Erlangen from different research perspectives: Climate research, Geoinformatics, and Environmental Analysis. This MSc programme offers the opportunity to specialize in one of these major subjects.

MSc Molecular Science

Molecular science is a comparatively recent field of research offering two fields of specialisation: molecular life science—encompassing biochemistry, molecular chemistry, medicine, and pharmacy—or molecular nanoscience—focusing on materials chemistry and devices. The most cutting-edge scientific and technological developments are covered by the degree programme, preparing graduates for a career in upcoming fields such as life sciences, biotechnology, and nanotechnology.

MSc Physics

This programme includes one year of coursework and, subsequently, a one-year training phase directed towards performing independent research. It aims at advanced training in selected fields of physics and offers the opportunity for specialization. The Master's degree qualifies graduates for a subsequent doctoral thesis. The subjects reflect the physics research pursued at FAU. Focus points are astrophysics and astroparticle physics, optical sciences and solid-state physics on the experimental side, and computational and statistical physics, light-matter interaction, quantum gravity, and condensed matter physics on the theoretical side. Optionally, special Master's courses can be selected with a focus on Physics in Medicine.

Physics Advanced (Graduate and Doctoral Programme of the Elite Network of Bavaria)

Physics Advanced is an international study programme that integrates research with coursework at the BSc, MSc, and doctoral level. Physics Advanced offers exclusive research-focused courses embedded into the programme at Erlangen which are complemented by an extensive programme of research schools and social activities. This study programme is open to exceptionally talented and motivated students. The highly interdisciplinary environment of the Erlangen Faculties of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine and the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Light is ideal for such a programme.



MSc Computational and Applied Mathematics

This degree programme is tailored to the current needs in applied mathematics and scientific computing. It is designed for students who appreciate to use rigorous mathematical analysis or scientific computing to predict phenomena or to optimize processes in the sciences or in engineering. Initially, the students acquire a firm grounding in mathematical modeling and applied analysis as well as in high performance computing. They learn to derive mathematical models and to reflect upon their properties and limitations. Starting from the second term, they are free to choose among a large variety of courses to specialize in two of the fields Modeling and Applied Analysis (MApA), Numerical Analysis and Simulation (NASi) and Optimization (Opti).

MSc Molecular Medicine

Signaling pathways, pathomechanisms and the molecular basis of human disorders—these are only a few of the aspects covered in the master's program in Molecular Medicine. This consecutive program covers a large range of topics from basic principles of human development to detailed signaling cascades on the single cell level. In addition to the theoretical background the curriculum offers a lot of practical training in basic and translational research. The program aims at attracting students interested in experimental research at the interface of medicine, biology and chemistry. Prerequisites for admission are a first degree in Natural or Life Sciences—especially Molecular Medicine or Biomedical Science—and good medical and molecular knowledge.

International Master in Geosciences—Palaeobiology and Earth Systems Research Lab

The acute theme of global climate change and its impact on organisms and ecosystems requires a new generation of scientists. We provide theoretical concepts of macroecology and macroevolution, as well as statistical techniques and scientific programming in palaeobiology. The second pillar of this specialisation is the reconstruction of fossil environments and their local and global controls. We focus on carbonate systems, which are the result of the metabolic activity of organisms and thus reflect the interplay of the biosphere and the earth-system at large.

MSc Integrated Immunology

This elite course funded by the Elite Network of Bavaria offers a practice-oriented education in the field of Immunology. In addition to a basic education in immunology and cell and molecular biology, the course provides in-depth knowledge in clinical immunology. This unique combination allows students to immediately apply their acquired knowledge in a practice-oriented way. From the very beginning, the latest topics and findings in immunological research are dealt with in seminars or by invited speakers. In addition to classical teaching concepts, new, innovative forms of teaching such as problem-oriented learning are used to strengthen teamwork, leadership and organizational skills. A three-month laboratory research stay abroad completes the innovative study program for which bachelor graduates from the life sciences and medical graduates are invited to apply.

MSc Data Science

Our world is inundated with data—the internet, mobile telephony, medical imaging, satellite navigation, and social networks are ubiquitous in our daily life. We are surrounded by technology that collects, transmits, and manipulates information of an order of magnitude that is hard to comprehend. For this reason both industry and academia face an enormous need for expertise in extracting knowledge and insights from data.

Our degree program answers to this strong demand by providing a comprehensive education in the field of Data Science at the interface between mathematics and computer science. Students will obtain advanced knowledge in core topics of Data Science and can choose an individual specialization field such as Artificial Intelligence, Statistical Data Analysis, Data-oriented Optimization, or others. Our teaching concepts include close supervision, small group teaching and problem-based learning to prepare students to tackle the technological challenges of the modern world.



Linguistics, Literary, and Cultural Studies

MA English Studies

This is a consecutive two-year full-time course or a four-year part-time course with a strong research orientation. The course of study is modularized and encourages a specialisation in one of the two following areas: “Culture and Literature” or “Linguistics and Applied Linguistics”. Culture and Literature allows students to combine specially designed courses on literary and cultural history and theory with a range of interdisciplinary modules. Linguistics and Applied Linguistics focuses on the description and analysis of the English language in the light of current linguistic theories and teaching approaches. Furthermore, it is possible to choose no specialisation, meaning that students can combine modules from “Culture and Literature” and “Linguistics and Applied Linguistics”.

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree European Master in Lexicography

This programme is an international course by eight universities that promotes the international and interdisciplinary training of lexicographers, teaches lexicographical theories at a high international level and shows a pronounced applicability in the practice of creating online or printed dictionaries. The four-semester programme accepts students each winter term. Semester 1 comprises the foundations of Lexicography and soft skills. The second semester takes place with all students at one university of the consortium. Semester 3 has in-depth modules and a practical module. In semester 4 students write their master's thesis. Basic knowledge of German and English is essential because teaching will be done exclusively in these two languages.

MA North American Studies

In this research-oriented programme, students learn how to contextualize and evaluate US American, Canadian, and Caribbean cultural phenomena, media products, and literary writing from the colonial period to the present day. Basic modules provide historical frameworks, introduce theoretical models, and foster academic language skills. Integrated advanced and focus modules further train students' analytical skills in cultural and literary studies. Students develop and conduct their own research based on their critical understanding of both disciplinary and interdisciplinary contexts.

MA The Americas/Las Américas

This programme combines a theory-based education with the practice-oriented application of methods for research in and between the fields of North American and Latin American Studies. It provides graduate students with the basics of the comparative discipline of Inter-American Studies and with the expertise necessary for differentiated research in this area. In regional and interregional core units, students focus on the history, politics, societies, and the cultures and literatures of North and Latin America, and learn to place them in a hemispheric, transnational context. In language classes, students learn to speak and write academic English and Spanish.

Social Sciences and Economics

BSc International Business Studies

The Bachelor's degree in International Business Studies (BSc) is a perfect start into a professional career in international business. The three-year program provides you with all essential knowledge for understanding and analyzing the international business environment. The distinct international perspective of the program reflects the growing importance of multinational operations and emphasizes the comparative study of business strategies and policies. The program consists of core and elective modules in a variety of fields, such as international business, international economics and international politics, with all courses conducted in English. The international perspective is complemented by a mandatory semester abroad that is integrated into the curriculum.

BSc International Economic Studies

The Bachelor's degree in International Economic Studies (BSc) is a perfect start into a professional career as an economist, whether you aim to work in business, government or academia. The three-year program provides you with all essential knowledge for understanding and analyzing the economy and economic policy. The distinct international perspective of the program reflects the growing importance of international economic integration and emphasizes the comparative study of economic policies. The program consists of core and elective modules in a variety of fields, such as international economics, international business and international politics, with all courses conducted in English. The international perspective is complemented by a mandatory semester abroad that is integrated into the curriculum.

MA Development Economics and International Studies (DEIS)

The MA DEIS is an economics-centered programme with a sound training in analytical and quantitative methods in the fields of development economics as well as business ethics & sustainability. It is aimed at students planning to work or seek leadership responsibilities in public, non-profit, and private sector organizations for international cooperation and development, and for those intending to pursue an academic career in development economics or business ethics & sustainability.



MSc Economics

This modern, internationally oriented Master's degree programme in economics allows students to both gain a professional qualification and to prepare for a possible doctoral degree. Students can choose to specialize in the areas of Labour Economics, Macroeconomics and Finance, Public Economics, Energy Markets or Health Economics. Intensive supervision is an important feature of the programme, while studying abroad and completing an internship at a renowned company, economic research facility or other institution are strongly encouraged.

MSc International Business Studies

The programme provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the complexity of international business. Special attention is given to the variety of approaches that businesses choose to adapt their international operations to the diversity of laws, business practices, and cultures across the globe. Students acquire all the skills necessary to succeed in an international environment.




MSc International Information Systems

This is a four-semester programme for young talents who aim for challenging management positions in globally operating high-tech businesses. Excellent studying and working conditions will prepare students for an international career in business with a strong focus on managing international information systems. The programme is appropriate for students who have a strong interest in information technology and its role in today's business environment.

MA Human Rights

The M.A. Human Rights is an interdisciplinary and international post-graduate degree programme offered at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg. It addresses human rights in all areas of society and academia. The course programme covers fundamental challenges as well as current issues. It pursues an interdisciplinary approach by taking the political, philosophical and legal dimensions of human rights into account. Graduates of the programme will be equipped with theoretical and practical skills to pursue professional activities in various human rights contexts. Our students come from all over the world and have prior human rights experience. They bring their experiences and different perspectives into the classroom. The faculty includes academics as well as human rights practitioners. What is more, all of our professors engage with human rights outside the classroom, for example by serving as UN experts, working with local as well as international NGOs to identify and address human rights violations, serving as pro bono experts in court proceedings, or by providing policy advice to parliamentarians, governments and businesses that seek to promote human rights.



MA Standards of Decision-Making Across Cultures

Standards of Decision-Making Across Cultures (SDAC) is an interdisciplinary study program that allows the students to acquire profound academic and methodological knowledge, as well as additional key skills regarding decision-making processes in East Asia. Over the course of the degree program, students will develop a new cross-cultural perspective on decision-making processes, e.g. in entrepreneurial, political, and cultural situations. The MA degree program requires a BA degree of variable disciplinary orientation. Students may choose their academic focus (linguistic-cultural, comparative-philosophical, cultural-religious) by selecting accordingly from the courses offered at the FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg as well as the European Centre for Chinese Studies (ECCS) in Beijing. During their obligatory stay at ECCS, students will be given the opportunity to apply their theoretical knowledge to both academic and everyday situations in China.



Service and advice at FAU

We help you land on your feet in your new home and make new friends! Our wide range of student services is here to help, from guidance prior to arrival and finding accommodation to student counselling, intercultural training, and leisure activities.

The **Student Advice and Career Service (IBZ)** is the University's main point of contact for students in all questions regarding degree programme and subject combination options, admission regulations, and application procedures as well as course schedules and examinations. The Career Service supports both undergraduates and postgraduates in planning and managing their career with a wide variety of professional cross-faculty events and counselling.

The **Central Office for International Affairs (RIA)** coordinates FAU's activities abroad and is the main contact point for all questions regarding international studying, teaching, and mobility. RIA oversees several scholarship and exchange programmes and provides assistance to international students in many different areas.

The **University Library** with its almost inexhaustible supply of media for all disciplines and a valuable inventory of old manuscripts is one of the largest libraries in Bavaria. At the FAU **Language Centre**, students and staff can acquire additional qualifications in more than 20 languages. Various academic **musical groups** give all University members a chance to prove their musical talent. The University's **Sports Centre** has a wide range of offers from aerobics to windsurfing.

The University's **Family Service** co-ordinates and connects numerous services for mothers, fathers, children and their relatives for research, studies, and work.

The **Alumni Network** provides students with a contact forum for many topics and events for professional advancement.



The best career opportunities— in the region and everywhere else

FAU is the ideal springboard to a job with one of the top global companies in the Nuremberg Metropolitan Region. Take advantage of our strong partnerships with leading business and research organisations including Siemens, Audi, Adidas, the Max Planck Society, Fraunhofer, and the Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres.

The University and its Career Service provide many events and opportunities to make direct contact with world-class employers. The biggest strengths of the Metropolitan Region are transport and logistics, information and communication, medicine and pharmaceuticals, energy, power electronics and environment, new materials, automation technology, and innovative services.

Branches of all big banks and insurance companies are located in the region. There are also numerous small and medium-sized businesses, for example in health technology, that offer a variety of professional prospects in the region.

In the past decade, around 1,400 jobs have been created by businesses that were start-up projects at FAU. Many of these new companies are based on patents registered by the University and its researchers.

Collaborations with regional and national companies from all lines of business allow for a direct transfer of research results. Subject specific placements, theses and student jobs with companies allow FAU students to gain insight into different occupational fields as well as important practical experience. This is why the superbly qualified graduates of FAU are sought-after employees both in Germany and abroad.





A World-Class Region

Nuremberg and Erlangen are situated in one of the most picturesque and economically developed parts of the world: Bavaria. The Nuremberg area is one of the most cosmopolitan in the heart of Europe and has been a cultural hub for centuries. Historic cities such as Prague and Munich as well as sublime Alpine landscapes with fairy-tale castles overlooking mountains and lakes are all within easy reach.

Building on its tradition and location, the Nuremberg region has established itself as an industry powerhouse driving Germany's economic success. It is home to innovative start-ups and leading global corporations that have partnered with FAU to form world-class research networks such as Energy Campus Nuremberg, Medical Valley European Metropolitan Region Nuremberg, and Nuremberg Campus of Technology.

The region also provides a haven for leisure and adventure. Compared to other parts of Europe, the cost of living is very affordable. Bavaria's medieval jewel—the imperial city of Nuremberg—and its neighbouring town of Fürth offer value-for-money accommodation. Travel is effortless with the region's well-developed rail and bus services.

More than half a million people live in Nuremberg, which rates as one of the cities with the best quality of life in Germany. Its historic architecture, green spaces, and safe environment also make it one of Europe's foremost tourist attractions. Erlangen is a dynamic and diverse university town—around a quarter of its 100,000 inhabitants are students. Nearby, a pristine natural paradise awaits: the ancient forests, hills, and meadows of Franconian Switzerland attract hikers, rock climbers and cyclists in equal measure.

A special attraction of Bavarian life is the world-renowned quality of its beer. Local brewing traditions have remained virtually unchanged for centuries. The Erlangen-Nuremberg area—home to the world's oldest beer festival—boasts the highest density of breweries in Europe and an equally impressive number of beer gardens for open-air relaxation during the warm summer months.



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