

**WELCOME
TO**

DIA *

***Dessau International Architecture
Graduate School**

Version June 1st 2019

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MISSION STATEMENT

Our goal is to educate global-thinking architects of the future.



A man with short, light-colored hair and glasses is wearing a red V-neck sweater over a light blue collared shirt. He is standing in a modern building with large windows and a blurred background. The lighting is warm, suggesting an indoor or shaded outdoor setting.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

With the DIA, Dessau once more is home to an architecture school attracting young talents from all over the world. With more than 200 students in its two-year programme, the DIA offers one of the liveliest places to study architecture. With a community that has come here from over 50 countries, it explores topical questions, just as the Bauhaus did in its day, and probably would do if it was still there today.

For many of our students, coming to Dessau will be a change of climate (both literally and metaphorically). We dearly hope you will enjoy it, just as much as we do — to learn from other cultures, to bring people together, to work on the challenging issues we are today facing in our built environment, but also to have fun exploring things you cannot (yet?) do in the real world. Let's hope it will be a liberating experience you will not forget.

Prof. Dr. Jasper Cepl, Director DIA

ABOUT DIA

The DIA is a branch of the Department of Architecture, Facility Management and Geoinformation which itself is part of the Anhalt University of Applied Science. The campus is shared with the Department of Design and is located in Dessau in direct proximity to the world-famous Bauhaus building by Walter Gropius. We are proud of our modern and up-to-date facilities including seminar and lecture rooms as well as printing-, wood-, metal-, sculpture-, 3D-printing and robotics workshops. An extensive library shared with the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation, a cafeteria, a student café and a gym take care of intellectual as well as physical needs. Everything is within walking distance, hence creating the atmosphere of a small nucleus within the town of Dessau. Shopping, living and transportation is all in direct neighborhood of the campus.

The Dessau International Architecture Graduate School (DIA) started its 2 year Master Program in 1999 with 10 enrolled students. It was established in response to the Bologna Process which was targeted at ensuring comparable standards and quality of higher education. The full-time course offers 120 credits. It finishes with an internationally recognized Master of Arts degree and is accredited by the ASIIN. The language of instruction is English. Today, the DIA is the largest English-taught Master Program in Architecture in Germany.

Over the past 20 years more than 1500 students from over 50 countries have graduated from the program, spreading the teachings and ideas all over the world.



Graduation



Tj Lim (DIA Alumni - Malaysia)

What makes DIA - DIA? An english speaking university in Germany that practices different design principles, approaches and tastes all in a hot melting pot. A fusion of styles from the most traditional methods of designing to the most futuristic ones.

And the people of different backgrounds, that is what makes DIA-DIA.

PROGRAM LAYOUT

the DIA offers the unique opportunity to study not only near the world-famous Bauhaus building but to also follow some of the educational concepts developed by Walter Gropius and his teaching staff. The classes are intercultural as well as interdisciplinary. A strong focus in our program is on small groups in the main courses to ensure an intense and productive teaching/learning/working environment.

COURSE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES

The study program Architecture (DIA) complements the bachelor's program in Architecture by systematically deepening the topics of architecture and urban planning. This then complete architecture education fulfills all formal regulations needed to apply for membership of the architectural association. The focus is on strengthening the knowledge in design expertise and methodology. Another focus is on the analysis of current questions related to culture and social sciences as well as to the humanities. Also the latest insights into research and development, new procedures, technologies and materials are highlighted.

CURRICULUM

Of the three hundred applications received, some ninety students enter the graduate program every year. The range of experience, culture, and interest makes the graduate school at DIA a truly unique experience. Classes, seminars, and studios are small and therefore intense and individualized. Students in their graduate career have ample opportunity to find their own way and to gain exposure to intense and critical examination. The personal studio critique and the public review are the main forums of studio-based education at DIA. In the spirit of the Bauhaus, such studio-based education is rather atypical in Europe today. The Master of Architecture program, leading to an MA in Architecture degree, is offered to individuals who possess a bachelor's degree. Students follow a course of study in the following areas of the curriculum: Design; History, Theory, and Criticism; Urbanism; Computing, Logic, and Representation. These areas of study comprise groups of courses from which students may choose offerings according to the requirements of their particular program. Strong emphasis is given to

developing skills, logic, and imagination through an intensive series of design studio courses. The curriculum fosters an understanding of architecture as a social, cultural, political, and economic activity, as deeply embedded in contemporary issues and concerns as it is aware of its own historic construction.

The course of studies is divided into two segments: 1st and 2nd year.



Project Discussion at Robotics Lab.

1ST YEAR + 2ND YEAR

During the 1st year the students are asked to select a studio as their main course each semester as well as two complementing electives and one CAD-Logic offering. Classes in German Language, Architecture History and Urbanism are mandatory for all 1st year students. Each semester ends with public final presentations. The best 1st year project is honored with the Lars Lerup Award at the end of the academic year.

The second year is dedicated to developing and finishing the thesis. All MA candidates are required to develop a thesis in fulfillment of graduate degree requirements. Students are asked to demonstrate their ability to independently undertake research and analysis, as well as develop a hypothesis and demonstrate their thesis thoroughly. This must take the form of either a research thesis (Written Thesis) or a thesis with a design demonstration (Design Thesis). Both thesis formats must address architectural consequences that may be derived from within or outside conventional boundaries of the architectural discipli-

ne. Thesis preparation begins in the 3rd semester with an option studio leading to the submission of a thesis proposal and the selection of a thesis director and one faculty member as reader. Two complementing electives, one CAD-Logic class as well as courses in German language, Architecture History and Urbanism are also part of the 3rd semester. While the thesis is independent work carried out by the student under the direction of a chosen advisor, it is organized as a studio in the 4th semester of the program. The thesis studio provides a support setting for both formal and informal review processes throughout the thesis semester. At the end of the 4th semester, thesis projects are reviewed by a panel of guest critics and publicly presented at DIA. The best thesis project is annually awarded with the Robert Oxman Prize. On completion of the program, students will be awarded a qualification that has EU-wide recognition in the profession of architecture.



Work Atmosphere

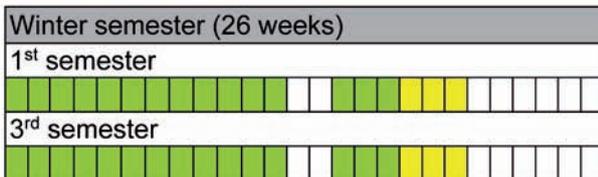
STUDY PLAN

Program semester	Semester week hours 15 weeks			Pre-exam test	Type of exam	Duration of exam	Credits
	Lecture	Ex.	Project				
1st program semester							
Compulsory modules							
Studio I		8			P/C	30 min	10
Urbanism I		2			H		5
Architectural History and Theory I		2			E/B		5
German Culture and Language I		2			E/B		5
CAD/Logic I		2			E/B		5
Electoral compulsory modules (1 must be chosen)							
ECM, consisting of 2 electives		2 2			E/B		5
Total 1st programme semester							30
2nd project semester							
Compulsory modules							
Studio II		8			P/C	30 min	10
Urbanism II		2			H		5
Architectural History and Theory II		2			E/B		5
German Culture and Language II		2			E/B		5
CAD/Logic II		2			E/B		5
Electoral compulsory modules (1 must be chosen)							
ECM, consisting of 2 electives		2 2			E/B		5
Total 2nd programme semester							30

3rd programme semester							
Compulsory modules							
Studio III		8			P/C	30 min	10
Urbanism III		2			H		5
Architectural History and Theory III		2			E/B		5
German Culture and Language III		2			E/B		5
CAD/Logic III		2			E/B		5
Electoral compulsory modules (1 must be chosen)							
ECM, consisting of 2 electives		2			E/B		5
Total 3rd programme semester		20					30
4th programme semester							
Master thesis				§ 29	H		25
Master colloquium				§ 32	P/C	30 min.	5
Total 4th programme semester							30
Course Total							120

Standard Period of the Course

1 st semester	15 weeks – lectures, exercises, internships, excursions	3 weeks examinations	30 credit points
2 nd semester	15 weeks – lectures, exercises, internships, excursions	3 weeks examinations	30 credit points
3 rd semester	15 weeks – lectures, exercises, internships, excursions	3 weeks examinations	30 credit points
4 th semester	20 weeks – Master thesis and colloquium		30 credit points



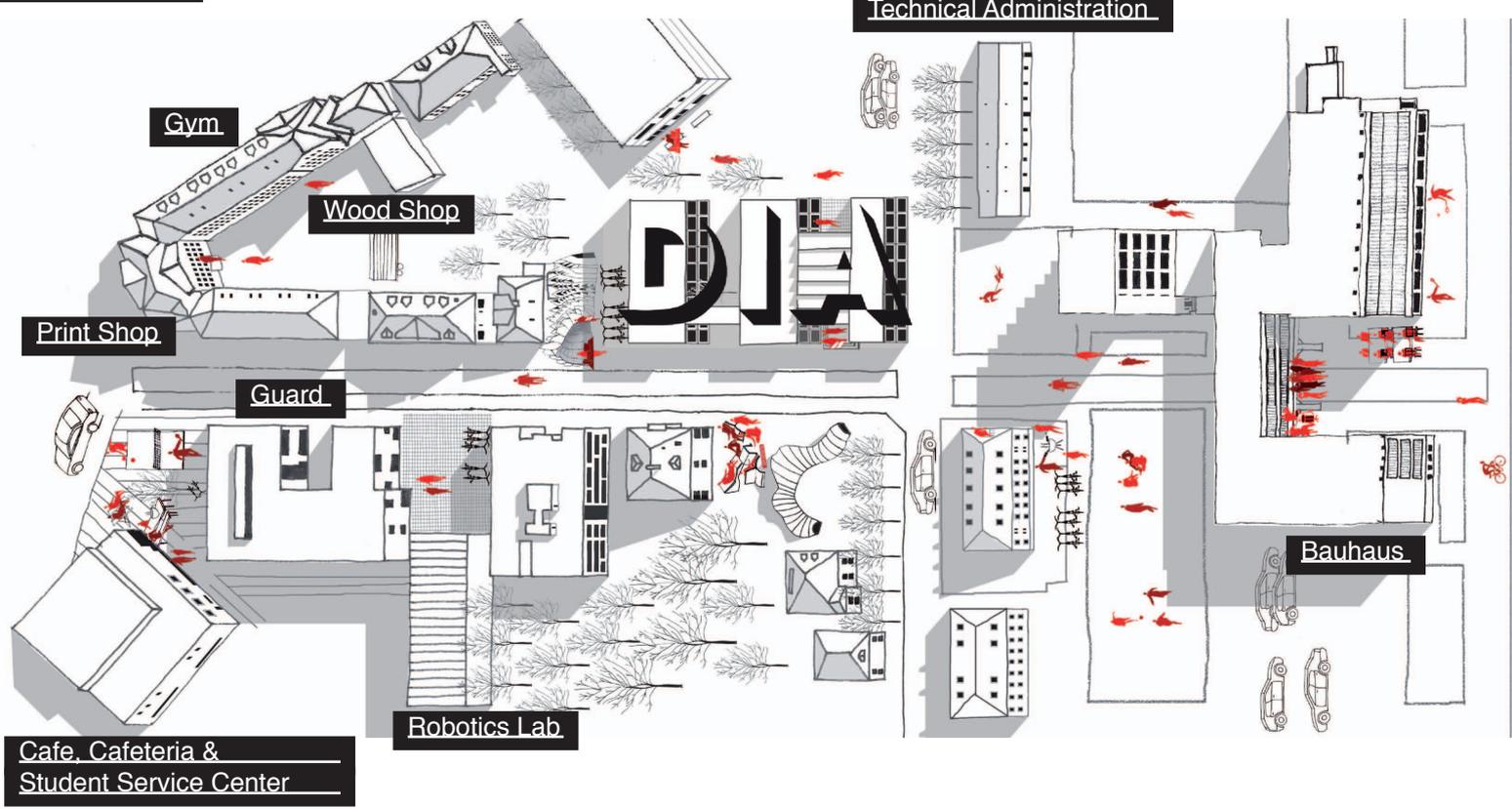
-  Lectures, seminars, examinations
-  Examination week
-  Master thesis; afterwards colloquium
-  Period without lectures, exercises, etc.



CAMPUS

The campus is located in direct vicinity of the Bauhaus building and hence the nucleus of modern design and architecture. The Dessau campus was established in 1993 as part of the Anhalt University. It is home to the Department of Design and the Department of Architecture, Facility Management and Geoinformatics. With 16 buildings it connects the Bauhaus with the main trainstation establishing a charming network of modern and historic architecture in association with large areas of green.

<- Train Station



Gym

Wood Shop

Print Shop

Guard

Cafe, Cafeteria &
Student Service Center

Robotics Lab

Technical Administration

Bauhaus

Campus Map





DIA Building



Ahmet Kürkçü (DIA Alumni - Turkey)

The campus feels like a lively little village except the inhabitants are from all around the world. At most you come across your friends at every corner you pass by which is perfect for smokers that ran out of tobacco.



Working in the Studio



Building Models in the Hall

FACILITIES

The Dessau Campus offers a variety of fully equipped workshops. Among those accessible to the architecture students are the wood shop, the robotics lab, 3D printers, sculpture studios, a student plot and print shop and a laser cut workshop. A modern library with great research facilities is also available. For recreation students can go to the cafeteria, a student cafe or enjoy the on-campus gym.



BAUHAUS

Library



Laser Cut Workshop



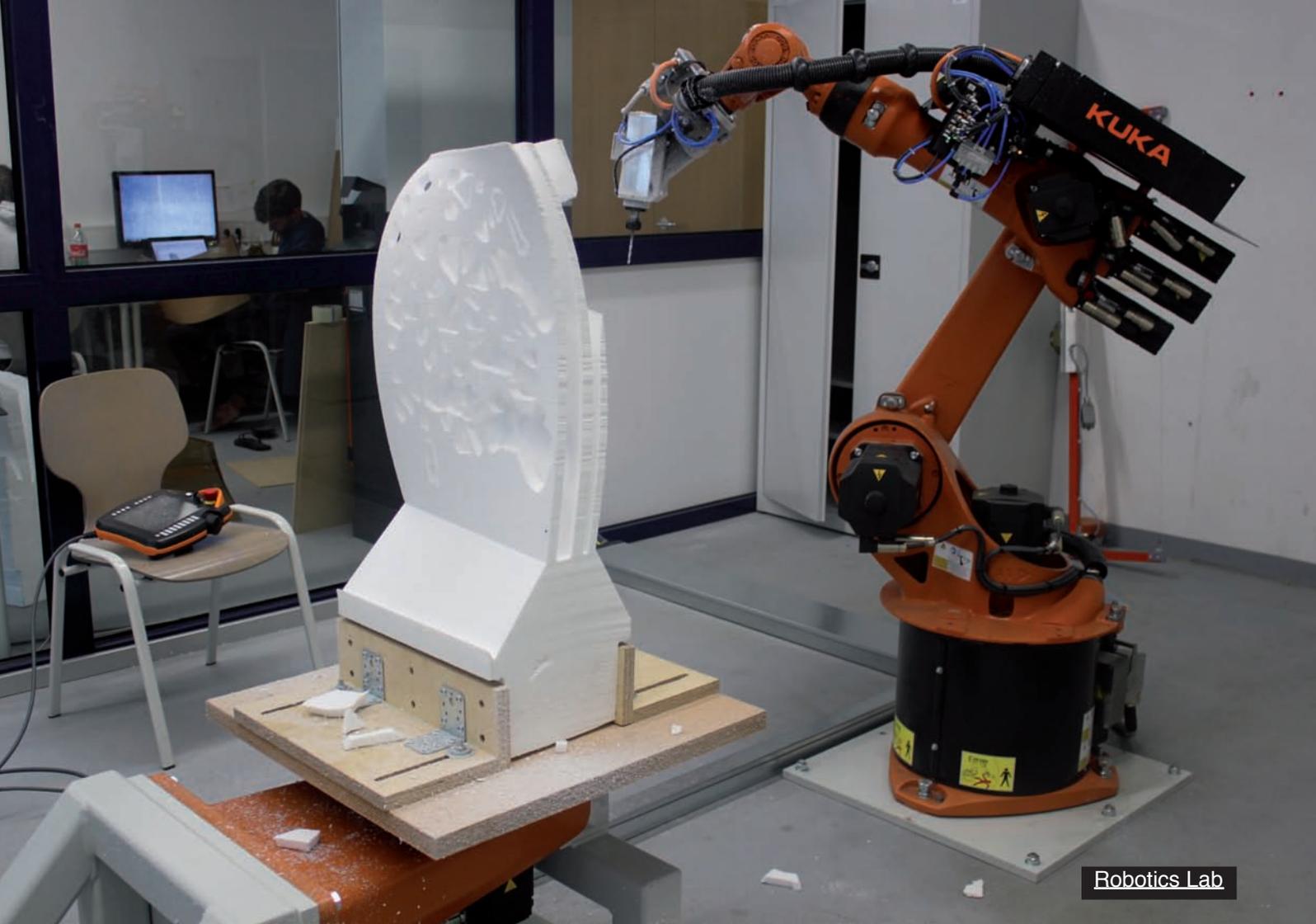


ONLY

Plot and Print Shop



Sculpture Exhibition





Cafeteria



Student Cafe



Gym

FAQS



PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

Are there any scholarships I can apply for?

Various scholarships are offered now and then by the international office IO but since the number of applications by students from the entire university is high whereas the number of awarded scholarships is low, it will be difficult to obtain such a scholarship. Please check the information provided by the IO regularly to not miss an opportunity. However, you may of course apply for external scholarships for example with the DAAD.

Do I have to present a TOEFL or IELTS certificate if I have received my university education in English?

If you have received your education in English, please include a statement or a paper that shows that. If proof can be presented you do not have to present a TOEFL/IELTS certificate.

Do you issue confirmation letters for DAAD-scholarships?

We are happy to provide such letter if needed. Please contact us.

Does the DIA offer German courses for international students?

The DIA does offer courses in German on beginners and advanced levels as part of the standard curriculum.

What are the fees?

In order to study at DIA each student must pay a total fee of 926€ each semester. The fee consists of 850€ program fee and 76€ registration fee.

What is the bank info to pay the fees?

The full amount of 926€ goes here:

Beneficiary: Hochschule Anhalt

Bank: Deutsche Bundesbank

IBAN: DE35 8100 0000 0081 0015 39

BIC: MARKDEF1810

purpose: Student Number _ name, first name
(for first semester students, please add applicant number)

Deutsche Bundesbank, Filiale Magdeburg
Breiter Weg 215, 39104 Magdeburg, Germany

What is the official title and does it permit students to be a practicing architect in the EU?

The official title is M.A. The course is accredited and is EU notified which allows you to practise as an architect in the EU.

On completion of the program, students will be awarded a qualification that has EU-wide recognition in the profession of architecture.

Is the master degree internationally valid?

Yes, we are proud to say that our degree is internationally valid.

Where can I shelter myself during the first days?

There are several hotels, hostels and Gasthäuser for all the budgets. Some near downtown are: City-Pension Dessau-Roßlau, Radisson Blu Fürst Leopold Hotel, Jugendherberge Dessau, NH Dessau and Hotel 7 Säulen. Nevertheless, more can be found using services such as Booking and, even a more convenient option can be Airbnb or Couchsurfing. Also the Facebook Group "Dessau International" is a great source.

Which documents do I need for enrollment?

You need to show in addition to what you have been told with your admission package:

1. Copy of your admission letter (Zulassungsschreiben)
2. Copy of your passport (for Non-EU students) / national ID (for EU citizens)
3. Proof of sufficient health insurance
4. Proof of having transferred the semester fee
5. Non-EU students: Residence permit (Aufenthaltstitel)
6. biometric, passport-sized photo 35x45 mm (for student ID)

How important is it to have a housing contract?

It is absolutely VITAL. The housing contract, in German, "Mietvertrag" is a must to open, among other things, the bank account and to get the visa

once you are in Dessau. So, as soon as you get a place, ask the landlord (Vermieter) to give it to you, signed.

How can I look for accommodation?

The school has a very limited number of student dorms. For application and other options please see: <https://www.hs-anhalt.de/en/life/dessau/housing.html>

There are also other websites dedicated to find accommodation in Germany. Some of them are WG Gesucht, Immobilien Scout 24, Immowelt and Immonet.

Also have a look at the Facebook Group "Dessau International" to connect with international students already in Dessau.

Pay special attention to the fact that some of the ads specify a limited time for rent, say, 1 or 2 months and not the whole semester.

What about the city of Dessau?

Dessau is a medium-sized town about 90 minutes south of Berlin and 45 minutes north of Leipzig. It is known for two UNESCO world heritage sites: the Bauhaus and the Dessau-Wörlitz Garden Realm. Both define the city and its surroundings and make it a destination for many tourists all through the year. Downtown you will find all that is necessary for every day shopping as well as shopping malls. The infrastructure includes an extensive system of busses and trams. The best way to get around the city is, however, a bike.

POST ARRIVAL

Are there regulations on submission / grading?

Each teacher determines deadlines for submissions and regulations for grading. Please make sure to inquire about those regulations at the beginning of the semester.

How long after the courses finished are students allowed to deliver to receive grading?

There is no general deadline that applies to all classes. Each teacher handles this differently. Please get in touch with the teachers in time.

Where can I see my grades?

You will find your grades for each modules in the HIS QIS-Portal. <https://service.asa.hs-anhalt.de/qisserver/rds?state=user&type=0>

I don't see my course grades on my transcript. What can I do?

All your grades are first being submitted to the office and are then handed over to the Student Service Center. If you do not see your grades please contact us so we can see what the issue is.

Is there a limitation for the number of participants per course group at DIA?

We are aiming at limiting the studio classes to 10 students in order to offer an effective and efficient counseling during the semester. In rare occasions and always in collaboration with the studio teachers it is possible to slightly extend that number. Elective classes do not have such a strict limitation.

How can I sign up for a class?

At DIA we use our platform dialive for the process of signing up for classes as well as for in course communication and announcements from the dia office. You have to be a registered member in order to access the portal. Class descriptions are made available there. Sign up takes place during a fixed time frame. You must join the group of the desired class and post “I am in“ to express your interest. The number of students per studio is limited to about 10. In case more students sign up for a particular class, we run a random lottery to determine who gets in and who has to make a second choice. To make that process fair, you must only sign up for one studio at a time. If you sign up for more than one studio, your entry will not be considered.

Is there funding for excursion costs?

In rare cases, funding for excursion costs may be applied for with the international office of the school. In general excursion costs must be covered by the students.

Is there any funding for the master thesis?

The students must be able to cover the costs for their master thesis. However, there might be opportunities to contact sponsors maybe through the help of your advisers.

When are the re-registration deadlines?

Summer Semester: February 15th - March 31th
Winter Semester: August 15th - September 31th
Re-registering a few days late will result in a fine, re-registering even later will result in exmatriculation and hence means the loss of your visa

What is the bank info to pay the fees?

The full amount of 926€ goes here:
Beneficiary: Hochschule Anhalt
Bank: Deutsche Bundesbank
IBAN: DE35 8100 0000 0081 0015 39
BIC: MARKDEF1810
purpose: Student Number _ name, first name
(for first semester students, please add applicant number)
for re-registration also add: RM and the year
(example: RM2018)

also check here:

<https://www.hs-anhalt.de/en/study/during-your-studies/formalities/re-registration.html>

How can I apply for an internship semester?

The study regulations do not required include internships. Hence the immigration laws do not allow to officially apply for an internship or „holiday“ semester. You may of course apply for internships nevertheless. If you are successful in finding an internship you must remain an enrolled student by re-registering and hence extend your studies for the duration of the internship.