

STUDYING IN GERMANY.



INTO THE FAST LANE
WITH BACHELOR'S AND
MASTER'S DEGREES

MORE EXCELLENCE
MORE INTERNATIONALITY

USEFUL: FINANCE TIPS,
CHOOSING A UNIVERSITY,
FINDING AN APARTMENT

IMPORTANT: A CHECK
LIST FOR THE BEGINNING
OF YOUR STUDIES



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GOETHE-INSTITUT



THERE IS AN INCREDIBLY WIDE RANGE OF COURSES ON OFFER IN GERMANY SO YOU NEED TO BE WELL-INFORMED. MY YEARS HERE HAVE BEEN A SUPERB EXPERIENCE.

Anita Savu, 24, from Romania, gained a Diplom in business administration in Nuremberg



I CHOSE THE UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH BECAUSE IT HAS A UNIQUE NETWORK OF FULLY EQUIPPED INSTITUTES WHICH FACILITATES COLLABORATION AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH. BEING PART OF THE CENTER FOR NANOSCIENCE ALLOWS ME TO PARTICIPATE IN SEVERAL WORKSHOPS AND DISCUSS TOPICS WITH OTHER STUDENTS.

Guillermo Acuna, 27, from Buenos Aires, is studying for a PhD in physics at the Munich Center for Nanoscience (CeNS)

STUDYING IN GERMANY WAS MY DREAM. I'M PARTICIPATING IN A BILINGUAL STUDY PROGRAMME. GREAT!

Henriett Hudák, 20, from Hungary, has been studying law in Cologne since the 2006/2007 winter semester



I HAVE FOUND IDEAL CONDITIONS HERE IN MY AREA OF RESEARCH – BYRON'S NARRATIVE POETRY. OF IMPORTANCE IS THAT WE MEET AND DISCUSS OUR CHAPTERS REGULARLY WITH OUR SUPERVISORS, WHO ARE ALWAYS WILLING TO HELP WITH ORIENTATION, SUPERVISION AND MATERIAL.

Lola Nkamanyang, 36, from Cameroon, is participating in the International PhD Programme (IPP) in Literary and Cultural Studies at the Giessen Graduate School for the Humanities



GERMANY IS AN EXCELLENT PLACE TO PICK UP SPEED FOR A CAREER IN ENGINEERING.

Cao Yang, 28, from China, is studying business engineering in Berlin

WELCOME...

> WHAT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS CAN TELL YOU ABOUT STUDYING IN GERMANY

Five international students in Germany: Cao, Guillermo, Henriett, Lola and Anita decided in favour of completing several semesters, a degree course or a PhD programme in Germany. What influenced their decisions? What do they like about higher education in Germany?



CUT HERE

Check-in for a study visit to Germany

ARTS COLLEGES

STUDENT CLASS **ARTS COLLEGE:**

OVERVIEW:
The entrance requirements are high, but the training is excellent. Entrance examinations decide whose artistic talents will be developed at 53 state-recognized colleges of art, film and music in Germany.

Students are granted a relatively large amount of freedom in organizing their studies to enable them to develop their own style. Germany's 23 colleges of music are especially popular with foreign students.

their share of international students is 35.7%.

STANDARD PERIOD OF STUDY:
6 (Bachelor's) to 10 (Diplom/Master's) semesters

FURTHER INFORMATION:
www.studienwahl.de
www.kunsthochschule.org

ON BOARD CHECK

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENT:
HIGHER EDUCATION
ENTRANCE QUALIFICATION

DEGREES:
BACHELOR'S/MASTER'S/DIPLOM/
DOCTORATE ★★ ★

STANDARD PERIOD OF STUDY:
6-10 SEMESTERS



XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

CUT HERE

Check-in for a study visit to Germany

PRIVATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

STUDENT CLASS **PRIVATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION:**

OVERVIEW:
Global players appreciate graduates from private institutions of higher education. After all, they have often already gained practical experience at home and abroad during their studies. The 110 private colleges advertise for students with ideal study conditions: small groups, good contacts with industry and short courses. An entrance examination is a prerequisite for admission.

The tuition fees are between 1,800 and 4,700 euros a semester. Very

important: private universities must be state-recognized, otherwise their degrees are worthless!

STANDARD PERIOD OF STUDY:
6 (Bachelor's) to 10 (Diplom/Magister/Master's) semesters

FURTHER INFORMATION:
www.hochschulkompass.de
www.private-hochschulen.net

ON BOARD CHECK

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENT:
HIGHER EDUCATION
ENTRANCE QUALIFICATION

DEGREES:
BACHELOR'S/MASTER'S/DIPLOM/
MAGISTER/DOCTORATE ★★ ★

STANDARD PERIOD OF STUDY:
6-10 SEMESTERS



XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

CUT HERE

Check-in for a study visit to Germany

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION / THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

STUDENT CLASS **UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION:**

OVERVIEW:
Student teachers train to teach in primary, secondary and special schools at the six *Pädagogische Hochschulen*. As a rule, these study programmes usually lead to a State

Examination, but there are also Bachelor's degree courses.

FURTHER INFORMATION:
www.studis-online.de/StudInfo/lehramt.php

ON BOARD CHECK

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENT:
HIGHER EDUCATION
ENTRANCE QUALIFICATION

DEGREES:
BACHELOR'S/MASTER'S/DOCTORATE
STATE EXAMINATION ★★ ★

STANDARD PERIOD OF STUDY:
6-10 SEMESTERS



XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

STUDENT CLASS **THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE:**

OVERVIEW:
The 15 church colleges do not only train priests and theologians, but also social education workers, health educators and church education workers, nursing and healthcare specialists and church

musicians. A connection with the church is desired. An exception here is the College of Jewish Studies in Heidelberg, which is open to all faiths.

www.theologiestudium.info
www.studienfuehrer-theologie.de

NB: APPLICATION DEADLINES!!!



GLOSSARY



AKADEMISCHES AUSLANDSAMT

The AAA or International Office should be the first point of contact for international students.

ASTA

This abbreviation stands for *Allgemeiner Studierendenausschuss*, the self-governing body that represents students' interests and provides advice.

CONSECUTIVE COURSES

Consecutive Bachelor's and Master's degree courses complement one another and can be completed together in a standard period of study of 10 semesters. Non-consecutive Master's degree courses do not follow on from a preceding Bachelor's degree programme.

DIPLOMA SUPPLEMENT

If you complete a Bachelor's or Master's degree, you will not only receive the official documentation about the qualification, but also a Diploma Supplement with more detailed information about study results and additional qualifications.

ECTS

The European Credit Transfer System aims to make courses comparable across the whole of Europe.

ERASMUS

This EU programme promotes international student exchanges. Further details: eu.daad.de.

SEMESTER

A half-year period of study at a higher education institution. The semester also includes a vacation period.

TEACHING UNITS

Essentially, tuition is carried out in lectures (presented by a professor, usually in the form of an address), tutorials (emphasis on applied teaching) and seminars (classes in which students make an active contribution and present papers on a particular subject).

TESTAS

The Test for Academic Studies (TestAS) is a central standardized aptitude test for foreign students. TestAS enables foreign study applicants to assess whether or not they possess the ability to start academic studies in Germany. The test can be taken during the spring at any one of 350 TestDaF centres worldwide. Good results can improve applicants' chances of being admitted to study at a German university. www.testas.de

160 DESTINATIONS

> WHAT'S NEW IN GERMAN HIGHER EDUCATION

www.daad.de

> --- GO

Very few countries offer such a diverse higher education landscape as Germany: students can choose between 160 locations and 383 institutions of higher education – and between more than 12,000 different courses. Major changes are currently taking place in German higher education: the Excellence Initiative is promoting competition between universities, many new subjects are being introduced and more foreign students are coming to Germany than ever before. Here is an overview of what is happening on campus Germany:

“Initiative for Excellence” is the current buzzword in German higher education: the academic competition initiated under this name by the Federal Government and the *Länder* has given German higher education a powerful boost. A large number of new ideas and projects have already been realized as a result of this ambitious initiative: the Federal Government and the *Länder* intend to invest 1.9 billion euros in top academic achievement by the year 2011. This education offensive is also providing substantial impetus to the trend towards internationalization: more than 600 international study programmes, predominantly in the English language, are already preparing students for jobs all over the world (see page 14).

In addition, all higher education diplomas across the EU will be comparable by 2010. That is the goal of the Bologna Process, which was set in motion in 1999. The German *Magister* and *Diplom* higher education diplomas will then be replaced by Bachelor's and Master's degrees. “Credit points” and “modules” are already part of many students' academic routine in Germany since more than half of all courses have been restructured to lead to international degrees (see page 12). The great advantage is that students' qualifications are internationally comparable. **Nevertheless, German higher education institutions want to preserve what makes them unique: the high degree of academic freedom and independence that is granted to and also demanded of students.**

Also new is the fact that institutions of higher education in several *Länder* began charging tuition fees for the first time in the 2006/2007 winter semester. At a maximum of 500 euros per semester, however, they are much lower than the fees in the United States or in European neighbours like Britain or France. It should therefore come as no surprise that interest in campus Germany is skyrocketing. More than 18% of first-year students at German higher education institutions hold foreign passports.

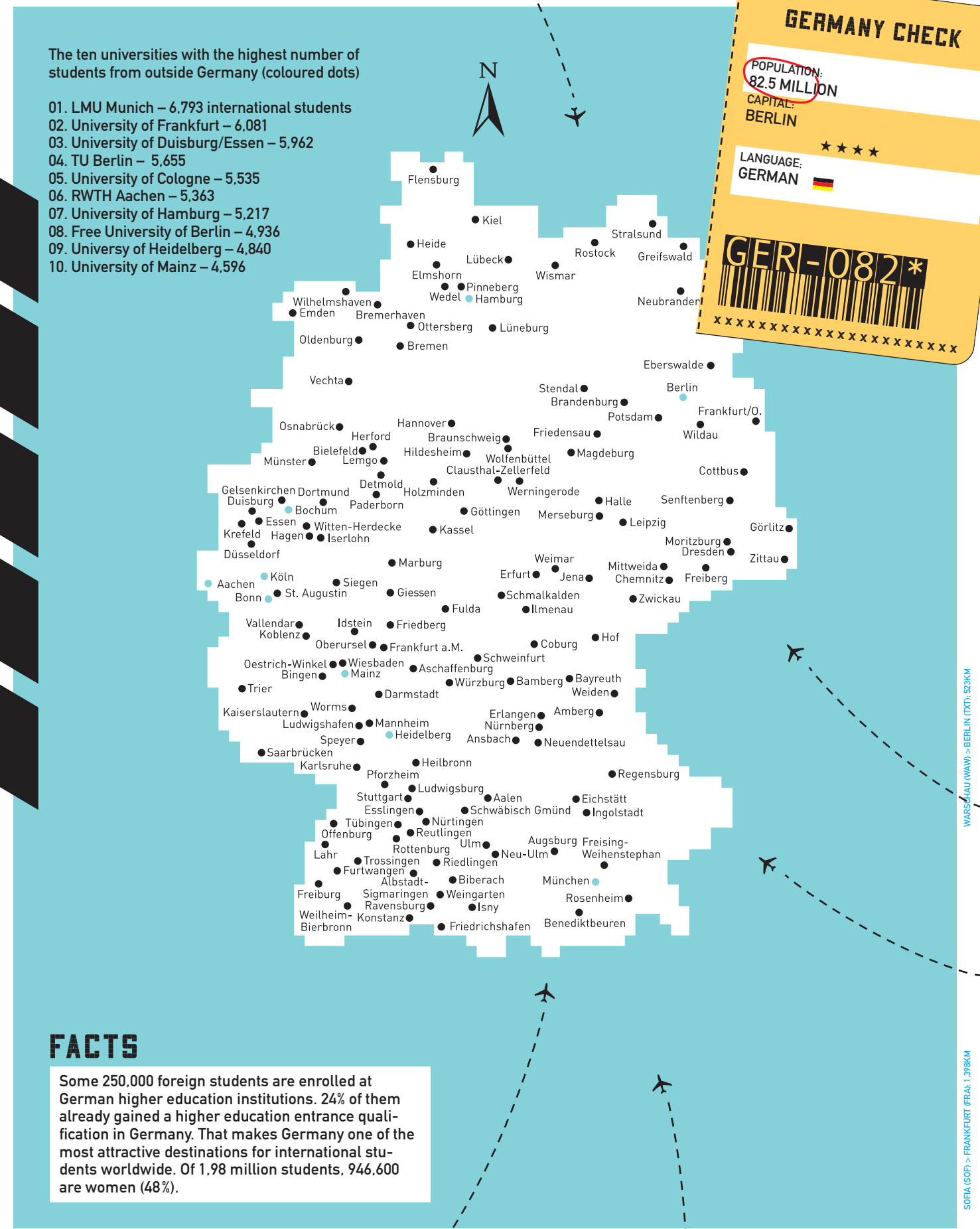
Almost 250,000 high potentials from all over the world, of whom 60,000 already gained a higher education entrance qualification in Germany, are registered at a university or university of applied sciences – nearly 100,000 more than 10 years ago. The range of subjects available in Germany is enormous. A total of 8,800 study programmes – plus 3,500 postgraduate courses – were recorded by *Hochschulkompass*, a publication of the German Rectors' Conference. **Academic excellence is not only found in large cities like Munich, Berlin and Frankfurt.** Particularly academic centres in smaller cities – for example, in Heidelberg – are world-famous.

From applied informatics and environmental sciences to cell biology – German higher education institutions offer a broad and differentiated range of subjects. One German speciality are the *Fachhochschulen*, the practice-oriented universities of applied sciences: structured courses with a strong degree of practical orientation enable students to swiftly enter the world of work. At other higher education institutions there is a tradition of the “unity of research and teaching.” That means that professors and lecturers at general universities and technical universities have a duty to conduct research alongside their teaching commitments. **The underlying idea is that if academics remain up-to-date as researchers, their students will benefit very directly from their new findings.** Changes are also afoot in the field of private higher education. Alongside the established private colleges and universities, such as Witten/Herdecke and the European Business School Oestrich-Winkel, a whole raft of new institutions have been founded in recent years, such as the Bucerius Law School in Hamburg or the Zeppelin University on the shores of Lake Constance.

If you want to find your ideal university or college, you should begin clicking your way around the German higher education landscape on the Internet one year before you plan to start studying. Which courses have restricted admission and higher entrance requirements? Where will I find the course I want? Which kind of higher education institution will suit me best? These are questions you should clarify as early as possible. Otherwise you might find yourself without enough time to obtain the required application documentation. There are various ways to apply for a study place at a German higher education institution. In general, international students apply for all subjects directly to the relevant institution or to uni-assist (see page 18). **Websites like www.hochschulkompass.de and www.university-ranking.de can help you to find the “right” university or college.**

The ten universities with the highest number of students from outside Germany (coloured dots)

01. LMU Munich – 6,793 international students
02. University of Frankfurt – 6,081
03. University of Duisburg/Essen – 5,962
04. TU Berlin – 5,655
05. University of Cologne – 5,535
06. RWTH Aachen – 5,363
07. University of Hamburg – 5,217
08. Free University of Berlin – 4,936
09. University of Heidelberg – 4,840
10. University of Mainz – 4,596



FACTS

Some 250,000 foreign students are enrolled at German higher education institutions. 24% of them already gained a higher education entrance qualification in Germany. That makes Germany one of the most attractive destinations for international students worldwide. Of 1.98 million students, 946,600 are women (48%).

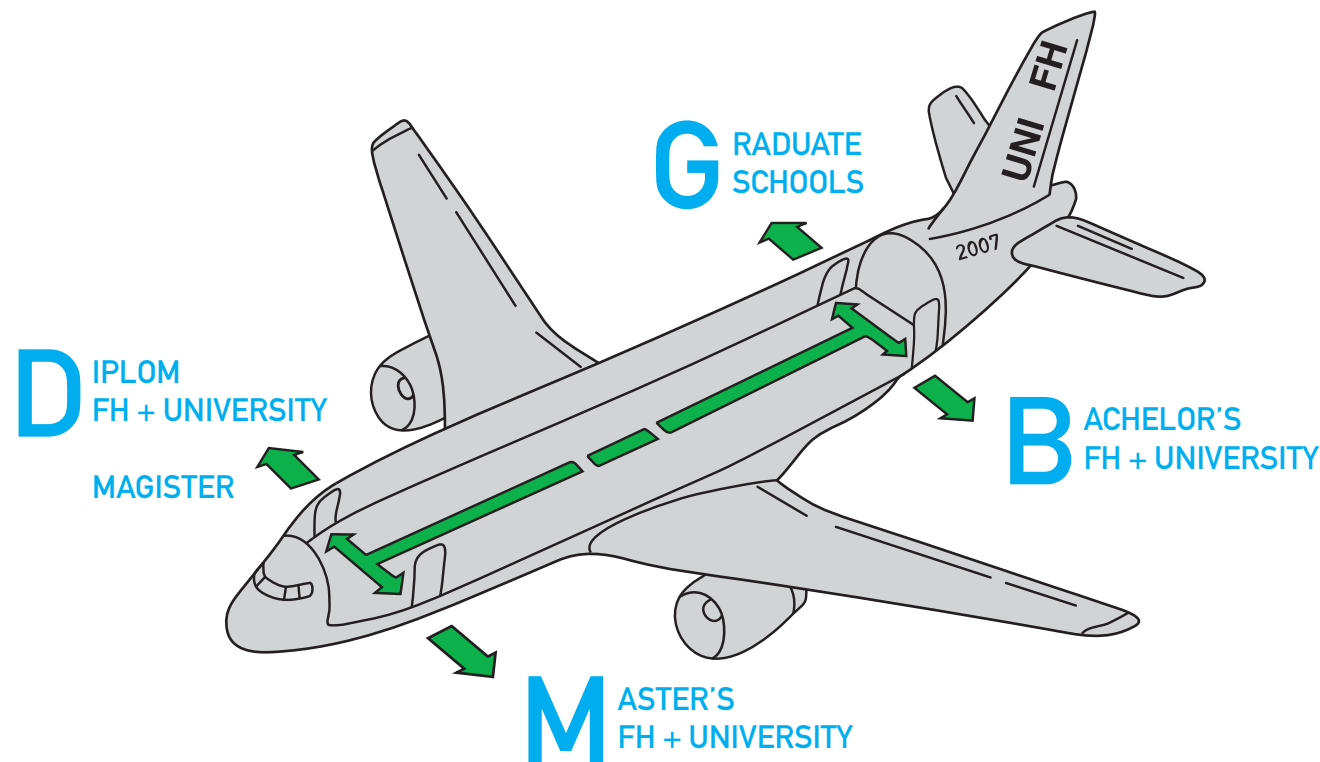


Hagen/DIAAD (D), Himeel/Asscherhof/DIAAD, Hub/DIAAD

EXIT:

> FASTER, MORE PRACTICAL, MORE MOBILE

The changeover to the two-stage system of bachelor's and master's degrees should be completed by 2010, at which point German *Magister* and *Diplom* qualifications will be a thing of the past. The new degrees are becoming very popular with students, and the internationality of courses is considered a great advantage. The new "credit points" are already valid today in 45 European countries.



"GERMAN UNIVERSITIES ARE INCREASINGLY ADAPTING TO INTERNATIONAL NEEDS."

Sven Breipohl, Personnel Director at Roland Berger Strategy Consultants

B > BACHELOR'S M > MASTER'S

WHETHER BERLIN OR PARIS, HIGHER EDUCATION DIPLOMAS ARE TO BE EARNED IN EUROPE.

More than 5,000 bachelor's and master's courses are already on offer in Germany. A special role is still played by courses leading to the *Staatsexamen* (State Examination) in law, medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, pharmacy and teaching. **What kinds of bachelor's degrees are there?** Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.), Bachelor of Engineering (B.Eng.) and Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.).

What changes are associated with the introduction of bachelor's degrees? **Time:** a bachelor's degree can be completed in 6 semesters instead of the 10 required for a *Diplom*. **Greater emphasis on practice:** universities and colleges are to teach more practically oriented courses. Lectures can be conducted in a foreign language. Internships prepare students for their future professions. **Modules:** thematically structured study units make it easier to have foreign semesters recognized. **Credit points:** grades are valid throughout Europe – points are accepted for every module completed.

A MASTER'S DEGREE RAISES YOUR PROFILE AND IS CONSIDERED AN ADVANTAGE IN MANY INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES.

The prerequisite for acceptance in a master's programme is a first degree, which can be a bachelor's or a *Diplom*.

What kinds of master's degrees are there? Master of Arts (M.A.), Master of Science (M.Sc.), Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) and Master of Laws (LL.M.) **Consecutive or non-consecutive?** In consecutive degrees, the master's programme follows on from a bachelor's programme; it deepens the student's knowledge or broadens it in an interdisciplinary way. It can also be completed at another higher education institution, irrespective of whether it is a university or university of applied sciences. **Non-consecutive** study programmes are usually interdisciplinary or continuing education master's degree courses. They normally require a period of professional experience. The Master of Business Administration (MBA) is the best known. These postgraduate master's courses always involve payment of tuition fees (250 to 12,000 euros per semester).

G > GRADUATE SCHOOLS

THE INITIATIVE FOR EXCELLENCE (SEE PAGE 14) IS ALSO BREATHING FRESH LIFE INTO PHD PROGRAMMES AT UNIVERSITIES.

Whether the subject is photonics, cultural studies or North American studies, graduate schools are becoming increasingly popular and the range of opportunities is great. A large number of new schools have been established in the wake of the Initiative for Excellence and existing schools have also been expanded. Their great advantage is that they enable PhD students to begin independent research sooner. Unlike traditional PhD student support, which is conducted by an individual professor, the programmes at graduate schools always involve a number of research groups working closely together – in other words, academic cooperation of the highest standard.

Nearly 40 graduate schools are already benefiting from financial support under the Initiative for Excellence framework. A clear overview is offered by the website of the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG). Visitors will also find information in English and a list of sponsored graduate schools (www.dfg.de). Applicants should contact the individual institutions directly, as the schools advertise their scholarships and posts and complete the selection process independently. In addition to these, however, there are also a steadily grow-

THE CURRICULUM AT OUR GRADUATE SCHOOL IN GIESSEN IS VERY WELL-STRUCTURED. AS PHD CANDIDATES WE HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND DISCUSS OUR WORK WITH POSTDOCS AND PROFESSORS. I HAVE ALSO HAD OCCASIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCES, TO LISTEN AND CONTRIBUTE TO ILLUMINATING DISCUSSIONS IN MASTER CLASSES.

Lola Nkamanyang, 36, from Cameroon

ing number of graduate schools that are not supported by the Initiative for Excellence, but by state programmes or other research promotion schemes (www.bildungserver.de).

On the other hand, a graduate school was recently founded by the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) on the basis of a network of six partner universities (Leipzig, Halle, Freiberg, Dresden, Jena and Kassel). The new Helmholtz Interdisciplinary GRADuate School for Environmental Research (HIGRADE) offers PhD students an interdisciplinary qualification at the Centre for Environmental Research (www.higrade.ufz.de).

The International Max Planck Research Schools (IMRS) are the result of an initiative to promote new academic talent and are also very interesting for applicants from abroad. They offer especially gifted students an opportunity to prepare for a PhD under outstanding research conditions. These research schools are centres of knowledge in innovative and interdisciplinary research fields like molecular biology, neurosciences, informatics, demography, plasma physics and polymer research. They also aim to attract students from abroad, whose proportion is planned to reach approximately half the participants in the future. The PhD students can choose to take their examinations either at a German university or at their home institution. www.mpg.de

GO BLOG FROM THE PHILIPPINES TO FREIBURG



Hi, my name is Andrew Zubiri and I am from the Philippines. In October 2007 I began studying Environmental Governance at the University of Freiburg, where I am now enrolled in a two-year Master of Science course.

I arrived in Freiburg, a charming city in southwest Germany, a couple of months before university started, as I had enrolled in the basic German language course along with other international students. At the opening reception, it quickly became clear that I would be spending my time here with an interesting group of people, as the nationalities present could easily have rivalled a United Nations session.

Luckily, prior to my departure from home I was invited to a gathering of German institutions based in the Philippines. These included the beneficiaries of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), of which I am a scholar. There, I received many tips and pointers that were to prove useful in the months ahead.

After two months of logic-defying articles (der, das, oder die?) and a tongue-twisting German language course, I was pleased when it was finally time for university to begin in October.

Once I had matriculated and registered at the City Registration Office, I still felt there was something keeping me from being able to call myself an authentic Freiburger though: getting a bike! So after living in the bicycle-friendly city of Freiburg for two months, I finally took a trip down the flea market. The bike I ended up buying is not the kind that you could take to the Black Forest for a day of off-road biking and expect to take it home in one piece, but for a 55-euro 10-speed bike, it's not that bad at all.

My home is fairly central – I managed to land a room in a dormitory a couple of stops from the centre of town. The facilities here are state-of-the-art. Typisch deutsch, I should say. Most of the doors open automatically, in addition to a little gym, photo laboratory, entertainment room, music room, and a chapel for the desperate student. The first time I saw the facilities, I thought it was the best dormitory ever built.

I am well into the middle of the first semester, and my programme has been nothing but interesting. Our class is an international group of 24 students, from 19 different countries, who got together with the aim of learning about governance and political issues on the environment. My adventure here in Germany has barely started. I am looking forward not only to the following semesters, but also to other thrilling experiences that are waiting for me.

Jan Andrew Zubiri blogs on his experiences in Germany on: www.young-germany.de, www.freetaste.blogspot.com



INFO:

> INTERNATIONAL AND EXCELLENT

POPULAR AMONG INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:
MORE THAN 18 % OF FIRST-SEMESTER STUDENTS AT GERMAN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ARE HOLDERS OF FOREIGN PASSPORTS.

12.5% (1993/94) 18.4% (2006/07)

THE LARGEST UNIVERSITIES:

1. UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE
45,600 students
2. LUDWIG-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITÄT MUNICH
44,200 students
3. UNIVERSITY OF MÜNSTER
39,000 students
4. UNIVERSITY OF HAMBURG
39,000 students
5. UNIVERSITY OF MAINZ
34,300 students
6. UNIVERSITY OF FRANKFURT AM MAIN
34,200 students
7. UNIVERSITY OF DUISBURG-ESSEN
33,000 students
8. DRESDEN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
32,700 students
9. DISTANCE UNIVERSITY OF HAGEN
32,600 students
10. UNIVERSITY OF BOCHUM
32,300 students

THE MOST POPULAR SUBJECTS:
IN THE 2006/2007 ACADEMIC YEAR, SOME 345,000 first-semester students IN GERMANY BEGAN STUDYING.

- 1 LAW, ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
- 2 LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL STUDIES
- 3 ENGINEERING SCIENCES
- 4 MATHEMATICS, NATURAL SCIENCES
- 5 MEDICINE

> ... More KNOWLEDGE

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES: How about a bilingual master's degree course in communication and cultural management at the Zeppelin University? Or would you perhaps prefer an English-language master's degree in applied polymer science from Halle-Wittenberg? Students can choose the most appropriate **international programme** from more than 600 courses. The programmes on offer combine in-depth study of the subject with intensive support. The language of instruction is usually English, but courses are also available in Spanish, French and Italian.

Integrated European degree programmes completed in Germany but including one or more periods of study abroad are highly popular. **Other courses focus on international subjects (e.g. European studies, international law)** or lead to an international degree, such as a bachelor's, master's or PhD. In September 2006, 10 master's programmes were awarded the "Quality Label for the 10 Best International Master's Degree Programmes at German Higher Education Institutions" by the Donors' Association for the Promotion of Science and Humanities in Germany and DAAD. Among their number were Bauhaus Universität Weimar (Public Art and New Artistic Strategies), Freie Universität Berlin (East European Studies Online) and Mannheim University of Applied Sciences (Master of Science in Information Technology). What makes the prizewinners so successful? Factors such as a good graduation record, convincing support strategies, international partnerships, integration of guest lecturers and quality of teaching.

Database information on international programmes is available at www.daad.de/international-programmes

INITIATIVE FOR EXCELLENCE: One thing must be made clear from the start: Germany does not only offer excellent research and teaching at the nine institutions of higher education that won one of the prestigious Initiative for Excellence awards. Many other universities produce top results.


What is the Initiative for Excellence all about? German institutions of higher education took up a competitive challenge, a kind of academic triathlon in the disciplines graduate schools, excellence clusters and institutional strategies, with the goal of promoting top university research. To this end, the German Federal Government and the *Länder* will be investing a total of 1.9 billion euros in the research projects that an independent panel of judges selected in two rounds during 2006 and 2007. **What is receiving recognition? Graduate schools** are aimed at the next generation of researchers and they are primarily intended to provide ideal conditions for PhD students. **Excellence clusters** enable universities to establish internationally outstanding facilities that are also networked with extra-university institutes, other higher education institutions and industry. The research profile of selected universities is being strengthened with support for institutional strategies, so-called "future concepts".

Nine universities currently bear the sought-after title of Excellence University: Freie Universität Berlin, University of Göttingen, RWTH Aachen University, University of Heidelberg, Universität Karlsruhe (TH), University of Konstanz, University of Freiburg, Technische Universität München (TUM) and Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) Munich. Funding is also being provided for a total of 40 graduate schools and 37 excellence clusters. All the winners are listed at www.bmbf.de/de/1321.php

CHECK IN

> EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO THINK ABOUT


> ... The MOST IMPORTANT THINGS




Wohnen Alojamiento


Accommodation Terminal 1

CAUTION
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PERMISSION

 Studentenwohnheime stehen ganz oben auf der Beliebtheitsskala. Die Häuser liegen meistens in Uninähe und man lernt schnell Leute kennen. Außerdem ist es die preiswerteste Lösung (rund 180 Euro im Monat). Die Plätze werden von den Studentenwerken vermittelt, sind aber oft schwer zu bekommen, weil das Interesse so groß ist. Also: Auf jeden Fall rechtzeitig bewerben! Manche Studentenwerke bieten auch Servicepakete an, die von der Zimmervermittlung bis zur Versicherung alle möglichen Leistungen enthalten.

Wer alleine leben will, muss mit einer Miete von mindestens 300 Euro rechnen. Eine beliebte Alternative sind Wohngemeinschaften (WGs), in denen sich Studenten eine private Wohnung teilen.

 Las residencias estudiantiles son muy populares. Generalmente están cerca de las universidades y en ellas se puede conocer rápidamente a otros estudiantes. Es la solución más económica (unos 180 euros al mes). Las habitaciones son asignadas por los *Studentenwerke* (Obras Estudiantiles), pero ¡ojol! la demanda supera a la oferta. Es aconsejable presentar una solicitud no bien se obtenga una plaza de estudio. Algunos *Studentenwerke* ofrecen también otros servicios, desde ofertas de alojamiento hasta seguros. Los apartamentos pequeños de alquiler cuestan, como mínimo, unos 300 euros al mes. Una alternativa son los pisos compartidos: se alquila un piso algo más grande entre varios estudiantes que se reparten las habitaciones.

 Student halls of residence are at the top of the popularity ratings. They are usually close to universities and offer an ideal opportunity to get to know other people. It's by far the cheapest solution (roughly 180 euros a month). Rooms are allocated by the local student services, but they are often in short supply. Some student services also offer packages covering a variety of services ranging from accommodation to insurance. Students who prefer to live in private rented accommodation must expect to pay at least 300 euros a month. A popular alternative involves living in a *Wohngemeinschaft*, a private apartment shared by a number of students.

www.studentenwerk.de
www.wg-gesucht.de



Jim Greune



Arbeiten Trabajo Employment Terminal 2

CAUTION
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PERMISSION

Gut 68 Prozent aller Studierenden in Deutschland verdienen etwas nebenher. Gute Karten hat, wer Know-how auf besonders gefragten Gebieten mitbringt, zum Beispiel in der IT. Grundsätzlich gilt: Ausländische Studierende dürfen in Deutschland auch ohne Arbeitserlaubnis arbeiten. Für Nicht-EU-Bürger und Studierende aus einigen neuen EU-Mitgliedsstaaten gelten jedoch Einschränkungen (90 ganze oder 180 halbe Tage im Jahr). Beschäftigungen an der Hochschule sind ohne zeitliches Limit möglich, müssen aber der Ausländerbehörde gemeldet werden.

En Alemania, alrededor del 68 % de los estudiantes trabaja para obtener ingresos adicionales. En principio, los estudiantes extranjeros pueden trabajar sin una autorización especial. No obstante, existen algunas restricciones para estudiantes de países no pertenecientes a la UE o nuevos en ella (90 días completos o 180 medios días por año). En la universidad es posible trabajar sin límite de tiempo, pero los empleos de este tipo deben ser registrados ante las autoridades de extranjería, que deciden si el puesto puede ser clasificado como actividad estudiantil secundaria.

Some 68% of all students in Germany work part-time to earn additional income. Foreign students are also allowed to work without a work permit. However, certain restrictions apply to non-EU citizens and students from some new EU member countries (90 whole or 180 half days per year). It is possible to work at the higher education institution without any time restrictions, but employment of this kind must be registered with the *Ausländerbehörde*.
www.arbeitsagentur.de
www.studentenwerk.de
www.studentenjobs24.de



Recht Legalidad Law Terminal 3

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PERMISSION

Studierende aus der EU brauchen nur den Personalausweis für die Einreise. Beim Einwohnermeldeamt erhalten sie eine Bescheinigung über das Aufenthaltsrecht. Nicht-EU-Bürger brauchen ein Visum oder eine Aufenthaltserlaubnis. Wer noch keine Zulassung hat, sich aber in Deutschland informieren will, kann ein Studienbewerber-visum beantragen, es kann in eine Aufenthaltserlaubnis umgewandelt werden. Achtung: Touristenvisa können nicht in Visa zu Studienzwecken umgewandelt werden.

Los estudiantes de la UE sólo necesitan el carné de identidad para entrar en Alemania. Los de otros países, un visado o una autorización de residencia. Quien aún no tenga una plaza de estudio y quiera informarse en Alemania, puede solicitar un visado de búsqueda de plaza de estudio, válido por tres meses, que luego puede convertirse en una autorización de residencia. Pero ¡cuidado!: no entrar como turista en el país. Un visado de turista no puede convertirse luego en un visado de estudiante.

Students from the EU only require an identity card to enter Germany. Non-EU citizens require a visa or a residence permit. Individuals who do not yet have a place at a higher education institution and would like to make enquiries in Germany can apply for a study application visa for a period of three months; it can be converted into a residence permit. One thing that it is not advisable to do is to enter the country as a tourist. A tourist visa cannot be converted into a student visa.
www.daad.de, www.diplo.de



Bewerbung Solicitudes Applications Terminal 4

CAUTION
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Jeder Studienbewerber aus dem Ausland muss eine Zulassung beantragen. Das gilt für Studienanfänger, aber auch für Graduierte oder Doktoranden. Bei der Zulassung wird geprüft, ob ein Bewerber die notwendigen Voraussetzungen mitbringt. Dazu zählen zum Beispiel das Schulabschlusszeugnis (wichtig für Studienanfänger) oder bereits erbrachte Studienleistungen (wichtig für Graduierte und Doktoranden). Sie müssen als gleichwertig anerkannt werden. In vielen Studiengängen ist auch der Nachweis ausreichender Deutschkenntnisse Voraussetzung. Man sollte sich frühzeitig erkundigen, um gegebenenfalls die Zugangsvoraussetzungen nachzuholen und die nötigen Dokumente zusammenstellen zu können.

Todo extranjero que desee realizar estudios en Alemania debe solicitar su matriculación. Esto es válido tanto para quienes comienzan sus estudios, como para quienes desean realizar estudios de posgrado o doctorado. En el proceso de matriculación, la Universidad verifica si el solicitante cumple con los requisitos necesarios, entre los que se cuenta el haber finalizado la enseñanza secundaria. También se verifica qué estudios ha realizado ya el candidato. Los estudios previos deben ser reconocidos como equivalentes a los alemanes. En muchas carreras también es necesario poseer conocimientos suficientes de alemán. Para poder presentar puntualmente la documentación necesaria es recomendable informarse con tiempo.

All applicants for a higher education place who come from outside Germany must apply for admission. That applies to undergraduates and also to postgraduate or PhD students. The admission procedure examines whether an applicant fulfils the relevant requirements. They include, for example, the school-leaving certificate or previously completed periods of study. Diplomas must be recognized as equivalent to German qualifications. Proof of adequate knowledge of German is also required for many courses. You should make enquiries in good time in order to be able to catch up on any admission requirements you may still need.
www.study-in.de
www.uni-assist.de



Finanzen Financiación Finance Terminal 5

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Internationale Studierende in Deutschland müssen nachweisen, dass sie über 585 Euro (von voraussichtlich Ende 2008 an: 643 Euro) im Monat verfügen. Ob das reicht kommt auf den Studienort und auf die Ansprüche an. Durchschnittlich kostet ein Studium im Monat 700 Euro. Rund ein Viertel der Studenten kommt aber mit weniger als 600 Euro aus, ein anderes Viertel braucht dagegen mehr als 890 Euro. In mehreren Bundesländern werden rund 500 Euro Studienbeiträge pro Semester verlangt. Für ausländische Studienbewerber fallen außerdem Bewerbungsgebühren an (ca. 50 Euro).

Los estudiantes extranjeros en Alemania deben probar que disponen de, como mínimo, 585 euros al mes (probablemente a partir de finales de 2008: 643 euros). ¿Es suficiente? Depende del lugar y de las propias exigencias. Estudiar cuesta unos 700 euros por término medio al mes. Pero la cuarta parte de los estudiantes gasta menos de 600 euros, mientras que otra cuarta parte gasta más de 890 euros. En varios países se debe pagar una matrícula de hasta 500 euros por semestre. Los estudiantes extranjeros deben abonar además una tasa de solicitud de plaza de estudio (unos 50 euros).

International students must prove that they have access to at least 585 euros a month (this figure will rise to 643 euros by the end of 2008). Is that enough? That depends on the location and on personal expectations. On average, studying in Germany involves costs of 700 euros a month. One quarter of all students manage on less than 600 euros, another quarter spend more than 890 euros. Tuition fees of up to a maximum of 500 euros a semester became payable in a number of German *Länder*. International applicants must also pay application fees (approx. 50 euros). www.daad.de/gebuehren



Sicherheit Seguridad Security Terminal 6

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Ein Land ohne Kriminalität gibt es nicht, aber in Deutschland kann man sich recht sicher bewegen. Bestimmte Gegenden, etwa in Bahnhofsnähe, sollte man – wie überall – lieber meiden. Auch als Frau muss man generell keine Angst haben. Um dunkle einsame Orte sollte man aber lieber einen Bogen machen – aber auch das ist keine deutschlandspezifische Sache.

En todos los países hay criminalidad, pero en Alemania se puede uno mover con considerable seguridad. Conviene evitar, eso sí, lugares como los alrededores de las estaciones de ferrocarril, como en todas partes. Tampoco las mujeres tienen por qué tener miedo; no obstante, deberían evitar los lugares oscuros y solitarios que no sólo son poco recomendables en Alemania.

There is no such thing as a country without crime, but in Germany you can move around relatively safely. As in all countries, certain areas should be avoided – for example, in the vicinity of train stations. Generally, too, women do not need to have any fears. Nevertheless, it is best to keep away from dark secluded places – but that advice does not only apply to Germany either.



Termine Fechas Deadlines Terminal 7

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Das Sommersemester dauert von April bis September an den Universitäten (Termine können variieren), von März bis August an den Fachhochschulen (FHs). Das Wintersemester geht von Oktober bis März an den Universitäten, von September bis Februar an den Fachhochschulen.
Am 15. Januar und 15. Juli ist jeweils Bewerbungsschluss beim Akademischen Auslandsamt vieler Hochschulen. Achtung: Viele Hochschulen haben unterschiedliche Fristen. Die Rückmeldung für das nächste Semester erfolgt dann am Ende des laufenden Semesters. Wer sie verpasst, wird exmatrikuliert oder muss „Verwaltungsgebühren“ zahlen. Die genauen Termine stehen im Vorlesungsverzeichnis.

El semestre de verano va generalmente de abril a septiembre en las universidades y de marzo a agosto en las universidades de ciencias aplicadas (*Fachhochschulen*, FH). El semestre de invierno va de octubre a marzo en las primeras y de septiembre a febrero en las segundas. El 15 de enero y el 15 de julio son las fechas límite para reinscribirse para el semestre siguiente en muchas universidades; pero algunas universidades tienen otras fechas. La reinscripción para el semestre siguiente debe realizarse al final del semestre en curso. Los estudiantes que no se reinscriben son borrados de la matrícula. Las fechas exactas se hallan en los catálogos de asignaturas.

The summer semester usually lasts from April to September at universities and from March to August at *Fachhochschulen* (FH, universities of applied sciences). Accordingly, the winter semester lasts from October to March at universities and from September to February at FHs.
15 January and 15 July are the deadlines by which applications for admission in the next semester must arrive at most institutions of higher education. Some institutions of higher education have other deadlines. Re-registration for the next semester takes place at the end of the current semester; students who miss the deadline are exmatriculated.

Bitte auch die Fristen der ZVS beachten! Mehr unter www.zvs.de

¡Por favor tenga en cuenta los plazos de la ZVS! Más en www.zvs.de


Please also note the ZVS deadlines! Find out more at www.zvs.de
www.hochschulkompass.de




Sprache Idioma Language Terminal 8

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 Wer in Deutschland studieren möchte, muss Deutsch können. Auch Teilnehmer der internationalen Studiengänge sollten sich parallel zum Studium in Kursen an der Uni fortbilden. Denn auch für Promotionsarbeiten sind Deutschkenntnisse notwendig – und natürlich auch für den ganz normalen Alltag in Deutschland. Verschiedene Einrichtungen bieten zur ersten Orientierung Tests im Internet an (www.ondaf.de, www.goethe.de/i/deitest.htm). Der Test „Deutsch als Fremdsprache“ (TestDaF) kann weltweit in Testzentren abgelegt werden. Er wird von allen deutschen Hochschulen anerkannt (www.testdaf.de). Auch die Prüfungen der Goethe-Institute reichen zum Nachweis aus (www.studieren-in.de).


 Quien quiere estudiar en Alemania debe saber alemán. Es recomendable que también los participantes en los cursos internacionales aprendan alemán paralelamente a sus estudios. Y es que para escribir tesis doctorales se necesitan conocimientos de alemán ... como también para la vida cotidiana. Diversas instituciones ofrecen tests en Internet para una primera orientación (www.ondaf.de, www.goethe.de/i/deitest.htm). El examen "TestDaF" (Alemán para Extranjeros) se puede hacer en todo el mundo en centros de exámenes y es reconocido por todas las universidades alemanas (www.testdaf.de). También los exámenes del Goethe-Institut sirven para acreditar los conocimientos de alemán (www.estudiar-en.de).

 If you want to study in Germany, you must be able to communicate in German. Even participants in international degree programmes should improve their knowledge of the language during their studies. After all, knowledge of German is required for PhD dissertations – and also for normal everyday life. Different institutions offer tests on the Internet that provide orientation (www.ondaf.de, www.goethe.de/i/deitest.htm). TestDaF is a test of German as a foreign language that can be taken at centres worldwide. It is recognized by all German higher education institutions. Goethe Institute tests can also provide proof of adequate German-language skills (www.study-in.de), www.sprachnachweis.de



Admission Terminal 9

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 Until a few years ago, international students could only apply directly to the institution of higher education at which they wished to study in Germany.

here. We now work with more than 100 institutions of higher education, carrying out the initial examination of applicants' documentation on their behalf. This means that students who apply to several universities or colleges through uni-assist only have to submit one application. We digitalize the documentation and send the applications on to the institutions. That saves a lot of money and effort, because all the papers only need to be translated and certified once.

cants with an APS certificate pay 25 euros. An additional fee of 15 euros is payable for each additional application at another institution. Thus, for example, if you come from Russia and would like to apply to three different uni-assist universities, you will have to pay a total of 85 euros – 55 euros plus 15 euros plus 15 euros. When you transfer the money from outside Germany, further costs will also accrue as a result of bank charges, which you must take into account. That is important because we can only pass applications on to higher education institutions when the fee has been paid in full. This transfer can take some time. You should therefore ensure you leave enough time for the money to reach us before the final application deadline.

Uni-assist e.V. aims to make it easier for international applicants to apply to German universities and colleges. *Arbeits- und Servicestelle für Internationale Studienbewerbungen* is a charitable association whose affiliates include more than 200 German higher education institutions, the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) and DAAD.

How long does the process take?

As a rule, students receive notification within two weeks. As soon as the application has arrived and the processing fee has been paid, we check the paperwork and ensure that all important documents have been received. We actively help students submit a complete application – to that extent, uni-assist can also be seen as a seal of quality. If you want to play safe, you can also submit your application online. In other words, you initially send in your certificates in digital form. On the basis of these scans, uni-assist will provide a provisional assessment of whether an application has any chance of success. Applicants then know whether sending in certified copies of their documentation will be worthwhile or not.

How can I ascertain the admission requirements for a programme?

Interested students can find detailed information at our INOBIS Internet portal. The diploma database enables you to find out whether your qualifications are sufficient for admission. Important terms are also explained in a simple and easy-to-understand way. There is a great deal of information about studying in Germany available on the Internet – but it is often too complicated for non-native speakers. One of our staff members is exclusively engaged in formulating the most important information in a way that everyone can understand.

We asked Thomas Liljeberg, uni-assist's director, four questions.

What are the advantages of applying through uni-assist?

Many study programmes at German institutions of higher education now have restricted admission: only a limited number of places are available and not all applicants who satisfy the admission requirements will automatically receive a place. As a result, many applicants apply to several institutions at once in order to increase their chances of gaining a place. That is a perfectly legitimate practice. Unfortunately, however, it generates a substantial administrative workload for universities and colleges that have to simultaneously process several applications from individuals who will eventually only be able to enrol in one course. A central clearing office has obvious advantages

How much does uni-assist's help cost?

An application to one or the first institution of higher education normally costs 55 euros, the fee for EU citizens is 30 euros. Chinese appli-

More information is available at:
www.uni-assist.de and www.inobis.de

LINKS

> WHERE TO GET INFORMATION

WWW.DAAD.DE, WWW.STUDY-IN.DE

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) promotes the exchange of students and academics between Germany and the rest of the world through a large number of international projects and programmes. It maintains offices in numerous countries that can be contacted directly for information about study opportunities in Germany. Its website provides a plethora of detailed – and reliable – information about all aspects of studying in Germany. It also includes databases of programmes and scholarships as well as links to all DAAD offices and information centres worldwide.

WWW.DAAD.DE/DE/TERMINE.HTML

An overview of forthcoming education and higher education fairs in which DAAD will be taking part.

WWW.EU.DAAD.DE

This DAAD website provides lots of information on the higher education programmes of the European Union (EU) as well as EU education partnerships with countries outside the European community.

WWW.HOCHSCHULKOMPASS.DE

On this website, the German Rectors' Conference offers a database maintained by universities and colleges that outlines study programmes at all state-recognized institutions of higher education in Germany. You can browse through almost the entire range of programmes available in Germany. The site also presents a useful overview of the application deadlines for individual universities.

WWW.TU9.DE

This website is produced by nine institutes of technology that place special emphasis on internationality (TU9 Initiative) and provides lots of information about engineering and natural sciences.

WWW.SPIEGEL.DE/UNISPIEGEL

The German news magazine *Der Spiegel* publishes its *Unispiegel* six times a year. The magazine also provides information about the most important developments in German higher education on the Internet.

WWW.INTERNATIONALE-STUDIARENDE.DE

On this website, Deutsches Studentenwerk, the umbrella organization of the 59 Studentenwerke (Student Services) in Germany, presents information specifically for international students. If you're interested in studying in Germany, you should carefully read through the section called "Prepare your studies."

WWW.ALL-STUDENTS.DE

This website sees itself as a central information portal produced by students for students in Germany. Its authors want to offer school-leavers and students first-hand information.

WWW.UNI-ASSIST.DE

Uni-assist is a certification office founded to make the application procedure for international student applicants easier and at the same time to support German universities in the selection of their foreign students. All applicants wanting to study at one of the members of

uni-assist have to send their applications not to the chosen university, but to uni-assist.

WWW.STUDIS-ONLINE.DE

This student website offers a calendar of student information fairs at German higher education institutions. For fun, you can follow links to the canteen menus at a large number of universities.

WWW.YOUNG-GERMANY.DE

English-language website with lots of information about higher education and employment.

WWW.UNIVERSITY-RANKING.DE

The very extensive ranking of the Centre for Higher Education Development (CHE) and the weekly *Die Zeit* helps school leavers and would-be students to find the right higher education institution.

WWW.UNI-PARTIES.DE

On a less serious note... this party calendar with search function provides an interesting overview of when and where students are celebrating around the country.



HOW TO LEARN GERMAN

> TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE: LANGUAGE-LEARNING TANDEM PARTNERS PROVIDE MUTUAL SUPPORT – AND YOU ALSO GET TO KNOW NEW PEOPLE



ROW 1: OPEN YOUR SEATBELTS



THE SMALL BASEMENT PARTY IS JAM-PACKED. STUDENTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE CROWDING ONTO THE DANCE FLOOR. Where do you come from? What are you studying? Which sports do you enjoy? A truly Babylonian confusion of languages is in full swing. At least 60 young people have come together this evening to find a partner who will help them learn the language. “Many also come to make contact with other students when they’re new in town and don’t know anyone,” explains tutor Tim Appel. The student teacher is responsible for the SprachDuo meetings in Munich, an initiative of the AEGEE (the European Students’ Forum). There are now 14 branches of this free, non-commercial undertaking across Germany. It is based on a simple idea: **learning a language with someone else is much more fun.** Every jumper or T-shirt bears a piece of paper with the wearer’s name and nationality. Sigi is looking for someone from France because he will soon be working in an international firm as a legal intern. Oskar, who has only just come to study in Munich from Sweden, would like to improve his German in the easiest possible fashion. “The tandems work together in entirely different ways,” says Appel. “Some only meet a few times to prepare for a very concrete situation, while others become good friends and remain in contact long after half of the tandem has left the country.”

Ellie and Andreas immediately found a mutual interest: **skiing.** “I love the mountains!” enthuses Ellie Smith with a sparkle in her eyes. “That’s why I chose to study in Munich.” The 21-year-old Londoner, who is studying German and Spanish at Cambridge University, is spending her compulsory year abroad in Germany. She spent the first six months gaining work experience in a lawyers’ office and then registered as a student of German at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität for the summer semester. Her German tandem partner, Andreas Fackelmeier, found her through the

SprachDuo Internet platform. On this particular morning they are meeting “for a coffee and a cup of tea” at the Uni-Lounge. “Whether we talk German or English depends on the subject,” explains Andreas. “If something is important to me, then I automatically speak German.” “And I speak English,” says Ellie spontaneously. The 28-year-old German laughs. “You can speak both really well and simply switch between the two.” **After all, the Englishwoman also has the advantage of continuous practice – and in the most diverse locations:** “In the office or at the court I have to cope with legal jargon,” says Ellie, who wants to complement her degree in languages with a qualification in law. “But at the same time I have a part-time job in a coffee shop to earn the money for my rent – and there I learn colloquial expressions I’ve never heard before.” Her German language-learning partner has also gained considerable linguistic self-confidence. The electrical engineer is currently working on a PhD and repeatedly has to present his findings to research groups in scientific papers. The working language is English. “Writing is not the problem,” explains Andreas. “But I have to practise speaking so that I can answer questions.” “You’ve really moved on,” says his British conversation partner.

Certain rules have to be observed for a language tandem to be successful. The partners are not vocabulary trainers: they must already have some knowledge of the respective language. Vocabulary and grammar have to be learned independently. Even in the case of languages with very difficult written characters, the native speakers only help in speaking, not in writing. Obviously, you need to be corrected frequently. In a nutshell, that is the whole purpose of the tandem, which is why you really shouldn’t be too sensitive in that regard. How quickly you’ll find a suitable partner also depends on how much demand there is for your native language. Ellie’s search went amazingly fast. She had simply not imag-



Jim Greene (4)

MORE INFORMATION AND TIPS

> LEARNING GERMAN

> Studying in Germany without learning German? That doesn’t really make much sense. Although knowledge of English (e.g. TOEFL) is sufficient for international programmes, students can also learn German in language programmes at university during their degree course. In some subjects PhD research is possible in English and PhD theses can also be written in English. As a rule, however, you need to be able to prove adequate knowledge of German before you begin your studies – for example, by taking examinations and tests in your country of origin (see also page 18). TestDaF is a standardized test of German as a foreign language that is recognized by all German higher education institutions. Many private and state institutes and schools offer German courses in Germany and abroad. More information is available from:

- www.testdaf.de
- www.goethe-institut.de
- www.daad.de/sommerkurse
- www.deutsche-kultur-international.de
- www.fadaf.de/de/daf_angebote/sprachkursangebote

> HERE ARE JUST TWO OF MANY SERVICES THAT AIM TO HELP YOU LEARN GERMAN OVER THE INTERNET OR ON THE RADIO:

DUO, Deutsch-Uni Online, provides special preparation for TestDaF (Test of German as a Foreign Language). The course was developed by researchers at Munich’s Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität. Experienced tutors conduct exercises based on original test questions and simulate TestDaF examinations. More information is available from www.deutsch-uni.com

Deutsche Welle (DW) offers radio-based language courses for elementary level, intermediate level and German for business purposes. A programme entitled **Deutsch – WARUM NICHT?** is available as a radio and TV course and on CD. www.dw-world.de

> HOW CAN I PREPARE FOR THE LANGUAGE EXAMINATION?

Practice TestDaF exercises are available at www.godaf.de

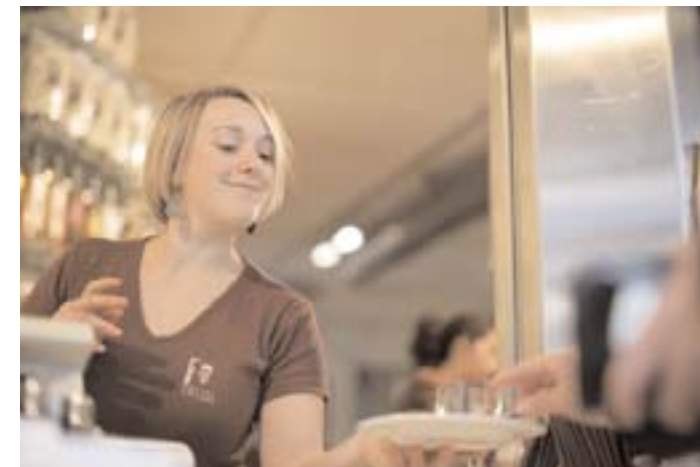
The website at www.sprachnachweis.de brings together all the information applicants need about language examinations and certificates.



ined how many interesting contacts she would be able to make. “When I came to Munich in August 2007, I still had plenty of time and I sent off 15 e-mails,” says Ellie. **She was flabbergasted by the response:** “All of them replied!” She didn’t actually meet all of them in the end, but it led to some very good connections. She has not only gotten to know nice people, but she has also seen the city of Munich from many different perspectives. “Right at the beginning I started meeting a German student of tourism management,” explains Ellie. “We immediately discovered we had a great deal in common.” For example, a passion for art and culture. Instead of just sitting opposite one another and practising conversation, the two students went around Munich. “We visited concerts and we went jogging in the English Gardens,” narrates Ellie. Today they are good friends.

Ellie recently discovered how important it is that you don’t exclusively meet with fellow-countrymen. “I went to Tübingen to visit a friend from Cambridge who is there as an Erasmus student,” she reports. “We spent the whole weekend only talking English – afterwards I had to re-adjust all over again.” Back in her “German” routine, however, that wasn’t so difficult. At the coffee shop she only works with Germans. “We have a lot of fun together,” says Ellie. “And because we’re at the central station where we have a lot of regular customers who come in every day, I do a lot of talking there too.” That’s why she has no fears about her semester of German. “I may not need to do an exam, but you still ought to be able to speak German well so you can benefit from the curriculum.” **As a result, she intends to maintain her SprachDuo contacts.** After all, one thing is clear: sitting in a ski-lift talking with native speakers beats a lecture any day.

> Find out more about language tandems at: www.sprachduo.de, www.speak2speak.de, www.tandemcity.com



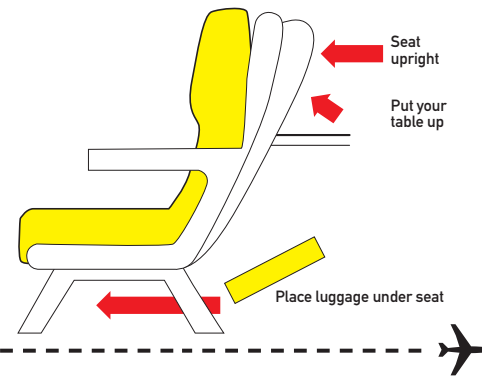
Learning German in Germany: Ellie Smith from London practises the language with her tandem-partner Anderas and in a part-time job at a coffee shop.

WHERE TO STUDY

> HOW TO FIND THE RIGHT CITY

Row 1
READY FOR LANDING

THE ADVANTAGES OF A UNIVERSITY TOWN ///
A BIG CITY /// A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY



SEAT
A A UNIVERSITY TOWN:
MÜNSTER

The 2004 LivCom Award came as no surprise to anyone from Münster. It was already clear to them all that their Westphalian home is the "most liveable city" in the world. It has 280,000 inhabitants and half of them are younger than 25 – a statistic that is largely due to the 50,000 students. Everywhere students make their mark on the face of the city – on bicycles, in the squares, in lecture theatres, libraries and bars. Other typical university towns like Freiburg, Greifswald, Heidelberg, Konstanz and Tübingen do not only offer internationally renowned institutions of higher education. It is also much easier to get settled in here. Everything is closer together and easier to find, you soon get to know people – and the living costs are also reasonable: after all, you don't always want to eat at the canteen.



SEAT
B A BIG CITY UNIVERSITY:
MUNICH

Munich has a lot to offer: wonderful views of the Alps, Italy is not far away and, of course, academic excellence. Both its universities received outstanding appraisals as part of the Excellence Initiative (see page 14). Munich is home to large numbers of global players and is one of the world's leading high-tech locations in nanotechnology. This combination of superb leisure amenities and countless opportunities for internships and employment has its price. Affordable housing is rare and living costs are high. The situation is similar in other big cities like Stuttgart, Cologne, Frankfurt and Hamburg. The great exception is Berlin. Rents and going out in the capital are very cheap by comparison. One disadvantage of big city universities: they are usually fairly crowded because so many people want to go there.



SEAT
C A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY:
WITTEN

When Witten/Herdecke University opened as the first German private university with 27 students in 1982, the smokestacks were still burning all over the Ruhr District. Today the former "coal pot" has long since become an attractive collection of service metropolises and Witten/Herdecke University is the doyen of 110 private institutions of higher education. They all attract students with small groups, good contacts with industry, an emphasis on practical learning and short course lengths. Tuition fees are between 1,800 and 4,700 euros a semester. One disadvantage: if you're not sure about your subject, you probably won't like the rigidly structured study programmes. Private institutions of higher education must be state recognized, otherwise you may later find it difficult getting your diploma accepted.



> WHICH UNIVERSITY IS THE RIGHT ONE?

What facilities do German higher education institutions offer? What do students themselves say about their universities and colleges? Rankings and league tables can provide a useful initial overview. But they won't tell you everything. What do you need to consider in your search for the "right" university? These are questions we asked Cort-Denis Hachmeister of the Centre for Higher Education Development (CHE) in Gütersloh.

Often German higher education institutions do not do particularly well in international rankings. Why is that?

You have to take a very close look. A study like the Shanghai Ranking, for example, counts the number of Nobel Prize laureates who came from a particular university and the successful research that has been published in the leading natural and social sciences journals. Because predominantly English-language periodicals are considered, contributions in German are largely swept under the carpet. Humanities subjects like German studies, in which Germany is traditionally strong, are underrepresented in these surveys.

In other words, academic rankings should be taken with a pinch of salt?

They are not everything. Nevertheless, if you use rankings to gain an overview early on, you can find out a lot about the German higher education system. For example, which subjects are offered at which universities, where the facilities are particularly good, how satisfied the students are, etc. What we aim to do with the CHE higher education ranking is to gain an overview of the study situation. That also includes soft factors such as student services, contacts between professors and students and how well study programmes are organized.

Which points should receive special attention?

Satisfaction always depends on many personal factors. That's why our ranking enables a very individual profile. Users select up to five criteria that they find especially important and they receive a list of higher education institutions that perform best in those areas. The latest studies show that the facilities at a higher education institution are very important to new students – in other words, the state of the libraries and laboratories. Also important, however, are the reputation of the college or university and the atmosphere in the town or city, but that is difficult to measure. We can consider aspects such as the size and housing situation of a university town, but not factors like cultural events. Nevertheless, a look on the Internet can also help here. If you click on a specific university on our website, you will also immediately find a link to the relevant city.

What about PhD students? Things are rapidly changing in that area.

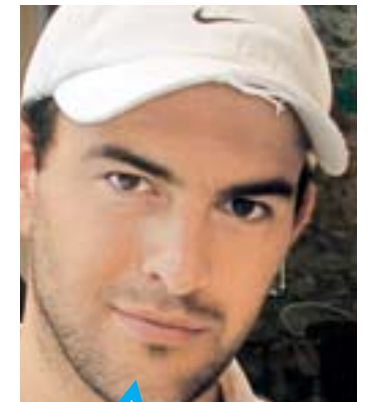
Yes, in the wake of the Bologna Process PhD programmes are increasingly becoming a focus of attention as the third level of higher education. Existing graduate schools will be expanded and a number of new ones established with the additional funds allocated by the Excellence Initiative. Departments that have not been selected may follow up with graduate schools to ensure they are not left behind. That means the Excellence Initiative could well have an impact far beyond the selected graduate schools. Incidentally, a new Europe-wide CHE ranking for natural science subjects shows that it is possible to produce a doctoral thesis at excellent departments in Germany. A total of 42 German universities ended up in the European "Top Group" with at least one natural science subject and 13 universities even managed to make it into the "Excellence Group." Germany is thus out in front in Europe. More information is available at www.excellence-ranking.org

CHE / DATABASE

Cort-Denis Hachmeister is responsible for the higher education ranking at the Centre for Higher Education Development (CHE). The CHE ranking is considered the most extensive and most detailed league table of German-language institutions of higher education. It is published in collaboration with the weekly newspaper *Die Zeit* and covers 35 subjects. In addition to facts about degree programmes, teaching, facilities and research, it also incorporates the appraisals of 250,000 students. More information: www.university-ranking.de



> WHAT STUDENTS SAY



BERLIN IS THE ONLY EUROPEAN CAPITAL CITY THAT STUDENTS CAN AFFORD. I COME FROM MEXICO CITY AND COULD NEVER IMAGINE LIVING IN A SMALLER CITY.

LEONARDO ESTRADA, 25, from Mexico, is studying energy technology at the Technische Universität in Berlin.

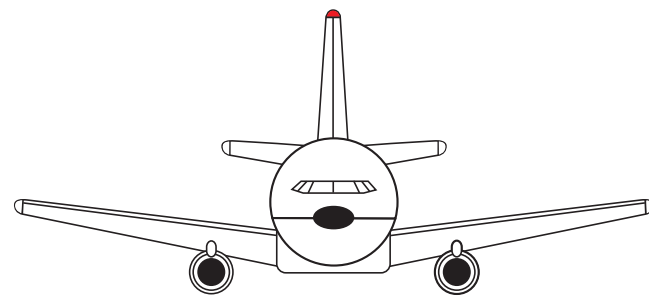


I MADE A CONSCIOUS DECISION TO STUDY IN A SMALLER CITY. FREIBURG UNIVERSITY HAS A GOOD REPUTATION AND I LIKE THE ATMOSPHERE HERE. THERE ARE LOTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND YET YOU CAN STILL HAVE PEACE AND QUIET WHEN YOU WANT IT.

YANA ELCHINOVA, 19, from Bulgaria, is studying law in Freiburg.

HOW TO STUDY

> HOW TO USE YOUR FREEDOM



ROW 1:
LANDING

Lots of freedom? It sounds great, but it can sometimes make student life much more difficult.

That also applies to German students. If you want to study in Germany, you need to be able to work independently. **Especially at universities, the course regulations give students a great deal of freedom to organize their own study programme.** However, that also demands a great deal of initiative and self-discipline. Fixed timetables like those at school or in more regimented higher education systems are seldom found at German universities. If that is important to you, then you are probably better off going to a university of applied sciences. At general universities there are always several different ways of combining seminars, tutorials and lectures. Nevertheless, making decisions is part of being independent. Many personnel managers appreciate the high degree of self-responsibility that graduates from German universities demonstrate. The advantage of academic freedom is that many degree courses in Germany can be shaped according to the personal interests of the individual student. **You will find it easier if you are well-informed and know what to expect.**

The relatively high degree of freedom that students have enjoyed at German universities sometimes also led to them studying for comparatively long periods. **However, this situation is changing and improving very considerably as a result of the reforms connected with the changeover to Bachelor's and Master's degree courses.** Much clearer structures are now already in place in many subject areas.

"Once you've understood how the German system works, you can do a lot with it," says Alex Perrault from Canada. For example, you can set your own priorities. During his first semester at LMU Munich the sociology student is concentrating entirely on major German sociologists that he had never heard about before. The 29-year-old now highly appreciates the fact that studying is not as centralized as it is at his home university in Montreal. During his first few weeks as a student in Munich, however, he found it rather hard to adjust, "Everything seemed very complicated, because I didn't know the rules."

Where can you find the necessary information? Course and examination regulations are sometimes available on the Internet, but they can also be requested from the relevant institution. They will tell you all the "rules" governing your subject.

Each department publishes its *kommentiertes Vorlesungsverzeichnis* (KVV), a detailed catalogue of seminars, courses and lectures. Information about recommended reading helps students to prepare for the semester. Be careful! Don't get carried away and sign up for everything that sounds interesting. You should first check the examination regulations to find out what is really required. Changes to the study programme are hung up on departmental noticeboards alongside lists on which you can enrol for specific classes.

An important tip: you should make sure you register for classes early. Many seminars – in other words, classes with practical exercises and presentations – are very overcrowded at large universities. Some lecturers therefore insist that students enrol for them before the semester starts. It's impossible to enrol later after a specific number of applicants has been reached. **Who can provide further help?** Introductory events organized by the ASTa (*Allgemeiner Studierendenausschuss*, the body that represents students at an institution) and departmental student groups (*Fachschaften*) inform new students about the university or college, its facilities and the organization of courses.

The first and most important point of contact for all foreign students is the International Office (*Akademisches Auslandsamt*) at the higher education institution. New students can obtain support in all important areas – from applying for a place to dealing with German authorities to applying for a visa, finding accommodation and enrolment at the university. **Most also offer orientation seminars to make settling in easier.** An invitation is usually sent with the letter of admission. Questions about the subject programme can be answered by the departmental administration or the student advice service of the relevant departmental student group. The Central Student Advisory Service (*Zentrale Studienberatung*) is responsible for general questions, such as changing your subject, work organization, women's rights, etc.

Some higher education institutions offer special support programmes. These can involve mentors, for example, German students who help new students from abroad find their way around the new institution and their new surroundings.



Michael Hübner



NO WORRIES ABOUT INCOMPREHENSIBLE RED TAPE! THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE MADE MY LIFE PRETTY EASY. ESPECIALLY AT THE START – WITH THINGS LIKE OPENING AN ACCOUNT AND REGISTERING WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

ANNE-MARIE O'NEILL, 23, from Great Britain, took part in a Master's degree course in German as a foreign language in Jena.



Jan Greene



Michael Hübner (5)



> POSITIVE SUPPORT

ELECTRONIC MENTORING AND SPONSORS – GERMAN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ARE TRYING OUT INTERESTING WAYS OF HELPING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FIND THEIR FEET.

There are a large number of successful support strategies – for example, in **Marburg, Gelsenkirchen and Freiburg:**

Infuriating red tape? That's not an issue for new students at the University of Marburg. The orientation programme organized by the International Office brings foreign first-semester students together to eat, cook, play – and fill in forms. Participation in the information week, always held two weeks before the start of the semester, costs 25 euros. It's a good investment, because it means that all the paperwork has definitely been done by the first day of lectures: all those application forms have been completed, the bus season ticket ordered, medical insurance arranged and a German bank account set up. There's also enough time left over for a bit of fun on the side – with excursions in the surrounding area, city rallies and dancing at Kesselhaus.

www.uni-marburg.de/studium/raa/studinternational/oeinternational

Gelsenkirchen University of Applied Sciences tries to make everyone feel part of the family. Citizens of the Ruhr District city act as "sponsors" for student guests from all over the world. Asian students in particular, who often initially find it difficult to adjust to German culture, are taken under the wing of private individuals and introduced to everyday life in the city. Whether a visit to the zoo, theatre trip, a stroll around town or a football match with tradition-steeped club Schalke 04, the choice of joint leisure activities is completely open for the members of these "tandems." The response has been excellent. A second round is starting this year.

www2.fh-gelsenkirchen.de

Study problems emerge early on. This realization forms the foundation of IT-based mentoring for international students at Freiburg University. Observation and analysis of degree progress make it possible to recognize difficulties before it is too late (declining performance, non-attendance at examinations, etc.). If problems become evident, the subject counsellor approaches the student and offers assistance. "Such assistance is given on a voluntary basis to make the first step easier," explains project coordinator Monika Kolb. "We want to establish contact because many students don't realize what opportunities a subject consultation offers." This strategy has already been successfully put into practice in the pilot subject areas of economics and computer science. It is now planned to extend it to other bachelor's degree programmes in the future.

www.io.uni-freiburg.de

HOW MUCH IT WILL COST

> THE MONEY YOU CAN EXPECT TO SPEND

GERMANY ISN'T EXPENSIVE COMPARED WITH OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THE PRICES FOR FOOD, HOUSING, LEISURE AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES ARE AVERAGE FOR THE EU. THEY ARE EVEN RELATIVELY LOW COMPARED WITH COUNTRIES LIKE FRANCE, GREAT BRITAIN AND THE NETHERLANDS.



> --- in EUROS



Even if living costs are not above average, the monthly sum of 585 euros (643 euros from the end of 2008) that international students have to prove their parents can provide will not enable a life of luxury. On average, German students have available funds of 770 euros a month. How much you will spend depends very much on where you study – and not least on your leisure activities. Here are a few figures to let you gain an initial impression (taken from Studying in Germany – A Guide for International Students, DAAD, November 2007):

Rent	200 – 315 euros
Canteen meal	1.50 – 2.50 euros
Bread (1kilogram)	1.50 – 3 euros
Milk (1 litre)	0.70 euros
Daily newspaper/ monthly student subscription	14 – 19 euros
100 km by train	22 – 25 Euro
Cinema visit	4 – 8 euros

Since 2007 a number of German *Länder* have been charging tuition fees – you have to reckon with a maximum of 500 euros per semester. Some higher education institutions also charge foreign applicants application fees (approx. 50 euros). A semester contribution of roughly 120-130 euros is also payable for the use of the social facilities offered by Student Services, such as the canteen or sports amenities.

What can you do if your funds are insufficient? If you don't have enough money to make ends meet, you can try for a scholarship. Numerous institutions, such as DAAD, foundations closely associated with German political parties and church and business organizations, provide financial support for international students. The precondition for backing is above-average achievement in your subject and/or significant political or social commitment. The DAAD scholarship database lists not only its own programmes, but also those of 50 other organizations: www.funding-guide.de

Very few manage without additional income: German students earn roughly one-quarter of their budget themselves. Finding a good part-time job is not very easy. Student Services at German higher education in-

stitutions have therefore set up job centres for students in conjunction with the Federal Employment Agency. Here you can find temporary jobs such as typing or other short-term work in businesses. An interesting alternative is a job as an academic assistant at your university or college.

But beware! Your studies can suffer if you spend too much time working. Medical student Indradeo Hemraj from Mauritius has already seen many of his fellow students lose form: "When you do too many night duties in hospital, you stop being able to concentrate." And that can turn out to be expensive: if you exceed the standard study period, you can end up paying up to 1,000 euros in additional tuition fees.

SERVICE PACKAGES

Student Services at many universities offer special service packages that give new students from outside Germany financial security for their first year in higher education. These all-inclusive deals are very convenient and make it easier to calculate costs. International students receive accommodation, food and medical insurance coverage for a lump sum. Leisure activities are often also included. These service packages can already be booked before you arrive in Germany. Cost: 205 to 375 euros a month depending on the services included. Further information: www.internationale-studierende.de/en/home/

BLOCKED ACCOUNT

Authorities currently require that international students prove they have 7,020 euros at their disposal for an academic year (12 months at 585 euros). These figures are planned to rise to 7,716 euros a year and 634 euros a month by the end of 2008. Funds can be documented by means of a blocked account (*Sperrkonto*): Deutsche Bank is the main provider. The account is opened at a branch in the student's home country; it is then unblocked in Germany and the student can withdraw 585 (end of 2008: 634) euros every month. More Information: Deutsche Bank Hamburg, tel: +49 (0)40 3701 5146, db.student@db.com

<i>My monthly costs</i>	
Room in shared apartment	175 euros
Electricity	19 euros
● Food + going out	200 euros
Violin	20 – 100 euros
Other	100 euros
514 – 594 euros	

MASCHA RAJKOVIC, 22, from Serbia, is studying violin at the Folkwang Hochschule Essen. Her tip: "Of course, it's good for your finances if you can share an apartment with other students. Then you can also share the cost of telephone and Internet access." Mascha lives cheaply and, for example, only buys clothes in the sales. What makes a big impact are her "violin costs" for new strings, music or a "check-up" for her instrument.



<i>My monthly costs</i>	
● - Food:	170 euros
- Accommodation:	250 euros
- Car:	120 euros
- Sport:	30 euros
- Leisure:	140 euros
● - Clothing:	50 euros
760 euros	



OLIVIER FOUQUET, 20, from France studies business administration in Frankfurt am Main. His tip: "I got a part-time job in the financial controlling department of a company with the help of Student Services. That means I earn a little extra money – and also gain practical work experience." As a result, Olivier can afford a car, which he considers indispensable.

ACCOMMODATION & LEISURE

> HOW TO FIND THE RIGHT ACCOMMODATION AND GET TO KNOW PEOPLE

YOU KNOW WHAT SUBJECT YOU WANT TO STUDY, YOU'VE FOUND THE RIGHT HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION AND YOU'VE ARRANGED THE FINANCES – ONLY TWO THINGS NEED ATTENTION BEFORE YOU CAN REALLY FEEL AT HOME IN YOUR NEW SURROUNDINGS: FINDING A NICE PLACE TO LIVE AND A NEW CIRCLE OF FRIENDS. NEITHER OF THESE IS ROCKET SCIENCE.



> --- having FUN

Spaghetti and washing up: student life photographed by Uli Wenzel in a shared apartment in Kaiserslautern



Wenzel/DAAD (4)



WHAT'S GREAT ABOUT MUNICH IS ITS PROXIMITY TO THE MOUNTAINS. I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SKI YET, BUT AT LEAST I'VE LEARNT TO SKATE.

INDRADEO HEMRAJ, 30, from Mauritius, has nearly completed his course in medicine in Munich.



MAKING CONTACTS ISN'T DIFFICULT; PARTIES ARE CONSTANTLY BEING ORGANIZED IN OUR HALL OF RESIDENCE. I LIKE GETTING TO KNOW PEOPLE FROM OTHER CULTURES.

TIINA SALMINEN, 22, has been studying psychology for five semesters.

Jan Grewer/21

When Ahmad Amro came to Berlin alone last year, he was rather relieved that he was able to move straight into student housing. "Getting a furnished room was very convenient," says the medical student from Palestine. Pinar Oezalp from Turkey, who had completed her *Abitur* examinations in Istanbul, was also glad to have an initial address for her first few months in Heidelberg. That enabled her to take her time and look around for an apartment share during the first semester. Tiina Salminen from Finland definitely wants to stay in student housing in Munich. The bubbly psychology student immediately got to know lots of people there who party together and go on excursions – she sees no reason to live on her own.

Student housing is very popular among international students in Germany. More than 40% of them live in one of the roughly 180,000 places available nationwide. **A room in student housing kills several birds with one stone: the halls are usually located near the university, the rooms are often furnished and have cheap Internet access.** New students also immediately make contact with other tenants. What is more, this form of accommodation is the cheapest there is (average: 180 euros a month). The picture is marred slightly by the fact that it's not easy to get a place. If you want the chance, you need to be quick. Student housing is allocated by Student Services. It's best to apply as soon as you have been offered a place at university or college.

Student mentors can make life easier. There's really no need to find yourself standing alone and lonely at the station with your suitcase. Student Services at many higher education institutions make things easier for newcomers and assign them hall tutors or mentors to help. There are more than 300 tutors nationwide, although their duties vary from place to place. Usually they are contacts for international tenants in student housing, but sometimes they are for all foreign students at a particular institution. The helpers assist in dealing with the authorities, answer questions about student life and leisure, provide support when there are problems with other tenants – and collect the newcomers from the airport. **Similar assistance is sometimes also offered by International Offices:**

www.internationale-studierende.de

The private housing market is where most students look for accommodation. Lists of addresses of private landlords – for example, people who sublet rooms – can be requested from the International Office. The addresses are left there by international students who return home.

Helpfully, they often also give an appraisal. A separate apartment is very difficult to find for less than 300 euros a month, which is why lots of students decide to share an apartment.

The rent for a room in shared accommodation where several tenants cover the costs of the apartment, telephone and Internet access is between 200 and 300 euros a month depending on the location. Would-be students can begin looking before they leave home. A number of websites can help you in your search:

www.mitwohnzentrale.de
www.wg-gesucht.de
www.studenten-wg.de
www.studenten-wohnung.de

When you have arrived in Germany, you will find more offers in the Saturday editions of daily newspapers, in city magazines and in student newspapers. A good tip is also the noticeboards at the ASTa or the canteen. The most successful way to find accommodation is through personal contacts.

Beware! Rents in Germany are not given in a standardized way. The euro amount quoted may be *Kaltmiete* ("cold rent": basic rent for using the apartment) or *Warmmiete* ("warm rent": basic rent and additional costs for water supply, street cleaning, waste disposal, etc.).

HOW CAN I MEET PEOPLE?

The university choir, evenings in the bar, debating societies, excursions, parties, discussions – the range of leisure opportunities at higher education institutions is huge. On their own, the events organized by International Offices offer a large number of opportunities for making new friends. Contacts: International Offices, Student Advisory Services and Student Services.

The promotion of sports is a statutory duty of German institutions of higher education. In large cities like Berlin, Frankfurt, Cologne and Munich the range of activities is particularly broad, but smaller towns also set attractive priorities and do exceptionally well in student rankings.



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