Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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Accommodation and Living

Could you provide me any information on the general cost of living in Germany?
You should calculate from 500 to 800 Euros, depending on your accommodation and life style.

What sort of accommodation is available in Karlsruhe and what would be the likely cost?
Student housing and private living are available. The student residences have long waiting lists. Therefore we suggest you to register there early and to look for a flat on the private market in addition.

In the city of Karlsruhe you should calculate around
- 200 to 250 Euro for a single room in student residences
- 250 – 320 Euro for a room in a shared flat
- 300 – 400 Euros for a one-person appartment
- 400 – 500 Euros for a flat for two persons

Outside of Karlsruhe it could be cheaper. Please check the following link list to get an overview of the accommodation offers in and around Karlsruhe.

Accommodation in and around Karlsruhe
Since the accommodation situation in Karlsruhe is quite tense, we recommend you to apply for several housing options as soon as possible.

University of Karlsruhe residences and private student residences:

- Studentenwerk: http://www.studentenwerk-karlsruhe.de/
- International Department (long waiting list!): http://ksop.idschools.kit.edu/accomodation.php
- Akademisches Auslandsamt / International Office: http://www.aaa.uni-karlsruhe.de/
- Hans-Dickmann-Kolleg (HaDiKo): http://www.hadiko.de/
- Hans-Freudenberg-Kolleg: http://www.hfk-online.de/
- Insterburg: http://www.insterburg.org/
- ABH & RSH: http://www.abh.uni-karlsruhe.de/
- Hermann-Ehlers-Kolleg: http://www.hek.uni-karlsruhe.de/
- Andere Wohnheime / other residences: http://www.zib.uni-karlsruhe.de/4295.php
Online ads:

- Studiguide Karlsruhe: [http://www.studiguide.de](http://www.studiguide.de)
- Studenten AG: [http://www.studenten-wg.de/angebote_leSEN.html?](http://www.studenten-wg.de/angebote_leSEN.html?)
- Studenten Wohnungsmarkt: [http://www.studentenwohnungsmarkt.de/cgi-bin/lesen-angebote.pl](http://www.studentenwohnungsmarkt.de/cgi-bin/lesen-angebote.pl)
- WG-Gesucht: [http://www.wg-gesucht.de](http://www.wg-gesucht.de)

Hostels / hotels in Karlsruhe:

- Jugendherberge / Youth hostels: [http://www.karlsruhe.de/stadt/tourismus/tourismusservice/uebernachtung](http://www.karlsruhe.de/stadt/tourismus/tourismusservice/uebernachtung) and [http://www.jugendherberge-karlsruhe.de](http://www.jugendherberge-karlsruhe.de)
- Hotels: [http://www.karlsruhe.de/stadt/tourismus/uebernachtung.de](http://www.karlsruhe.de/stadt/tourismus/uebernachtung.de) (for English, click the British flag in the menu bar just under the picture of the palace)
- Gästehaus am Karlstor: [http://www.hotelkarlsruhe.de](http://www.hotelkarlsruhe.de)
- Hotel am Gottesauer Schloss: [http://www.hotel-gottesau.de](http://www.hotel-gottesau.de)
- Bed & breakfast rooms: [http://www.karlsruhe.de/stadt/tourismus/tourismusservice/uebernachtung](http://www.karlsruhe.de/stadt/tourismus/tourismusservice/uebernachtung)

Other possibilities:

Bulletin boards
- in der Mensa / in the student cafeteria
- in einzelnen Instituten / in some of the institutes

Newspapers -
- Sperrmüll (immer Freitags / every Friday)
- Karlsruhe Anzeiger (Mittwochs und Freitags / Wednesdays and Fridays)
- BNN (Mittwochs- oder Samstagsausgabe / Wednesday or Saturday edition)

Agencies -
- Fair-Schlafen Zimmervermittlung
  Förfenweg 6
  76287 Rheinstetten
  0721 - 951 3704
  [Zimmer@fair-schlafen.de](mailto:Zimmer@fair-schlafen.de)
EUR 50-60 pro Monat (zusätzlich zur Miete) / per month (in addition to the rent)
Erasmus Mailing List Karlsruhe
You can subscribe to the Erasmus Mailing List Karlsruhe: https://www.lists.uni-karlsruhe.de/wws/subscribe/erasmus-in

This list is organized by the student group “AK Erasmus” (www.ak-erasmus.de - Mailinglisten -> Subscribe Erasmus-In). It is for undergraduate and Master students. If you inscribe, you will receive quite a lot of emails by other students. Sometimes they just invite to parties or they want to sell something (anything from cooking pot till bikes are available) and sometimes also rooms for rent are sent around this list. You can also send an email to this list if you need something (bike, room...).
Application Process

What is meant by "Certified copy of qualification for university entrance"?
In every country you need to fulfill requirements so that you can study at a university, e.g. a high school diploma. In some countries pupils need to complete high school and take an extra test which qualifies them to study at a university.

Can I send my documents now without the APS certificate and provide it later if I am admitted?
Yes, you can send your documents now together with a letter stating that you will send the APS certificate later. As soon as you receive the APS certificate you can send it to us.

Is there any chance of transferring or considering my previous admission for KSOP to the upcoming semester?
Unfortunately there is no possibility to defer your admission to the next term. You need to apply again as the letter of acceptance is only valid for one intake.

I want to apply for the winter term but in the online application is only an option for the summer term.
If required information is missing in the drop down list of the online application form, please leave the field blank or choose the most appropriate option. Afterwards please add the right information handwritten on the printout of the form. Also please add on the printed application form that you apply for the winter term 2012/13.

When does the program start and is there an application deadline?
The program starts only in the winter term. The application deadline is July, 15th each year.

When does the winter term usually start?
The winter term starts at the beginning of October. For more information please see: [http://www.kit.edu/study/index.php](http://www.kit.edu/study/index.php)

Will I be guided and offered help when I arrive in Karlsruhe?
There will be an orientation week for 1st semester students. It is organized by KSOP Office and several student representatives in order to ease the administrative steps, schedule your time table as well as to get to know your study colleagues, the city and the campus.

Are German language skills mandatory?
German language skills are no precondition for the master program.

Where can I check my application status?
You can check your application status on the website where you filled out the online application form: [https://movein-uni-karlsruhe.moveonnet.eu/movein/portal/login.php?language=en](https://movein-uni-karlsruhe.moveonnet.eu/movein/portal/login.php?language=en)
**Required Application Documents**

**What are the Admission requirements?**

- Appropriate qualification for university entrance on a Masters level: Above Bachelor degree or an equivalent degree in the field of science or engineering.

- If the Bachelor degree is not yet available at the closing date for applications but will be completed before the registration, candidates can apply with a preliminary transcript of records.

- Evidence of adequate knowledge of the English language is required: TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) 570 p.b./ 260 c.b. / 88 i.b. points or better, or IELTS band 6.5 or better. It is possible to replace the TOEFL or IELTS test by a certificate of your university stating that you have completed your studies in English. German language skills are no precondition for the program.

- **Chinese applicants**: please insert an APS certificate

**Do I need a motivation letter?**
Yes, please state your reasons and motivation to apply for the M.Sc. in Optics & Photonics. The letter should not be longer than one page.

**Do I need a recommendation letter and how should it look like?**
You should include at two letters of recommendation of professors from your current university. The letters must be attached in a sealed envelope or send to KSOP Office by the authors directly via email.

**Where should I send my application documents?**
**Non-EU applicants**: Akad. Auslandsamt Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (KIT) D-76128 Karlsruhe Germany

**EU applicants**: KSOP - Karlsruhe School of Optics & Photonics Schlossplatz 19 D-76131 Karlsruhe Germany

**Is it mandatory to accomplish a TOEFL or IELTS test?**
It is possible to replace the TOEFL or IELTS test by a certificate of your university stating that you have completed your studies in English.
Financial Issues

What is the cost of the program per year? Would a scholarship offer any financial support towards this on top of the 800 € per month you advised of?

There are no program costs. You just have to pay a semester fee of 100 Euros. The scholarship of 800 Euros is enough to cover your living costs.

Are there opportunities to work at the KSOP institutes to earn some money?

Yes, KSOP institutes offer jobs as student assistants. As soon as you started your studies in Karlsruhe, you can apply directly at the institutes. Usually you can earn up to 400 Euros for 40 hours per month. However, this is up to the institutes how much they can offer to you. Also your work there will give you an insight into the KSOP research activities. Another option is to find a working student job in a company in Karlsruhe. As Karlsruhe is a real “student city”, companies also offer these work options.

Might there be opportunities to work outside of the semester dates assuming an internship or thesis project is not scheduled?

During the semester break exams and the internship are scheduled. But in Germany internships are paid from 500 to 700 Euros usually. And if you receive the scholarship, this will be on top.

How do I apply for the KSOP scholarship?

- After submitting your Master application online and via postal mail, you can apply for financial support at the same time. The application for the KSOP scholarship should be sent together with the complete application.

- Single scholarship applications without related application for the Master program are not accepted.

- Please attach a scholarship-related letter of recommendation

- Extra-curricular activities must not be proofed in form of a certificate, you can also mention those in your CV or letter of motivation.

- Only complete scholarship applications will be further processed.

- Letters of recommendation can be sent separately by the authors to Ms. Miriam Sonnenbichler: sonnenbichler@ksop.de