

# Late arrival information session

For M.Sc. AI students: summer semester 2026

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# Agenda

- Important Contacts
- Option 1: Deferment
- Option 2: Late arrival
- Overview: Possible late arrival scenarios



# Important Contacts



## MSc AI program coordinator

Svenja Wübker, [study-ai-master@fau.de](mailto:study-ai-master@fau.de)

→ Contact person for academic and organizational questions

## Student Records Office:

[studierendenverwaltung@fau.de](mailto:studierendenverwaltung@fau.de)

- Responsible for enrollment and deregistration (exmatriculation) process as well as semester leave
- Always mention your application or matriculation number in emails

## Master's Office

[zuv-masterbuero@fau.de](mailto:zuv-masterbuero@fau.de)

→ In charge of the formal application process

## International Affairs Office

Contact form on [website](#)

- Information on non-academic questions for international students (e.g. residence permit, health insurance)
- [Orientation event for international students](#): April 2-10 and Late Arrival Day on May 5

# Option 1: Deferment



## General regulations for deferment:

- Deferment of admission for a study program is only possible until the Examination Regulation for the study program that you received an admission for is changed.

## Master's program AI:

- The admission criteria mentioned in the Examination Regulation were adjusted for the winter semester 2026/27.

→ An admission for the MSc AI program for the summer semester 2026 (or any previous semester) cannot be deferred to a later semester in this study program.

→ In case you are unable to enroll for the summer semester 2026 and arrive by May 13, you will have to complete the application process for the study program again (including the admission test). The new application criteria apply (including GRE/GATE).

## Deferment regulation in MSc AI from WS 2026/27 onwards:

- Admissions can be deferred for two consecutive semesters
- Example: an applicant with an admission for the winter semester 2026/27 can receive an early admission for summer semester 2027 or winter semester 2027/28 (re-application required).
- The regular application for the AI Master's program is only possible for the winter semester, however, applicants who defer their admission can also re-apply for the summer semester.

## Application fees at FAU:

- Application fees for non-EU applicants from the winter semester 2026/27 onwards
- Exception: “Applicants who are offered a place on a degree program but were unable to enroll in that semester [...] and who reapply for the identical degree program in the same year are exempt from paying the application fee. This only applies to reapplications within the same academic year, provided the degree program has not been changed significantly in a manner that affects the admissions procedure.”
- Further information:
  - Website: <https://www.fau.eu/studying/international-students/application-and-enrollment-for-international-applicants/fees-for-applications-from-non-eu-states>
  - Contact [bewerbungsgebuehren@fau.de](mailto:bewerbungsgebuehren@fau.de)

# Option 1: Late arrival



## Semester dates:

- Enrollment period: until March 31 (via postal mail)
- Start of lectures in summer semester 2026: April 13
- Exam registration period Faculty of Engineering: May 18 (tentative) to June 7, 2026

## Visa and late arrival

- Please note that FAU is not an online university, classes are mainly taught on-Campus.
  - Late arrival for the MSc AI program is accepted until **May 13, 2026**
  - Letter of support for German embassy available with study program coordinator
- Requirement: students have to confirm that they are aware of the regulations and consequences regarding late arrival in the MSc AI program.

## Facts about study duration in MSc AI:

- Regular study duration Master's program (120 ECTS): 4 subject semesters
- Maximum study duration at Faculty of Engineering: 6 subject semesters
- resulting in a regular workload of 20-30 ECTS per semester
- regular workload also counts for the first semester
  
- After 6th subject semester:
  - Application for semester extension with justification with the Examination Office required
  - Late arrival is not considered a sufficient justification for semester extension
  - Examination Office tends to be strict regarding semester extensions

## Facts about study duration in MSc AI:

- International students face additional challenges and tend to require more time for their studies:
    - Finding long-term, affordable accommodation
    - Adjusting to German University system, culture and new surrounding
    - Working a student job
    - Potential health issues
    - Potential personal issues: family issues, crisis in home country, culture shock...
- International students should plan with a study duration of 6 semesters
- Loosing 1 or more semesters due to late arrival will seriously jeopardize your study success

## Important:

- Arriving in Erlangen means...
- You have reached your first goal: you got an admission for the MSc AI program, received a study visa and made it to Germany. Congratulations!
- You are about to start a new fun and challenging adventure of living and studying in Germany. Starting this journey in Erlangen will take a lot of your emotional and mental capacities (formalities, adjusting to live and studies in Germany). And it will take time. Make sure to account for this when planning your arrival in Erlangen and your studies.

# Overview: Possible late arrival scenarios



## Scenario A:

- Arrive in Erlangen in the late arrival period by May 13, 2026
- Attend the orientation events:
  - Orientation for international students on April 2-10, 2026 <https://www.tf.fau.eu/studying/events-and-offerings-for-students/#introductory-events-especially-for-international-students>
  - Welcome Events for MSc AI students on April 8 and 9, 2026 <https://www.ai.study.fau.eu/category/news-and-events/>
    - Register for classes that can be taken online, access classes and study course material
    - Register for exams within Exam registration period: May 18 (tentative) to June 7, 2026
    - Complete at least 20 ECTS in first semester. Regular semester workload: 20-30 ECTS.

## Scenario B:

- Arrival in Erlangen significantly after May 13, 2026
- No deregistration
- Attending classes and taking exams becomes very difficult/impossible
- Result: small/no amount of ECTS in first semester and possibly even second semester
- Academic success and completion of MSc AI study program are seriously jeopardized
- Consider a change of study program, especially if you miss more than 1 semester.

Consult with the study advice center at FAU for options:

<https://www.fau.eu/studying/organizing-your-studies-and-where-to-go-for-advice/student-advice-center/>

## Scenario C:

- De-register from MSc AI program for summer semester 2026 and re-apply for winter semester 2026/27:
  - Complete application process including the admission test. New application criteria (including GRE/GATE) and application fees apply.  
<https://www.ai.study.fau.eu/prospective-students/master-ai/application-master/>
  - Application period for the winter semester 2026/27 is April 15 to May 31, 2026.
  - Enrolled students need to deregister before re-applying for the same program. The deregistration process with the Student Records Office takes up to 14 days.

## Scenario C (continued):

- If you receive an admission for the winter semester 2026/27 you have the option of deferring your studies (exemption from application fees in case of deferment).
- Note: This might be an option if the visa process in your country of residence takes a significant amount of time or if you missed the enrollment deadline for the summer semester 2026.

## Scenario D:

- Enquire with the Student Records Office regarding the option of a semester leave
- A semester in which a student takes a semester leave does not count towards the subject semesters, however, students are unable to take courses or complete exams.
- An application for a semester leave needs to be submitted before the start of lectures (April 13) and requires proof.
- Please note: A semester leave is usually only an option in specific cases like health issues or maternity leave, not in case of late arrival.
- Please be aware: The study program is NOT in charge of the semester leave, we cannot provide reliable information on this matter. Contact the Student Records Office.

## If you want to start your studies in the MSc AI program:

- Check information for international students in International Student Service Point:  
[https://www.studon.fau.de/studon/ilias.php?baseClass=ilrepositorygui&ref\\_id=6292770](https://www.studon.fau.de/studon/ilias.php?baseClass=ilrepositorygui&ref_id=6292770)
- Apply for student housing asap and arrange for temporary housing at least for the first weeks. <https://www.fau.eu/studying/student-life/living/>
- Attend the Orientation events and Welcome Events for MSc AI students:
  - Orientation for international students (on April 2-10 for summer 2026):  
<https://www.tf.fau.eu/studying/events-and-offerings-for-students/#introductory-events-especially-for-international-students>
  - Welcome Events for MSc AI students (on April 8 and 9 for summer 2026):  
<https://www.ai.study.fau.eu/category/news-and-events/>

## If you want to start your studies in the MSc AI:

- Connect with fellow MSc AI students: Whatsapp group organized by FSI AI (student representatives) will be introduced during Welcome Event.
- Choose classes which are also offered online, join the StudOn course, study the course material and attend the class while you are still abroad.
- Register for and take the exams. Aim to complete 20 ECTS in your first semester.
- Connect with the study program advisor in case of questions or concerns which cannot be solved by attending the Welcome Event and checking the information material.
- In case of late arrival: Attend the late arrival event offered by RIA on May 5, 2026.

<https://www.tf.fau.eu/studying/events-and-offerings-for-students/#introductory-events-especially-for-international-students>

## Please note:

Late arrival is a complex topic. The provided information is based on FAU regulations and experiences of MSc AI students. However, decisions regarding late arrival depend on the specific situation of applicants and are individual. We can only provide helpful information, applicants have to make their decisions themselves.