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HAWK

# INFORMATION GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

in Hildesheim, Holzminden and Göttingen

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**in Hildesheim, Holzminden and Göttingen**





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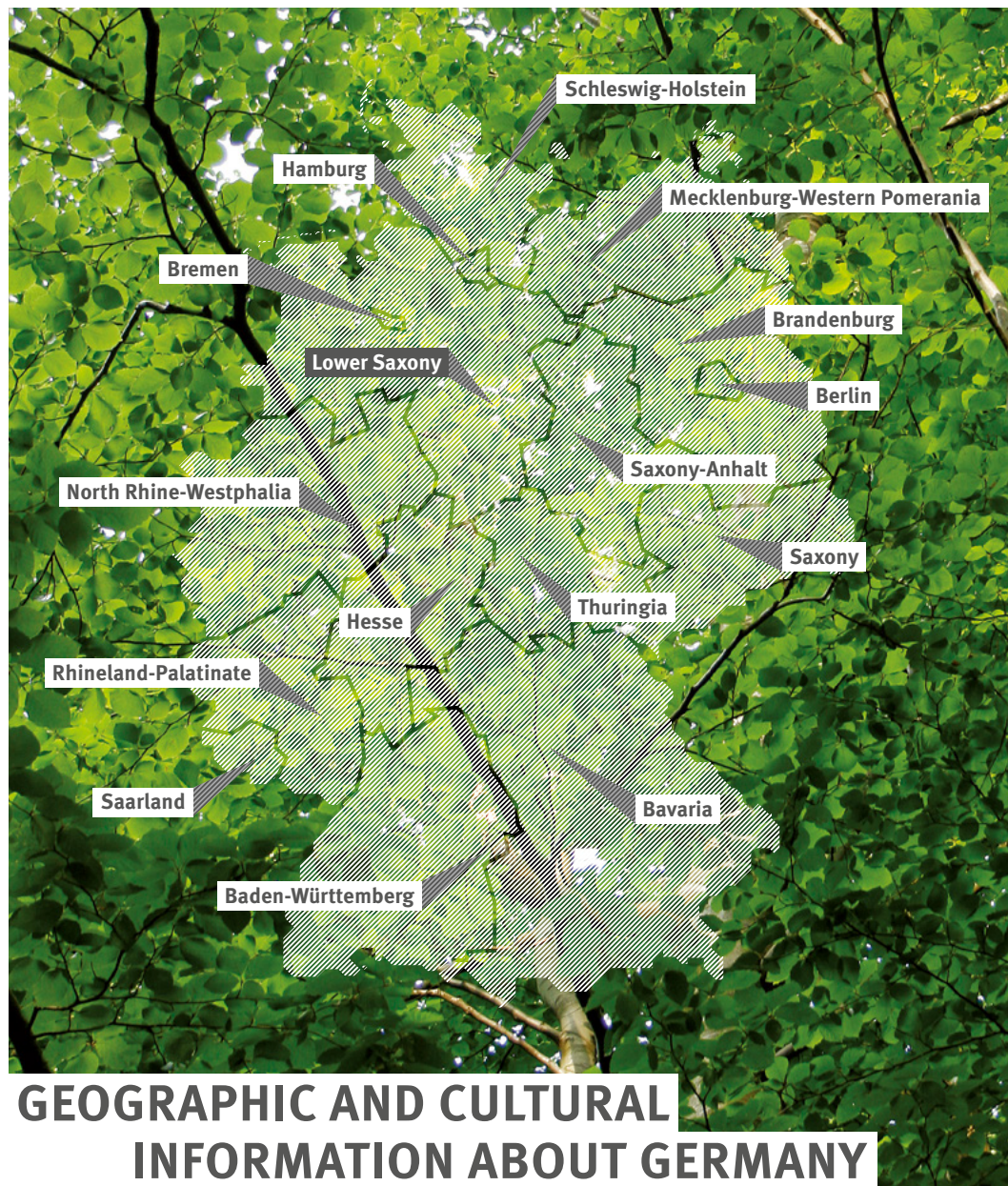
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## GEOGRAPHIC AND CULTURAL INFORMATION ABOUT GERMANY AND THE HAWK LOCATIONS

### Germany – general information

Germany is situated in the heart of Europe. Approximately 83 million people live here, of whom approx. 10.9 million are foreigners. Although German is the official language, many different regional dialects are also used in the spoken language and they can differ significantly from Standard German. Germany's landscape is very diverse as well. In the north, you find island chains with vast sandy beaches and heath and moor landscapes. Dense, mixed forests are found in the mountains of central Germany, with many medieval castles dotted along the river valleys. Even the Ruhr Area, Germany's largest industrial region, has a lot to offer in terms of nature. In the south, the Alps dominate the landscape.

Nearly half of the German population lives in the 81 cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants. The largest German cities are Berlin (3.6 million inhabitants), Hamburg (1.8 million) and Munich (1.5 million) (Statista 2019). The Federal Republic of Germany has been a parliamentary democracy since 1949. The German Basic Law guarantees all citizens such fundamental rights as religious freedom, freedom of opinion and equality before the law. Politically, Germany is divided into 16 Lands of the Federal Republic, each of which has its own political organisation. With the reunification of the two German states, the German Democratic Republic (GDR) and the Federal Republic of Germany, on 3 October 1990, Berlin was once again reinstated as the capital city of Germany.

### Germany's economy

Germany's economy is the biggest in Europe and the fourth biggest in the world after the

USA, China and Japan. Germany is primarily export-oriented. Main export goods include products from the fields of electro-technology, mechanical engineering, the automobile industry, environmental protection technology and the pharmaceutical and chemical industries. France and the USA are Germany's most important trade partners.

74.3 % of the German population work in the service sector, 24.9 % in the manufacturing sector and 0.9 % in agriculture, forestry or fishery (Federal Statistical Office). The rate of unemployment averaged 5.2 % in 2018 (Statista 2019).

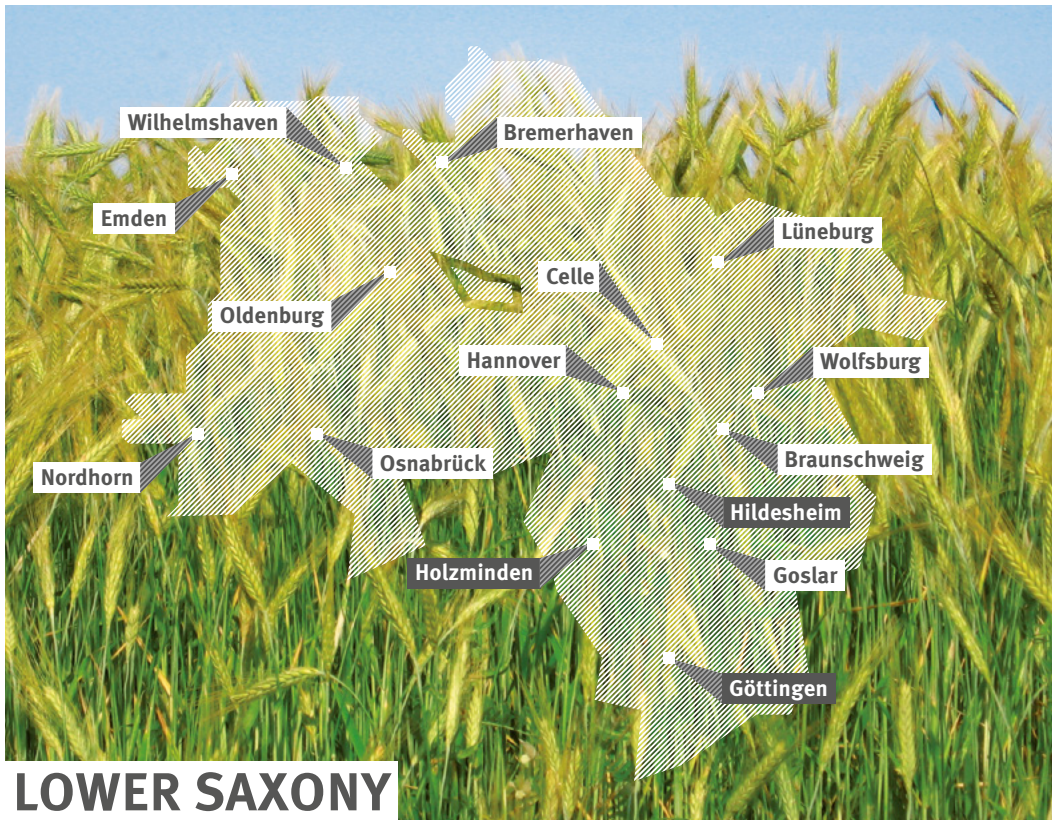
### Germany's climate

Germany has a moderate climate. Summers in Germany are normally sunny with an average temperature of approx. 16 °C; July and August are usually the warmest months. Hiking, cycling, swimming and other outdoor activities are very popular during these months.

The weather can also be very pleasant in spring and autumn. In April and May, when the meadow flowers and fruit trees blossom, it is often mild and sunny. In October, when the leaves turn colour, the sun falls on the shades of red and yellow to create a warm, golden light that gives this month the name of Golden October.

From November to the beginning of March, the sky is often cloudy and the temperatures can fall below 0 °C, with an average temperature of just below 0 °C. There is also a lot of rain and snow; you need to bring warm clothes for the winter. All houses have central heating and many are equipped with air conditioning systems for the summer.





## LOWER SAXONY

### Lower Saxony – general information

All three HAWK study locations in Hildesheim/Holz Minden/Göttingen lie in the German state of Lower Saxony, which is the second largest German state after Bavaria. Lower Saxony is home to approx. eight million people. With its central mountains, lowlands and the sea, the East Frisian Islands and the North Sea Coast, the wide flatlands, moors and forests, Lower Saxony has many different faces.

Wolfsburg, the automotive manufacturing centre where Volkswagen has its head offi-

ces, and the JadeWeserPort in Wilhelmshaven are just as much part of the landscape as Wolfenbüttel or Worpsswede, whose names are inextricably linked to whole chapters of German cultural history. The hustle and bustle in and around the state capital of Hannover is offset by the silence of the moor landscapes, the sparsely populated regions, which have a special charm of their own, and the rugged heights of the Harz Mountains. Old, traditional churches, castles and buildings in the style of the Weser Renaissance are



just as typical for Lower Saxony as the unique round villages and Low German hall houses. Following the reunification of East and West Germany, Hannover, the state capital with more than half a million inhabitants, once again occupies the same position today that it did 750 years ago: it is situated at the crossroads of the main east-west and north-south trade routes, in the heart of Europe. Hannover is host to the largest industrial trade show in the world, taking place every year.

### Lower Saxony's economy

Thanks to its central position in the heart of Europe, Lower Saxony is the ideal location from which to gain access to markets, customers and suppliers with the EU and in Eastern Europe. With the deep water port JadeWeserPort and the international airport in Hannover it is a mobility location. This fact is supported by the extended automotive industry as well as shipbuilding industry and aircraft construction. Besides the automotive industry the agriculture and the food producing industry is the most important branch with an overproportionate number of jobs, particularly in livestock farming (cattle, pigs and poultry). The largest fruit-growing region in Europe can be found along the Elbe River.

The biggest company based in Lower Saxony is Volkswagen AG followed by Continental AG and TUI AG.

Other big and well-known companies based in Lower Saxony and therefore important employers are e. g. the energy supplier EWE, the Salzgitter AG, Nordzucker or the drugstore chain Dirk Rossmann. Symrise in Holz Minden is an internationally operating centre for the flavour and aroma chemicals industry. Ottobock in Duderstadt near Göttingen is leading in the orthopaedic industry. Worldwide well-known brands like Einbecker beer, Bahlson cookies or Jägermeister are also produced in Lower Saxony.

Lower Saxony has a top position in using renewable energies like wind and biomass. Lower Saxony is an attractive holiday destination whose most important resource is its nature. Every fifth square metre of land is under landscape protection. Tourists will find everything from a seaside holiday up at the coast to winter holidays in the Harz mountains and a variety of amusement parks.



# HILDESHEIM

## HAWK-location Hildesheim

Hildesheim has a history that is difficult to compare with that of any other city in Lower Saxony. It was founded in the year 815, when Emperor Louis the Pious, a son of Charlemagne, had a chapel built at the site where Hildesheim's cathedral stands today. A legend tells us that his chaplain hung the reliquary on a rose bush during a hunt and forgot it there. Upon returning later, he was unable to remove it. The Emperor interpreted this as a divine revelation of God's will and built a chapel on that site – the predecessor of today's cathedral. Hildesheim then eventually became a diocesan town. The first cathedral, into which the chapel of Louis the Pious was integrated, was completed in 872. Today's cathedral dates from the eleventh century; it is one of the many churches that are prominent on the city skyline. This historic event in 815 and the connected legend about the rose bush are the fundament on which the identity and self-conception of Hildesheim are built. From 1010 to 1033, the famous bishops Bernward (993–1022) and Godehard (1022–1038) built one of the most important works of Romanesque (Ottonian) architecture in northern Germany: St. Michael's Church. Like the cathedral, this church is also listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Bishop Bernward's legacy to the city includes two other attractions: the double bronze doors from the year 1015 and the Column of Christ from the year 1020, both richly decorated with Biblical motifs. The Gothic St. Andrew's Church (1389) has the highest church tower (114.35) in Lower Saxony. Both St. Andrew's and St. Michael's can no longer be admired in their original



splendour. Like many other buildings in Hildesheim, among them 120 half-timbered houses, they were largely destroyed during the air raid attacks at the end of the Second World War. The historical market place was burnt down to the ground. At the end of the 1980s, however, the facades of its buildings were historically reconstructed, first on the south side, followed by the north side. The Bäckeramtshaus (Bakers' Guildhall) was reconstructed according to the original plans, as was the magnificent Knochenhaueramthaus (Butchers' Guildhall), originally built in 1529. During the past years the cathedral and St. Michael's church have been restored to its former glory, too. In addition to these major buildings, churches and the reconstructed market place, the Roemer-und-Pelizaeus Museum is also an important public magnet. One of the world's most extensive Ancient Egyptian collections, an Ancient Peruvian collection and the

Ernst Ohlmer collection of Chinese porcelain are part of the permanent exhibitions. With all due respect to these „classics“, there is still a lot to discover in the alternative cultural scene. The HAWK and the university students are actively involved in a large part of it. A popular venue is the „Kulturfabrik Löseke“, an old factory building, which now houses studios, halls and rehearsal facilities. Many studios and workshops, which occasionally open their doors to show exhibitions, have developed as a result of the common efforts of students in cultural science and design study courses. The rich diocesan town from long ago has grown into a young, vibrant metropolitan city with a population of 102,000. It is a magnet for tourists, research and industry. Thus the automotive component suppliers Bosch/Blaupunkt and KSM Castings Group are located in Hildesheim. Small and medium-sized companies provide jobs in the

### The tourist information provides more detailed information

Tourist Information | Rathausstr. 20, 31134 Hildesheim, Germany  
Tel.: +49/51 21/179 80 | Fax: +49/51 21/179 888 | E-Mail: [tourist-info@stadtmarketing-hildesheim.de](mailto:tourist-info@stadtmarketing-hildesheim.de)  
Hildesheim on the internet: [www.hildesheim.de](http://www.hildesheim.de)

fields of woodworking, printing and steel construction as well as high-tech, electronically controlled equipment.

The city centre, free of large industrial and commercial industries, has developed more and more into a pedestrian zone for shopping and other leisure time activities. A large number of shops and restaurants offer wide range of services.

Hildesheim's countryside has many different faces: picturesque scenes along the riverbanks of the Innerste River compete with large forested areas and walking trails throughout the hilly landscape of the foothills to the Harz Mountains and the Leine hills. Among other nicknames, Hildesheim is also known as the city „in the pot“, which becomes more understandable when you take a bird's eye view. The old part of the city centre lies in a sort of hollow or a pot nestled between a range of hills in the east (Galgenberg), in the west (Hildesheim Forest) and the single hills in the north (Osterberg).



## HOLZMINDEN

### HAWK-location Holzminden

The town of „Holtesmen“ was already mentioned in records from the first half of the ninth century. According to what we know today, this referred to what was later called „Altendorf“, a settlement to the east of the current town centre.

The town was founded approximately around 1200 when the Dukes of Everstein settled here and built a castle on the riverbanks of the Weser River. The founding rights were recorded in writing for the first time in 1245. Holzminden has remained in the possession of the House of Braunschweig-Lüneburg since the early 16th century.

In 1640, during the Thirty Years' War, Holzminden was almost completely destroyed. Its transition from a farming community into an industrial town began in the middle of the 18th century with the establishment of an iron factory and other branches of industry. In 1831, the construction industry school was established. Starting from 1865, it was possible to reach Holzminden with the most modern means of transport at that time, the railway.

This alone, however, did not yet lead to a general industrial boom. The fact that a number of important companies at that time set up their head offices in this town was primarily a result of the businessmen involved.

In 1874, for example, Wilhelm Haarmann was successful in producing a synthetic substitute for a natural aroma for the first time. Vanillin replaced vanilla and became the cornerstone of a company that does business all over the world today.

Holzminden currently has about 20,000 inhabitants. This town on the Weser River borders on the Solling Nature Park, one of the largest forested areas in northern Germany. The charming hilly landscape is an open invitation to hikers, cyclists, fishermen and water sports enthusiasts in particular. Cycling directly along the Weser River, you reach Hameln to the north, the Pied Piper's town. To the south, you find Hoexter with its Corvey Castle, a famous national abbey well worth seeing. Churches and castles, picturesque half-timbered houses, fortification walls and museums can be seen all along the way. In Holzminden, you can take a „fragrant“ walk around the town. 15 fragrant pillars dotted around the town provide interesting information for visitors and citizens about that specific location and about fragrances and flavours.

### The tourist information provides more detailed information

Tourist Information | Markt 2, 37603 Holzminden, Germany

Tel.: +49/55 31/99 29 60 | Fax: +49/55 31/99 29 62 | E-Mail: [touristik-info@holzminden.de](mailto:touristik-info@holzminden.de)

Holzminden on the internet: [www.holzminden.de](http://www.holzminden.de)



# GÖTTINGEN

## HAWK-location Göttingen

Göttingen was documented as „Gutingi“ for the first time in 953, when Emperor Otto I gave this village to the Moritz Monastery in Magdeburg. At that time, the imperial palace of Grona lay beyond the Leine River, a historical place where emperors and kings often held their parliaments.

When the great time of the imperial palace came to an abrupt end around 1180, a market settlement developed at this advantageous location of Gutingi at the ford cross-ing the Leine River and the crossroads of two important trade routes. The settle-ment adopted the name of the village and received a Charter of Civil Rights in 1200.

George II August, King of England and Elec-tor of Hannover, founded the university in 1734. Today, it is attended by approx. 32,000 students (10/2017), who give the city a very distinctive flair: Whether at midday or around midnight – there is always a lot of hustle and bustle in the city centre. The uni-versity, which is also the largest employer, has attracted particular types of industry to this region. Many companies in such fields as precision mechanics and optics, laser technology, measuring and automatic control, go back to connections to the university in their establishment.

With approx. 120,000 inhabitants, Göttingen is a large city today. Nevertheless, it has still managed to maintain an intimate at-mosphere despite its cosmopolitan nature.

The cultural side of life offers a complete pro-gramme of different events. Two renowned theatres and several distinguished orches-tras are part of this picture as well as nu-merous galleries, museums and cinemas.



Göttingen is home to many museums, rang-ing from local ancient history to the Pygmy culture and the art of the ancient Greeks and Romans right on up to the fauna of Lower Saxony. A small arts scene and a good dozen other large, annual events (e. g. the old city festival, theatre and open air festi-vals and beach volleyball) complement a lively spectrum of cultural life, in which busk-ers are just as much part as flea markets. Göttingen's pub and bar scene is particular-ly popular with students. Choosing from among the many cafés, restaurants, pubs and gallery bars is not easy. And for anyone in need of some fresh air after a long night out, there are many forested and park areas throughout the city and surrounding coun-tryside, ideal for jogging, cycling or going for a walk. In Göttingen, the old has not been cast out to make way for the new. Impressive testimonies of centuries of culture attract many tourists. The Residential houses dat-

ing from the late Middle Ages are character-istic of the city. Examples of richly decorated half-timbered houses include the Schröder house (1549), the Junker's Tavern (15th/16th century) and the Abel Borneman house of 1536.

The pedestrian area comprises the historical heart of the city: the strolling mile, a para-dise for shopping fans and a place to get together.

The old city hall with its open arcades, a heating system dating from the Gothic peri-od and the large hall houses the Tourist Of-fice. The most-kissed girl in the world, the Gänseliesel, stands patiently in front of City Hall, atop the market fountain. According to an old custom, each proud recipient of a doctorate degree must give the lovely young girl a kiss on her bronze lips.

### The tourist information provides more detailed information

Tourist Information | Altes Rathaus | Markt 9, 37073 Göttingen, Germany  
Tel.: +49/551/49 98 00 | Fax: +49/551/4 99 80 10 | E-Mail: [tourismus@goettingen.de](mailto:tourismus@goettingen.de)  
Göttingen on the internet: [www.goettingen.de](http://www.goettingen.de)



## STUDYING AT THE HAWK

HAWK, its faculties and study-locations | Application and studies  
International Office | Further university services

### HAWK, its faculties and study-locations

The HAWK University of Applied Sciences and Arts Hildesheim/Holzminden/Göttingen consists of six faculties at three different locations. In Hildesheim, you can study at the following three faculties: Architecture, Engineering and Conservation, Design and Social Work and Health. In Holzminden, the Faculty of Management, Social Work, Construction offers a broad variety of study programmes and in Göttingen, you can study at

the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology as well as at the Faculty of Resource Management. The Health Campus is also located in Göttingen. Altogether, the HAWK has approximately 6,400 students (winter term 2019/2020), with most of them studying at one of the faculties in Hildesheim.

#### Study programmes and contact Faculty of Architecture, Engineering and Conservation in Hildesheim

■ HAWK | Faculty of Architecture, Engineering and Conservation | [www.hawk.de/b](http://www.hawk.de/b)

– Architecture and Engineering:

Hohnsen 2, 31134 Hildesheim, Germany

Tel. (dean's office): +49/51 21/881-201 | E-Mail: [tanja.boettcher@hawk.de](mailto:tanja.boettcher@hawk.de)

– Conservation:

Bismarckplatz 10/11, 31134 Hildesheim, Germany

Tel. (dean's office): +49/51 21/881-385 | E-Mail: [birgit.delp@hawk.de](mailto:birgit.delp@hawk.de)

■ Bachelor of Architecture (BA)

■ Bachelor of Civil Engineering (BEng)

■ Bachelor of Wood Engineering (BEng)

■ Bachelor of Conservation and Restoration (BA)

with the specializations:

Furniture and Wooden Objects | Mural Painting/Architectural Surfaces | Paintings and Polychrome Wooden Objects | Records, Books and Graphics | Stone and Ceramics

■ Master of Architecture (MA)

■ Master of Civil Engineering (MA)

■ Master of Conservation and Restoration (MA)

with the specializations:

Furniture and Wooden Objects | Mural Painting/Architectural Surfaces | Paintings and Polychrome Wooden Objects | Records, Books and Graphics | Stone and Ceramics



### Study programmes and contact Faculty of Design in Hildesheim

- HAWK | Faculty of Design | [www.hawk.de/g](http://www.hawk.de/g)  
Renatastraße 11, 31134 Hildesheim, Germany  
Tel. (dean's office): +49/51 21/881-301 | E-Mail: [martina.peschel@hawk.de](mailto:martina.peschel@hawk.de)
- Bachelor of Design (BA)  
with the specializations: Advertising Design | Branding Design |  
Digital Media | Color Design | Graphic Design | Interior Architecture |  
Lighting Design | Metal Design | Product Design
- Master of Design (MA)

### Study programmes and contact Faculty of Social Work and Health in Hildesheim

- HAWK | Faculty of Social Work and Health | [www.hawk.de/s](http://www.hawk.de/s)
  - Early Childhood Education; Social Work:  
Brühl 20, 31134 Hildesheim, Germany  
Tel. (dean's office): +49/51 21/881-401 | E-Mail: [marcel.hoffmann@hawk.de](mailto:marcel.hoffmann@hawk.de)
  - Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Physiotherapy:  
Goschentor 1, 31134 Hildesheim, Germany  
Tel. (dean's office): +49/51 21/881-590 | E-Mail: [katrin.babucke@hawk.de](mailto:katrin.babucke@hawk.de)
- Bachelor of Social Work (BA)
- Bachelor of Early Childhood Education (BA)
- Bachelor of Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Physiotherapy (BSc)
- Bachelor of Educational Sciences for Allied Health Professions (BA)
- Master of Social Work (MA)
- Master of Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Physiotherapy (MSc)



Hildesheim: Arrival and HAWK-locations

Hildesheim is conveniently situated close to Hannover, the state capital of Lower Saxony, on the A7 motorway, as well as at the ICE connection from Munich to Berlin, so that Hildesheim can be easily reached by car, by train or

by plane. The nearest major airport is in Hannover, but the airports in Frankfurt, Berlin and Hamburg also offer good train connections to Hildesheim.





#### Study programmes and contact Faculty of Management, Social Work, Construction in Holzminden

- HAWK | Faculty of Management, Social Work, Construction | [www.hawk.de/m](http://www.hawk.de/m)
  - Management and Construction:  
Haarmannplatz 3, 37603 Holzminden, Germany  
Tel. (dean's office): +49/55 31/126-116 | E-Mail: [petra.kohlenberg@hawk.de](mailto:petra.kohlenberg@hawk.de)
  - Social Work:  
Hafendamm 4, 37603 Holzminden, Germany  
Tel. (dean's office): +49/55 31/126-189 | E-Mail: [selma.burgazli@hawk.de](mailto:selma.burgazli@hawk.de)
- 
- Bachelor of Construction Management (BEng)
  - Bachelor of Economics, ~~part-time~~ (BA)
  - Bachelor of Green Building (BEng)
  - Bachelor of Real Estate Economics and Management (BSc)
  - Bachelor of Social Work (BA)
  - Master of Energy Efficient and Sustainable Constructions (MEng)
  - Master of Real Estate Management (MSc)
  - Master of Social Work (MA)



Holzminden: Arrival and HAWK-locations

Holzminden is located at the regional connection to Kreiensen, from where Hannover or Göttingen can be easily reached by direct train connections. In addition, Northwest-

Bahn offers a direct connection to Paderborn, from where there are good connections to the Ruhr Area.



Study programmes and contact Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology in Göttingen

- HAWK | Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology | [www.hawk.de/n](http://www.hawk.de/n) | Von-Ossietzky-Straße 99, 37085 Göttingen, Germany | Tel. (dean's office): +49/551/37 05-100 | E-Mail: [gabriela.gloth@hawk.de](mailto:gabriela.gloth@hawk.de)
- 
- Bachelor of Electrical Engineering/Information Technology (BEng)
  - Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering/Precision Machining (BEng)
  - Bachelor of Physical Technologies (BEng)
  - Master of Electrical Engineering/Information Technology (MEng)
  - Master of Laser and Plasma Technology (MSc)
  - Master of Mechanical Engineering/Precision Machining (MEng)

Study programmes and contact Faculty of Resource Management in Göttingen

- HAWK | Faculty of Resource Management | [www.hawk.de/r/](http://www.hawk.de/r/) | Büsgenweg 1a, 37077 Göttingen, Germany | Tel. (dean's office): +49/551/50 32-134 | E-Mail: [kirsten.kroeger-vitt@hawk.de](mailto:kirsten.kroeger-vitt@hawk.de)
- 
- Bachelor of Arboriculture (BSc)
  - Bachelor of Business Administration and Engineering (BEng)
  - Bachelor of Forestry (BSc)
  - Bachelor of Forestry (Dual Study Degree) (BSc)
  - Master of Business Administration and Engineering (MEng)
  - Master of Regional Management and Business Promotion (MA)
  - Master of Renewable Resources and Regenerative Energies (MEng)
  - Master of Urban Tree and Forest Management (MSc)



- HAWK | Health Campus | [www.hawk.de/gcg](http://www.hawk.de/gcg) | Weender Landstrasse 94, 37075 Göttingen, Germany  
Tel. (dean's office): +49/551/50 32-210 | E-Mail: [meike.hosch@hawk.de](mailto:meike.hosch@hawk.de)
- Bachelor of Medical Engineering (BEng)
- Bachelor of Nursing (Dual Study Degree) (BSc)
- Bachelor of Social Work in Health Care (BA)
- Bachelor of Therapy Sciences (Dual Study Degree), ~~Speech and Language Therapy, Physiotherapy~~ (BSc)



Göttingen is situated directly on the A7 motorway and the ICE connections from Munich to Berlin and from Frankfurt to Berlin. Because the connections between

Frankfurt and Göttingen are very good, it will be no problem for you to arrive via Frankfurt Airport.



# APPLICATION AND STUDIES

### Application formalities for programme and ERASMUS+ exchange students

ERASMUS+ incoming students and other exchange students coming from partner universities please fill in the following documents completely on their computer and send them by e-mail to the International Office:

- Application form
- Transcript of records from the home university
- Copy of passport or ID card
- Copy of European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) (if applicable)
- 1 digital passport-sized photo
- Learning agreement
- Portfolio, if required (Faculty of Design)
- Language certificate (if applicable; B1-level in German is recommended)

### Public holidays in Lower Saxony

- 1 January: New Year's Day
- March/April: Easter. Easter is on 22 March at the earliest and on 25 April at the latest. The Friday before Easter (Good Friday) and the Monday afterwards (Easter Monday) are always holidays.
- 1 May: May Day/Labour Day
- May/June: Ascension Day (39 days after Easter Sunday)
- May/June: Whitsuntide (50 days after Easter), Monday (Whit Monday) is a holiday.
- 3 October: German Unification Day
- 31 October: Reformation Day
- 25/26 December: Christmas/Boxing Day

Up-to-date information on the course offer for the respective semester can be found on the HAWK websites or you can request information from the Departmental Coordinator. The International Office is also happy to provide assistance.

31 May is the application deadline for the winter semester (starting in September) and 31 October for the summer semester (starting in March). Once your application has been accepted, the International Office will send you an information package with detailed information on the HAWK, the letter of acceptance and, if necessary, an invitation for you to enclose with your visa request.

### Application formalities for degree students

International degree seeking students need to apply online at <https://hisinone.hawk.de> for being a student at HAWK (online applications are possible within six weeks before the application deadline).

Detailed information on the application procedure, the application deadline, necessary application documents and the required German language certificates can be found in the brochure "Information for international applicants – the HAWK study programmes", which is available at the International Office or can be downloaded from the website. Further information can be found on [www.hawk.de/studiengaenge](http://www.hawk.de/studiengaenge)

### Language

Most of the courses at the HAWK are taught in German. However, a number of courses are offered in English at the different faculties. The Faculty of Social Work and Health has a 30 ECTS programme in English. Furthermore, HAWK Plus offers an interdisciplinary course programme, partly in English. The HAWK Language Centre also offers intensive German language courses at different levels designed especially for exchange students during the orientation periods to prepare them for their stay. After a placement test, students are put in a course at their level for approx. 5 hours every day for two weeks. Students who successfully complete the course get 4 ECTS.

### Academic calendar

The academic year of HAWK is divided into two semesters:

- the first starting in autumn (~~1 September~~ – ~~28 February~~),
- the second in spring (~~1 March~~ – ~~31 August~~).

For all new international students the International Office offers introduction weeks before semester ~~start~~ ~~beginning of September~~ ~~/beginning of March~~.



These courses continue during the semester so that students have an opportunity to improve their German in a weekly course (approx. 3 hours per week). Students who successfully complete these courses get 4 ECTS. Furthermore, HAWK plus offers a supportive German language programme for all international students.

### Study structure

The HAWK Bachelor and Master programmes are divided into modules to which credits (ECTS) are assigned. These modules can consist of different courses. Usually, a module is completed with an exam. Exchange students can choose their courses quite freely, but should talk to their Departmental Coordinator at the beginning of the semester.

### ECTS

The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) facilitates the acknowledgement of study achievements by using a point system, which is connected to a grading system. ERASMUS+ students make a learning agreement with their home university, which specifies which courses are to be attended at the host university and how many ECTS credits they will get for the different courses. The International Office is happy to assist with any questions you may have about the ECTS.

### Grading System

In Germany, the following grading system is used:

- 1 = very good
- 2 = good
- 3 = satisfactory
- 4 = sufficient
- 5 = fail

An examination is considered as passed, if it was assessed at least with a grade of 4.0. It is quite normal to get a grade that is somewhere between any two grades (e.g. 1.3 or 3.7).

### Examinations

There are different test forms, which can vary for the different courses: written examinations, seminar papers, essays, presentations or oral examinations. Exchange students contact their coordinator at the faculty or the study dean for questions.



## INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

The International Office offers a broad range of services designed to make the university more international. International students, both programme students and degree students as well as international guests get counselling and support and are taken care of by the International Office. Moreover, the International Office team advises and supports German students who want to go abroad during their study programmes. The International Office has its main office in Hildesheim with one branch office in Holzminden and one in Göttingen.

### International Office services for international students

During the students' first days at the HAWK, the International Office team provides support in dealing with such necessary formalities as registration, health insurance, opening a bank account, registration at the town hall and applying for a residence permit. They help with the orientation at the HAWK, explain the different facilities and arrange for appointments with the Departmental Coordinators, who can help with the selection of courses. Exchange students should contact the International Office well before their departure to obtain the letter of confirmation and the transcript of records. In

order to make your start at the HAWK as easy as possible, the International Office team offers the following services:

### Bedclothes and dishes

Exchange students can borrow bedclothes (blanket, pillow and linen) at the International Office. For € 20, the bedclothes can be used for the duration of your stay. When departing, you return the bedclothes and get € 10 back. The remaining € 10 are used for washing the bedclothes. If you need any dishes or cutlery, you can borrow them from the International Office while stock lasts.

### Buddy-Programm

The International Office will try to find a buddy for all exchange students. Buddies are HAWK students who will try to make your first days at the HAWK easier. The buddy will pick you up from the station, take you to your accommodation, show you where to go shopping and how to get to the International Office and will help you to get along at the faculty.

As soon as a buddy has been found, both sides will get an e-mail from the International Office with each other's contact details. The buddy can answer your first questions even before you get to Germany.

## Excursion programme

During the term, the International Office organises excursions to teach you more about Germany, its culture and study-oriented topics. The goal of these excursions is to show the study locations and their surroundings as well as other parts of Germany to the international students so that they get to

know Germany, its way of life and its culture. The diverse programme includes visits to different cities, hiking tours and evenings at the theatre. The excursions are subsidised so that they can be offered at very reasonable prices.

### International Office: Contact, team and office hours

HAWK | International Office | Hohnsen 4, 31134 Hildesheim, Germany | E-Mail: [international@hawk.de](mailto:international@hawk.de)

#### ■ Head of the International Office/ERASMUS+ Institutional Coordinator:

Dr. Sylvia Korz | E-Mail: [sylvia.korz@hawk.de](mailto:sylvia.korz@hawk.de) | Tel.: +49/51 21/881-143

#### ■ Student advisor for international applicants:

Annika Tiefel | E-Mail: [annika.tiefel@hawk.de](mailto:annika.tiefel@hawk.de) | Tel.: +49/51 21/881-146

Kathrin Baumgarten | E-Mail: [kathrin.baumgarten@hawk.de](mailto:kathrin.baumgarten@hawk.de) | Tel.: +49/51 21/881-145

#### ■ Student advisor for international students and ERASMUS+ Incoming in Hildesheim:

Annika Kerknawi | E-Mail: [annika.kerknawi@hawk.de](mailto:annika.kerknawi@hawk.de) | Tel.: +49/51 21/881-144

Kathrin Baumgarten | E-Mail: [kathrin.baumgarten@hawk.de](mailto:kathrin.baumgarten@hawk.de) | Tel.: +49/51 21/881-145

#### ■ Student advisor for international students in Göttingen:

Svenja Tegel | E-Mail: [svenja.tegel@hawk.de](mailto:svenja.tegel@hawk.de) | Tel.: +49/551/50 32-150

#### ■ Student advisor for international students in Holzminden:

Karen Buettner | E-Mail: [karen.buettner@hawk.de](mailto:karen.buettner@hawk.de) | Tel.: +49/55 31/126-162

#### ■ Office hours (Hildesheim):

Tuesday 10:00 am to 12:00 noon and 1:00 to 3:00 pm, Thursday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and additional appointments also available (Hohnsen 4, Raum HIF\_106/107, 31134 Hildesheim, Germany)

#### ■ Office hours (Holzminden):

Wednesday 10:30 am to 2 pm and additional appointments also available (Haarmannplatz 3, Raum HOA\_S24, 37603 Holzminden, Germany)

#### ■ Office hours (Göttingen):

Tuesday 9:30 am to 12:00 noon and 1:00 to 3:00 pm, Thursday 9:30 am to 1:00 pm (Büsgenweg 1a, Raum GÖK\_E30, 37077 Göttingen, Germany) |

Wednesday 9:30 am to 12:00 noon and 1:00 to 3 pm and additional appointments also available (Von-Ossietzky-Straße 99, Raum GÖC\_E19, 37085 Göttingen, Germany)



## FURTHER UNIVERSITY SERVICES

### Libraries

The HAWK scientific library supplies students and teachers with specialist literature, offers access to such different databases as „Peri-norm“, a database of standards and technical regulations, and provides workstations.

The library at the HAWK is divided into four separate libraries, at the three different locations. It is necessary to register in order to borrow books from the HAWK libraries. The student ID card also works as a library card.

### Libraries: Contact and Opening hours

#### Hildesheim

##### ■ Library at the campus in Hildesheim:

Renatastr. 11 (Haus A), 31134 Hildesheim, Germany

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (reading room until 9:00 pm), Saturday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm (reading room until 9:00 pm)

#### Holzminden

##### ■ Library of the Faculty of Management, Social Work, Construction:

Billerbeck 2, 37603 Holzminden, Germany

Opening hours: Monday and Thursday 9:30 am to 4:00 pm, Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30 am to 5:00 pm (reading room until 7:00 pm), Friday 9:30 to 1:00 pm (reading room until 4:00 pm)

#### Göttingen

##### ■ Library of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology:

Von-Ossietzky-Str. 99, 37085 Göttingen, Germany | Opening hours: Monday to Wednesday 9:30 am to 4:00 pm, Thursday 9:30 am to 5:00 pm, Friday 9:30 am to 1:00 pm

##### ■ Library of the Faculty Resource Management:

Büsgenweg 1a, 37077 Göttingen, Germany | Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Tuesday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Friday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm



**Computer Centres**

With their HAWK registration, all students get a user name and a password to use the computers at the computer centre.

**Hildesheim**

The HAWK computer centre at Hildesheim is at Goschentor 1. PC pools at five locations in Hildesheim are operated from here (Goschentor 1, Hohnsen 1, Hohnsen 2, Brühl 20 and Renatastr. 11). There are also plotters available for large-format print-outs at Goschentor 1.

**Holzminden**

The HAWK computer centre at Holzminden is at Billerbeck 2. There are four PC pools, where you can work at the computers and can also use the plotters and printers.

**Göttingen**

The HAWK computer centre at Göttingen operates PC pools at the faculties of Natural Sciences and Technology and Resource Management. Various laser and colour laser printers, scanners and plotters are available at the PC pools.

All PC pools offer access to an extensive software library for standard and technical literature. The HAWK is broadly equipped with wireless LAN, so that students can also connect to the internet with their private notebooks. More detailed information is available on the internet ([www.hawk.de/it-service](http://www.hawk.de/it-service)).

With their personal accounts, students can also get a printing account to use printers and plotters at the PC pools. Further information is available on the internet ([www.hawk.de/it-service](http://www.hawk.de/it-service)).

In addition, the user name and password are needed for access to Stud.IP. Stud.IP is a communication platform for students, teachers and courses with a chat room, a forum, a personal calendar and a timetable that you can use to schedule your own appointments. ([studip.hawk.de](http://studip.hawk.de)).

**HAWK plus including  
HAWK language centre**

HAWK plus offers a broad programme of interdisciplinary courses, such as data processing, business management, law and presentation techniques, partly in English, as well as intercultural trainings and language courses in different languages. This offer is open to the students of all faculties. HAWK plus imparts key competences and supplementary qualifications.

- Contact:  
HAWK plus  
Goschentor 1 (Room HIA\_E26)  
31134 Hildesheim, Germany  
Tel.: +49/51 21/881-501  
[www.hawk.de/plus](http://www.hawk.de/plus)

**Student representatives –  
Student Union**

The Student Union (AStA = Allgemeiner Studierender Ausschuss) is the administrative organ of all students and represents student interests in and outside of the university. The Student Union is divided into different departments, such as the social department, the culture department and the department for international matters. The Student Union is also responsible for the semester ticket and issues the international student ID card ([www.isic.de](http://www.isic.de)). The Student Union can also provide legal advice.

- Contact:  
AStA  
Goschentor 1 (Room HIA\_E12)  
31134 Hildesheim, Germany  
Tel.: +49/51 21/374 99  
E-Mail: [info@asta.studhawk.de](mailto:info@asta.studhawk.de)  
Opening hours: Monday to Thursday  
from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
[www.studhawk.de](http://www.studhawk.de)

**Student representatives –  
Student Councils**

The Student Councils consist of students of one faculty and represent the interests of the students at that faculty. At the beginning of each semester, the Student Council also helps the new students with orientation at the study location and in the faculty.

- [www.studhawk.de](http://www.studhawk.de)

**Computer Centres: Opening hours**

**Hildesheim**

The rooms can be accessed at any time using the student ID card.

**Holzminden**

The rooms can be accessed at any time using the student ID card.

**Göttingen**

- Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology:  
Monday to Thursday 8:00 am to 7:00 pm and Friday 8:00 am to 6:00 pm
- Faculty of Resource Management:  
Monday to Thursday 8:00 am to 7:00 pm and Friday 8:00 am to 6:00 pm



### Students with special needs

The HAWK has a representative who takes care of the needs and interests of handicapped and chronically ill students. Her name is Professor Dr. Gisela Hermes. She advises handicapped and chronically ill applicants and students with respect to disability compensation while they are studying and she supports the implementation of structural and organisational measures needed to provide for adequate study conditions. Professor Hermes is responsible for all three study locations. The faculties in Göttingen are new buildings and have a high standard of accessibility for students with walking disabilities or who are confined to a wheelchair. A mobile workspace for visually handicapped and blind students has been available in all libraries from 2010 onwards. At most locations in Holzminden and Hildesheim, accessibility has been improved by the installation of elevators and a lifting platform. The HAWK website is barrier-free.

- Contact:  
Prof. Dr. Gisela Hermes  
Brühl 20 (Room HIG\_119)  
31134 Hildesheim, Germany  
Tel: +49/5121/881-497  
E-Mail: [gisela.hermes@hawk.de](mailto:gisela.hermes@hawk.de)

### Child care

The HAWK Hildesheim/Holzminden/Göttingen is certified as a family-oriented university and offers good conditions for students who are already parents. There are offers of mobile child care at all three HAWK locations. Further information is available from the HAWK Equal Rights Representative's Office:

- Contact:  
Equal Rights Representative's Office  
Goschentor 1 (Room HIA\_309/310)  
31134 Hildesheim, Germany  
Tel.: +49/5121/881-148  
[www.hawk.de/gleichstellung](http://www.hawk.de/gleichstellung)

### Refectories and Cafeterias

The Studentenwerk operates refectories (Mensa) at all three study locations, where students can enjoy meals at reasonable prices. The student ID card, which all HAWK-students get, can be used to pay for the meals at the refectories. Money can be put on the card at a machine in the refectories. Students automatically pay the cheaper prices for students when paying with their student ID card.

Usually, you can choose between different main dishes that can be combined with different side dishes. At least one dish is always vegetarian. Salads, desserts and sandwiches are also available along with coffee and snacks. Some refectories offer meals in the evening, too. Besides the refectories, which are operated by the Studentenwerk, most faculties also have a cafeteria or bistro, where you can drink a coffee with fellow students and have a snack.

### Refectories and Cafeterias

#### Hildesheim

- HAWK Refectory and Cafeteria: Hohnsen 1  
[www.stw-on.de/hildesheim/essen](http://www.stw-on.de/hildesheim/essen)
- Café Brühlchen: Faculty of Social Work, Brühl 20
- Cafeteria of the Faculty of Design: Renatastr. 11, House B
- Cafeteria of the Faculty of Architecture, Engineering and Conservation: Hohnsen 2
- Refectory at the University: Universitätsplatz 1  
[www.stw-on.de/hildesheim/essen](http://www.stw-on.de/hildesheim/essen)

#### Holzminden

- HAWK Refectory: Haarmannplatz 3  
[www.stw-on.de/holzminden/essen](http://www.stw-on.de/holzminden/essen)

#### Göttingen

- Cafeteria HAWK: Faculty of Resource Management, Büsgenweg 1a
- Bistro HAWK: Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology, Von-Ossietzky-Str. 99
- Refectories and Cafeterias operated by the Studentenwerk Göttingen:  
the nearest for the Faculty of Resource Management is the North Refectory (Grisebachstr. 10)  
[www.studentenwerk-goettingen.de/mensen.html](http://www.studentenwerk-goettingen.de/mensen.html) | [www.studentenwerk-goettingen.de/cafeterien.html](http://www.studentenwerk-goettingen.de/cafeterien.html)





# ENTRY AND RESIDENCE REGULATIONS

Passport/identity card | Visas | Residence permits | Registration at the town hall  
Work permits | Student jobs at the university | Change of residence

## Entry and residence regulations

Useful information about such topics as visas, residence permits and working in Germany can be found on the internet e. g. on the web page of the Department of Foreign Affairs ([www.auswaertiges-amt.de](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de)) or of the Federal Office of Migration and Refugees ([www.bamf.de](http://www.bamf.de)). Furthermore, the web page „Make it in Germany“ ([www.make-it-in-germany.com](http://www.make-it-in-germany.com)), a cooperation project of the Employment Agency, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy is recommendable.

## Passport/identity card

A passport is usually required for anyone who wants to enter Germany; all citizens of the European Union need an identity card/ personal identification card.

## Visas

Students from one of the following countries do not need a visa to enter Germany for study purposes:

- EU member states, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, Andorra, Monaco, San Marino
- Israel
- USA and Canada
- Brazil, Honduras, El Salvador
- Australia and New Zealand
- Japan and South Korea.

For students from Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, Brazil, Honduras and El Salvador this is only possible if they do not want to work during their stay in Germany. Students from all other countries need to apply for a visa for study purposes.

The conditions for the visa that must be fulfilled must be clarified with the German Consulate in the student's home country. An overview of German consulates worldwide is available on the internet on the Department of Foreign Affairs' website.

■ [www.auswaertiges-amt.de](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de)

After the student's arrival in Germany, the visa must be converted into a residence permit, if the validity of the visa is shorter than the planned study period. A residence permit is valid for two years the most. The International Office can help students with any questions concerning visas or residence permits.

## Registration at the town hall

Within two weeks after the arrival in Germany the registration at the town hall has to be done.

You need to bring a document called „Wohnungsgeberbestätigung“ which is issued by the landlord and a passport or identity card.



### Residence permits

If you are planning to stay in Germany for longer than your visa is valid or for longer than three months if no visa is required, you need a residence permit. To get a residence permit, you have to register at the registration office of the town you are living in. Detailed information on the different types of residence permits can be found on the internet ([www.bamf.de](http://www.bamf.de)).

For students from European Union member states this registration is sufficient. Students from countries that do not belong to the European Union must make an appointment at the Immigration Office to have a residence permit issued. You usually have to present the following documents:

- Valid passport, including the visa for Germany (if applicable)
- 1 biometric photo
- Proof of health insurance coverage
- HAWK study confirmation
- Proof of the ability to support yourself financially during your stay, e.g. blocked account, scholarship, formal obligation
- Administrative fee

If you have a residence permit for Germany, you can travel to all Schengen countries without having to apply for a separate visa. These are: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.

### Work permits

As a rule, students are not allowed to work for more than 20 hours per week during the lecture period. Students from the European Union are treated like German students and can work besides their studies without a work permit.

Students from non-European Union countries are allowed to work up to 120 days or 240 half days per year. Eight hours correspond to a whole working day, four hours to a half day. A work permit is required for any occupations above and beyond that.

Note: Anyone who works for more than 120 days (excluding activities at the university) per year and does not have permission from the Immigration Office is breaking the law and can be fined. Each student is responsible for keeping track of when their 120 days are used up.

### Student jobs at the university

In addition, students can work at the university or at scientific organisations without limitation.

This also applies to jobs not directly at the university but which have a close relation to the professional aspect of the study programme, e.g. internships recommended by the university or jobs in organisations affiliated with the university.

For any jobs going beyond that, students from non-European Union countries need permission from the Immigration Office, which also requires the permission of the Employment Agency. Whether or not such a special work permit is granted depends on the situation on the job market. The guideline for the Employment Agency is to place members of the European Union and the European Economic Area with priority. This „priority check“ to ensure that no other persons with priority – i.e. Germans or EU citizens – can accept this job offer can take up to four weeks.

Further information can be found on the website [www.make-it-in-germany.com](http://www.make-it-in-germany.com).

### Change of residence

If you move, your new address must be registered with the following institutions:

- City Registration Office of your place of residence (new „Wohnungsgeberbestätigung“ needed)
- HAWK Registration Office (online via Studieninformationssystem-LSF)
- Programme students should also notify the International Office of their change of address
- Bank, health insurance company (if applicable)





## ACCOMMODATION

Types of accommodation | Student residence | Private housing market

Private shared flat | Own apartment | Accommodation service

Rental contracts | Room furnishings | Public Broadcasting Fee | Laundry

### Private housing market

In order to find a room on the private housing market, you can search e.g. on the internet ([www.wg-gesucht.de](http://www.wg-gesucht.de)), look at the notice boards at the university or in Stud.IP or place an advertisement yourself. Especially if you are looking for your own small flat, it is worth having a look at the advertisements in the regional newspapers. Pay attention as to whether the rooms or flats offered are furnished or not.

### Private shared flat

In a shared flat, you live together with several other students (normally 2 to 5), have a room of your own and share kitchen and bathroom facilities. However, the flat is in a private apartment building and you pay the rent to the landlord. Rooms made available permanently to a new tenant are usually not furnished. Often students who go abroad for one semester themselves offer their rooms as a sublet for one semester. These rooms are usually furnished.

### Own apartment

You can look for your own apartment as well. You should keep in mind that apartments in Germany are usually rented without furniture.

### Types of accommodation

Students can find accommodation in a student residence, a private shared flat or in an apartment of their own:

### Student residence

This is a building that provides accommodation to students only. Most of these residences are operated by the Studentenwerk, to which the rent is paid, too. There are also student residences that are operated by the church or real estate agencies. In most residences, you share kitchen and bathroom facilities with three to twelve other students. The rooms are usually furnished. There are different student residences in Hildesheim and Göttingen operated by different organisations, in which rooms are rented. You can often apply for a room on the internet. The demand for accommodation is very high, especially at the beginning of the winter semester (September/October) so that you might be put on a waiting list first.

## Student residences

### Hildesheim

- Student residences operated by the Studentenwerk OstNiedersachsen  
Student residence Blauer Kamp | Student residence Hansering 1b  
[www.stw-on.de/hildesheim/wohnen](http://www.stw-on.de/hildesheim/wohnen)
- Catholic student residence Braunsberger Str.  
[www.khg-wohnheim-hi.de](http://www.khg-wohnheim-hi.de)
- Student residence Ortelsburger Str.  
[www.wohnheim-hildesheim.de](http://www.wohnheim-hildesheim.de)
- Student residence Annenstraße  
[www.studentenwohnheim-hildesheim.de](http://www.studentenwohnheim-hildesheim.de)
- Student residence „Auf der Höhe“  
[www.gbg-hildesheim.de/downloads/studentenwohnheim](http://www.gbg-hildesheim.de/downloads/studentenwohnheim)
- Bude Zwölf – Campuswohnen  
[www.budezwoelf.de](http://www.budezwoelf.de)
- Apart Me  
[www.apartme.de/de/apartme-hildesheim](http://www.apartme.de/de/apartme-hildesheim)

### Holzminden

- In Holzminden there are no student residences. Students in Holzminden live mostly in shared flats; a good address to find rooms available is [www.wg-gesucht.de](http://www.wg-gesucht.de).

### Göttingen

- Student residences operated by the Studentenwerk Göttingen  
[www.studentenwerk-goettingen.de/wohnen.html](http://www.studentenwerk-goettingen.de/wohnen.html)
- Catholic student residences Edith Stein House and Alfred Delp House  
[www.khg-goettingen.de/wohnheim](http://www.khg-goettingen.de/wohnheim)
- Mahatma Ghandi House of the African-Asian Student Organisation  
[www.aasf.de](http://www.aasf.de)



### Rental contracts

The rental contract is made between the student as a tenant and the landlord (e.g. the Studentenwerk). These contracts can be signed for a limited or an unlimited period of time. If you have an unlimited rental contract, you have to make sure that you give the proper notice when you want to move out.

The monthly rent varies depending upon location and size of the room. A monthly rent of € 200 to 300 is normal and often already includes such other additional expenses as heating, electricity and water, sometimes even telephone and internet. All this is noted down in the rental contract. The rental contract also indicates how and by when you have to pay the rent.

It is also usual for the landlord to ask for a security deposit. The security deposit is usually a sum of one to two monthly rents which you have to pay before you move in and which you get back when you move out and your room has no damages. The amount of the security deposit is also regulated in the rental contract.

### Accommodation service

The International Office offers an accommodation service for programme students. You can indicate on the application form whether you want the International Office to offer you accommodation and if yes, if you prefer a room at a student residence or in a shared flat. The International Office will try to find a room in the preferred category at a reasonable price and will send you a rental contract, which has to be signed and sent back. Once you have signed and returned the contract, it is binding.

Note: You will be offered one room only. If the rental contract is not sent back within the period indicated, the room will be assigned to someone else and you will have to find a room on your own.

The International Office also supports all other international students and guests as far as possible in their search for a room.

The offer of available accommodation is very different at the three HAWK study locations. In Göttingen it is most difficult to find affordable accommodation, especially at the beginning of the winter semester.



### Room furnishings

The furnished rooms in the student residences are usually equipped with the most necessary things. You can assume that the room is furnished with a bed and a mattress, a wardrobe, a desk and a chair. Especially if you are sharing the kitchen with several other students, it will usually be well equipped, too. The Studentenwerk OstNiedersachsen offers a so-called starter package, which contains bed clothes and towels for the rooms in the student residences in Hildesheim. This package can be booked additionally if the student wishes. The Studentenwerk Göttingen makes sure that exchange students find bedclothes in their rooms.

Exchange students in Hildesheim can borrow bedclothes from the International Office as well.

Many student residences and private shared flats are already equipped with a telephone and internet connection which you can probably use if you contribute your share to the costs.

If you lack anything in your room, you should have a look at the notice board in Stud.IP, where secondhand furniture is frequently offered. Cheap secondhand furniture can also be found e.g. at the Labora Möbelshop (Osterstr. 30) in Hildesheim, Fairkauf in Holzminden (Obere Str. 27) or at Möbelino (Groner Landstrasse 48) in Göttingen.

### Public Broadcasting Fee

The program of ARD and ZDF (German television) and Deutschlandradio is financed by the public broadcasting fee. A very simple rule applies: One residence – one fee. No matter if or how many TV-sets or radios there are or how many people live together, a fee of € 17,50 per month is to be paid.

If more than one person lives in a flat, e.g. in a shared flat, only one person has to register for the public broadcasting fee. This person pays the fee and all inhabitants share the monthly fee between them. Only students eligible to federal student loans (BAföG) can be exempt from paying the public broadcasting fee. More information can be found on: [www.rundfunkbeitrag.de](http://www.rundfunkbeitrag.de)

### Laundry

Washing machines and dryers are usually available in the student residences. You usually have to buy tokens to operate these machines. The caretakers at the student residences can give you further information. Most shared flats have a washing machine, which can be shared. If you don't have a washing machine in your flat, you can do your laundry at a laundromat.



Semester fees | Cost of living | Banks | Opening a bank account | Credit cards

## Semester fees

In order to be registered as a student at HAWK you pay semester fees, including an administration fee, the semester ticket as well as a contribution to the Studentenwerk and for the student representation which amount to, depending on the study location, approx. € 300 to 400 per semester (as per winter semester 2019/20). Exchange students don't pay the administration fee. They only pay for the semester ticket and the contributions to the Studentenwerk and the student representation. Depending on the study location, they are required to pay approx. € 220 to 320 (winter semester 2019/20).

## Cost of living

You can assume that you'll need at least € 853 per month to pay for your living expenses. This is approx. what it will cost you for your rent, your meals and other things you need for daily life.

You'll need more money for your first month in Germany in particular because there are several important things that must be paid upon your arrival:

- the first month's rent
- the security deposit for the room (approx. one month's rent)
- the semester fees
- different personal things, like e. g. bicycle, television, money for excursions, books etc.

These costs should be taken into account when you calculate your financial plan at home. You should also find out what is the best way to make money transfers to Germany.

## Banks

There is a large selection of different banks at all three study locations. The opening times of the branch banks can vary considerably, depending upon the size and location of the branch. As a rule, most banks are open on weekdays in the morning and afternoon; some branches close at midday (usually between 1:00 and 2:00 pm) and many smaller branches are also closed on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. However, the ATMs for withdrawing money are accessible even when the branch is closed so that you can withdraw money 24 hours a day. You should use the ATMs at your house bank to withdraw money from your account. Other banks often charge high fees for this service. It is free of charge at your house bank.

## Opening a bank account

We recommend that you open a bank account at a German bank so that you can conveniently transfer the rent and take care of any other payments like the fees for your health insurance. If you live in a room at a student residence, having a German bank account is an absolute necessity because the rent has to be paid by direct debit, which only works from a German bank account. Many banks offer a free-of-charge account for students.

## Money exchange

The currency used in Germany is the euro. Other currencies can be exchanged into euros at large branch banks. It is also possible to exchange money at the airport.

## Credit cards

In general, you pay by cash, debit card or credit card in Germany. However, you should check the signs in shops and restaurants because not all credit cards are accepted everywhere. In order to book tickets on the internet, for example, you usually need a credit card. MasterCard and Visa are well established and accepted almost everywhere.

You can also withdraw money at an ATM with your credit card but you are often charged a high fee to do so.

In order to open a German bank account, the following documents are needed:

- Passport/identity card
- Certificate of residency
- HAWK study confirmation

You'll get a chip card and a PIN for the bank account to use the self-service terminals at the bank to withdraw money or print bank statements and to pay via direct debit in shops. Online banking is also an option so that transactions can be done from your computer at home.

You can use your international banking data to easily transfer money from abroad into your German bank account.

You should print out your bank statements on the machine once a month; otherwise they will be sent to you and you will be charged a small fee. It is also important to keep track of all the transactions in your account.

Take care of your chip card and keep your PIN a secret. The International Office will help you to open a German bank account.







## INSURANCE

Health insurance | Other useful insurances | Accident insurance

Private liability insurance

### Other useful insurances

#### Accident insurance

All HAWK students are automatically insured for their way to the HAWK and during lessons by the Landesunfallkasse (Accident insurance of Lower Saxony). In case of an accident, please contact the secretary's office of the faculty and the safety engineer, Mr. Hennies:

■ Tel.: +49/51 21/881-196

E-Mail: [hans-henning.hennies@hawk.de](mailto:hans-henning.hennies@hawk.de)

#### Private liability insurance

The Civil Law Code says that everyone can be made liable for any damages he has caused, even if this damage was caused by accident.

That means if you injure another person, e. g. in a collision with a bicycle, or damage or destroy an item belonging to somebody else, you must pay for this damage. This can become very expensive depending on the kind of injury or the damage caused. So that you don't have to pay for the damage yourself, you can purchase private liability insurance. The annual insurance premium usually lies between € 25 and € 150 (depending on coverage).

#### Health insurance

When you register at the HAWK, you have to prove sufficient health insurance coverage. Students from the European Union usually have a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), which provides them with insurance coverage in Germany. The EHIC must be presented when registering at the HAWK. If you have an EHIC, you can get necessary medical treatment from a doctor in Germany without any problem.

Students from Turkey are eligible to an AT/11-form, with which they are exempt from the compulsory insurance. In order to get treatment at a doctor's, they need to get a treatment form at any German public health insurance company.

Students from non-European Union states or without the EHIC must insure themselves with a German health insurance company. All public health insurance companies offer the same tariffs for students; however, some health insurance companies charge an additional monthly fee. In some cases, it is also possible to be privately insured. The International Office can give you further information and help you to choose a health insurance that is accepted for the registration at the HAWK.





## HEALTH SYSTEM

Doctors' appointments | Hospitals | Emergency medical services

Dentists | Medicine | Psychological counselling services

### Doctors' appointments

In Germany, there are GPs (general practitioners or family doctors) and specialists, such as opticians, dermatologists, gynecologists and dentists.

Most Germans have a family doctor, whom they consult first when they are ill and who transfers them to a specialist, if necessary. It is highly advisable to make an appointment before you go to the doctor's because otherwise you might have to wait for a long time. In urgent cases, you can go to the doctor without an appointment but should be aware that you'll be spending quite a bit of time in the waiting room. Office hours differ, but most practices are open from Monday to Friday in the mornings; not all practices are open every afternoon.

You can freely choose the doctor you want to go to. Names and addresses of physicians can be found in the telephone directory, the yellow pages or on the internet. The International Office can also assist you in finding the right doctor.

### Hospitals

If you need urgent medical assistance during the weekend or at night, you can go to the emergency outpatient department of the local hospital or call an ambulance or the paramedics.

- Emergency Call:  
112 (Fire brigade/ambulance)
- General number for ambulances:  
19222
- Emergency Call:  
110 (Police)

### Emergency medical services

In less urgent cases, but when treatment still cannot wait until the next regular office hours of your family doctor, you can go to the „emergency medical services“. In order to get the address of the nearest emergency service, dial 116117.

### Dentists

Dental treatment can be very expensive in Germany; your medical insurance does not usually cover all the costs and the patient has to pay the rest. You can have a cost plan set up for this.



### Medicine

Prescription medicine can only be bought at pharmacies (or internet pharmacies) with a prescription from a doctor (e.g. antibiotics, birth control pill or strong pain killers). There is a lot of over-the-counter medicine that can be bought at pharmacies without a prescription from a doctor (e.g. headache tablets, sore throat lozenges and nose drops). Some of this medicine can even be bought in drugstores or in large supermarkets, where it is generally cheaper than in pharmacies. In general, medicine is quite expensive in Germany. Pharmacies are usually open like other shops, too, however many pharmacies are closed on Wednesday afternoons. For emergencies, there is always one pharmacy with emergency service 24 hours a day; you can

find out which pharmacy that is on the internet or in the daily newspaper. There is also a notice hung on the door of every pharmacy indicating which pharmacy is currently open for emergency services.

### Psychological counselling services

If you need psychological counselling services, you can get in touch with the psychological counselling services (PBS) of the Studentenwerk. The counselling is free of charge and you can speak openly about your problems with trained personnel. The psychological counselling services also offer different workshops on how to manage stress or how to calm jittery exam nerves.

#### Psychological counselling services

##### Hildesheim

Studentenwerk OstNiedersachsen location Hildesheim | Psychological Counselling Services (PBS)  
Hindenburgplatz 16, 31134 Hildesheim, Germany  
Tel.: +49/51 21/15 02 00 | E-Mail: pbs.hi@stw-on.de

##### Holzminde

Studentenwerk OstNiedersachsen location Clausthal-Zellerfeld | Psychological Counselling Services (PBS)  
Silberstr. 1, 38678 Clausthal-Zellerfeld, Germany  
Tel.: +49/5323/72 39 25 | E-Mail: h.hohmann@stw-on.de  
regular counselling hours in Holzminde

##### Göttingen

Studentenwerk Göttingen | Psychological Counselling Services (PBS)  
Gosslerstrasse 23, 37073 Göttingen, Germany  
Tel.: +49/551/393 50 71 | E-Mail: psb@studentenwerk-goettingen.de



## SHOPPING

Where to buy what? | Opening hours | Flea markets | Deposit bottles



### Where to buy what?

Food is available in a large selection in supermarkets; the large discount chains are particularly cheap. Cosmetic products can be found in supermarkets, too, or in drug-stores. Fresh fruit and vegetables as well as milk products and fresh meat can be bought at the open-air markets downtown. Meat and sausages are available from a butcher's shop. Fresh bread and rolls as well as cake and pastry can be bought at bakeries, some at very reasonable prices at shops selling products from the day before or at „Back-shops“ with self-service.

In most places, you will also be able to find speciality shops where Asian, Spanish or Turkish specialities and food are available. Clothes can be bought in department stores and shops in the city centre or at more reasonable prices in seconhand shops. Or you can take a trip to one of the factory outlets where you get clothes at cheap prices.

### Opening hours

The opening hours of the shops can vary. Shops in the city centre are usually open from Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm or even to 8:00 pm; on Saturdays, they usually close by 4:00 or 6:00 pm; large supermarkets and discount chains often have longer opening hours.

The shops are usually closed on Sundays. For emergencies, there is a small shop at the main train station that is open on Sundays, too, or you can buy the most necessary items at a kiosk or a petrol station. Some bakeries are also open on Sundays. Many cities allow shops to open on special Sundays a couple of times a year (verkaufsoffener Sonntag).

### Flea markets

Flea markets, also known as „Trödelmärkte“, are often organised on the weekends. This is where you can buy cheap seconhand household appliances, furniture, books or bicycles. It is also worth having a look at the notice boards at the university, on Stud.IP or in the daily newspapers because seconhand items are often offered there, too.

### Deposit bottles

In Germany, there is a deposit charged on refillable and non-refillable glass and plastic bottles and cans. When you buy beverages in glass bottles, PET bottles and cans you pay a small amount, which you get back if you bring the empty bottles or cans back to the shop.



## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Semester ticket | Local city transportation | German Railway (DB)

Intercity busses | Bicycles | Ride-sharing services | Rent-a-car | Taxi



### Semester ticket

Among other things, the semester fee that students pay goes towards paying for the semester ticket. It is printed on the student ID card at a self-service terminal. The semester ticket allows you to use the regional trains in Lower Saxony, Bremen and Hamburg free of charge. In Hildesheim and Göttingen you can also use the city busses. The semester ticket is for your personal use only. In case of loss or damage of the student ID card, it will cost € 20 to get a new card. Please contact the central welcome point at Hohnsen 4 in Hildesheim or your faculty secretary at the locations in Holzminden or Göttingen. In case of theft, you'll get a new card free of charge if you have made a complaint to the police.

### Local city transportation

The city bus network is well developed in Hildesheim and Göttingen. In Holzminden, there is one bus line operated by the Transport Network of Southern Lower Saxony that runs once per hour and several regional busses with which you can reach the surrounding towns.

In Hildesheim and Göttingen the city busses can be used free of charge with the semester ticket. In Holzminden, the semester ticket does not cover the city busses.

Further information about timetables, bus lines and ticket prices can be found on the internet:

- Hildesheim:  
[www.svhi-hildesheim.de](http://www.svhi-hildesheim.de)
- Holzminden:  
[www.vsninfo.de](http://www.vsninfo.de)
- Göttingen:  
[www.goevb.de](http://www.goevb.de)

#### Self-service terminal for the semester ticket

##### Hildesheim

- Goschentor 1, in the entrance hall on the ground floor
- Campus Weinberg, Building B, ground floor, main entrance
- Brühl 20, main building, corridor side-entrance

##### Holzminden

- Billerbeck 2, on the ground floor, corridor plotter area HOB\_S32

##### Göttingen

- Faculty of Resource Management: Büsgenweg 1 A, parking lot floor, corridor „Wildkammer“
- Fakultät Naturwissenschaften und Technik: Von-Ossietzky-Str. 99, in Building A, entrance hall



### German Railway (DB)

Thanks to the semester ticket, students have the opportunity of visiting many interesting places nearby by train free of charge. Popular destinations include Hannover, Braunschweig, Bremen and Hamburg.

The German Railway Co. also offers many special rates. You can save a lot of money, especially if you buy your ticket some time in advance and commit yourself to a specific connection. With the so-called „Länderticket“ for the different Federal States, you can use the regional trains in the corresponding Federal State with up to five persons for a whole day. These tickets start at € 24. With the „Quer-durchs-Land-Ticket“ you can use all the regional trains all over Germany for € 44. For only € 8 per person, you can extend the ticket to a maximum of 5 persons. If you buy tickets some time in advance, you can get a group discount together with other fellow students.

Sometimes you can buy very cheap railway tickets at the discount supermarkets.

Students who stay in Germany for a longer time may be well advised to buy a Bahncard 25 for approx. € 62. Upon presentation of this card, you get a discount of 25 % on all tickets. The Bahncard is only available as a subscription so that you have to remember to cancel your Bahncard before you leave Germany. Information on the internet:

- [www.bahn.de](http://www.bahn.de)

### Intercity busses

Travelling by bus can be very cheap as well. You can take trips to different cities in Germany or even to the neighbouring countries like Poland, the Netherlands or France. Further information can be found on the internet, e.g. at:

- [www.eurolines.de](http://www.eurolines.de)
- [www.flixbus.de](http://www.flixbus.de)

### Bicycles

Regardless of which of the three HAWK locations you are at, it is a very good idea to invest in a bike because cycling is a very convenient way to get around. Used bikes can be bought at flea markets or at the bike auctions held by the City. It is also worth having a look at the notice boards at the university, in Stud.IP or in the advertisement part of the daily newspapers to see whether someone has a used bicycle for sale. Exchange students in Hildesheim can also get a special form with which they are allowed to buy a bike at the LABORA Youth Workshop for € 40 to € 60.

The Fazze is a student bicycle self-help workshop in Hildesheim, where you can get help in repairing your own bicycle for a small charge. During lecture times, the Fazze is open on Wednesdays from 5:00 to 7:30 pm. It is located in the backyard of Moltkestr. 86.

■ Contact: fazze@lists.systemausfall.org  
In Göttingen, you can have your bike repaired at reasonable prices or repair it on your own, too:

■ ADFC Workshop (Güterbahnhofstraße 9, each Thursday 5:30 to 8 pm)

Contact: werkstatt@adfc-goettingen.de

■ Fahrrad-Doc (Humboldtallee 30,

Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm)

Occasionally, you can buy used bikes there, too. It is also possible to purchase used bikes in bicycle shops.

### Ride-sharing services

Booking a shared ride on the internet is cheaper than travelling by train. All you need to do is to enter your desired destination, and with a little luck you will find a car driver who is going in that direction and can give you a lift. You just pay a part of the petrol costs.

■ [www.mfz.de](http://www.mfz.de)

■ [www.blablacar.de](http://www.blablacar.de)

It's also worth having a look in Stud.IP because lifts to different destinations are frequently offered there, too.

### Rent-a-car

In order to be more mobile, you can, of course, also rent a car. There are lots of different commercial car rentals. You usually have to be at least 21 years old before you can rent a car. In addition, you need a driving licence that is valid in Germany. Information about the validity of your driving licence can be found on the internet on the German Automobile Club (ADAC) website:

■ [www.adac.de/verkehr/rund-um-den-fuehrerschein/auslaendische-fuehrerscheine/gueltigkeit/](http://www.adac.de/verkehr/rund-um-den-fuehrerschein/auslaendische-fuehrerscheine/gueltigkeit/)

### Taxi

If you have missed the last bus and cannot get home on foot or by bike, you can also take a taxi. Taking a taxi is quite expensive in Germany. Prices vary from city to city, you always pay a basic rate plus per kilometre driven. If you order a taxi by telephone, you often pay an additional fee. You can call a taxi 24 hours a day at the following numbers:

■ Hildesheim: +49/51 21/55555

■ Holzminden: +49/55 31/66 00 oder 88 44

■ Göttingen: +49/551/693 00 oder 48 48 48



## CULTURE

International evenings | STUBE | ESG/KHG

Studentenwerk Cultural Department | Mensa parties

Theatre | Opera | Cinema | Museums and exhibitions | Sports



### International evenings

The International Office offers several international evenings each semester in Hildesheim and Göttingen. These evenings are organised with the help of international students as a forum for intercultural communication. The international students usually present their home country and their universities, cook typical specialities and present national folklore. These evenings take place approx. three times each semester. All students, both international and German, are welcome to take part in these evenings.

### STUBE

The Programme for International Students at Universities in Lower Saxony offered by STUBE (Studienbegleitprogramm) offers very interesting, inexpensively priced seminars and workshops and addresses degree students from Africa, Asia and Latin America in particular.

STUBE aims to make students more sensitive to social commitment and motivate them to engage in development policy during and after their studies. These offers, which accompany the students' studies, are designed to create the prerequisites for students to find a job after they have completed their studies and to re-integrate in their home countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

- [www.ked-niedersachsen.de/02\\_arbeitsbereiche/02-04\\_stube](http://www.ked-niedersachsen.de/02_arbeitsbereiche/02-04_stube)

### ESG/KHG

The Protestant Student Community (ESG) and the Catholic University Community (KHG) are church organisations that offer a diverse programme for all students each semester. Apart from special advising offers for international students, there is an interesting programme including lectures, church services, exhibitions, short excursions along with cosy fairytale evenings and cookie bakes each semester. The current semester programme is available at the International Office or on the internet:

- Hildesheim and Holzminden:  
[www.khg-esg-hildesheim.de](http://www.khg-esg-hildesheim.de)
- Göttingen:  
[www.khg-goettingen.de](http://www.khg-goettingen.de)  
[www.esg-goettingen.de](http://www.esg-goettingen.de)

### Studentenwerk Cultural Department

The Studentenwerk in Hildesheim and Göttingen offers a wide-ranging cultural programme. The corresponding cultural department assists with questions on art and culture. They organise events and exhibitions, offering a platform to young artists from different genres. They also give advice to student projects and initiatives and support them. In addition, the cultural department offers a number of different courses and workshops and organises competitions.

- Contact Hildesheim:  
Studentenwerk OstNiedersachsen  
Cultural Department  
Hindenburgplatz 16  
31134 Hildesheim, Germany  
Tel.: +49/51 21/15 02-09  
E-Mail: [kultur.hi@stw-on.de](mailto:kultur.hi@stw-on.de)
- Contact Göttingen:  
Studentenwerk Göttingen  
Platz der Göttinger Sieben 4  
37073 Göttingen, Germany  
Tel.: +49/551/393 5148

### Mensa parties

The student councils and the AStA (Student Union) organise numerous Mensa parties at all three HAWK locations during the semester. Announcements can be found on the notice boards at the HAWK. The student organisations at the universities in Hildesheim and Göttingen also organise Mensa parties that HAWK students are welcome to attend.

### Theatre

You can spend a nice evening at the theatre at the Theatre for Lower Saxony in Hildesheim or at the German Theatre in Göttingen. The National Theatre in Hannover or the National Theatre in Braunschweig are also well worth a visit. In addition, there are a number of different free theatre groups, such as the Theatre House in Hildesheim or the Young Theatre in Göttingen. The international road theatre festival takes place in Holzminden every two years. Students are entitled to a discount on theatre tickets.

### Opera

For opera lovers, a visit to the Opera House in Hannover is always a special treat. Modernised for the Expo 2000 in Hannover, the Opera House has one of the most modern opera stages in Europe. Students are entitled to a discount on opera tickets. The programme can be found on the internet at:  
■ [www.oper-hannover.de](http://www.oper-hannover.de)

### Cinema

There are commercial cinemas at all three HAWK locations; they usually show German films and international films dubbed in German. Sometimes they also show original versions with or without German subtitles. There are also student cinemas: the „Unikino“ at the University of Göttingen and Movie at the University of Hildesheim where students can see films at very reasonable prices. The Studentenwerk Göttingen operates the Club Cinema, where you can watch movies off the mainstream. The Hochschul kino at the University of Hildesheim is similar; this cinema features classics and lesser known films, often in the original version with German subtitles.

### Museums and exhibitions

Students are entitled to a discount on the admission fee to many museums when they show their HAWK student ID card.

There are many different museums offering something for everybody. Special highlights include the Roemer-Pelizaeus Museum in Hildesheim, the Sprengel Museum in Hannover and the Art Museum in Wolfsburg. The International Office is glad to make further suggestions.

### Sports

If you are interested in doing sports, you can join a sports club where almost all the sports you can think of are offered. Your membership fee entitles you to use the sport offers. In Hildesheim and Göttingen, a diverse

sports programme is offered in cooperation with the universities. Students can take part in the sports courses free of charge. The programme is available on the internet:

- Hildesheim: [www.uni-hildesheim.de/fb1/institute/institut-fuer-sportwissenschaft/hochschulsport/](http://www.uni-hildesheim.de/fb1/institute/institut-fuer-sportwissenschaft/hochschulsport/)

- Göttingen: [my.sport.uni-goettingen.de](http://my.sport.uni-goettingen.de)

If you like swimming, you can choose among different indoor and outdoor swimming pools.

### Indoor and outdoor swimming pools in Hildesheim, Holzminden and Göttingen

#### Hildesheim

- Wasserparadies (indoor adventure pool) | Bischof-Janssen-Straße 30
- Schwimmhalle Himmelsthür (indoor swimming pool) | Julianen-Aue 13a
- Indoor swimming pool Drispensedt | Ehrlicherstr. 18
- Outdoor swimming pool Johanniswiese | Lucienvörder Allee 1

#### Holzminden

- Indoor/outdoor swimming pool of the City Holzminden | Am Stahler Ufer 16

#### Göttingen

- Badeparadies Eiswiese | indoor adventure pool | Windausweg 6
- Outdoor swimming pool Weende | Am Weendesprung 1
- Outdoor swimming pool at the Brauweg | Brauweg 60
- Natural outdoor swimming pool Grone | Greitweg
- Luisenhaller Badehaus | Greitweg 48



## FURTHER INFORMATION

Time zone | Telephones | Mobile phones

Internet | Drinking water | Smoking/drugs/alcohol



### Time zone

Germany is located in the Central European Time (CET) time zone. The standard difference to UTC (Universal Time Coordinated) is +1 hour. In spring on the last Sunday in March, the clocks are moved forward one hour to Central European Summer Time (CEST). At 2:00 am, the clock is set to 3:00 am. The clock is changed back to CET on the last Sunday in October. At 3:00 am, the clock is set back to 2:00 am.

### Telephones

The international country code for Germany is +49. If you want to make an international call from Germany, you have to dial the corresponding international area code of the destination.

The area codes for the HAWK locations from within Germany are:

- Hildesheim: 0 51 21
- Holzminden: 0 55 31
- Göttingen: 05 51

Private telephone connections are available in many shared flats and also in rooms at student residences, often in combination with an internet connection. If there is no telephone line available, yet, you can order one from a number of different telecommunication companies. You should keep in mind that most contracts have a minimum contract period.

You can make cheap long-distance phone calls to foreign countries from Call Shops.

### Mobile phones

Mobile phones are called „Handys“ in Germany. A mobile phone from abroad can also be used here; within the EU only local fees are charged. Nevertheless, it can be advisable to buy a German SIM card due to organisational reasons as for some applications a German mobile number is needed. Students from Non-EU-countries should consider buying a German SIM card for not having to pay roaming charges. For using a German SIM card, you will need a mobile phone without SIM lock.

Especially if you are staying in Germany for a longer period, a mobile phone with a contract could also be a good solution. Most contracts include a mobile phone; however, you are bound for a certain minimum contract period and you have to keep the cancellation period in mind.

### Internet

All HAWK students get free access to the internet and their own e-mail account. With your HAWK account, you can use all the computers at the HAWK and you can connect your personal laptop using wireless LAN.

An internet connection is already available in many rooms at the student residences as well as in many shared flats. The price for internet use is usually included in the additional expenses. If there is no internet connection available yet, you can order one from any of the different telecommunication companies. Make sure to check in advance whether or not the contract has a minimum contract period.

### Drinking water

Tap water is perfectly fit for drinking anywhere in Germany. You can also buy different kinds of mineral water in bottles in the supermarket, with or without carbonation. If you order water in a restaurant in Germany, you'll usually get carbonated mineral water. You do not automatically get a glass of water together with your drinks and food in cafés and restaurants. In most restaurants, you have to order and pay for it.

### Smoking/drugs/alcohol

In Germany, young people are allowed to smoke at the age of 18. However, smoking is forbidden in the university as well as in all public buildings and in most restaurants, cafés and taverns. In some restaurants, there are special smoking areas. At stations and airports, smoking is allowed in the marked zones only. At the age of 18, you are also allowed to buy and drink alcohol without restrictions. When participating actively in traffic, you should not drink any alcohol at all. The use of any other drugs, such as cannabis, cocaine, heroin or ecstasy, is illegal in Germany.



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[www.hawk.de/en/international](http://www.hawk.de/en/international)

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