

**BCIT MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY  
STUDENT EXCHANGE  
FAQS**

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## Mechanical Engineering Student Exchange Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### Contents

Overview .....	2
What is this exchange opportunity?.....	2
What are the benefits?.....	2
Eligibility.....	2
Who is eligible to apply? .....	2
Timing & Program Impact .....	3
How long is the exchange, and what will I miss at BCIT? .....	3
One-semester exchange .....	3
One-year exchange .....	3
How will this affect my graduation timeline?.....	3
Nomination & Selection .....	4
What is the nomination and selection process?.....	4
Courses & Credits.....	4
What courses would I take at the exchange institution?.....	4
Will the courses count toward my BCIT program? .....	5
How do I apply? .....	5
Costs & Funding .....	5
Who pays for the exchange? .....	5
Estimated costs (RWU, Weingarten).....	6
Estimated costs (HTW Dresden / HTWD, Dresden).....	7
What funding resources are available? .....	9
Visas & Immigration .....	9
Will I need a student visa or a residence permit?.....	9
General rule for non-EU exchange students: .....	9
Exception for certain countries (including Canada): .....	10
When will more details be available?.....	10

## Mechanical Engineering Student Exchange Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### Overview

#### What is this exchange opportunity?

BCIT is developing a student exchange opportunity with two partner institutions in Germany:

- [HTW Dresden University of Applied Sciences \(Dresden, Germany\)](#)
- [RWU University of Applied Sciences \(Weingarten, Germany\)](#)

This exchange would allow eligible BCIT students to study at either partner institution for a defined period as part of their academic experience.

#### What are the benefits?

- Study abroad in Germany and add a standout international experience to your BCIT journey (one semester or one year).
- Take engineering courses in a new academic environment—and stay on track with BCIT credit for approved courses (set in your Learning Agreement).
- Build confidence and independence while living abroad and experiencing a new culture.
- Boost your resume with international study and expand your network—great for co-op and future job applications.

### Eligibility

#### Who is eligible to apply?

Students must have completed **all first-year courses**.

Eligibility will be based on:

- Program and level of study at BCIT
- Academic standing
- Ability to accommodate a temporary disruption to the standard BCIT program sequence
- Citizenship (due to visa and residency requirements)
- A valid passport with an expiry date at least 6 months after the exchange semester

**Confirmed eligibility and selection details will be shared before applications open.**

## Mechanical Engineering Student Exchange Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### Timing & Program Impact

#### How long is the exchange, and what will I miss at BCIT?

Students may choose one of the following study options:

##### One-semester exchange

- You would miss the BCIT Winter Semester (January–May).
- You would participate in the German Spring/Summer Semester (March–July) at the German partner institution.

##### One-year exchange

- You would miss the BCIT Fall Semester (September–December) and BCIT Winter Semester (January–May).
- You would participate in:
  - German Fall/Winter Semester (October–February)
  - German Spring/Summer Semester (March–July)

**Note:** Participation will require you to miss scheduled BCIT coursework and return to your program in a later term. Careful academic planning is essential before applying.

#### How will this affect my graduation timeline?

Participation in the exchange may:

- Delay program completion
- Require you to return in a different cohort
- Require advance planning to complete missed BCIT courses

Students considering the exchange should be comfortable with flexibility in their program timeline.

## Mechanical Engineering Student Exchange Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### Nomination & Selection

#### What is the nomination and selection process?

The exchange includes a nomination and interview period:

- **For one-semester exchange:** October–November, prior to the exchange start
- **For one-year exchange:** March–April, prior to the exchange start

#### Key points students should be aware of:

- Applications are reviewed and approved by the **BCIT department** and the **partner university** before proceeding to subsequent steps.
- There are **limited seats** available at each partner institution.
- Students must know **which BCIT courses they are required to complete** before applying.
- A formal **learning agreement is finalized after acceptance**, not at the application stage.
- Expressing interest does **not** guarantee nomination or placement.

### Courses & Credits

#### What courses would I take at the exchange institution?

Students will propose the courses they are interested in taking at the partner institution during the **nomination stage**. Courses must be relevant to their area of study or to the cultural exchange experience (e.g., language or culture-focused courses).

- **HTW Dresden:** Modules in English ([see HTW Dresden “Modules in English” page](#))
- **RWU:** [Mechanical Engineering / International Project Engineering \(1st to 4th semester in English, then German\)](#)
- **RWU:** [Mechatronics \(fully in English\)](#)

#### Key points students should be aware of:

- Students must maintain a full-time course load at the partner university while on exchange.
- Students should not assume that all courses will directly replace BCIT courses.

## Mechanical Engineering Student Exchange Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### Will the courses count toward my BCIT program?

**Important:** Credit transfer is **not guaranteed** and depends on the Learning Agreement.

- Course content and learning outcomes
- BCIT program requirements
- Formal academic approvals

**All required course credit and transfer forms must be completed before the exchange begins.**

### How do I apply?

Applications are not open yet. For now, students are invited to **express interest** in receiving updates when the application process and timelines are confirmed.

To express interest and receive updates, email **mecheng@bcit.ca**.

Expressing interest does not represent an application or guarantee placement.

## Costs & Funding

### Who pays for the exchange?

Students continue to pay **tuition at their home institution (BCIT)** during the exchange. Students are responsible for **all other costs**, including but not limited to:

- Housing and accommodation
- Flights and travel costs
- Living expenses (food, transportation, personal expenses)
- Health insurance
- Any required permits or visas

Students should carefully consider the financial implications of participating in the exchange and plan accordingly before applying.

## Mechanical Engineering Student Exchange Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### Estimated costs (RWU, Weingarten)

Item	Estimate	Notes
Administrative fee	<b>€120 per semester</b>	Paid to the host institution
Semester fee / administrative fee (tuition-related)	<b>€224 (first semester) / €215 (from second semester)</b>	Paid to RWU; amounts vary by semester (per RWU financing information)
Administrative fee (housing deposit/processing)	<b>€500–€750 deposit</b>	Deposit amount varies by dorm and housing provider (e.g., Briach dorm: €500 deposit; Seezeit Lazarettstraße lists a higher deposit). Confirm the required deposit when you receive your housing offer.
Housing (student dorm)	<b>€350–€450 per month</b>	Average cost estimate (conservative budgeting range): €350–€450/month. Actual dorm rates can be lower or higher depending on assignment and housing provider.
Health insurance	<b>~€146 per month</b>	Required for enrolment in Germany; costs vary by provider and eligibility
Broadcasting fee (Rundfunkbeitrag)	<b>~€18.36 per month</b>	Mandatory household fee in Germany; often billed quarterly and may be shared with flatmates
Living expenses	<b>€900 per month</b>	Food, local transport, personal expenses (varies significantly depending on lifestyle and spending habits)
<b>Total estimated <u>monthly budget</u> (recurring)</b>	<b>~€1,414–€1,514 per month</b>	Housing + health insurance + broadcasting fee + living expenses (housing varies by

## Mechanical Engineering Student Exchange Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Item	Estimate	Notes
		dorm/provider; excludes one-time deposits and term/semester fees)
<b>Total estimated per-semester fees</b>	<b>€344 per semester (first semester)</b>	Administrative fee (€120) + tuition-related semester fee (€224) for a conservative first-semester estimate
<b>Total estimated up-front/one-time costs</b>	<b>€500–€750</b>	Up-front costs depend on the required housing deposit (typically €500–€750, varies by dorm/provider); usually refundable after move-out if no damages

### Estimated costs (HTW Dresden / HTWD, Dresden)

*Note: Estimates shown are intentionally high-end to help students budget conservatively. Actual costs vary by provider, housing availability, and personal spending.*

Item	Estimate	Notes
Semester contribution (tuition-related)	<b>€353.41 per semester</b>	Paid to HTWD; semester contribution (includes German semester ticket). €353.41 as of summer semester 2026
Administrative fee (housing deposit/processing)	<b>€400 deposit</b>	Dormitory deposit (typically paid upfront and refunded at the end of the contract if no damages)
Housing (student dorm)	<b>€400 per month</b>	Average cost estimate: budgeting estimate set at

## Mechanical Engineering Student Exchange Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

		€400/month; actual dorm rates and availability vary in Dresden
Health insurance	<b>~€146 per month</b>	Required for enrolment in Germany; costs vary by provider and eligibility
Broadcasting fee (Rundfunkbeitrag)	<b>~€18.36 per month</b>	Mandatory household fee in Germany; often billed quarterly and may be shared with flatmates
Living expenses	<b>€600 per month</b>	Food, local transport, personal expenses ( <b><i>varies significantly depending on lifestyle and spending habits</i></b> )
<b>Total estimated <u>monthly budget</u> (recurring)</b>	<b>~€1,264 per month</b>	Housing + health insurance + broadcasting fee + living expenses (excludes one-time deposits and term/semester fees)
<b>Total estimated per-semester fees</b>	<b>€353.41 per semester</b>	Paid to HTWD; shown separately from monthly budgeting
<b>Total estimated up-front/one-time costs</b>	<b>€300</b>	Deposit paid up front; typically, refundable at the end of the contract if no damages

## Mechanical Engineering Student Exchange Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### What funding resources are available?

Because students remain registered at BCIT during exchange, some students may be eligible for scholarships and student financial aid while abroad. Consider the resources below and confirm details with BCIT Financial Aid.

- **BC Study Abroad scholarship** (BCCIE / BC Study Abroad Consortium) – awards for students at participating BC institutions doing approved study abroad/exchange (often \$1,000 for in-person programs, when offered)
- **BCIT Student Financial Aid & Awards** – guidance on loans, grants, bursaries, and scholarships, and how exchange registration affects eligibility
- **StudentAid BC** (loans and grants) – confirm requirements and paperwork with BCIT Student Financial Aid & Awards
- **BC Scholarship Society (Irving K. Barber) international scholarships** – availability and eligibility vary by stream and year
- **Province of BC study abroad financial help** – hub page with links to scholarships, bursaries, and awards
- **DAAD scholarships and funding** – Germany-focused scholarships and funding database

### Visas & Immigration

#### Will I need a student visa or a residence permit?

Students participating in the exchange should expect to require a student visa and/or a residence permit to study in Germany.

#### General rule for non-EU exchange students:

As a rule, international exchange students from outside the EU require a student visa, especially if they intend to stay in Germany for more than three months. Students must typically apply for the required visa at the German embassy or consulate in their home country before travelling to Germany.

## Mechanical Engineering Student Exchange Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Students should allow several weeks to several months for visa processing. For a student visa, students generally need:

- Admission to the exchange program
- Proof of sufficient financial means

### Exception for certain countries (including Canada):

Citizens of certain countries, including Canada, may be permitted to enter Germany first and apply for a residence permit for study purposes after arrival, rather than applying for a student visa in advance.

For this option:

- Students must apply for a residence permit at the local Immigration Office.
- The application must be submitted within three months of entry into Germany.

### Important notes:

- Visa and residence permit requirements depend on length of study and citizenship.
- Students are responsible for confirming which immigration pathway applies to them.
- BCIT will provide general guidance to nominated students, but students are responsible for completing all visa or residence permit applications and meeting all deadlines.

### When will more details be available?

Additional information will be shared by **September 2026**, including:

- Course credit requirements at the partner school
- Number of exchange seats available at each partner institution
- Detailed eligibility and selection criteria
- Credit transfer and program planning guidance
- Cost estimates for expected expenses (housing, living expenses, flights)
- Visa and residence permit timelines and guidance
- Updates on other international opportunities

For more FAQs and general exchange planning information, visit the partner institution exchange pages listed in the Overview section.