



UNIVERSITY
OF COLOGNE



Today's ideas.
Tomorrow's impact.

THE COLOGNE WISO FACULTY

Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences
University of Cologne

FACT SHEET 2026/27

Updated November 2025





EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES

Exchange term (bachelor or master level)

The Faculty's course offer for incoming students comprises a comprehensive range of bachelor and master courses taught in English as well as a number of bachelor courses taught in German.

Early leaver option: Students can be nominated for an early leaver exchange by their home coordinator only if the academic calendar at their home university conflicts with the dates at the WiSo Faculty. Students finish their term abroad in December, which means they will have a tighter workload, additional assignments and shorter deadlines.

CEMS term (master level)

The WiSo Faculty offers high-quality CEMS MIM courses, a diverse range of business projects and skill seminars, and a highly-rated block seminar for CEMS students. All courses are taught in English.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Class format: Lectures and seminars

Grading: Based on written exams, written papers, project work, oral exams, active participation in class, or a combination of the above

Exams: Either on the last day of classes or during the two to three weeks after the end of classes

Course load: 4-5 courses per term (30 ECTS)

Language requirements: CEFR level B2 in English or German

PROCEDURES

Students are nominated by the international office of their home institution. Nominations must be submitted via the WiSo Exchange Platform (WEX). Coordinators are informed by email. The ZIB WiSo Incomings Team contacts the nominated student(s) directly and guides them through the application process.

TERM DATES

FALL TERM 2026/27

12 October 2026 – 05 February 2027

Exam period until 28 February 2027*

Early leavers: 12 October – 15 December 2026 (including exam period)

CEMS term & lecture period: 1 September – 15 December 2026 (optional late electives: December 2026 – mid-February 2027)

Pre-semester German language course (optional): September 2026

Orientation session (hybrid): 07 September 2026

Welcome Week: 05 – 09 October 2026

Exchange nomination deadline: 1 May 2026

Application deadline: 5 June 2026

SPRING TERM 2027

05 April – 16 July 2027

Exam period until 1 August 2027*

CEMS term: 30 March – 31 July 2027*

Pre-semester German language course (optional): March 2027

Orientation session (hybrid): 5 March 2027

Welcome Week: 31 March – 4 April 2027

Exchange nomination deadline: 1 Nov 2026

Application deadline: 1 December 2026

*For some English taught courses, an earlier departure may be possible.

FALL
TERM

Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Fall term / lecture period including exams					
Early Leaver option					
Presemester German language courses					

SPRING
TERM

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Spring term / lecture period including exams					
Presemester German language courses					

MBA SHORT PROGRAMMES

Open to Executive MBA, MBA and Masters students with 2+ year working experience and CV review.

Doing Business in Germany – Reimagining Mobility and Energy

Programme dates: 4 May –15 May 2026

Nomination period: 1 December 2025 –
31 January 2026

This 12-day intensive short programme for international students from selected partners is an excellent opportunity to become acquainted with the specificities of German business practices and to learn about the latest developments in the energy, mobility and automotive sectors, while travelling to various cities in Germany.

CISU-MBA – Leading Across Differences Understanding People, Perspectives, and Power Dynamics

Programme dates: 3 August –13 August 2026,

Nomination period: 15 February – 31 March 2026

Two-week summer programme for international students from the WiSo Faculty's partner universities with a focus on Leadership and Diversity. Next to the academic programme, cultural and social events offer a great opportunity to get to know each other and discover Cologne as well as its surroundings as possible.

ESTIMATED MONTHLY LIVING COSTS

Accommodation: €500-800

Class materials: €30

Food: €300-500

Leisure activities: €100-250

Health insurance*: €130

Social contribution: €340 per term**

UNIVERSITY FACILITIES

The University offers a large variety of sports activities. All facilities, including an on-campus student gym, and courses are either free of charge or can be used for a very low fee.

Students have access to numerous dining halls and cafés with a good price/quality ratio.

NETWORKING

The PIM and CEMS Student and Alumni Club Cologne organises parties, sport events, workshops in cooperation with companies, excursions, and regular meetings.

Corporate contacts: Benefit from the University's career services, regular workshops on soft skills, guest speeches from industry professionals, and courses offered by company executives.

LANGUAGE COURSES

Students have access to one free pre-semester (March/September) or weekly semester-long intensive German language course.



STUDENT SUPPORT

The ZIB WiSo Incomings Team is the students' main point of contact for their exchange experience. It works with each student to try to connect them with the services and support they require:

Enrolment support starting in November/May

Course registration support: students are guided through the online registration process close to the semester

Information and support in finding accommodation in Cologne

Support with topics related to disabilities (physical and otherwise) as well as conditions that could affect their academic success

Welcome weeks & orientation in the weeks before classes, including academic information sessions, guided campus tour and social events

Buddy Programme: Student 'Buddies' from Cologne help international students during their stay at the WiSo Faculty and in Cologne.

*If home insurance is not recognised.

**This applies to all students, regardless of university or scholarship status. It gives students access to course registration, and serves as student ID as well as semester transportation ticket for all local transportation in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. It also enables access to the student sport facilities and dining halls.



THE COLOGNE WISO FACULTY

The WiSo Faculty, Germany's largest and most reputable faculty of its kind, offers students a vast scope of study fields and specialisations in line with its mission 'Today's ideas. Tomorrow's impact.', it successfully links excellent research with contacts to the corporate and business world.

The central location of the campus and the Faculty's focus on internationalisation, counting over 450 incoming exchange students per year, contribute to the Faculty's reputation as an ideal place for an exchange term. The Faculty is EQUIS accredited.

The WiSo Faculty offers 7 bachelor's programmes (3 years) and 15 master's programmes (2 years) including several international and double degree programmes. Click below for more info.

Bachelor's degree programmes

Master's degree programmes

International Management/CEMS MIM

Double Master's Programmes

THE CITY OF COLOGNE

With a diverse population of around 1 million, Cologne is a multicultural and dynamic city. It is home to the fourth-largest trade fair in the world, and over 10,000 IT and telecommunication businesses have strengthened its position as Germany's 'media city'. Cologne is famous for its Gothic cathedral, along with a multitude of other historic sites and plenty of green areas. Home to some 100,000 students, the city offers a vibrant night life and a great variety of museums, theatres and art exhibitions.

TOP RANKED FACULTY

Leading nationally in Sociology and ranked within the top 4 in Management (latest „Shanghai Ranking“).

37th worldwide in the Financial Times Ranking Masters in Management 2025.



CONTACT

International Relations Center ZIB WiSo

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Agreements & Partnerships:

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SEMESTER EXCHANGE

Incoming students: incomings@wiso.uni-koeln.de

Outgoing students: outgoings@uni-koeln.de

STUDY PROGRAMMES & SHORT PROGRAMMES

CEMS MIM: cems@wiso.uni-koeln.de

Double Master's: dmp@wiso.uni-koeln.de

DBiGermany: wiso-dbi@uni-koeln.de

CISU-MBA: wiso-cisu@uni-koeln.de

