Practical Information for your stay at Viadrina

Dear ERUA students and collagues,

we look forward to welcoming you at Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder) soon!

In order to prepare your travel to Frankfurt (Oder) and your stay at Viadrina, we are sharing some practical information with you. Please read the below information carefully.

Accommodation

- **Słubice Student Dorm**
  ~ 25 minutes walking distance to Viadrina, requires crossing the German-Polish border via the bridge by bus or on foot. (reservations through ERUA team, priority to students)
- **City Park Hotel**
  ~ 6 minutes walking distance to Viadrina
  (The hotel might have an allocation of rooms for guests of Viadrina for a reduced price. Please check via email and mention that you will be visiting Viadrina.)
- **Hotel Palais am Kleistpark**
  ~ 20 minutes walking distance to Viadrina
  (The hotel might have an allocation of rooms for guests of Viadrina for a reduced price. Please check via email and mention that you will be visiting Viadrina.)
- **B&B Hotel**
  ~ 17 minutes walking distance to Viadrina, close to the train station
  Hotel Kaliski in Słubice (Poland)
  ~ 25 minutes walking distance to Viadrina, requires crossing the German-Polish border via the bridge by bus or on foot

Transportation

Frankfurt (Oder) can be reached by regional or Eurocity train.
Frankfurt train station is "**Frankfurt (Oder)**" (*not* "Frankfurt (Oder) Rosengarten").

- If you are traveling by train from the East (e.g. via Poland), a number of EC and IC trains stop directly in "Frankfurt (Oder)".

- If you are traveling by train via "**Berlin Hauptbahnhof" (Main Station) or "Berlin Ostbahnhof"**, take the train **RE1** (Regional Express 1) in the direction "Frankfurt (Oder)". You will need to get off at "Frankfurt (Oder)", oftentimes the last stop.

- If you are traveling by long-distance bus, you will arrive at the **Berlin main bus station (Berlin ZOB)**. From there, take the S-Bahn (city train) **S 41 or S 42** (both are circular routes that go in the opposite directions and take about the same time) from the station "Berlin Messe Nord/ICC" to the station "Berlin Ostkreuz". There, change for the train **RE1** in the direction "Frankfurt (Oder)" (usually departing from track 1 (Gleis 1)). You will need to get off at "Frankfurt (Oder)", oftentimes the last stop.

- If you are traveling by plane, you will arrive at **Berlin-Brandenburg Airport (BER)**. From there, take the train **RB24** in the direction "Eberswalde Hbf" or **FEX** in the direction "Berlin Hbf". In

both cases, you will need to get off at the station “Berlin Ostkreuz”. There, change for the train **RE1** in the direction “Frankfurt (Oder)” (usually departing from track 1 (Gleis 1)). You will need to get off at “Frankfurt (Oder)”, oftentimes the last stop.

We recommend you use the site or the app of the Deutsche Bahn (German Railways) to check your connections between Berlin and Frankfurt (Oder): https://www.bahn.com/en. You can directly enter your points of departure and destination there. You can also purchase tickets directly from the website or the app.
The trip between Berlin and Frankfurt (Oder) costs 13,90 € (Fare: „Einzelfahrausweis Regeltarif“) in one direction (no need to buy separate tickets if you are transferring).
If you buy the ticket at the vending machine at the train station, remember to validate it at one of the red machines! Please do not board a train without a valid ticket, as you might otherwise incur a penalty of 60 €.
The trip between Berlin and Frankfurt (Oder) takes about 1 - 1,5 hours.

- If you are staying at a hotel in Frankfurt (Oder), you can walk to the hotel or take one of the buses or trams to your hotel. One ticket (valid for 60 mins and rides in one direction) cost 2,70 € (Fare: „Einzelfahrausweis“). As Frankfurt (Oder) is very walkable, you will likely not need to use public transportation within the city very often.
- If you are staying at the student dorms in Słubice on the Polish side, take the **bus 983** in the direction “Słubice, Dworzec Autobusowy” and get off at the station “Słubice, Plac Bohaterów”. From there, it is about a 3 minute walk. Alternatively, you can walk from the train station for about 35 minutes.

General Information City & Campus

- Please bring your passport or valid ID with you! (see the section “Border Crossings” below for more information)
- Frankfurt (Oder) is a “twin city” (Doppelstadt) located at the border between Germany and Poland and closely connected with Słubice. Crossing the border and taking advantage of both cities is highly recommended.
- Currency in Germany: €
  As card payment is not universally available in Germany, we recommend that you bring some cash with you. ATMs for withdrawing cash are available throughout the city and at the Frankfurt (Oder) train station, but there might be a fee for withdrawing money.
- Currency in Poland: PLN (~ 4 PLN = 1 €)
  Card payment is generally available. Money can be exchanged at different shops close to the border and ATMs are also available.
- **WiFi:**
  Visitors affiliated with institutions participating in the **eduroam** network can connect to Wi-Fi using their home institution's credentials (please check with your home university, if necessary). The eduroam network is available throughout the campus. If you are not automatically connected, please follow these instructions to activate.
  Free Wi-Fi is also provided by the city and hotspots are available at the market square, Slubicer Straße, Brunnenplatz, and the train station.
- Campus Accessibility: The main building is accessible via a lift at the side entrance through the Ehrenhof. The lift in the Logenhaus is accessible from the rear entrance on Heinrich-von-Stephan-Straße.
- All-Gender restrooms are available in every Viadrina building: located on the ground floor opposite the library in the main building and in the basement next to the lift in the Logenhaus.

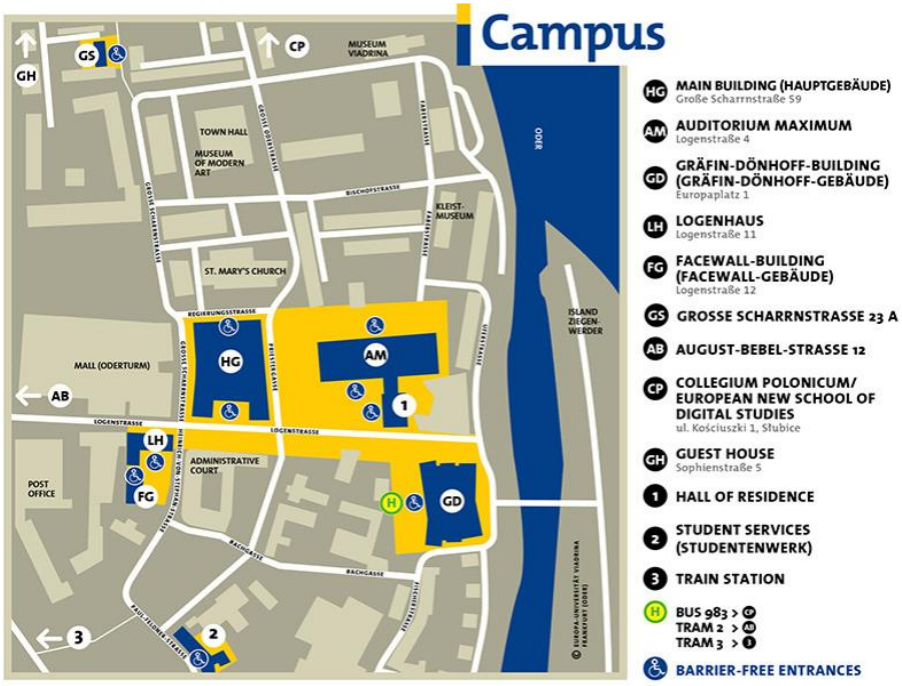
- Drinking Water: Water dispensers are located in the Main Building, Grafin Dönhoff and Audimax building. It is also safe to drink tap water.
- Most shops are closed on Sundays in Germany. The supermarket in Słubice and small shops called “Żabka” in Poland are open on Sundays.
- **Emergency Numbers Germany:**
  Ambulance and Fire Department: 112
  Police: 110
- **Emergency Numbers Poland:**
  General Emergency Number: 112
  Ambulance: 999
  Fire Department: 998
  Police: 997

Border Crossings

Please note that internal border checks between Germany and Poland are currently in effect and you will encounter border agents on both sides of the bridge linking both cities. This does not limit your freedom of movement within the Schengen area, but border agents might ask for identification. Therefore, **ensure you carry appropriate identification documents** (passport, EU ID) when crossing the border. These checks primarily affect car and bus traffic, which may result in longer waiting times, but can also include foot or bike traffic.

For citizens of countries that are not part of the Schengen agreement, please make sure that you carry your **passport as well as your residence permit/visa** with you when crossing the border.

Campus Map



You will find the Mensa (cafeteria) on the ground floor of the Gräfin-Dönhoff-Building and a small café on the first floor in the Main Building.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.