ISSUE 1/18

ZEIT GERMANY

STUDY, RESEARCH, WORK: A GUIDE

SETTLE IN
Taking the first step:
Find the right people and places to ensure a smooth start

LEARN A LOT
Staying the course:
Clear the initial hurdles and tackle a tough language

BE COOL
Going the extra mile:
Learn to love the culture and become hip in it, too

All you need to know . . . if you're thinking of moving to Germany

Meet the new Germans

DIE ZEIT

JACOBS UNIVERSITY

NEXT STOP: GERMANY!

World-class education on Germany's most international campus – start your global career at Jacobs University Bremen.

"Jacobs University has given me a ton of specialist knowledge. But most of all, the university has taught me to make something of myself."

Catherine (USA), graduate of 2018, has been accepted to a doctoral program at Harvard University

Interdisciplinary learning + Individualized mentoring + Research projects from early on + All programs in English

TOP-RANKED

OUTSTANDING IN CHE-RANKING
TOP RATINGS IN THE
INTERNATIONAL U-MULTIRANK

PREPARATORY PROGRAMS
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS
GRADUATE PROGRAMS

ENGINEERING AND BUSINESS
SOCIAL SCIENCES
NATURAL SCIENCES

RESIDENTIAL CAMPUS
SINGLE BEDROOM ACCOMMODATION
VIBRANT CAMPUS LIFE

JACOBS-UNIVERSITY.DE

Questions? Contact us: admission@jacobs-university.de ▪ Phone: +49 421 200-4200

EDITORIAL

Manuel J. Hartung (Publisher), Deborah Steinborn (Editor-in-Chief), Jana Spychalski (Editorial Asst.), Anna-Lena Scholz (Advisor), Julia Steinbrecher (Art Director), Caspar Shaller (Asst. Editor). Not pictured: Haika Hinze (Creative Director)

Germany's performance during this year's World Cup may have been a disaster, but elsewhere the country is scoring some winning goals. Universities, research institutes, and industry are attracting young global talent, thanks to free tuition, generous research funds, and a hot job market. There are challenges. Nationalism is on the rise across Europe, parts of Germany included. And much more could be done to integrate migrants nationwide. But, as this issue shows, many parts of society are trying to help. ZEIT, Germany's leading weekly newspaper, covers education and much more. ZEIT Germany is available worldwide at locations of the German Academic Exchange Service, Goethe-Institut, and Germany's Federal Foreign Office, to name just a few. It guides you through studying, researching, and working in the country.

Have fun! – The Team

ZEIT Germany is available digitally in its entirety at **www.zeit.de/study-research-work**

Photo (cover): Monika Keiler; Photo (this page): Lisa Morgenstern

IN THIS ISSUE

4
THE EXCHANGE
Migration to Germany is at a peak, and grassroots movements are trying to help integration

14
FIRST 100 DAYS
A guide through the bureaucratic jungle

16
CLASS ACTS
Oldest, biggest, oddest. Superlative German universities

22
GLOSSARY
An alphabetical list of key terms to cut through the jargon

24
BUDGET
Living and studying in Germany is dirt cheap, our research shows

26
MY FAVORITE THINGS
Three newcomers reveal what amazes them about Germany

30
MAP OF GREETINGS
German dialects are all over the place. A map to locate them

32
HOW TO BE COOL IN GERMANY
Rule of thumb: Don't try to be cool

41
WORD PLAY
Some apps help you learn the language. Others are a drag

42
THE BEST AMBASSADORS
Michelle Müntefering on Germany's image abroad

46
A QUICK STUDY
Form a quick first impression of Germany

49
THE FALLBACK CITY
Frankfurt could become a go-to place for expats after Brexit

53
ALT-RIGHT FRAT HOUSE
Some German fraternities have a bad reputation. Is it justified?

56
FAR FAR AWAY
In the Harz Mountains, global scientists seek practical applications for futuristic ideas

62
WHAT´S FOR LUNCH?
A university chef talks about student eating habits

64
ROAD SHOW
Germany is trying to mend transatlantic ties with the US

65
MASTHEAD
The staff. Plus: Distribution partners and further details

66
WHAT A WORD!
Grammar versus gender equality? A look at *man*, a most frustrating German word

THE EXCHANGE

Migration to Germany is at an all-time high, but foreign students and professionals can still encounter hurdles. The good news is, changes are already underway

BY DEBORAH STEINBORN **PHOTOS** PAULA WINKLER

Ghanaian-German actress Dayan Kodua in a Hamburg city park

Susan Amirbeigiarab's expectations were high when she moved to Germany in 2013. Back in Iran, she'd heard that student life in the country was good, with strong academic programs, generous research grants, and a welcoming culture that extended to higher education.

With a bachelor's degree in molecular and cellular biology and an advanced, B2-level German-language certificate in hand, she thought she'd be a sought-after young researcher, too. "I never expected so many problems," the Tehrani native, now 28, says of her first years as a master's student in Hamburg. She couldn't find housing. Her savings quickly ran out, and part-time jobs were hard to find. She was the sole foreigner in her program, and she felt isolated.

Amirbeigiarab's early struggle in Germany isn't an anomaly. Many migrants enjoy their host country. But some encounter unforeseen hurdles, such as outdated laws, organizational shortcomings, and, sometimes, a narrow cultural mindset. That's the case although the country long ago ceased being a monoculture. In the early 1960s, it began to recruit foreign workers, overwhelmingly from Turkey. Today, the Turkish-German population is Europe's largest immigrant community.

Amirbeigiarab eventually turned the situation around. Today, she's a doctoral student in biochemistry, and she wants to become a dual citizen. She thanks a few individuals – a German grassroots of sorts – for helping along the way. If Germany is to prosper in a multicultural climate, academia and business should follow their lead and further reduce traditional barriers to integration.

Immigration to Germany is at an all-time high. In recent years, Europe's largest economy has seen a massive influx – and not only of people fleeing war or suppression. Last year, the number of foreign nationals living in the country rose nearly 6 percent, to 10.6 million, according to the Federal Statistical Office. Higher education faces the same trend. More than 350,000 international students were enrolled at German universities in 2017, federal statistics show. That's 5.5 percent higher than in the previous year.

"Without a doubt, this newest influx is a gain for our society," write Herfried and Marina Münkler in their 2016 book, "The New Germans: A Country Confronting its Future." However, the academics emphasize, both sides need to step up to the plate. Migrants must adapt to the local culture, they say. "But we ourselves must also take action."

Ask Susan Amirbeigiarab what things convinced her to slug it out after moving to Germany, and she lists three people instead. A landlord rented her an apartment when she had no place to stay. A German staff member at the city's university clinic, who had spent some time in Iran, offered her an entry-level research post after many others had turned her down. The director of Schotstek, a private Hamburg foundation that mentors ambitious students with a migration background, offered her a scholarship.

"MY GERMAN MENTORS REALLY WANT TO CHANGE THINGS. WITH A GERMAN PASSPORT, I CAN EFFECT CHANGE FROM WITHIN, TOO"

SUSAN AMIRBEIGIARAB

These people, Amirbeigiarab says, helped her to go from selling croissants at a bakery to becoming a young academic with the zeal to diversify life sciences in Germany. Amirbeigiarab completed her master's degree in November 2017 and is enrolled in a doctoral program in biochemistry at the University of Hamburg.

Amirbeigiarab says she often hears that German universities are very international. That's what attracted her to the country in the first place. "But it's not completely true," she says. If a department has forty students and just one foreigner, for instance, "that's not international," she says. "So many aspects of the system need to change."

With that need in mind, Amirbeigiarab is now applying for dual citizenship in Germany. And the individuals who helped her along the way, she says, were the deciding factor.

"These people, completely of German heritage, have looked into the problems that migrants in their country face," she says. "They've seen the imbalance and what a lack of understanding can do. And they really want to change things. With a German passport, I can effect change from within, too."

Indeed, German higher education is under pressure to become more international, and recent migration flows are part of the reason. A growing demand for broader access to higher education worldwide, the so-called massification of the education market, got that trend underway. The European migrant crisis of 2015, which has led to an influx of asylum seekers and economic migrants in Germany, has only accelerated it.

Many efforts to internationalize programs are happening at the grassroots level. Humboldt University of Berlin is one of the country's largest public universities, with well over 35,000 students at latest count. Some dozen members of this vast student population joined forces in 2015, determined to help foreign peers in need.

It was the height of the European refugee crisis, and Jana Wiggenhauser was one of those volunteers. She recalls how this small group of students took on new responsibilities rapidly. "The migrants had so many tough stories, tough situations. In some cases, volunteers were totally overwhelmed," she says.

Over time, the university's administration, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Re-

Susan Amirbeigiarab, a native of Iran, is pursuing a doctoral degree in biochemistry

Syrian geographer Mohamed Ali Mohamed in Berlin

search, and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) offered funds and support to volunteers. And so the grassroots efforts of a few students, within the course of just a few years, were professionalized.

Today, six initiatives assist refugee students at Humboldt with class registration, legal counseling, networking, and more. The international strategy office has staffed up to help. Student volunteers are now looking ahead and focussed on developing a wider network with other institutions of higher learning throughout Germany.

Lessons learned within this realm, however, can help the broader foreign student population as well, Wiggenhauser emphasizes. "The university system in Germany is known to be bureaucratic," she admits. "But it's learning how to be less strict and more flexible. Less German, you might say."

Mohamed Ali Mohamed thanks Hilmar Schröder, his PhD advisor at Humboldt University, for helping him out of Syria just in time. The 42-year-old geographer completed his PhD in soil cartography at Humboldt back in 2010 and went back home to teach at the University of Aleppo. He stayed in touch with his German mentor.

"IT WAS MY SALVATION THAT COLLEAGUES WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO HELP"

MOHAMED ALI MOHAMED

When Mohamed fled to Turkey in late 2015, paying a smuggler to get across the border, his German mentor contacted colleagues, Humboldt's leadership, and the German embassy in Ankara to help expedite his visa application. Once Mohamed arrived in Berlin, Schröder helped find housing, funding, and other assistance for the Syrian scholar. "It was my salvation that colleagues at Humboldt went out of their way to help," Mohamed says.

Today, Mohamed is a Philipp Schwartz Fellow, a position funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. The Philipp Schwartz Initiative helps scholars who are forced to flee their homelands because of their research, political views, or war. His family made it to Germany late last year, a major relief after waiting almost two years. Mohamed is now developing advanced land-use maps of metropolitan regions for urban planning. He hopes to use the technology to help rebuild Syria when the war ends.

Philipp Schwartz fellows are an elite group, Mohamed admits. Just 124 scholars have been promised funding since its inception by the Humboldt Foundation and Germany's Federal Foreign Office in 2015. But it's one approach to welcoming talented foreigners in need.

A Berlin social startup turned Ahmad Afyouni's integration in Germany from frustrating to fruitful. Like Mohamed, he had fled Aleppo in 2015 and found his way to Germany. Arriving in Goldberg, a town with a population of 3,600 in the former East Germany, the 25-year-old Afyouni spent a lot of time waiting – for asylum processing; for the green light to take language and integration courses in Rostock, about a 2-hour bus ride away; and for the chance to continue his studies.

Then, one day in spring 2017, an unusually helpful school administrator referred to something called Kiron, suggesting it could be an option. "I thought, 'Kiron?! What on earth is that?' " Afyouni recalls. He googled the name and discovered that Kiron Open Higher Education, a platform for refugees, had an agreement with the University of Rostock. Afyouni could take courses online while he waited. He applied immediately.

Kiron launched a crowd-funding campaign in 2015 after two young German social entrepreneurs noticed that solutions seemed to exist for most barriers refugees faced – except in higher education. At the time, both men were volunteering to help

Obtain your PhD in a highly innovative, interdisciplinary and international environment.

PASSION FOR SCIENCE

maxplanckschools.org

Max Planck School of Cognition | Max Planck School of Photonics
Max Planck School Matter to Life

APPLY: AUTUMN 2018

MAX PLANCK SCHOOLS — a joint initiative between German Universities and German Research Organizations

Ahmad Afyouni
transferred to the University
of Rostock from Kiron
Open Higher Education

refugees in the country's capital. They contacted online course providers, universities, and decision-makers in politics and business to talk about the lack of options in this realm. Then they hammered out a solution.

Today, Kiron uses online courses developed by universities including Harvard, Yale, Cambridge, and MIT to allow students who have fled their home countries to study business and economics, mechanical engineering, computer science, political science, and social work. Curricula meet European Higher Education Area standards, so students can take courses online while working to fulfill university application requirements.

Like other grassroots initiatives, the startup has slowly won the backing of some industrial and political heavyweights. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the Schöpflin Foundation, Volkswagen, and other prominent groups provide funding. More than 3,300 students are registered with Kiron. And 56 universities, 32 of them in Germany, have partnered with it.

Those inroads are impressive, especially since only about 3,000 refugees are officially registered as students in the country, according to the German Rectors' Conference, an association of public universities. No one knows how many refugees are really enrolled in higher eduation, the association adds in a recent report; once registered, their status changes.

In the long run, Kiron management hopes its approach can be integrated into a broader, national solution. "Germans don't notice all the hurdles in higher education," explains Tobias Ernst, Kiron's CEO. "But for all migrants, it's extremely challenging even to figure out how to become a student in Germany, from language barriers to bureaucracy."

To attain that goal, Kiron is working with several universities to integrate digital-learning tools into the wider university landscape. In the long run, Ernst notes, it's the best way to improve higher education in Germany. "We are democratizing higher education, and we can serve as a broader model," he says.

Ahmad Afyouni is a good example. Now 27, Afyouni has transferred credit points he completed at Kiron to the University of Rostock and is enrolled in a master's program in business informatics there.

People migrate to Germany from around the globe for very different reasons these days, but they all hope to encounter a culture that's open to their needs. Hilary Wang had been mulling for a while whether to apply for a one-year sabbatical from her job at Portland State University, so that she and her family could live overseas and learn another language. The linguist taught at the university's intensive English-language program, and she worked with people from many different cultures every day.

"WE MUST ENCOURAGE THESE STUDENTS TO GET A HIGHER EDUCATION AND PURSUE THEIR PASSIONS"

DAYAN KODUA

"Then my husband got this great opportunity to move to Germany for work. We kept coming back to the question: 'When will we have the opportunity to do this again?' " she recalls. The couple and their two school-age children sold their house, packed up, and moved to Hamburg. She's now learning the language and working as an English tutor on the side. Her husband, an attorney, works as general counsel for a global energy group with offices in Hamburg.

"After Donald Trump was elected president, it felt as though our country was becoming more inward looking and inhospitable to foreigners," Wang says. That was the deciding factor. "We really wanted our children to spend time overseas and see that there are equally valid points of view around the world."

The Wangs represent a kind of talent that's being drawn to Germany in increasing numbers. And one

Hilary Wang is a linguist from Portland, Oregon

Dayan Kodua believes migrants need more role models in Germany

from which Germany can learn and benefit as well. The country faces a shortage of skilled professionals with higher educational degrees and diverse work experience. Whether such migrants can really adapt to the local language and culture remains to be seen.

Migrants who overcame major hurdles in Germany long ago, meanwhile, are sometimes among the most powerful agents of change. Take Dayan Kodua. She emigrated from Ghana in the 1990s, at the age of ten. She vividly recalls boarding a plane, alone, with a child travel pass strapped around her neck. Her parents had already moved years before.

In Germany, Kodua says, she often was the sole black person around. In middle school, she had Turkish, Polish, and Russian classmates, but no fellow Africans. And her adolescent years in Kiel Gaarden, a tension-ridden, inner-city neighborhood in one of northern Germany's most populous cities, didn't differ much in that respect.

DID YOU KNOW... ?

Germany has 10.6 million migrants, 5.9 million of whom come from outside the EU

2.8 million students are enrolled at universities and universities of applied sciences in Germany

13% of all students come from abroad

3,000 refugees are officially registered at German higher-education institutions

Integrating into the German culture as a black African, Kodua says, was a decades-long struggle. "There were no role models for me, no one in my surroundings, and no public personalities who looked like me," she recalls. Teachers didn't encourage her to attend university, even though her grades were good. She was interested in acting, and moved to Berlin to attend a performing-arts school.

In her 20s, with money she'd set aside from modeling jobs, she traveled to Los Angeles to attend the Howard Fine Acting Studio in Hollywood. "When I got to LA, I met so many African-Americans," she recalls. "All of them were doing such interesting things, *everything* from hairstylist to taxi driver to banker. I had an awakening. Why weren't there any famous black Germans? Why didn't we ever see black doctors, pharmacists, lawyers, architects, or cashiers in Germany?"

Over time, these questions turned into a mission. So when Kodua returned to Germany to pursue acting, she also sought answers to the problem.

Today, she is a successful actress, appearing on the popular television series "Tatort" and in theater productions. She is also author of "My Black Skin: Black. Successful. German." Published in 2014, the book profiles 25 little-known, successful, black Germans from all walks of life, including a Congolese immigrant who has become a parliamentary member in the city of Bremen, a fashion designer who emigrated from the Dominican Republic, and a lawyer in Kiel who was born in Nigeria.

In order to initiate change, Kodua says, such stories must be shared with all Germans, including politicians, businessmen, those who can trace their German ancestry back a thousand years, and those who have just arrived. She's spreading the word. She regularly visits inner-city schools where families with migration backgrounds often live. She also encourages business leaders to help change outdated mindsets in broader society.

"It's so important to emphasize the positive," she says. "We must encourage these students to get a higher education and pursue their passions. The only way is to provide role models, people who look like they do and have found their own way."

When she talks with students, Kodua likes to share a story that gives her hope. Recently, passing through Hamburg's main train station on her way to a meeting, she noticed a black, female pharmacist working at its bustling pharmacy. It was the first time in all her years living in Germany that Kodua had seen a German of African descent in such a position. It encouraged her, and she hopes to see more. ●

Sources: German Academic Exchange Service, German Rectors' Conference

Frankfurt School
of Finance & Management

German Excellence. Global Relevance.

STUDY IN FRANKFURT

WORLD'S SMALLEST METROPOLIS WITH THE MOST OPPORTUNITIES

- Bachelor of Science (BSc)
- Master of Science (MSc)
- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Doctoral programme
- Executive Education

AACSB ACCREDITED

EFMD EQUIS ACCREDITED

www.frankfurt-school.de

FIRST 100 DAYS

Think Germans are efficient? Then you haven't encountered their yen for bureaucracy. But there's help. Five (not so simple) steps to settle in

BY CASPAR SHALLER **ILLUSTRATION** GOLDEN COSMOS

FIND SOME DIGS

First things first: You need a base for your adventure. Universities offer student housing, but many young people live in shared apartments referred to as *WGs*. This stands for *Wohngemeinschaft* – a living community. Here, you'll have your own room but share a bathroom, a kitchen, maybe a living room.

In Germany for a semester or an internship? A sublet, called a *Zwischenmiete*, might be easier. It's already furnished, whereas in regular apartments, renters often have to install their own fridges and stoves.

The landlord receives *Warmmiete*, basic rent plus incidentals. Gas, heating, and electricity are included; telephone and internet bills aren't. Public TV and radio license fees, called GEZ, cost an additional 17.50 euros per month.

Landlords may ask for as much as three months' rent as a security deposit, or *Kaution*. If nothing's damaged, the deposit will be returned when you move out. Get a signed list of pre-existing damage before you move in.

Sadly, the housing market is full of scams, even in Germany. Never pay before you sign a lease. Viewing an apartment should never cost anything. On the upside, renters' legal rights are strong. The local *Mieterschutzbund*, a tenants' rights organization, can help with problems. Popular websites to find a room in a *WG* are:
www.wg-gesucht.de
www.studenten-wg.de

REGISTER

This is vital. You'll need proof of registration, the *Meldebestätigung,* for everything from bank accounts to health insurance.

The *Anmeldung*, or registration, often baffles visitors. In Germany and other European countries, you have to register your address with local government every time you move.

According to German law, you must do so within 14 days of moving. Government offices sometimes work very slowly, so meeting this deadline is nearly impossible. But scheduling an appointment at the *Meldebehörde* within two weeks of moving should suffice.

In most cities, it's possible to schedule an appointment online. But the next free one might be in three months. Try checking the website first thing, at 7 a.m. You might get one on short notice.

And be sure to get all your paperwork in order before going to the office. You will need the following: 1. A valid passport. 2. The *Anmeldeformular*, or registration form. Print it out at your new home. These forms are only available in German, but filling out your name, date of birth, and address is easy with the help of Google Translate or a dictionary. 3. A *Wohnungsgeberbescheinigung,* essentially a form confirming you are allowed to live in the apartment. Your landlord should give you a signed version of this form when you meet to sign the lease. If you are subletting or living in a *WG*, the lease holder needs to sign. Your lease is not a replacement for this form. Once you have all these documents, registering should be a breeze.

BANK ON IT

To open a bank account with a traditional bank, you must visit a brick-and-mortar branch. As with your official registration, most forms are only in German, but worry not. There's surely someone on staff who can help.

You'll need a passport or other valid ID, and, of course, your proof of registration. Student accounts are usually free of fees, but you'll have to prove you're a student first. If you don't yet have a student ID or *Semesterbescheinigung*, just ask nicely if you can hand it in later.

Or try to use an online bank, such as N26 or comdirect. They don't charge fees, and they offer support in English.

Beware that cash is still king in Germany. Many stores and restaurants don't accept debit or credit cards, and banks often charge a fee for withdrawing cash at ATMs outside their network. Public savings banks, called *Sparkassen*, have the most ATMs but might be hesitant to open accounts for people who are only in the country for a few months.

Credit and loans are regulated strictly in Germany, so getting a credit card is difficult if you don't have regular income. Pre-paid credit cards are available, though.

GET INSURED

Once you have a bank account, get some health insurance (*Krankenversicherung*); it's crucial. You need proof of it to register at a university or when you accept a job.

If you're from the EU, you can use your home insurance with a European Health Insurance Card. If you aren't, or if you are staying for more than a year, you'll need either public (*gesetzliche*) or private German insurance.

Public insurance policies cost 82 euros a month for students under 30 or 150 euros per month if you're older. Private insurance is much more expensive. Visiting a doctor is usually covered by both kinds of insurance, and most prescription pills are too.

To get a policy, you'll need a passport, registration, proof of student status, and domestic bank-account details. If you plan ahead, scan and e-mail completed forms, then visit a local office to show the remaining documentation in person once you arrive.

A list of health insurers is at www.krankenkassen.de. *Techniker Krankenkasse* is a popular option among students.

THE RESIDENCE PERMIT

You're almost done! You finally can become a legal resident of the Federal Republic of Germany. (If you're an EU citizen, you already enjoy the right to freedom of movement). Non-EU students need a residence permit, or *Aufenthaltstitel*. These tend to be valid for two years, but can be renewed when they expire. You need to make an appointment at your local *Ausländerbehörde*, the immigration office.

Which documents you need differs slightly depending on the type of visa, but the following are musts: a valid passport; a biometric passport picture; a completed application form called *Antrag auf Erteilung eines Aufenthaltstitels*, which you can download ahead of time; your lease; proof of registration; German health insurance; and 110 euros in cash.

If you want a student visa, you'll also need a university *Semesterbescheinigung* and proof that you can finance your stay. There are three ways to prove you're flush. The first: a recent bank statement that shows you've got 720 euros per month, that's 8,640 euros for the year, to cover living expenses. Some states even require you to establish a blocked bank account, from which you can't withdraw funds.

If you have a job or a scholarship, bring proof. Alternatively, your parents can provide proof of their income via the German embassy back home. And if you've got a job, bring along a work contract, a job description (*Stellenbeschreibung*), and an employment permission form (*Antrag auf Erlaubnis einer Beschäftigung*).

If you're freelancing, be sure to bring along proof that you have clients, plus a CV, a cover letter, professional references, and a printed portfolio of your work. You'll also need a thorough financing plan that includes revenue forecasts for the next few years.

If all your papers are in order, you'll finally get that cherished ID. Welcome to Germany!

OUTSOURCE RED TAPE

If settling in seems daunting, and you can afford it, hire an agency to help jump the hurdles. Services cost anywhere from ten euros for registration assistance in your language up to about a hundred for the whole shebang (registration, health insurance, and blocked bank-account assistance).

There's a cottage industry in expat services. One such group is SympatMe, founded in 2014 by some tech-savvy Berliners who noticed that some of their friends had a tough time when moving to Germany.

SympatMe can help you get a visa, find and register your apartment, open a bank account, set up internet and phone, and even get expat discounts. Its website offers assistance in several languages.

Founded in 2016, Frankfurt-based Fintiba offers a basic package to deal with setting up the blocked accounts that non-EU students may need for visa applications. A so-called plus package covers health insurance as well. Both companies' websites explain in-depth all that German red tape. ●

Cram for exams on the lawn. UNICUM,
Germany's national student magazine, voted the campus
at University of Passau most beautiful

CLASS ACTS

What is Germany's oddest-sounding degree? What's its smallest bachelor's program, and its oldest university? A tour of Germany's higher-education landscape

BY JULIA GUNDLACH

Photos: Christina Körte, Simon Koy

"THE OLDEST"
HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY

In the shadow of the historic castle, Heidelberg University has seen it all, from literary titan Goethe to software giant SAP

When HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY was founded way back in 1386, Germany was still part of the Holy Roman Empire. So if you want to split hairs, Heidelberg is just the oldest university on modern German ground.

It's hard to miss the signs of a long history in this scenic college town situated alongside the Neckar River.

The famed castle ruins are visible from just about anywhere in town. And most students quickly get to know the Philosophers' Walk, where famous intellectuals such as Mark Twain, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe would walk, talk, and contemplate the meaning of life.

An old student detention room, in a cellar, is one of the most peculiar campus sites. From the late 1700s to 1914, students who pulled pranks in class by day or disturbed the peace at night were detained there. Offending students served detention for as long as a month. They were, however, allowed to leave the cellar each day to attend lectures.

Heidelberg University started out with just four departments: theology, law, medicine, and philosophy. Today, it is one of Europe's most distinguished universities, with 30,000 students, and it has helped turn the wider region into one of Germany's leading scientific hubs.

Indeed, the city is home to several world-famous research facilities, including four Max Planck Institutes. And SAP, the software giant, is based nearby.

The university motto, *semper apertus*, or always open, is apt for a place where every fifth student is international and more than half are women.

Only the library doesn't quite stick to this spirit: its doors always close at 1 a.m.

"THE LARGEST"
UNIVERSITY OF HAGEN

The University of Hagen has amassed more than 70,000 students. Most have never set foot on campus

It's Germany's largest university, with 72,974 enrollments at last count. Yet few students at the UNIVERSITY OF HAGEN ever have set foot on the main campus.

That's because Hagen is the only state-funded distance-learning university in the country. In all, it has more than 50 study centers in Germany and other European countries. So students do have to show up for exams, but not necessarily in Hagen.

In 1974, North Rhine-Westphalia established a public research university dedicated to distance learning. The state wanted to address overcrowding at universities and make it easier for working people to continue studying. Hagen, on the southeastern edge of the Ruhr region, seemed a good fit. The Ruhr is the largest urban area in the country and the fifth largest in the European Union.

Today, more than 80 percent of Hagen students work while they're studying. On average, it takes them twice as long as regular students to finish a degree – 12 semesters to complete a bachelor's degree and nine semesters for a master's degree.

Hagen's students are between 29 and 35 years of age. That's older than the norm, even for Germans, who tend to study until well into their 20s.

Students register online and receive course materials by snail mail. Some of the usual red tape has been cut so that students can better balance studies, jobs, and personal lives. The university awards bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in many fields. It's also possible to pursue a *habilitation*, a qualification necessary for a professorship at German universities.

Graduation ceremonies at Hagen are optional – students can also receive their diplomas by mail.

"THE MOST DIVERSE"
BARENBOIM-SAID AKADEMIE, BERLIN

At the Barenboim-Said Akademie, music students from Arabic and African countries play for peace

You'd be hard pressed to find a more culturally diverse institute of higher learning in Germany. The BARENBOIM-SAID AKADEMIE, which was founded in 2015, unites young musicians from around the world. In fact, just one of its current ninety students is a German citizen, though several are dual citizens.

The academy is the brainchild of conductor and pianist Daniel Barenboim and Edward Said, a renowned intellectual. It supports young musicians, particularly from Israel, Palestine, the Middle East, and North Africa, in the spirit of the Seville-based West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, which also was founded by the duo. It hopes to pave the way to a peaceful and fair resolution of political and cultural conflicts.

Building on the principles of the Divan Orchestra, the academy offers a bachelor's degree in music, a preparatory program, and a postgraduate artist diploma. Students receive a monthly stipend of 735 euros and free housing.

The school places a clear emphasis on performance studies, but about a third of course work focuses on humanities including history, philosophy, and postcolonial theory.

Still, students spend much more time playing and listening to music than studying in a library. According to Mena Mark Hanna, the academy's dean, the combination of musicians from mostly Arabic and African countries and Western-style classical music creates a beautiful musical dissonance.

The Pierre Boulez Saal, a concert hall designed by the American architect Frank Gehry and the Japanese acoustician Yasuhisa Toyota, is at the academy's heart. It seats up to 700, and concerts open to the public are held there regularly.

Photos: Alexander Coggin, Volker Kreidler, Lorenzo Maccotta/Contrasto/laif

"THE MOST RATIONAL"
LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY

If you attend university in Germany, you'll likely encounter the typical lecture-hall experience and struggle to find a free seat at the back of an auditorium larger than an airplane hangar. Courses in popular subjects, such as law or politics, are often crowded.

The opposite is true at Germany's only master's program in logic, offered by LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY. Two professors teach just 35 students about the art of argumentation and logic. At the end of the two-year program, students receive a Master of Arts in logic.

Since there are no bachelor's programs in logic in Germany, students are academically diverse. Most participants have studied informatics, philosophy, linguistics, or biology. The program delves into induction and probability, theoretical informatics, and classical and non-classical logic. A bachelor-level course on rational argumentation is open to all university students.

Goodbye, overcrowding. Only 35 students are enrolled for a degree in logic in Leipzig

Currently, only six students come from abroad. Leipzig is evaluating whether to internationalize the degree. As an all-English *Erasmus Mundus* joint master's program, it could draw more foreign students to Leipzig and help the program to grow. If the program changes in this way, participants would spend their first year in Leipzig and a second year at a European partner school.

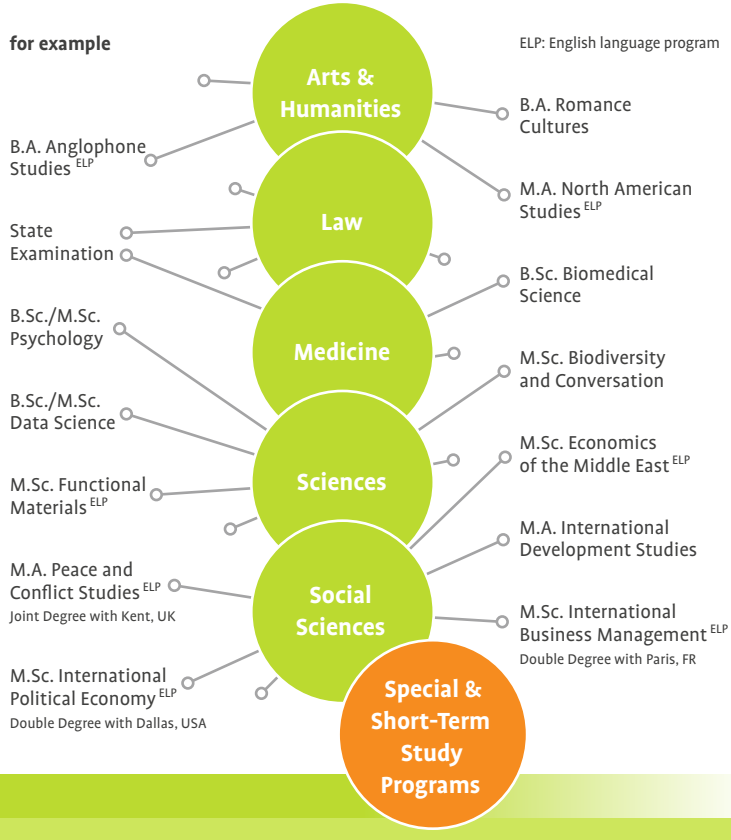
Welcome to Philipps-Universität Marburg!

Traditional and Modern:

For nearly five centuries the University of Marburg has been a hub of research and teaching in the heart of Germany. At Philipps-Universität Marburg we place particular value on fostering a diverse, interdisciplinary and particularly international study and research environment for students and scholars alike. Think, study and research beyond borders and apply now for one of our many interdisciplinary undergraduate, graduate and short-term study programs.

www.uni-marburg.de/en/studying

Philipps Universität Marburg



"THE MOST RELAXED"

CITY UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES, BREMEN

No hammocks here. In Bremen, analyzing and researching leisure is serious business

A college degree in leisure? To many students, it may sound too good to be true. Parents may think it's fake news or a bad joke. But in Germany, where vacation, holidays, and Sundays are sacrosanct, the study of leisure is taken very seriously.

In the northwestern port city of Bremen, the CITY UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES offers degree programs in leisure studies, a branch of the social sciences. City University has a strong focus on hands-on learning via internships, and has offered leisure studies since the late 1990s. Its 7-semester bachelor's and its 3-semester master's programs were introduced in 2005.

Bachelor students complete core coursework in social, business, environmental, and legal studies before specializing in a leisure topic of their choice. Courses are taught mostly in German, but the program has an international flavor. Bachelor students must spend one semester in another country. They can intern abroad too; students have even gone to the Kathmandu Environmental Education Project in Nepal. The master's program does not require an internship but is otherwise similar, albeit with a stronger emphasis on English.

The program doesn't require students to lie in a hammock or picnic in a park with friends. Program Director Renate Freericks admits that potential students sometimes ask whether it does.

Graduates pursue careers as tourism planners, cultural managers, or wellness coaches. The leisure sector has grown in recent years, and so have job and research opportunities in the field. One recent student thesis has compared sauna cultures in Germany and Russia; another, the influence of tourism on European integration.

"THE NERDIEST"

CODE UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES, BERLIN

Pack some energy drinks. CODE University is Germany's first private college for programmers

Thomas Bachem developed a knack for technology early on. At 12, he taught himself to code. In his teens, he developed software. At university, Bachem was frustrated with theory-heavy German computer-science programs. So he studied business instead.

Bachem later became a successful tech entrepreneur, but his frustration stuck. With some friends from Berlin's tech scene, he founded CODE UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES last year. It's Germany's first private college for software programmers, and the 32-year-old has become the country's youngest university chancellor.

Applicants face a rigorous admissions process. School grades are irrelevant: an online motivational letter, a video interview, and a project "challenge" are the first steps. Promising applicants are invited to an assessment day, complete with energy drinks and all-night coding. After receiving 2,000 applications from more than 25 countries, 88 students were selected for the inaugural winter semester of 2017.

Students choose between international English-language bachelor's degrees in software engineering, interactive design, or product management.

The university is located in a giant warehouse on the eastern side of the former Berlin Wall. Representatives from Facebook, online retailer Zalando, and the networking site Xing regularly stop by.

These perks come with a sizable price tag. The three-year degree costs roughly 27,000 euros in tuition fees. But students can choose an income-dependent repayment model – essentially, a loan that they can start to repay after graduation. According to program administrators, most students opt in to the scheme. ●

Photos: mauritius images / Felix Strohbach, CODE University of Applied Sciences

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT DRESDEN

Excellence and so much more.
Be part of it.

As a University of Excellence, we continuously strive to become even better. In research, in teaching, in administration and in all our endeavours. Our vision: a brighter future for all. Do you share our vision? Then join us at TU Dresden!

We are…
a dynamic, cosmopolitan university with 18 faculties covering all academic disciplines, and one of the eleven Universities of Excellence in Germany.

We offer…
a broad spectrum of 121 degree programmes, a lively campus, a wide variety of sports and plenty of opportunities to get involved in the cultural scene.

And all that in a vibrant, colourful city. **We hope to see you in Dresden soon!**

tu-dresden.de

Photo: Amac Garbe / www.amacgarbe.de

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

German academia is complicated. Key terms to help cut through the jargon, from A to Z

BY DEBORAH STEINBORN **ILLUSTRATION** GOLDEN COSMOS

BOLOGNA PROCESS *n. (Hochschulreform, Bologna-Prozess)* 1. a series of agreements between European countries to ensure common standards of higher education; named after the university where education ministers from 29 countries signed a declaration in 1999. 2. introduction of a two-tiered structure of bachelor's and master's degrees, and easy transfer of credits between institutions

DINING HALL *n. (Mensa)* a location that provides meals to university students and staff. The German name stems from Latin for table. Comparable to a cafeteria or canteen, it's integral to student life in Germany. Subsidized meals usually cost less than four euros

DUAL STUDY *n. (Duales Studium)* 1. a system that combines apprenticeships in a company or non-profit organization and higher education in a field of study. 2. a program mostly found in business administration, engineering, and social services. It's particularly popular in German states such as Baden-Württemberg

ELITE UNIVERSITY *n. (Eliteuniversität)* 1. a term used to refer to 11 public universities given special status by Germany's Federal Ministry of Education and Research. 2. Germany's Ivy League. According to the European Commission, four German elite universities are among Europe's top ten universities: Technical University of Munich, University of Freiburg, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, and Heidelberg University

ERASMUS PROGRAM *n. (Erasmus-Programm)* 1. a student-exchange program financed by the European Union, combining all current EU schemes for education, training, youth, and sport. 2. acronym for European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students

EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE *n. (Exzellenzinitiative)* a long-term effort by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research to promote cutting-edge research and conditions for scholars, better cooperation between disciplines and institutions, and the global renown of German universities and research institutions

GERMAN ACADEMIC EXCHANGE SERVICE *n. (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, DAAD)* 1. a federally and state-funded, self-governing

national agency of institutions of higher learning in Germany. 2. the largest German support organization for international academic cooperation. 3. a popular source of scholarship funding for foreigners studying in Germany www.daad.de/en/

GERMAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION *n. (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG)* an organization that funds research at universities and other institutions through a variety of grants and prizes. It's the largest such organization in Europe www.dfg.de/en/

POST-DOCTORAL QUALIFICATION *n. (Habilitation)* 1. a qualification necessary for a professorship at German universities. 2. highest qualification issued through the process of a university exam

RESEARCH INSTITUTE *n. (Forschungsinstitut)* a research body independent of the university system. The top four – Fraunhofer Society, Helmholtz Association, Max Planck Society, and Leibniz Association – employ more than 82,000 researchers

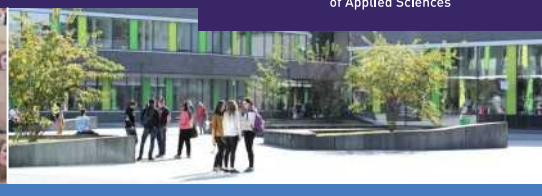
TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY *n. (Technische Hochschule)* a university that specializes in engineering sciences in Germany. Some have the ability to confer PhDs, while others do not

UNIVERSITY *n. (Universität, Uni)* 1. an institution of higher learning with facilities for teaching and research, typically comprising an undergraduate division that awards bachelor's degrees and a graduate division that awards master's degrees and doctorates. On average, it hosts 16,500 students. 2. an educational body with the right to confer PhDs

UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES *n. (Fachhochschule, FH)* 1. an institution of higher vocational education, often in areas such as engineering or business. On average, it hosts 4,500 students. 2. an educational body that usually doesn't confer PhDs

UNIVERSITY RANKING *n. (Hochschulranking)* a ranking of institutions of higher learning, ordered by various factors. The CHE University Ranking details German higher-education institutions based on assessments by students and faculty members www.ranking.zeit.de/che/en/ ●

HOCHSCHULE RHEIN-WAAL
Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences



START WORKING TOWARDS YOUR INTERNATIONAL CAREER TODAY!

- Study in English and earn a high-quality degree from a public German university
- Two campus locations in Kleve and Kamp-Lintfort with cutting-edge academic facilities dedicated to interdisciplinary, practice-oriented education and research

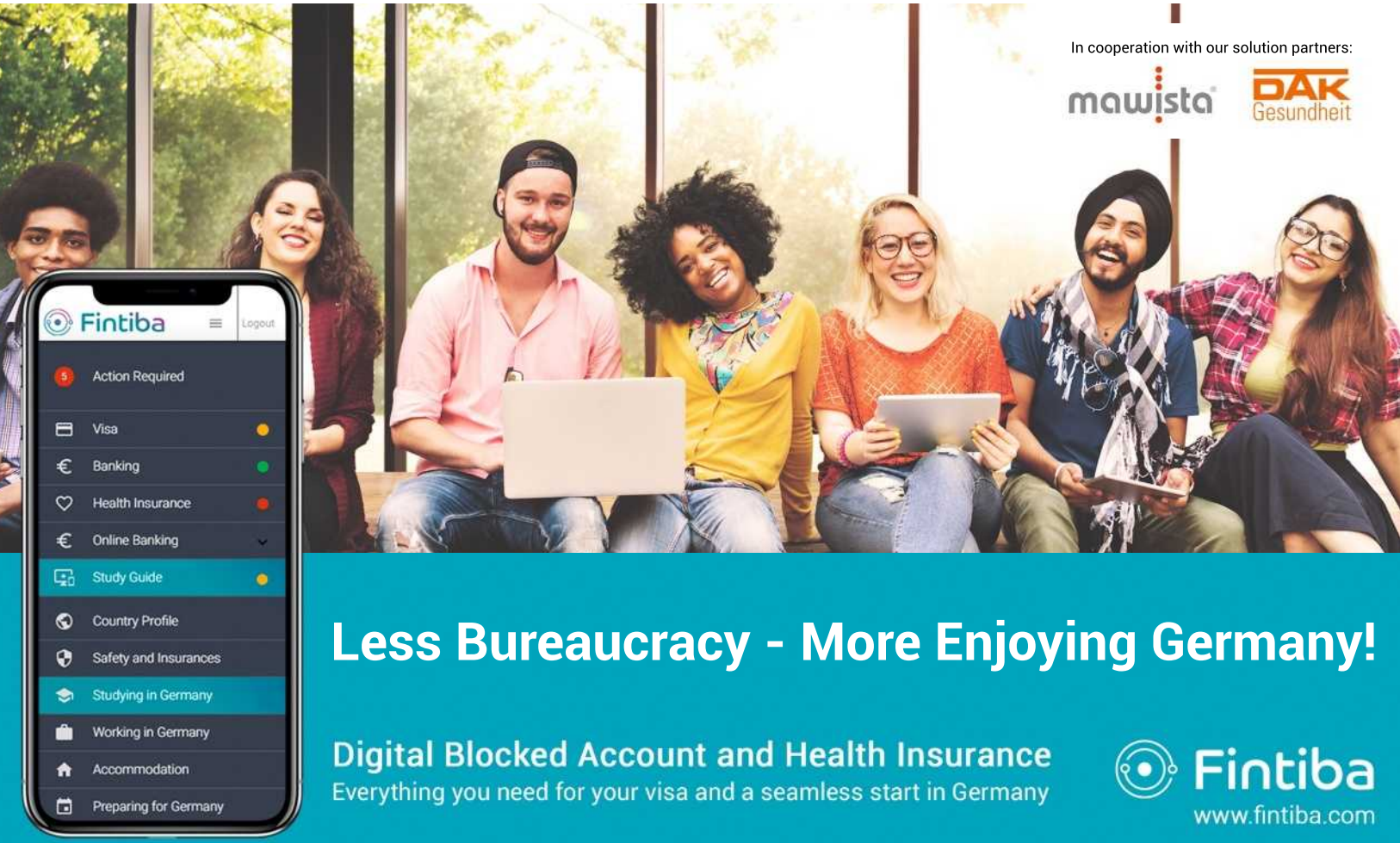
18 bachelor's and 9 master's degrees offered in English

www.hochschule-rhein-waal.de

BUDGET

Cost of Living and Studying (in euros)	Annual Tuition	Monthly Rent	Monthly Transportation
Ernst-Abbe-Hochschule Jena University of Applied Sciences	402	258	0
University of Tübingen	308*	304	15
ESADE Business & Law School Barcelona & Madrid	16,200	600	65
Columbia University in the City of New York	45,790	1,000	106

* Non-EU students pay an additional 3,000 euros/year

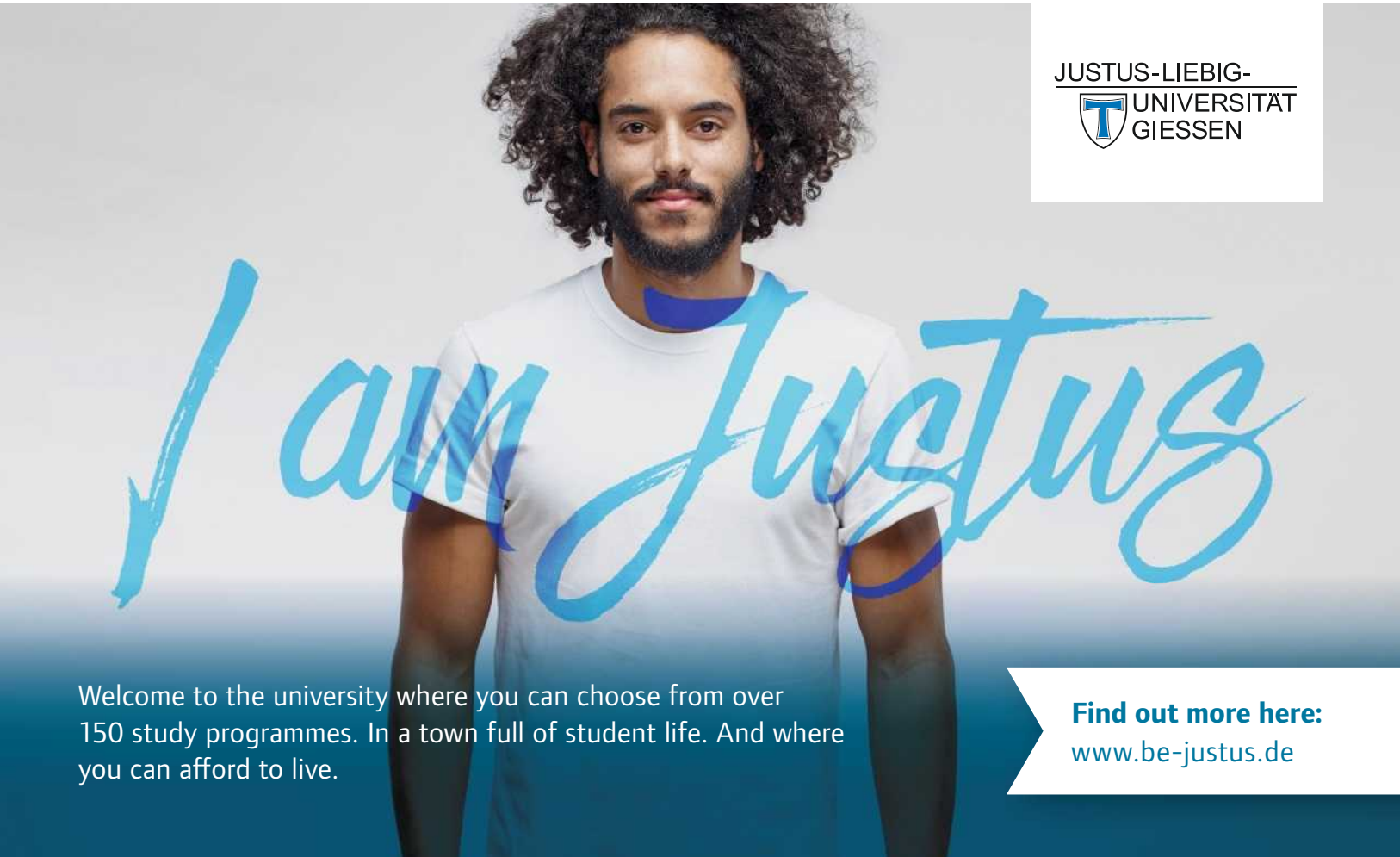


Living and studying in Germany is cheaper than elsewhere in the western world. The numbers speak for themselves

BY JULIA GUNDLACH AND CASPAR SHALLER **ILLUSTRATION** GOLDEN COSMOS

Monthly Health Insurance	Monthly Groceries and Food	Monthly Telephone and Internet	Cup of Coffee	Total Students	Foreign Students as % of Total
89	135	33	2	4,545	19
89	164	33	2.30	27,741	14
0	200	20	1.50	9,425	35
247	263	26	4	32,429	35

Sources: Deutsches Studentenwerk, UNICUM, federal and state statistical offices, ZEIT calculations



MY FAVORITE THINGS

What should you really know about Germany before you get there? Newcomers share what most shocks and delights them about student life, culture, work, and play in the country

BY DEBORAH STEINBORN AND CASPAR SHALLER

AFTER AN EFFICIENT DAY'S WORK, LET YOUR HAIR DOWN DURING FEIERABEND. IF YOU'RE AT THE LIBRARY, SET UP YOUR PAUSENSCHEIBE BEFORE HEADING OUT FOR BEER OR SPARKLING WATER

THE INTERNATIONALS

Munodiwa Bore, 21, is a Bachelor of Science student at Jacobs University Bremen from Harare, Zimbabwe

Ausking Shi, 23, is an intern at Hamburg shipping group Hapag-Lloyd from Melbourne, Australia

Alex Swanson, 25, is a Master of Arts student at the University of Hamburg from Bellevue, Nebraska, US

DUST OFF YOUR REEBOKS. THE '80S HAVE MADE A COMEBACK

THE '80S ARE BACK

I wish I had known that Reeboks are cool! Everybody wears white Reeboks, on the street and on campus. They're 29 dollars (25 euros) on sale back home in Nebraska but in Germany, they cost four times as much. Here, you need to look stylish and be practical, too. Everything has to be waterproof. I have a pair of Reeboks in my closet now, although they're metallic. – *Alex*

THE LANGUAGE

There's this theory that the language you learn while growing up determines how you see the world. Maybe Germans are so pragmatic because their language is, too. I speak other languages including English, Dutch, and Vietnamese. And I haven't encountered anything that's as precise as German. I'm still learning the constructs, but it's all so exact. It feels like there is a word for everything, and many are so hard to pronounce. – *Ausking*

GREEN PASTURES

The first thing I noticed right when I got off the plane was all the green. Zimbabwe is very dry and Harare is right in the middle of the savanna, so my eyes literally could not take the amount of green. I felt like I had to wear color-block sunglasses all the time. – *Munodiwa*

PAUSENSCHEIBE?

The library is a beast to figure out. There are so many hidden rules. Checking out a book is an endeavor. You need to show your registration, a passport, and other documents just to apply for a library card.

Then there's the *Pausenscheibe*. It's like a study-break pass. Say you're studying at the university library and want to go to the bathroom. Place this pass on your desk to show when you'll return, or a guard will take away all your stuff. Sort of like getting your car towed when the meter runs out. – *Alex*

RECYCLING RULES

It seems as if you need a university degree to take care of garbage in Germany. Mastering the difference between the yellow trash bag, where the organic waste goes, the bin you have to throw the paper into, and the one for the glass, is so complex.

When you return empty bottles, you get a deposit back. I love going to the supermarket with my empty crate of beer bottles and getting four euros back. Yay, free money! – *Munodiwa*

POLITICS IS SERIOUS

I identify myself as politically very left-wing, so I didn't think many people could be much more left than me. I didn't realize just how extreme political viewpoints are in Germany until I attended a birthday party in Berlin recently. I showed up in a pink dress shirt, jeans, and Nike sneakers. Everyone else was wearing only black clothing.

Turns out most of the guests were followers of the anti-fascist movement. I saw a guy with a large German flag in his hands, and thought, "Oh, interesting." Then he held it up, and he set it on fire.

I approached him to ask why he'd burned the flag. We got into a very political discussion. It was a little awkward for me, since I was wearing commercial brands. Well, better a far-left party than a far-right party, I thought. Since I'm of Asian descent, that could have been really awkward. – *Ausking*

WATER EXPLODES

The major shock I got, right when I first arrived, was the sparkling water. They drink so much of it here, and it doesn't even taste of anything at all.

My host mother picked me up from the airport, and she brought along a flower and a bottle of water. I was so excited that I forgot all about the bottle. Later, in my new room, I sat down to drink some. But when I opened the bottle, it exploded all over the place.

Had my host mother put something in it, I wondered? Was it some kind of practical joke? Then I tasted it. To my horror, it was just plain old water, but with bubbles. Back home, the only fizzy drinks we have are sweetened soft drinks. Now, I can't drink still water anymore. When I'm home in Harare, I joke that I need to ship sparkling water from Germany. – *Munodiwa*

WHAT'S VITAMIN B?

B refers to *Beziehungen*, the German term for relationships. If you're a good networker in

Photos: Thomas Meyer/OSTKREUZ, Dávid Biró, 3x personal submissions

Germany, then you have a lot of Vitamin B.

Germans network differently. I think it has to do with the divide between business and pleasure. It wasn't easy for me to network here. I even had barbecues on my balcony in the *WG,* the group apartment, almost daily to try to meet people when I first moved in. But there's another aspect to German networking that impresses me. I've met a few people who keep a personal distance and yet are so immensely helpful. A flatmate, for one, helped me to get my current internship as well as a new place to stay. I don't know him well at all, yet he was so willing to help. And he is incredibly connected, so he seems to have a lot of that Vitamin B. – *Ausking*

PLEASE KNOCK

Germans knock a lot. Always knock on a door before entering an office, even if the door is open. Also, students knock on their desks at the end of a lecture or seminar. At parties, it's a way to say goodbye to everyone at once. Otherwise, you'd have to shake hands with every single person. Just knock three times on a table near the door and say *Tschüss*. You'll be just like a local. – *Alex*

SPONTAN IS RELATIVE

Spontaneity is not a state of mind in Germany. In Australia, the word can be positive or negative, depending on how it's said. It's ambiguous. Here, it's always positive. If someone says you're spontaneous, it's a real compliment.

Despite that, Germans aren't *spontan*! It seems like they want to be but don't know how. They make plans weeks or months in advance. In Australia, I had a German friend who was like a brother to me. He lives back in his hometown in Lübeck now, which is not far from where I'm living. Yet I have not seen him in the eight months I've been here. We have a date to meet soon; we planned it well in advance. – *Ausking*

FORGET ABOUT BEER. SPARKLING WATER IS THE BEVERAGE OF CHOICE

FRIENDS FOR LIFE

In the beginning, it was hard to get close to Germans. When I first stayed with my host family, I told my host sister a personal story, and all she replied was, "Okay." I thought that was very cold. But the longer I knew her, the longer her replies became.

At first, people seem very reserved, but in time you can build substantial relationships. In many other cultures, people are very open, almost a bit nosy, right away. But then they aren't there for you later. If you have a German friend, you have a friend for life. – *Munodiwa*

REGISTER FOR TESTS

You get three chances to take the same test here, and no one ever told me. I found out, actually, because I failed one. So I went to the *Prüfungsamt* (the test-taking office). After a long conversation, I found out that I could repeat the test. Twice!

There's a whole test-taking and test-registering system here that foreigners tend to find out about the hard way. You don't just register for classes, you have to register for exams.

If you want more time to study, you can register to take the exam later in a second round. Efficient German students know that they can take extra time to prepare for the tougher exams at the end of a semester, and they sign up to take them later on. It's like optimizing the school year. Very efficient. – *Alex*

STRICTLY SPEAKING

Most Germans can speak English quite well, but they are perfectionists. So if they're afraid of making a mistake, they will just say they can't. When I moved to Germany and didn't speak German yet, I would ask, "Excuse me, do you speak English?" And people would reply, "A little." In German! I would ask myself, "Then how did you understand what I just said?" – *Munodiwa*

INSURE YOUR KEYS

People have insurance for everything here. Now, I do too: a general policy and one for healthcare, *Hausratsversicherung* for my apartment and bicycle, and a *Haftpflichtversicherung*, which is liability insurance. I would really recommend other people to get that one.

I was very surprised to find supplemental dental insurance on sale at my local bank branch. At the bank! For some reason I still don't get, horse-insurance policies are really popular. You can insure keys, cars, pets, eyeglasses, cell phones, bikes, and vacations. Germans I've met talk about all the things that could go wrong. Maybe the thirst for insurance reflects that. – *Alex*

FEIERABEND!

Feierabend, which in direct translation means "party evening," is used to refer to the end of the workday. And it reflects a much bigger concept that I'm still grappling with. There's a strong division between work and personal life. Germans I've met are such hard workers. They are extremely efficient and focused on getting a lot done during office hours. But once the workday is over, they are gone. And they tend not to mix business and pleasure. Colleagues will say to me, "I can't wait to enjoy my *Feierabend* tonight." But they don't elaborate. And it's rare for co-workers to head out for a drink together after work. – *Ausking* ●

Photo: David Avazzadeh

LEARN GERMAN
EXPERIENCE GERMANY

German language skills are your key to Germany and its numerous possibilities. As the market leader, the Goethe-Institut guarantees you a comprehensive, high quality language offer. Learn German in your own country, at 13 locations in Germany, or via distance learning.

WWW.GOETHE.DE/DEUTSCHKURSE

GOETHE INSTITUT

Sprache. Kultur. Deutschland.

ADJÜSS
Moin
AUF WIEDERSEHEN
HAMBURG
TSCHÜSSING
Guten Tag
Tach
Moin
BREMEN
AUF WIEDERSEHEN
Hallo
TSCHÜSS
HANOVER
MÜNSTER
TSCHÜSSI
BERLIN
TSCHÖ
Hallo
TSCHÜSS
GÖTTINGEN
Guten Tag
Tach
LEIPZIG
MACH'S GUT
KASSEL
COLOGNE
Gude
DRESDEN
Guten Tag
Gliggauf
ADIEU
TSCHAU
Hallo
AUF WIEDERSCHAUEN
FRANKFURT
Salü
Unn?
TSCHÖ
Servus
Grüß Gott
NUREMBERG
PFIAT DI
STUTTGART
ADE
Griaß di
MUNICH
Hallo
Grüß Gott

YOU SAY GOODBYE AND I SAY HELLO

Germany's regional dialects form a baffling smorgasbord of linguistic variety. Mapping the nation's wild ways of greeting

BY MILENA MERTEN **ILLUSTRATION** GOLDEN COSMOS

Germans can be sticklers for greetings. You'll get away with *Guten Tag* and *Auf Wiedersehen* in most parts. But these expressions are quite formal. So never greet club bouncers in any city by saying *Guten Abend*. They might not let you in.

What's more, German greetings differ from region to region. Saying *Hallo* and *Tschüss* is perfectly fine up north. But in Bavaria, these very same greetings are considered rude.

One school director in Passau even banned them, insisting that students use the Bavarian greeting *Grüß Gott* (something along the lines of God bless) and the formal farewell *Auf Wiedersehen* (until we see each other again).

Other forms of greeting underline the north-south divide as well. The word *Moin* actually means "morning" in northern dialect. Locals from Bremen to Hamburg use it to say hello at any time of day or night. But you'll quickly be labeled an oddball if you use this term to greet a southern German — especially if you do so after lunch.

HOW TO MANAGE THOSE TONGUE-TWISTING GREETINGS WHEN SAYING HELLO…		… AND HOW TO SAY GOODBYE WITHOUT EMBARRASSING YOURSELF	
Grüß Gott	gʁyːs gɔt	Ade	adeː
Griaß di	gʁɪ͡ɐ̯s dɪ	Pfiat di	p͡fɪ͡ɐ̯t dɪ
Guten Tag	guːtən taːk	Servus	sɛɐ̯vʊs
Moin	mɔ͡ʏn	Tschüssing	t͡ʃʏsɪŋ
Salü	salyː	Adieu	adjø
Gliggauf	glɪg a͡ʊf	Tschüss	t͡ʃʏs
Tach	tax	Adjüss	at͡ʃʏs

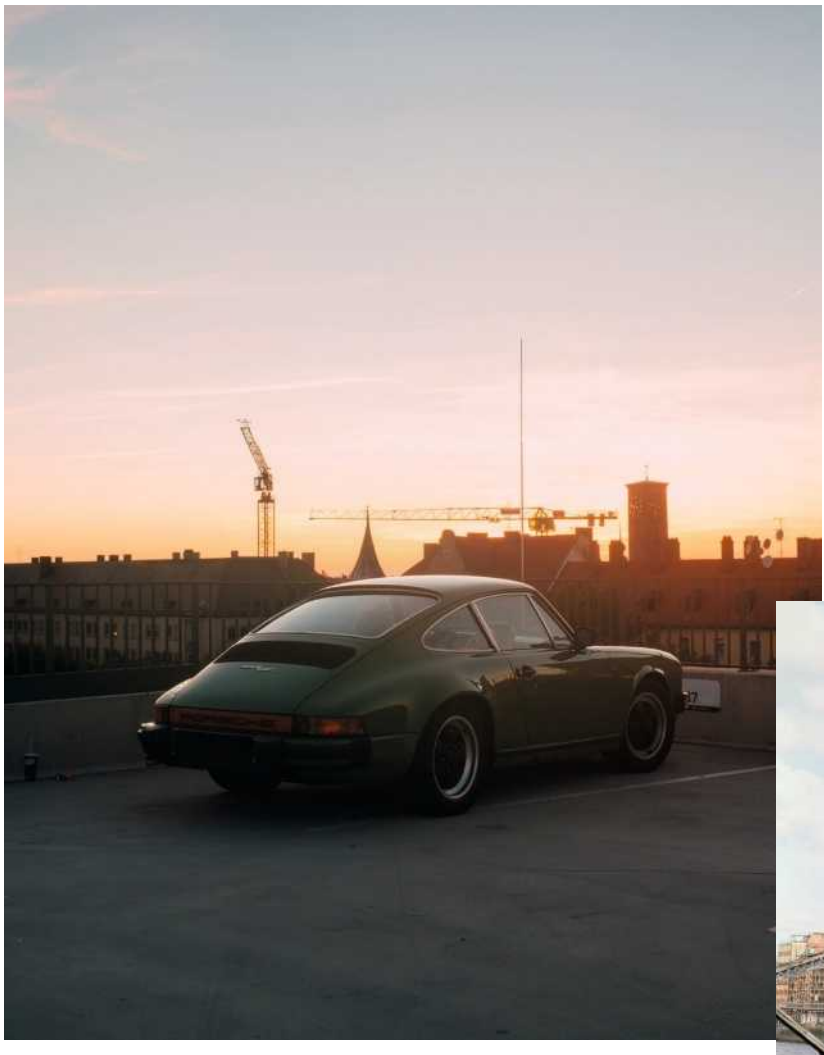
HOW TO B
COOL IN G

Photo: Jörg Brüggemann/OSTKREUZ

BE GERMANY

Suddenly, Germany is hip. And you can be, too. Instructions for a rom-com makeover from the author of the hit book "How to be German in 50 easy steps"

BY ADAM FLETCHER



Even during times of calm, warmth, and prosperity, scan the horizon for icebergs

About four years ago, the international media began to declare Germany the coolest country in the whole world. First, *The New York Times* wrote, "There's a new can-do nation. It's called Germany." Then, Angela Merkel was voted Person of the Year by *Time Magazine.*

The Economist trumped that (bigly) this spring, when it dedicated an entire issue to "Cool Germany." The nation has transformed, like the goofy girl in the rom-com who wears her hair down one day and removes her dorky glasses, leading everyone in the room to gasp: "Wow…Germany…you're…HOT!"

At home, this positivity was met by the sound of 80 million Germans tutting and clearing their throats, hoping the sudden tsunami of praise would pass so that they could return to their more comfortable position as repentant former bad guys.

German coolness is new, you see. They don't really know how to do it yet. That's part of what makes them just so damn… well…cool. It's complicated. For all those who aren't that familiar with the country just yet, I'll explain. Here's how you can become a cool German in ten easy steps.

1. DON'T TRY TO BE COOL

Everyone knows it's a paradox: the only way to be cool is not to care about being cool. But German coolness is even more demanding than that. Not only do you have to look like you're not trying. You must look like you wouldn't even know how to try if you wanted to, which you don't.

You should therefore treat coolness as if it's a high-school birthday party to which you haven't been invited. Don't try to get yourself invited, and don't reveal that you care about having been so badly snubbed.

Instead, go about blending into the background as quietly and modestly as possible. Not that cool

Photos: Fritz Beck, Jörg Brüggemann/OSTKREUZ, Anne Gabriel-Jürgens/OSTKREUZ (this page), Nikita Teryoshin (next page)

Make an understatement.
For German fashionistas, neutral colors
and functional wear are the norm

Germans don't like to let loose. They do. But they really only do so in certain, select areas of life.

Take cars, for one. They should be black, fast, and shiny. Forget the adage, "Drive it like you stole it." In Germany, it's more like, "Drive it like you're fully aware of how many more monthly payments you have left until you own it." And whether you're driving a Porsche Cayenne or a Range Rover, your eyewear should make the sort of statement that your personality will really struggle to back up.

What's more, if you have kids, their names should do the same. Say *Tschüss* to Christian, Sara, and Julia, and a very warm *Hallo* to Alois, Tiana, Liam, and Kalea.

And please, if you order a non-alcoholic beverage, make it a *Wurzelsaftschorle, bitte.* Because *Apfelsaftschorle* is so 1999.

2. DRESS NORMCORE

Extend that same modesty (cars and eyewear aside) to all areas of life, especially clothing. After all, fashion is stubbornly bereft of rules. You might be "in" one minute, only to be hilariously behind and "out" the next, only to discover that – having changed nothing in your outfit – you're inexplicably "in" again a month later because you're retro.

Trying to win at fashion is like trying to win at the German card game *Skat* while playing alone, in the dark, with no cards. Accordingly, cool Germans hate it. So they have smartly sidestepped this giant clothing *Zeitverschwendung* entirely.

Instead, they've adopted an ingenious solution called Normcore: normal turned hard-core, a unisex fashion trend characterized by unpretentious, average-looking clothing. Attire in Germany isn't about making a statement. It's about making an understatement, sponsored by neutral colors, Scandinavian minimalism, and navy-blue Herschel backpacks.

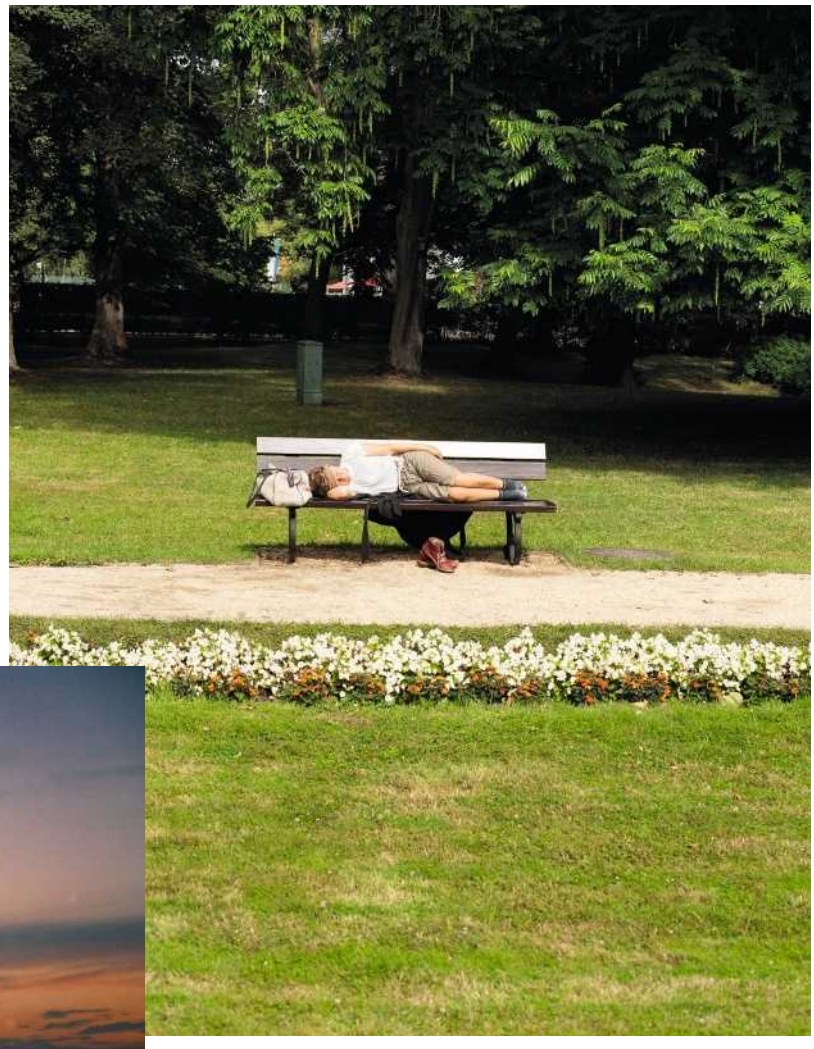
Be square.
Profit from all those outdated stereotypes,
and exceed the world's expectations

3. BE OPTIPESSI

Germany is a famously glass-half-empty nation. Even during times of total calm and prosperity, Germans are always scanning the horizon for icebergs. The most regularly used *Tisch* in this culture isn't found in the kitchen, but in the mind, in the form of good old sturdy *pessimistisch*.

However, within the past five years, there's been a subtle yet perceptible shift in this worldview. And cool Germans are leading the way.

Having grown up watching their cautious parents worryingly working and saving for hard times that never came, they've decided to throw (measured) caution to the wind. They no longer feel pessimistic. And while they haven't quite crossed over to full-blown optimism yet, they're in a uniquely new state of mind. It's called *optipessi*. This state, which you'll need as a cool German, shuns neutrality. It favors a calm yet engaged, rational yet emotional state, and is open to the possibility that the future might be great, or awful, or greatly awful, or awfully great. So no matter what previous generations told you, what the insurance salesman sold you, and what your *unbefristeter Arbeitsvertrag* promises you, you can't prepare for it. There's no point in worrying (too much). Go ahead and drink another *Schnaps*, take another exotic holiday, and have another child…



Avoid the rat race.
Enjoy the newfound culture of
free time and big families

4. PROCREATE

Cool Germans are done with long hours, long time horizons, and career long shots (long drinks and long park benches are still fine). They've rightly concluded that the rat race is rotten, materialism is meh, and capitalism just makes you *kaputt*. But families are fantastic. So cool Germans have gone from being the world's most asexual pandas to fornicating their way to a veritable baby boom.

Four kids are the new two, as evidenced by Germans' newfound love for old Dutch cargo bicycles, piled high with tots. So, get down to it. Everyone's watching.

5. PERPETUATE NEGATIVE STEREOTYPES

Not all national stereotypes work their citizens equally. Some exert higher demands. Italians, according to the cliché, get to be free feeling, free speaking, free gesticulating, passionate communicators. Mexicans get to sleep all afternoon, wear sombreros, and drink tequila.

Germans, on the other hand, are expected to be humorless, uptight, and good with a screwdriver. Make one joke a week and they're the office comedian. Arrive ten minutes late for a business meeting and they're seen as social renegades. Park against the *Gehweg* and they're practically Che Guevara.

Photos: Simon Koy (opposing page), Julia Luka Lila Nitzschke, Simon Koy (this page)

Photo: Ériver Hijano

Go ahead and do it yourself.
How hard could it be?
Self-sufficiency is a (cool German) virtue

Who profits most from these incorrect, outdated stereotypes? Why, Germans, of course. They happily propagate them, lowering expectations, which they then get to casually, effortlessly surpass, whilst…

6. REJECT PATRIOTISM

Cool Germans, rather than being proud of modern, successful Germany, have decided to remain healthily suspicious of patriotism, treating it like a travelling salesman that's arrived unannounced at their door: "*Fourth biggest economy in the world! One million refugees accepted! Apfelsaftschorle, am I right? I'm right! We're the good guys, folks! Go Team Us… Here, take a flag.*"

Amongst cool Germans, by contrast, patriotism is strictly *verboten*. They define themselves primarily as Europeans.

In fact, if they could get away with it, when asked where they're from, cool Germans would likely answer "Central Europe."

And if they were pressed for more specifics, they'd probably say, "*Ecke* Poland, Czech Republic, Austria, Luxembourg, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Netherlands, and Denmark."

7. HOLIDAY WHERE OTHER GERMANS DON'T

The same rules apply when abroad. Hiking through Namibia, cool Germans like to believe they're brave, fearless explorers. This illusion would be shattered if they were to head out on the trail and bump into Stefan and Sara from Wolfsburg, who happen to be carrying exactly the same Jack Wolfskin backpack. Therefore, as a cool German, spend your evenings on Google Earth searching for remote mountain villages in the Balkans, or desolate valley farm land in the seven 'stans where you and a 3,000-euro single-lens reflex camera the size of Madagascar can finally get some quality time alone.

8. UMARMEN

Previously, to be German was to be an M&M: hard on the outside, a little softer in the middle. Cool Germans are challenging their inherited cultural stiffness. Even amongst men, the stiff handshake is out, and the loose hug is in. "Come here, you…"

9. DIY

You may have been raised in a culture that believes if something needs doing, you should pay someone with life skills to do it for you. This means you acquire no new life skills, but you also get no new blisters. It's a trade-off, the ethics of which you can happily mull while kicking back on the couch with your feet up.

But you live in Germany now – with people who see self-sufficiency as a virtue, know how to put up shelving, and have installed their own kitchens. So, if you want to win the respect of cool Germans, or become one yourself, you need to stop hiring help the second a lightbulb blows.

Moving home? Don't hire a moving company. They're not trustworthy. Strong-arm all the people you've ever met – and a few passers-by – into forming a human chain that stretches from the back of the van (which you've also borrowed from a friend) all the way to your doorstep.

Laying some flooring? You know what to do. Do it yourself. How hard can it be? You only tread on it. Installing that new kitchen? Hold a weekend *Kücheneinbauparty* and put it together with a few pals. Cool Germans know that if you're doing something, do it yourself.

10. REBEL

In a desperate attempt to re-brand the country as anything but replete with efficient, frugal engineering marvels, Germans have initiated some of the most spectacularly inept development projects in recent history: Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie and the Berlin Brandenburg Airport. Then, Volkswagen was caught fiddling with emissions tests, deliberately over-poisoning the *Umwelt*. Some might say it was just an expensive anti-PR initiative. Perhaps that tells you how being the planet's most *ordentliche* people can really get to you after a while.

Cool Germans, though, are secretly a little bit proud of these scandals. Kind of like parents who are proud to hear their kid is the class clown. It's not the best scenario, but it's better than being the class nerd.

In other words, while old Germany was about adhering to the rules, cool Germany is about pretending hard to be embarrassed when you're caught breaking them. ●

GERMAN FRAUEN

HILDEGARD VON BINGEN
The Polymath, 1098-1179

EMMY NOETHER
The Mathematician, 1882-1935

ELISABETH SELBERT
The Lawyer, 1896-1986

MARLENE DIETRICH
The Actress, 1901-1992

HANNAH ARENDT
The Philosopher, 1906-1975

ANGELA MERKEL
The Chancellor, born 1954

Last issue: German Männer from Gutenberg to Röntgen

Illustrations: Jelka Lerche; Source: ZEIT research

FAU FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER UNIVERSITÄT ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG

Welcome to the Heart of Europe

- More than 260 degree programmes
- No tuition fees
- Among Europe's most innovative universities
- Partnerships with global companies (e.g. Adidas, Siemens, Audi and Schaeffler)
- Unique research environment

Kick-start your career

www.fau.eu

»I came to Jena because the university provides excellent study and research programmes connecting physics, biology, and medicine.«

Mohammed Almassarani, University Jena

FRIEDRICH-SCHILLER-UNIVERSITÄT JENA

LIGHT
LIFE
LIBERTY

GLOBAL NETWORKS
SCIENCE CITY
FAMILY-FRIENDLY
STUDENT PARADISE
CAREER SERVICE
YOUNG CITY

COMPETITIVE RESEARCH
INTERDISCIPLINARITY
INNOVATIVE MATERIALS
RESEARCH-ORIENTED
TEACHING
CONTEMPORARY HISTORY
INTERNATIONAL CAMPUS
COMPETITIVE RESEARCH
INTERDISCIPLINARITY

JOHANN W. V. GOETHE
FRIEDRICH SCHILLER
CARL ZEISS
GEORG W. F. HEGEL
ERNST ABBE
OTTO SCHOTT
ERNST HAECKL
JOHANN W. V. GOETHE
FRIEDRICH SCHILLER
BIODIVERSITY
SOCIAL CHANGE
MENTORING
INNOVATION
CULTURE
TRADITION
GRADUATE
ACADEMY
PHOTONICS
WELCOME
SERVICE
HEALTHY
AGEING
MICRO
BIOLOGY

RESEARCH HUB
UNIVERSITÄT JENA
ERNST ABBE HOCHSCHULE
MAX-PLANCK
LEIBNIZ
FRAUNHOFER
HELMHOLTZ
INDUSTRY

www.uni-jena.de

WORD PLAY

Deutsch goes digital. A growing number of apps can get you started

BY ANNE NELSON
PHOTO LUDWIG ANDER-DONATH

My German lessons began around my grandparents' kitchen table, where the language was adult code for information unintended for little ears. That made it irresistible, but the only vocabulary I acquired was *Dummkopf* and *Wurst*. My college semester wasn't much more successful, force-feeding me subjunctives before breakfast.

Luckily, a host of online platforms helps me these days to maintain an intermediate level. Programs are improving rapidly, with different cost structures and approaches. The three best-known digital programs, Babbel, Duolingo, and Rosetta Stone, all have a German connection.

Babbel, the world's top-grossing language-learning app and e-learning platform, was founded in Berlin in 2008. It offers a free sample lesson, but further study requires a monthly fee of about ten dollars (eight euros) including the mobile app.

Babbel combines inductive and deductive methods of instruction. Inductive lessons start with examples, then explain the rules. Deductive lessons offer the rule first, then move to examples.

In an early lesson, for instance, you'll echo Frederike and Hannes' intense negotiations over a potential ice-skating date. "*Super, dann können wir zusammen gehen!*" ("Great, then we can go together!") Another lesson lays out the rules of telling time, such as when to use "*halb*," "*vor*," and other conventions, before moving on to exercises. Sound bites are crisp and clear, with standard German accents – a far cry from my grandparents' Rhineland dialect.

E-LESSONS TEACH VOCABULARY AND SMALL TALK IN A FUN WAY

The subject matter isn't universally useful (unless you're looking for an ice-skating date), but lessons help to acquire conversational skills and vocabulary. All in all, Babbel is a solid and affordable choice. The company has been growing rapidly, and it won Fast Company's award for learning software in 2016.

Babbel's competitor, Duolingo, is free, although adware has been added to enhance the business model. Ads can be removed for a monthly fee roughly as much as a Babbel subscription.

Launched in 2009, Duolingo is the brainchild of German-Guatemalan technologist Luis von Ahn. Duolingo relies heavily on gamification, rewarding daily use with points that lead to free premium lessons. Lessons can be curiously addictive, especially as you rack up days towards a streak. Duolingo's drawbacks include its synthetic, robotic-like voices, though developers claim users prefer them to human voices. Lessons are less varied than Babbel's. The mobile app doesn't exactly duplicate the online platform, and lessons are simplistic and can be annoying to use on a smartphone.

Rosetta Stone is the oldest platform, launched in 1992 by American entrepreneur Allen Stoltzfus, who had learned the language through immersion while living in Germany. Online packages start at 14 dollars (12 euros) a month.

Rosetta Stone has a special claim to fame. It has been used for decades by the US Department of State. Younger users may find lessons creaky. Instructional voices speak v-e-r-y slowly and photography is old-fashioned.

Students with some knowledge of German should take the placement tests on Babbel and Duolingo with a grain of salt. They can be skewed by a lack of familiarity with the software or app. Set up a ghost account for the first round, then take the test again with another account for a more accurate assessment.

Rosetta Stone, Duolingo, and Babbel have been joined by an ever-growing universe of free online courses. These include the DeutschAkademie's online Deutschkurs, BBC's Learn German, and MOOCs (Massive Online Open Courses) listed on edX and Coursera.

The gold standard of language learning always will be immersion. So sign up for an online program – and book a flight. It may not help you to understand Rhineland dialect, but you'll be sure to get that ice-skating date. ●

Anne Nelson is author of "Red Orchestra" and has taught digital media courses at Columbia University in the City of New York

"THE BEST AMBASSADORS"

Germany's first-ever Minister of State for International Culture is only 38 years old. Michelle Müntefering talks with ZEIT Germany about the country's image abroad, her multicultural neighborhood back home, and American baseball

BY MANUEL J. HARTUNG AND DEBORAH STEINBORN **PHOTOS** MONIKA KEILER

The Economist recently placed "Cool Germany" on its cover. Why has Germany become so hip?

Birkenstock sandals are back in style! And Berlin is a particular attraction, almost as much as my hometown of Herne in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

But seriously, today's younger generation of Germans is more internationally focused than ever before. Young Germans are studying, traveling, and working in other countries around the world.

And these exchange students are the best ambassadors we could possibly have.

What's more, Germany's ability to learn from its difficult past has contributed to a certain image abroad. That's why we can actually talk about Germany being cool in today's times.

There's a lot of buzz about us because we've developed into a very stable country, both politically and economically.

Many students and professionals who move to Germany settle in well. Others don't stay long at all. Obstacles to integration and bureaucracy overwhelm them…

We are aware of that issue. About a third of students who come here graduate and want to stay. That's according to the International Student Barometer…

Müntefering is a New York Mets fan but hasn't yet been to one of their games

"THERE'S A LOT OF BUZZ ABOUT US BECAUSE WE'VE DEVELOPED INTO A VERY STABLE COUNTRY"

You're referring to the benchmarking tool used to track the experiences of international students worldwide…

That's right. And the Student Barometer has found that, during their studies, this group – representing about 30 percent of all foreign students – has integrated well, learned the language, and is familiar with our culture of administration. For instance, these students know what the *Ausländerbehörde*, the German foreigners authority, is.

Others, however, struggle with hurdles such as language and bureaucracy. Another finding of the study: many international students find it difficult to establish a real connection with their German peers.

Meanwhile, Germans who have studied abroad know what it feels like to be an outsider, and they approach foreign students differently. They are welcoming and helpful, and they want to get to know people from other cultures.

That's why I am such a proponent of exchange programs. We need cultural exchange across national borders in Europe.

Hasn't Germany's global appeal suffered due to right-wing populist movements and the Alternative for Germany party?

Germany faces the same problem as many western democracies at present: Populism,

Minister Müntefering
on the rooftop terrace at the German
Federal Foreign Office in Berlin

and right-wing populism in particular, is on the rise. That's one side of the picture.

The other side of the picture, however, is a Germany that is open to the world, more than ever before. And this side can be found particularly in cities that have a large student population.

What can you, Germany's first Minister for International Culture, offer the world?

Space for the critical exchange of ideas is becoming ever smaller, and that is happening on a global scale. Scientists, journalists, and artists are being suppressed. The scope of freedom is shrinking in many cases. We want to keep that scope wide and allow for multilateralism and partnerships worldwide. We believe we can do so through international cultural politics.

How do you plan to accomplish this?

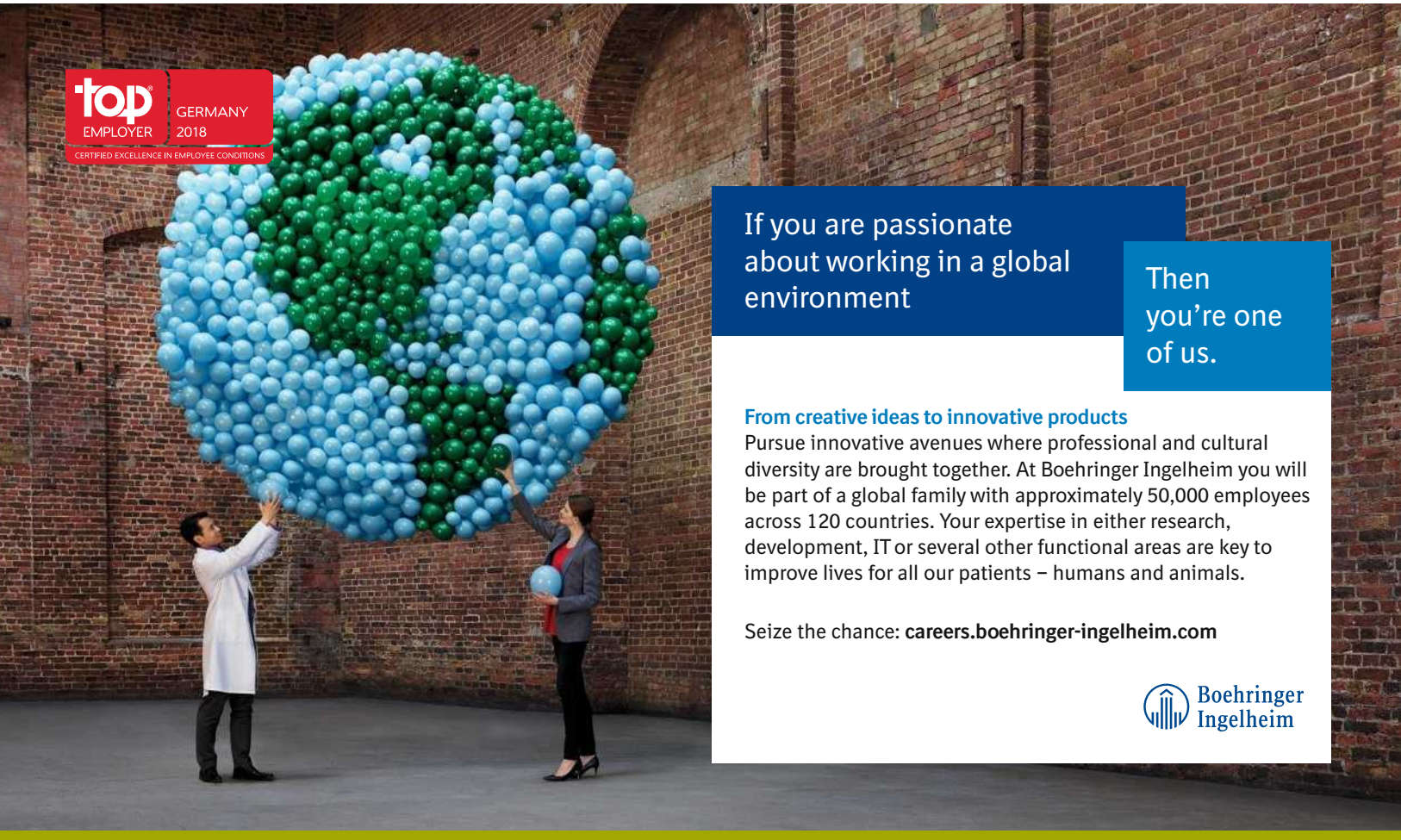
We work with cultural organizations all over the world. An example is the Philipp Schwartz Initiative, which provides scientists who are threatened in their own countries with financial and logistical support to continue their research while in exile. It's a joint effort of the Federal Foreign Office and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. We want to extend this initiative even further to help artists and other intellectuals.

Müntefering riding the elevator at the Federal Foreign Office

Germany wants to attract more top international talent. Doesn't that contribute to a brain drain elsewhere?

Germany is in global competition to attract the best talent. China, for example, has plans to attract 500,000 additional foreign students to its universities by 2020.

At the same time, we must help countries that are under pressure in order to prevent a brain drain. We offer local scholarships in Iraq and Jordan. And we are focusing on longer-term support for redevelopment in Syria as well.



How much time have you spent abroad?

I was born in 1980. Back then, studying abroad wasn't a given, particularly among working-class families.

So my main experience abroad was a 12-hour ride in a camper, with my family, down to Lake Garda in Italy every summer. Later on, when I was older, I attended a language summer school for a couple of weeks in the United Kingdom.

But in a sense, I experienced the world abroad every day at home in the Ruhr region. There, I grew up alongside the children of immigrants from Poland, Turkey, Greece, and Italy.

Why is a collector's-item bag from the New York Mets, an American baseball team, hanging in your Berlin office?

Sports and culture are international phenomena, and baseball is an important part of the American culture. I've travelled a lot over the past four years, and the Mets home base, in the New York City borough of Queens, reminds me of my own hometown in the Ruhr region. It's a working-class neighborhood, just like mine. And the team's spirit of "never giving up" makes my heart beat for the underdogs.

"SPACE FOR THE CRITICAL EXCHANGE OF IDEAS IS BECOMING EVER SMALLER AROUND THE WORLD. WE WANT TO KEEP THAT SCOPE WIDE"

Which German stereotypes bother you?

We should be wary of generalizations. No one likes the know-it-all, and I'd like us to break away from that part of our image.

Some parts of the German stereotype might be worth keeping, though. Our attention to detail in crafts and engineering is one. Our history of workers' participation is a strength too. We can learn a lot from it, especially when it comes to challenges such as digitalization.

Having said that, when I fully plan my weekends well in advance, my friends abroad sometimes say: "Michelle, you're so German!" But is that really typically German? Or is it just me? ●

LANGUAGE CLASSES

Learning a language is the best way to get to know a country. And there's a wide selection of language courses in Germany. Summer and winter schools are conveniently tailored to the academic year, so students can learn German during semester breaks.

Language classes can be combined with other subjects, such as German culture. Classes are usually full-time and spread over four to six weeks, so most universities offer student housing. Scholarships are also available through the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The easiest way to find a class that's right for you is the DAAD's website www.daad.de. It features a database of summer and winter schools.

A QUICK STUDY

Moving to another country to study is a big step. Get a first impression of Germany and its universities in just a few weeks

BY LUISA SCHUMANN

Illustration: Golden Cosmos

a.r.t.e.s.
Graduate School for the Humanities Cologne
Graduiertenschule der Philosophischen Fakultät

a.r.t.e.s. EUmanities
Horizon 2020: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Starting on **April 1, 2019** the **a.r.t.e.s. Graduate School for the Humanities Cologne** will award

10 fully funded doctoral fellowships

as part of the **a.r.t.e.s. EUmanities programme** over a period of 36 months.

The a.r.t.e.s. Graduate School offers candidates a structured doctoral programme that combines a mandatory mobility phase allowing students to pursue their doctoral project under excellent international supervision with a lively interdisciplinary research environment in Cologne covering the whole range of the humanities. Focusing on the complexity of cultural contexts involving language, history, culture, mediality, anthropology and ethics, a.r.t.e.s. EUmanities aims at Early Stage Researchers (ESR) who are in the first four years of their research career and have not been awarded a doctoral degree.

The application deadline is **October 31, 2018.**

For more information please visit
www.artes.uni-koeln.de

University of Cologne

Pitch your breakthrough and convince a top-level jury of your innovative idea - in 3 minutes.

Current students and recent graduates from all disciplines are invited to apply to an international Falling Walls Lab near them!

Become a part of our global Falling Walls Lab network and collaborate with fellow innovators and representatives from academia and business.

Win a trip to the Falling Walls Lab Finale in Berlin on 8 November and compete for the **"Falling Walls Young Innovator of the Year"** title. The best presenters receive a cash prize and the opportunity to pitch their idea on the grand stage of the prestigious Falling Walls Conference, where leaders of science and society discuss which walls will be the next to fall.

Curious? Find out more and apply to one of over 85 international Falling Walls Labs:
www.falling-walls.com/lab

FALLING WALLS LAB

BOOT CAMPS

Apart from language classes, many German universities offer short courses in a staggering array of subjects. There's even a finance bootcamp at the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management and a summer school in graffiti and urban art in Berlin.

Prices vary considerably. For a mere 120 euros, you can learn about European language development at the University of Potsdam (accommodation not included). Or study engineering and programming robots while working in a state-of-the-art lab at the Robotics Summer School, offered by Aachen University. That program costs 2,800 euros including boarding. Check out www.shortcoursesportal.com to find a program that fits your interests and schedule.

WORK EXPERIENCE

You could dive straight into professional life instead. Many international students go for work placements to get to know Germany. Stephanie Goede, a 23-year-old biologist from Brazil, coordinated with IAESTE, a program that places young academics. "I really enjoyed the three-month placement in a program for plant ecology," she says, adding that her boss even asked her to extend her stay.

After one year in Germany, Goede is returning to Brazil to finish her bachelor's degree. She's thinking about coming back to do a master's program. "I will pack my warm gear," she says. "Working outdoors in the snow in Germany was a real shock."

RESEARCH

Scientists who want to experience Germany's research facilities, or academics who want to trawl its massive university libraries, can apply for short-term research visits at universities or research institutes.

Finding the right school for your subject is easy – just get in touch with institutes that do research in your field. And there is financial help. As soon as you have a project set up with your host university, you can apply for a scholarship. The DAAD offers short-term grants for research projects lasting up to six months. The grants include monthly stipends of about 1,000 euros as well as financial assistance with health insurance.

CLASS TRIPS

Experiences in a new country are great, but sharing them with your classmates as a group could be even more enriching.

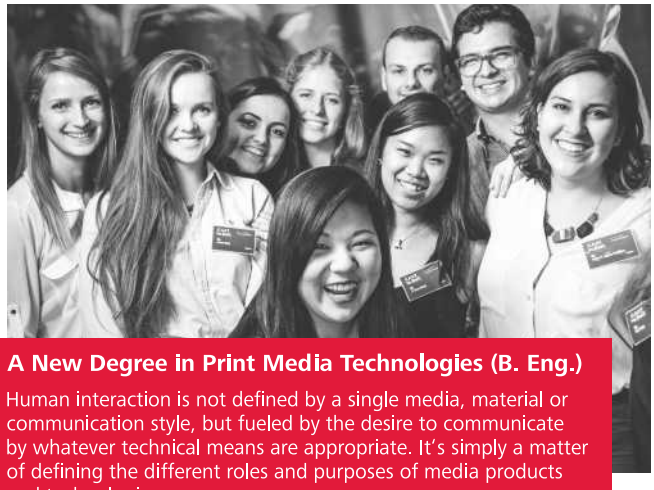
If your class is interested in specific topics, look up the art- and history-themed trips offered by organizations such as Visit Berlin, EF Educational Tours, or Plan My School Trip. These initiatives can help to plan your class trip.

Once you've selected a tour and a schedule, consider applying for funding. The DAAD offers travel grants for groups of up to 15 students, provided they are accompanied by a teacher.

If your application is accepted, financial support for the trip will cover 50 euros per person, per day, for a trip lasting as much as 12 days. *Gute Reise!* ●

STUDY INTERNATIONAL

HOCHSCHULE DER MEDIEN



A New Degree in Print Media Technologies (B. Eng.)

Human interaction is not defined by a single media, material or communication style, but fueled by the desire to communicate by whatever technical means are appropriate. It's simply a matter of defining the different roles and purposes of media products and technologies.

Courses start in March 2019. The programme is taught in English. Application deadline: **15 November 2018 – 15 January 2019.**

Send your enquiries to: **pmt-info@hdm-stuttgart.de**

Apply at www.hdm-stuttgart.de/pmt

Hochschule **Rosenheim**
University of Applied Sciences

Borderless opportunities for studying in Rosenheim

English-taught Master's Programmes
Master's in Engineering (M.Eng.)
Master's in Wood Technology (M.Sc.)

No tuition fees

- Start: summer and winter semester
- Application: online at www.fh-rosenheim.de/applications.html
- Duration: 3 semesters (full-time) or 6 semesters (part-time)
- **No tuition fees**

More information at
→ **www.fh-rosenheim.de/english-taught-programmes.html**

150 Years
culture of
excellence

Give the future a human touch. Yours.

www.tum.de/faculty-recruiting
www.tum.de/postdocs
www.tum.de/faculty-tenure-track

Technical University of Munich

Innovation since 1868.

THE FALLBACK CITY

As Great Britain gears up to leave the European Union, Frankfurt could take over as the new go-to city for expat bankers. If it can convince them to come, that is

BY DEBORAH STEINBORN **PHOTOS** EVELYN DRAGAN

London has a long tradition as the financial center of Europe, but Brexit has thrown that role into doubt. Now, some business leaders in Frankfurt hope their city can step in after the United Kingdom's impending withdrawal from the European Union.

These are big shoes to fill, especially for a city that has long lived in the shadow of financial capitals such as New York and Hong Kong. And London, of course. The British capital has a population of 8.8 million, and its historic financial district is home to the London Stock Exchange, the Bank of England, and the European headquarters of many banks.

Frankfurt's population, by contrast, is a modest 700,000. Its reputation as a financial hub beyond Germany's borders has improved somewhat since the European Central Bank opened for business there twenty years ago. But a metropolitan vibe is still a far cry away.

With Brexit in sight, the city of Frankfurt is spreading the word that it's a valid alternative. "We're not saying that we're better than London, just that we're a great fallback," says Eric Menges, chief executive of FrankfurtRheinMain GmbH, one of several promotional bodies in the German city.

These groups are sending delegates armed with slides, data, and other marketing ammunition to visit London-based top brass at international banks and asset managers. The message? "Come spend a weekend in Frankfurt!" says Menges. "Explore the city, experience the short daily commute, the fast drive to the airport, the great neighborhoods, and the surrounding region. The quality of life is incredible."

WITH BREXIT IN SIGHT, FRANKFURT IS SPREADING THE WORD THAT IT´S A VALID ALTERNATIVE

This zeal comes as the UK's membership in the EU fast approaches its end. Great Britain is set to leave the political and economic union at midnight on March 29, 2019.

Already, it has become a less-popular destination for international talent. The number of professionals arriving in Britain from the EU fell 26 percent in the past year, according to an April report from LinkedIn, the employment-oriented social-media group.

Germany's Federal Statistical Office doesn't regularly track such professional migration. But it does track British applications for German citizenship. And they have skyrocketed since a majority of Britons voted in favor of Brexit in 2016.

According to a recent report by the statistical office, a record 7,493 Britons became German citizens in 2017, a 162 percent increase from the previous year. "A connection with the forthcoming Brexit is obvious," the report says, even though absolute numbers remain small.

Several international banks have either announced or already implemented a shift in jobs away from the British capital. Early this year, Deutsche Bank said it would relocate its client business to

Frankfurt. Standard Chartered, Citigroup, and others have made plans to expand their Frankfurt offices. Goldman Sachs has started to relocate some senior bankers to its Frankfurt office.

These banks all are seeking to ensure continued access to the single European market. But other European cities are in the running, too. Emmanuel Macron, France's president, is pushing for Paris, and last November he accomplished a coup. The French capital won the bidding for the new headquarters of the European Banking Authority currently in London.

As for its image, Frankfurt has gotten a bum rap for decades, and not just amongst expats. Munich has Oktoberfest, the world's largest beer festival. Berlin has Berghain, one of Europe's most famous nightclubs. Frankfurt, meanwhile, has Germany's busiest airport and the world's biggest annual book fair.

GOLDMAN SACHS HAS STARTED TO RELOCATE SOME SENIOR BANKERS FROM LONDON TO FRANKFURT

Yet Frankfurt has a rich cultural history as well. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe grew up in the city. Goethe University Frankfurt, where 18 Nobel Prize winners have studied or taught throughout the years, is named after him. Bettina von Arnim, the acclaimed writer and intellectual, also lived there. So did generations of the Rothschild banking dynasty.

In the past century, philosopher Theodor W. Adorno and others formed the Frankfurt School of social theory, an intellectual backbone of the early Federal Republic of Germany. Later, the philosopher Jürgen Habermas carried the torch as the most renowned German thinker in the city.

Despite that weighty history, Frankfurt is often written off as little more than a pit stop for bankers. It is sometimes sarcastically referred to as Mainhattan for its aspirations to be a metropolis and its modest skyline of tall buildings along the Main, a river that bisects the city.

The bigger problem? Most colleagues back in London don't want to leave the British capital, says a British-American executive from Deutsche Bank who has undertaken the move.

The banker, who declined to be named, explains his own reasons for coming. His wife, a Lithuanian citizen, had grown concerned about her post-Brexit status. So the couple decided to relocate.

"The United States didn't seem like an option given the presidency of Donald Trump," the banker adds. "Germany has its problems, but all in all it's not bad. The same applies for Frankfurt."

This image problem dates as far back as the 1500s. The famous Protestant reformer Martin Luther referred to it as a "gold- and silver-hole"

Come and be inspired by the
GÖTTINGEN SPIRIT

- Research-directed education in an exceptional scientific environment
- Life and natural sciences, humanities, social sciences
- 50 English-taught Master and PhD programmes

Become part of our international academic family, where students and researchers develop fresh and unconventional ideas.

GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT
GÖTTINGEN

Göttingen
Campus

during a brief visit there, adding that he wouldn't place any bets on Frankfurt. The city lost out to Bonn after World War II as the seat of the western German capital. There's still a big drug problem around the main train station, although the situation has improved since the 1990s. Hipster bars and restaurants are now cropping up along Kaiserstrasse, its main strip.

Menges, the FrankfurtRheinMain CEO, says the sentiment that Frankfurt lacks flair is unfair. "That old prejudice is totally flawed," he says. Frankfurt has made great strides in recent years to become an international and attractive destination, he says.

Yet while proponents like Menges emphasize quality of life and an international feel, perhaps the best thing Frankfurt has going for it is the job market itself.

A 2017 survey by social-media group InterNations found that Frankfurt is currently the most attractive German city for foreign professionals, the main reason being career opportunities in the city. Frankfurt was voted the tenth-best expat city in the world, according to the global survey.

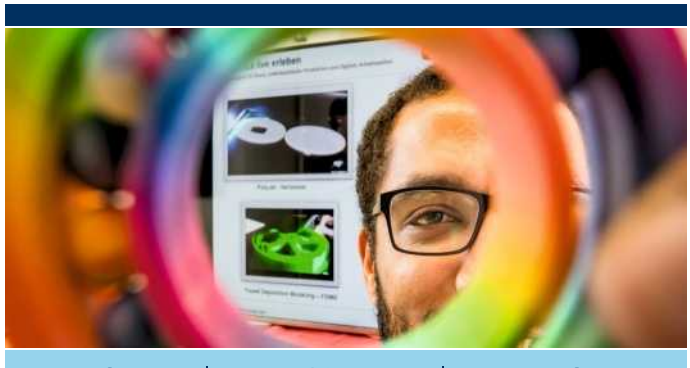
THERE IS STILL A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE THE FRANKFURT LABOR MARKET OVERHEATS, SAYS A HEADHUNTER

The German job market is booming. And Frankfurt may not have the same low housing prices that Berlin still boasts, but it offers a relatively low cost of living and easy access via air and rail to most places in Europe.

Frankfurt's devoted expat community, meanwhile, is trying to polish the city's reputation. "I love it," says Alisa Jordan Walker of her experience in Frankfurt so far. The 27-year-old native of London moved there two years ago. She admits that she picked Frankfurt solely for its job opportunities, but "the every-day quality of life can't be beaten."

Walker, who teaches at an international business school in the city, is just one of about a dozen English-speaking expat bloggers. She studied German in college and wanted to live abroad. Walker may rave about her city of choice. But the buzz heard about Frankfurt right after Brexit was announced has died down. In recent months, it's become apparent that international banks would rather spread their business around Europe than center everything in one place.

Perhaps as a result, the early enthusiasm of some Frankfurt-based financial-services professionals also has waned. "We were very optimistic about how much business Brexit would bring us," admits Andreas Krischke, founder of Indigo Headhunters. But "the great rush has not yet taken place. There is still a long way to go before the Frankfurt labor market overheats." ●



INNOVATIVE | INTERDISCIPLINARY | INTERNATIONAL

Join Engineering, Natural, Economic and Media Sciences with first class research at TU Ilmenau!

Technische Universität Ilmenau is located in the middle of Germany and has a long tradition in teaching engineers. Thanks to excellent teaching, the TU Ilmenau can guarantee that you will meet the highest quality standards as future graduates. The broad interdisciplinary education makes you competitive in various fields and in the changing demands of a quickly moving professional world.

- 18 Bachelor programs
- 25 Master programs – 5 English taught Master programs
- 2 Diplom-Engineering programs
- 3 Graduate schools and individual doctoral studies

Among our 6.500 students are 1.300 students from 96 different countries – when will **you** join us?

www.tu-ilmenau.de

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT ILMENAU

Carl Duisberg

cdc.de

STUDY IN GERMANY

Benefit from more than 55 years of experience:

- High-quality language preparation
- Subject-related foundation course
- Student counseling and university placement

Contact us today: internationalsales@cdc.de

Carl Duisberg Centren
Tel. +49 (0)221/16 26-378
carl-duisberg-german-courses.com

Connect with us on Social Media

“Germany, Switzerland and Austria are known for their outstanding research opportunities. And academics.com is my go-to portal for job postings.”

Daniel Hincapié, Research Engineer at Fraunhofer Institute, Munich

academics.com – the No. 1 job marketplace for research and higher education in Germany, Austria and Switzerland

academics.com brings together the brightest minds and top employers in the world of research. We provide up-to-the-minute job opportunities and career guidance, helping to match the skill sets of candidates with the right positions.

Register to receive your free weekly job alert.

academics.com
Bright minds. Bright opportunities.

ALT-RIGHT FRAT HOUSE

Are German fraternities harmless upholders of university tradition? Or are some *Burschenschaften* a far-right breeding ground? Many students in Münster are fighting to maintain their university's liberal values

BY CASPAR SHALLER **ILLUSTRATION** GOLDEN COSMOS

Wandering through Münster, nothing suggests that this prosperous university town north of Cologne is torn by the same political conflicts rattling Germany. But as in other parts of the world, the far right is resurgent, and civil society is fighting back.

German fraternities, called *Burschenschaften*, are central to this debate. They differ a lot from counterparts in other western countries. For one, they have just a few thousand members in the entire country. Students at German universities can go for years without noticing them, or never notice them at all. Yet they have been influential in business and politics for a long time.

Now, some stand accused of functioning as laboratories for right-wing thought at universities throughout the country, partly due to ties to the far-right party Alternative for Germany (AfD), which gained a seat in Germany's federal parliament in the 2017 national elections.

The conflict recently came to the fore in Münster. In May, the Burschenschaft Franconia, a local fraternity, made headlines when a blogger revealed that one of its new members was active in an extreme-right youth organization. This prompted the university's student parliament, the so-called StuPa, to recommend the fraternity be removed from a list of student groups.

Being on the list ensures support from the university, such as free use of university classrooms. The issue is currently under investigation by the university's legal team. "The University of Münster opposes any unconstitutional political activity," says a press statement. It won't comment further, citing the ongoing investigation.

"*Burschenschaften* are a special type of fraternity," says Alexandra Kurth, a professor of political-science at the Justus Liebig University Giessen, and an expert on German fraternities. Fraternity traditions often baffle outsiders, with fencing, singing outdated songs (including the pre-war national anthem), and wearing uniforms that include little hats or sashes. But they offer members benefits, such as cheap housing and scholarships.

Fraternities also provide access to an extensive network of alumni in important positions. "Fraternity members are very well connected," says Kurth. After initiation rituals focused on fencing and drinking, members stay "brothers" for life and support their fraternity financially. Famous alumni include Henning Schulte-Noelle, former head of insurance giant Allianz, and Eberhard Diepgen, mayor of Berlin in the 1990s.

German fraternities have a long tradition dating back to the early 19th century. Their origins lie in nationalist political clubs that called for the unification of Germany's many statelets into one country.

What this nationalist legacy means today is unclear. Philipp Schiller, the StuPa's current president, suggests meeting at the university dining hall to discuss the petition against Franconia.

Amid squat 1970s buildings, the dining hall is just around the corner from the baroque palace that is the main building on campus. Münster is a bike-friendly city, and cyclists are everywhere on the way to the buzzing university quarter. About 20 percent of Münster's 300,000 residents are students.

"We want to distance ourselves from extreme right-wing movements," says Schiller, the StuPa president. "Franconia goes beyond conservative into reactionary territory." The fraternity only accepts men – and only men of German descent. Brothers visit celebrations at Wartburg Castle in Thuringia and the Academic's Ball in Vienna, both of which are associated with the nationalist far right.

Münster's student parliament claims Franconia shared Facebook posts of right-wing extremists. These have been deleted, but one remaining post glorifies the writer Ernst Jünger, whose thinking influenced German conservatives in the 1920s.

From a legal standpoint, the root of the matter is this: Can a student organization be stigmatized just because some find its views unpalatable? "As long as you're within constitutional boundaries, you're on solid ground," Schiller says. Letting an extreme right-wing group member join the fraternity was the last straw. "With all due respect to free speech, Germany has a special responsibility after starting World War II," he says.

Kurth, the University of Giessen professor, says: "Fraternities have made headlines with their right-wing connections again and again." One fraternity member in Jena was involved with the National Socialist Underground, a Neo-Nazi terrorist group that murdered ten people, mostly with migrant backgrounds, back in the 2000s. Today, Kurth says, some fraternity alumni are involved with right-wing populist party AfD. Earlier this year, the AfD became the first far-right party to enter German parliament since World War II, upsetting German political stability.

Concerns are growing that some fraternities are far-right incubators, propagating ideology and training new staff. These fraternities "often share ideas and personnel not only with the AfD, but with extreme right-wing organizations such as the Identitarian Movement," Kurth says. Robert M., Franconia's controversial member, allegedly was a member of the Identitarians. The Identitarian Movement is the hip new kid on the right-wing block, a European version of the American alt-right.

Originating in France, Identitarians are sometimes called Nazi hipsters because they have shed old markers of the far right. They have replaced shaved heads and bomber jackets with skinny jeans, black rain jackets, and asymmetrical hair cuts.

On Instagram, young women from the movement have become influencers. Their posts consist of perfectly curated selfies showing them clutching trays of cupcakes, or gazing into the sunset from scenic mountaintops.

But the changes are purely aesthetic. Underneath, the traditional racist, nationalist ideology lives on. The superficially innocent Instagram posts are adorned with calls for women to find their place in the home, and for Europeans to defend their homelands against Muslim hordes.

Facebook recently banned the movement from its networks, including Instagram. The German secret service is surveilling Identitarians for possible anti-democratic tendencies. This is why Münster's student parliament reacted so harshly to Franconia's new member, says Schiller.

"To me, it's inexplicable and deeply disturbing, but Franconia seems to think it is perfectly okay" to accept a member of a far-right group, says Ebrahim Al-Fakih, the president of ASV, Münster's foreign-student organization. The medical student from Yemen hopes the university will heed the StuPa petition.

The 28-year-old stresses that he hasn't experienced racism or xenophobia at the university. "Student life in Münster is wonderful," he says. Still, he worries that Franconia hasn't distanced itself from the new right. "These groups seem like relics of the past," he says.

Just down the road, Burschenschaft Franconia is alive and well. On a leafy boulevard, Zacharias D. Ryan opens the door to the fraternity's two-story house. The 24-year-old is wearing his fraternity's bright sash over a check-ered shirt.

Eight people live here at the moment, Ryan says, as he heads to a sitting room where a portrait of Germany's last emperor, William II, hangs. The painting was signed by the emperor himself, Ryan says. The décor is medieval. Throne-like chairs flank a long dining table in a cavernous room. On one wall hangs a portrait of Bismarck, the German chancellor who united the country in 1870. On another, there's

a large bronze plaque listing the names of brothers who died fighting between 1939 and 1945.

Ryan isn't impressed by the petition against the fraternity. Robert M. is no longer affiliated with Franconia, he says. The fraternity was aware of Robert M.'s past, he adds. "But we acknowledge his personal development and believe in second chances," he says.

In Ryan's view, Franconia is the victim of a campus witch hunt. "As an organization with a rich heritage, we provide an existential basis for the tradition-hating left, who are just using the Identitarians as an excuse to ban us from the public sphere." Free political debate, he says, is threatened by a culture of self-victimization and censorship.

And what does he make of the charges of sexism and racism? "If it's anti-feminist to treat women like special ladies, then we are proud to be anti-feminists," he says. Girlfriends and wives have yet to complain, he adds.

And if a "non-German" is interested in fraternities, "we would be glad to help him find an organization best suited to him," says Ryan, who holds dual German-American citizenship but is proud that his ancestors stem from Germany.

There are many other options for foreign students who wish to be integrated into student life. According to the University of Münster press department, about 8 percent of the school's 45,000 students are international. "We have been getting virtually only positive feedback about our efforts to assist foreign students with their life at the university," it responds in writing.

Al-Fakih says he is happy with the university's support for foreign students, from language classes to counseling. He praises administrators for being so responsive to student input. The best example, he says, was the recent blocking of an increase in student fees for internationals.

Schiller hopes the university will heed the StuPa's call for action against Franconia. "It is an important act of symbolic resistance against political extremes," he says.

The fight against the far right is taking place in other ways, too. When a high-ranking AfD politician visited Münster this year, students organized huge protests against her speech.

"I'm proud of my city and very happy I am able to study here," Al-Fakih says. Despite heated political debates about migration after the European refugee crisis of 2015, Münster was the only German city where the AfD party won less than five percent of the vote in the national election of 2017. Many students are fighting to keep it that way. ●

Source: German Federal Statistical Office

POLITICAL PRIMER

German political parties in a nutshell

CDU/CSU

Christian Democratic Union / Christian Social Union

COLOR: **Black** · CHAIRPERSONS: **Angela Merkel (CDU), Horst Seehofer (CSU)** · FOUNDED: **1945** · 2017 RESULT: **33%** · POSITION: **Center-right**

SPD

Social Democratic Party

COLOR: **Red** · CHAIRPERSON: **Andrea Nahles** · FOUNDED: **1863** · 2017 RESULT: **20.5%** · POSITION: **Center-left**

AfD

Alternative for Germany

COLOR: **Light Blue** · CHAIRPERSONS: **Jörg Meuthen, Alexander Gauland** · FOUNDED: **2013** · 2017 RESULT: **12.6%** · POSITION: **Right-wing to far-right**

THE LEFT PARTY

COLOR: **Magenta** · CHAIRPERSONS: **Katja Kipping, Bernd Riexinger** · FOUNDED: **2007** · 2017 RESULT: **9.2%** · POSITION: **Left-wing**

FDP

Free Democratic Party

COLOR: **Yellow** · CHAIRPERSON: **Christian Lindner** · FOUNDED: **1948** · 2017 RESULT: **10.7%** · POSITION: **Center to center-right**

ALLIANCE 90/ THE GREENS

COLOR: **Green** · CHAIRPERSONS: **Annalena Baerbock, Robert Habeck** · FOUNDED: **1979** · 2017 RESULT: **8%** · POSITION: **Center-left**

Cutting-Edge Research – Step into the Hub!

University of Bremen – young, diverse, excellent.
We can offer you research-based learning, early academic independence, and world-class projects in close collaboration with top institutes from the U Bremen Research Alliance – all at one of the best locations in Germany.

Open to your ideas!

Universität Bremen

www.uni-bremen.de

Mateus Collares Weigert from Brazil, Anna Lena Baumann from Germany, Maryam Maleki from Iran, and Ahmad Abdalwareth from Egypt (l. to r.) gather in front of pollution-control devices in a lab in Goslar

FAR FAR AWAY

In the foothills of the Harz Mountains, an international research team finds practical applications for futuristic ideas

BY YERMI BRENNER **PHOTOS** ROMAN PAWLOWSKI

Imagine a brightly lit operating theater. A world-class surgeon is on call, ready to perform complex procedures. But the patient lying on the operating table and the doctor aren't in the same room – they are hundreds of kilometers apart.

Sounds like science fiction? "It's not," says Wolfgang Schade, a German scientist whose international team of researchers is making this scenario a reality. At the Fraunhofer Heinrich Hertz Institute in Goslar, the Institute of Energy Research is developing a fiber-optic-sensor glove that may soon deliver complex medical treatment and other assistance from near and far alike.

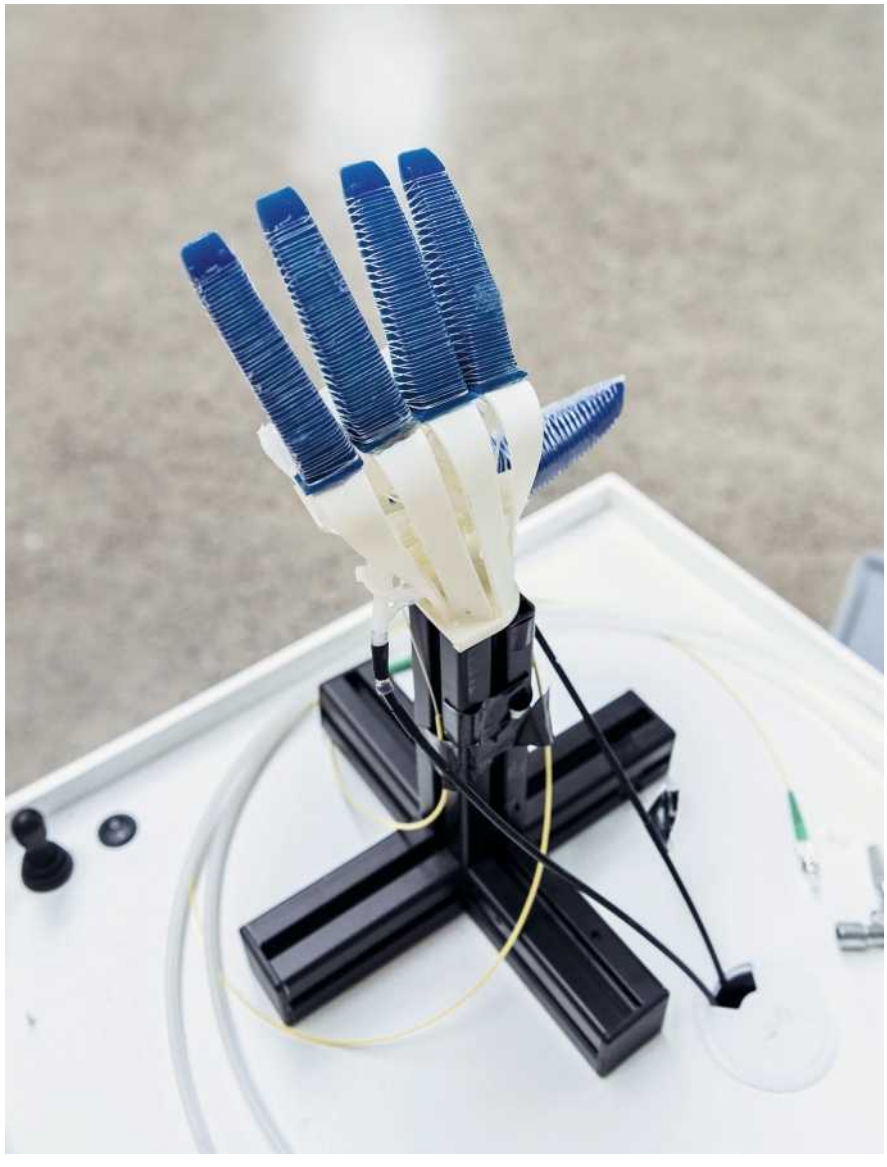
This fiber-optic cyber glove is just one of many innovations developed in Goslar, a city of about 50,000 near the scenic forests of Germany's Harz National Park, about an hour's drive from Hanover.

Cyber gloves are worn like cloth gloves and use a multitude of sensors to capture data as fingers bend and flex. Virtual-reality buffs may be familiar with the technology. But the scientists in Goslar say the fiber-optic capability is new, and that its potential is high. Indeed, the innovation won a prize from the Association for Sensors and Measurement in 2016.

Now, there's hope that this technological advance will help solve complex practical problems in the fields of medicine and communications, such as installing a catheter from afar or recognizing sign language in an instant.

The device is the brainchild of Schade and a small team of scientists from countries as far away as Iran and Brazil. About forty young researchers currently work in Goslar while studying at neighboring Clausthal University of Technology (see related story p. 60).

Cooperation between the lab and TU Clausthal ensures that scientific research conducted at the university is made available to the public, and



A robotic hand used at Goslar´s Fraunhofer Heinrich Hertz Institute

Clausthal Center of Material Technology on campus

that it is applied in a broader and more practical way for society's benefit, Schade explains.

Funding for the institute and its various research initiatives is provided by the Fraunhofer Society, which is part of Germany's vast network of research organizations.

Fraunhofer conducts applied research for private and public enterprises. With a 2.1 billion-euro annual budget, Fraunhofer operates 69 institutes. It is the largest organization for applied research in Europe, according to Germany's Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

Schade's team works in a rectangular, two-story building in Goslar. The location is convenient – just 15 kilometers down the road from the university campus in Clausthal-Zellerfeld. The scientific team's home of theory and calculation is on the second floor. Scribble-filled notebooks and unfinished cups of coffee rest on desks. Computer screens with complex algorithms crowd the work space.

ONE RESEARCHER IN THE HIGH-TECH LAB SAYS HE FEELS AS HAPPY AS A CHILD ON A PLAYGROUND

On the ground floor, team members get their hands dirty. Four laboratories each focus on different aspects of laser technology. There's a cubic chamber about four meters tall just outside the labs. It can regulate both temperature and humidity in experiments. Within it, researchers can simulate different environments found on earth – a desert climate, say, or a hot and humid rainforest. Close by, two large ovens are used to test how batteries respond to different temperatures and other stimuli.

The focus of the institute's work is the field of photonics, and fiber-optical sensor systems are at the heart of the research. Optical fibers are flexible glass fibers, slightly thicker than a human hair. For decades, they've been used to transmit vast amounts of information at light speed.

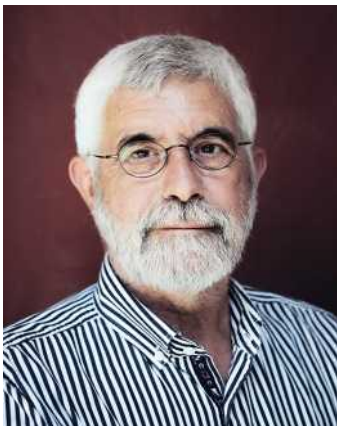
Schade's team has modified these fibers so that they function as sensors that can measure nearly everything – from temperature to molecular concentration to three-dimensional shapes. This allows them to collect information from otherwise inaccessible places, like a catheter inside a human body or a lithium battery in the power unit of an electric car. The modifications also allow the fibers to deliver that information instantly – to a computer or a database, anywhere in the world.

The practical application of complex research drew Maryam Maleki to the institute in Goslar. The 31-year-old PhD student studies fiber-optic sensors that could identify cancerous substances and explosive materials.

Maleki, a native of Isfahan in central Iran, is one of seven foreign researchers on Schade's team. Her professor back home in Iran, who had graduated from TU Clausthal, had recommended the German university.

Maleki could have attended more globally known universities in Germany or even North America, she says. She chose TU Clausthal because she was fascinated by the research potential of fiber-optic sensors and lasers, and because she wanted to study at a school with close ties to industry.

She misses home sometimes but appreciates the German countryside. "In Iran, I had to live in a big, crowded city to study at a top university. And that distanced me from nature," she says. The research, she admits, can be stressful. The experimental work she's engaged in doesn't always produce the expected results. But her colleagues



Wolfgang Schade, Director of the Institute of Energy Research

have been welcoming and supportive from the moment she joined the team in September 2017.

"It's exciting to get acquainted with different people from around the world, with different languages and thoughts," Maleki says about the culturally diverse research team. "I am comfortable here. I am Muslim, and I feel free to practice my belief."

All the researchers on the team either speak German or are taking courses to learn it. But the official language in the lab is English.

Maleki shares an office with Anna Lena Baumann, a native of Konstanz, a lakeside city in the state of Baden-Württemberg, and with Mateus Collares Weigert, a Brazilian who joined the team last January.

For Weigert, who holds a Master of Science degree in 3D printing from Federal University of Technology Paraná, the opportunity to work with people who grew up in different environments is exciting. But the best part, he says, has been the explorative approach his professors take.

In the Goslar lab, Weigert feels like a child having fun on a playground. "I can work, I can experiment, I can test, I can even make my own sensors if I want," he says, adding that at his university back in Brazil, "I didn't have this support or these devices."

Ahmad Abdalwareth, a 27-year-old from Cairo, is one of the lab's youngest researchers. He came to TU Clausthal as an exchange student to complete a bachelor's degree in materials engineering. He decided to extend his stay at the technical university to study towards a master's degree in energy and materials physics.

Abdalwareth says he appreciates the opportunity to study abroad. While he has enjoyed Germany, he says he is determined to return to Egypt at some point and make use of the knowledge he's acquiring during his studies in Germany. "A lot of people in Egypt didn't have the opportunity that I do," he says. "Maybe with this knowlege, I can do something important back there."

Bringing together researchers from different countries and backgrounds drives innovation, according to Schade. And he should know: He spent three years as a post-doctoral fellow and visiting professor at the University of Colorado Boulder, in the western part of the United States.

"It is always very helpful to see and learn how different labs work," he says. "It's important to get students from other universities into our group. They always bring new impetus, new impact, and new ideas, like fresh wind." ●

Ultra-short light pulses in action

Accelerators
Photon Science
Particle Physics

Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron
A Research Centre of the
Helmholtz Association

DESY.

WORLD RESEARCH.

DESY is one of the world's leading accelerator centres and generates the world's most intense X-ray light, accelerates particles to record energies and opens completely new windows onto the universe.

ACADEMIC CAREER
- Fellowship program
- Summer student program
- PIER graduate school
- Helmholtz funding program

LOCATION
- Hamburg
- Zeuthen (near Berlin)

FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.desy.de/career

HELMHOLTZ RESEARCH FOR GRAND CHALLENGES

MINE OF INFORMATION

At Clausthal University of Technology, the international touch is centuries old

BY YERMI BRENNER **PHOTO** ROMAN PAWLOWSKI

In his first few days at the Clausthal University of Technology, Xiaofei Liu struggled to communicate with other students.

One day, a German classmate approached him. "He wanted to learn tai chi, and I wanted to learn German," the 25-year-old says. "We helped each other."

Liu, who's studying towards a bachelor's degree in energy and raw materials, is one of 480 Chinese students enrolled at TU Clausthal, as it's often called.

On the outskirts of the Harz National Park, it's one of Germany's more remote universities. But it's one of its most international, too.

Overall, 30 percent of students and 20 percent of academic staff are foreign; they hail from a hundred countries. And this global flair is centuries old.

How did a small public university in tiny Clausthal-Zellerfeld (population: 15,523) become such a magnet for foreigners, particularly from China? The answer begins with a rock called ore and ends with a government minister named Wan Gang.

"We had international students more than 200 years ago," says Astrid Abel, head of the university's International Center. Clausthal Mining Academy was founded in 1775 after large deposits of ore – a rock containing valuable minerals such as metal – were discovered nearby. Almost a hundred years later, royal status was conveyed.

In the years that followed, the global mining industry grew, and with it, demand for the school's expertise. Students from as far away as Iran were drawn here, according to Abel.

Yi Jiang, a PhD student at TU Clausthal, wearing laser goggles while at work

When the economy shifted away from mining metals, the school (renamed Clausthal University of Technology in 1968) expanded to other applied sciences.

And as the mining industry dried up, Clausthal-Zellerfeld evolved into a university town.

The main campus is located smack in the center of town; most shops and restaurants orient their business towards students. In spring, students cramming for final exams populate public benches and lawns downtown.

Through the years, TU Clausthal's German alumni have attained top-ranking management positions at industrial giants such as RWE and Thyssenkrupp.

Of late, the school has increased its international reputation by initiating more than 150 collaborations with foreign institutions, such as the United States' California State University, Los Angeles; Spains' Universidad Politécnica de Madrid; and Cairo University in Egypt.

This, according to administrators, facilitates the arrival of non-German students and faculty to campus.

In China alone, TU Clausthal collaborates with 22 universities and research centers, including the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing and the East China University of Science and Technology in Shanghai.

Many partnerships in China have come about thanks to the help of alumni with clout.

Wan Gang was a visiting scholar and doctoral candidate in mechanical engineering at TU Clausthal in the late 1980s. He received a PhD degree there. After working in German industry for some years, he returned to his homeland and became China's chief scientist and, later, its minister of science and technology – virtually *the* job in China's science sector.

Gang's 11-year term as minister ended in March. Yet his innovative approach towards renewable energies won him recognition and respect locally and internationally.

Since Gang is a hero to many science-minded people in China, the university in Clausthal-Zellerfeld became an attractive destination for Chinese students who aspire to study abroad.

That's the case for 27-year-old Yi Jiang, a student from Wuxi in the southern Jiangsu province. Jiang has been studying at TU Clausthal since 2014. He has already completed a master's degree at the university and is now a PhD candidate with a concurrent research position in neighboring Goslar (*see related story p. 56*).

Jiang points to a 1:9 faculty-to-student ratio as a big advantage. In China, by contrast, he says, "you have thirty or forty persons per class."

Jiang's favorite part about being a student in Clausthal is the cultural diversity. His friends now come from India, Brazil, Japan, and other countries. "You can always learn about new cultures from others," he says. ●

How Germany ticks

deutschland

deutschland.de

Discover topics, find information, watch videos: if you want to understand what makes Germany tick, visit deutschland.de and its social-media channels.

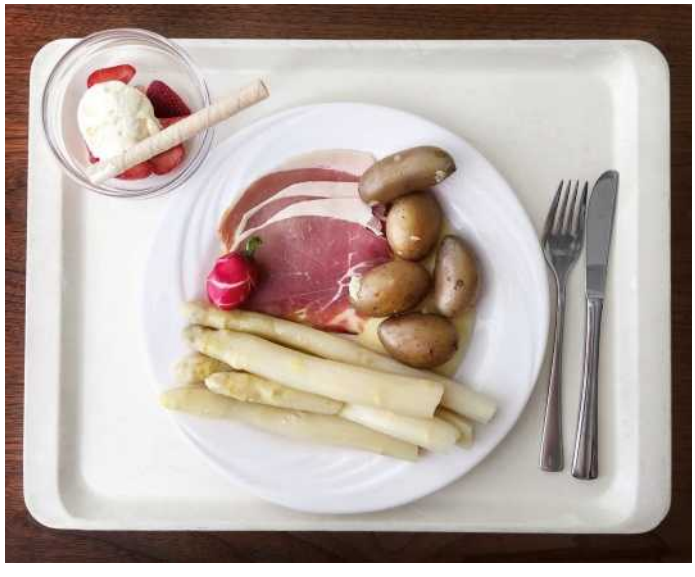
facebook.com/deutschland.de
instagram.com/deutschland_de
twitter.com/en_germany
blog.deutschland.de

Getty Images/Cultura RF, Getty Images/Westend61

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

Mensa means table in Latin. In German, it's a dining hall, the center of student life at any university. ZEIT Germany talks with a top chef at one of the country's biggest universities

BY JULIA GUNDLACH **PHOTOS** LARA HUCK



The Deutsches Studentenwerk, a German association of 58 student-service organizations, runs almost a thousand university dining halls. They're usually government-subsidized, so they manage to offer unbeatably cheap meals. These dining halls feed more than 400,000 students and faculty members across the country every school day.

Sebastian Welzenbach is just 36, but he's head chef at one of the country's largest Studentenwerk dining halls. The regional university system of Würzburg, Aschaffenburg, Bamberg, and Schweinfurt runs nine dining halls in Franconia in northern Bavaria.

Welzenbach has a lot on his plate. He is in charge of everything from recipe development to quality control and personnel. His team serves more than 2,000 meals per day, 222 days a year. Some 450,000 meals are served in the Würzburg university system each year.

What does a typical workday look like for you?

I start work at 6:30 in the morning, when many students are still fast asleep. That's when my team and I meet to discuss the day. Fifteen minutes later, four staff members and my deputy start preparing lunch in the kitchen. The first students show up for lunch at eleven in the morning, when we open. We serve both lunch and dinner, so until the kitchen closes at 8:15 p.m., we make sure that no one leaves campus hungry.

This April, we reached a record of 2,700 servings during the lunch-hour rush. The Studentenwerk Würzburg Facebook and Instagram accounts, which highlight our meals and meal plans, seem to have the right effect.

Have students' tastes changed within the past few years?

They've become more demanding, that's for sure. A boring potato stew just doesn't do it anymore. It's crucial that meals remain trendy. We even serve Kimchi now.

It's a challenge. Students want fresh regional, seasonal ingredients, but they can't afford to pay a lot. On average, our meals cost 3.41 euros. That's for a main course with two side dishes.

I think we juggle all the demands of a wide student body quite well. It takes a lot of planning, though. We make our meal plans up to three months in advance.

How did you adapt recipes to current trends?

I started working in the university system in April 2009. Even back then, we offered "Veggie Thursdays" to accommodate vegetarians in our student body.

For the past three or four years, we've offered vegan meals too. Sometimes, those are our most popular dishes of the day.

Vegan couscous with falafel sells like hot cakes in our dining halls. And sweet potato-amaranth burgers do, too.

We have a very diverse student body. Students give us a lot of input. So our menus also have become much more international over time. Cumin, masala, and Thai curry pastes have all

Translation: Deborah Steinborn

been introduced to the mix. We try to get as close to the authentic dish as possible. We also have specials. In May, we served dishes from around the world.

One thing is for sure: *Currywurst* (a popular German fast food consisting of fried sausage and spicy ketchup) will never be taken off the menu.

Which meals sell best?

Burgers! *Schnitzel* and *Currywurst,* too. Seasonal dishes sell very well. Traditional white asparagus in the spring, for instance, and pumpkin dishes in the fall. Pizza is always a hit.

We've noticed, however, that tastes really vary by faculty. Vegetarian options and salads are popular among the social scientists. We make ten types of salad every day.

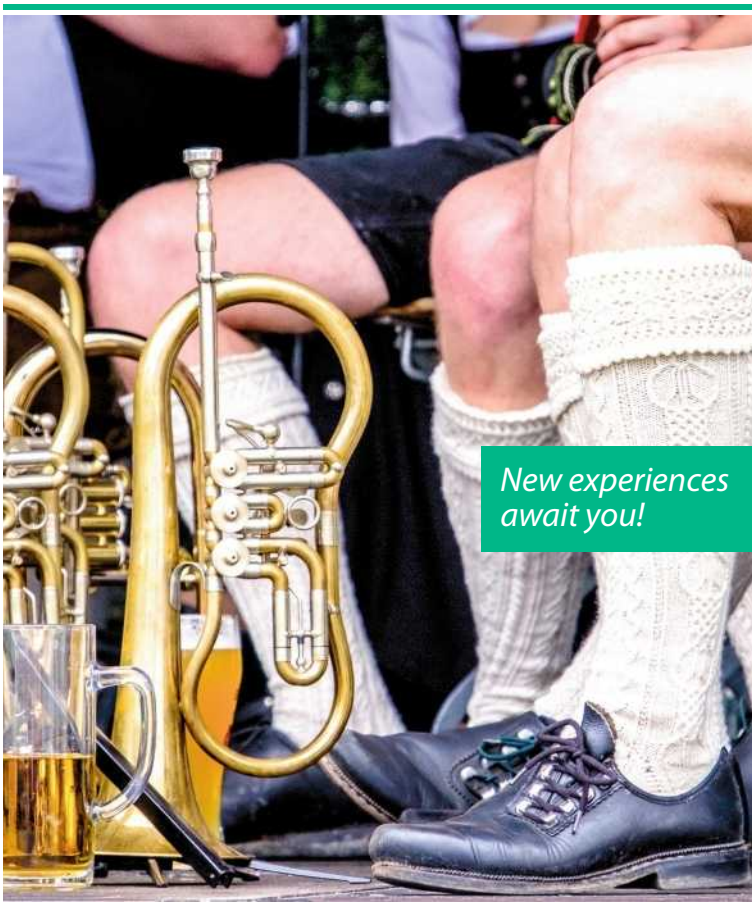
Students in technical programs go for lots of meat and poultry. And in our branch close to the university sports center, the *Schnitzel* cannot be big enough for our customers! ●

WHAT STUDENTS EAT

18 tons of French fries	In 2017, students within the university system of Würzburg consumed...	**20,000** pizzas
6,000 dumplings	**2 tons** of peppers	**15,000** burgers
1 ton of lettuce	**7 tons** of cucumbers	**10,000** Currywürste

THE WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS YOUNG *

UNIVERSITÄT BAYREUTH



A master's in Bavaria: not just a change of scenery.

More and more international students are deciding to do a master's degree in Bavaria at the University of Bayreuth. No wonder: we offer outstanding students a top-class environment.

- A tight-knit, green campus where everything you need is right at your doorstep
- Top positions in international rankings*
- A broad spectrum of programmes with no tuition fees
- English-taught, interdisciplinary master's programmes focused on key topics of the future
- Strong international university partnerships
- Double master's degrees with renowned universities
- Excellent prospects for a research-oriented doctorate

So when are you coming to Bayreuth?
www.uni-bayreuth.de

**30th in the international THE Young University Ranking '250 under 50'*

ROAD SHOW

Transatlantic political relations are at an all-time low. German diplomats are trying to break the tension with a multimillion-euro marketing campaign across the US

BY MARIA RETTER AND DEBORAH STEINBORN
ILLUSTRATION GOLDEN COSMOS

The German government and some of the country's top business associations are planning a road show throughout the United States, to the tune of a whopping 20 million euros.

This autumn, Germany's Federal Foreign Office, the cultural association Goethe-Institut, and the Federation of German Industries (BDI) will launch a coast-to-coast series of events through the end of 2019.

They're calling the campaign *Deutschlandjahr USA*. That's "Year of Germany in the US." Some Americans wonder why they didn't just give it an English name. The goal is to improve old transatlantic relationships and forge new ones in the era of US President Donald J. Trump, organizers say.

Despite the sizable price tag, that may be a tall order. Relations between the US and Germany have been a cornerstone of the liberal international order for decades. Yet transatlantic ties have been strained since Trump took office. It's no secret that he and German Chancellor Angela Merkel have had a fraught and sometimes downright chilly relationship. An escalating trade war between the US and the European Union hasn't helped matters at all.

"The future of US-German relations is unclear," says a study by the Pew Research Center of the US and Germany's Körber Foundation. The study, which polled citizens in both countries, notes that the Trump presidency "has been characterized by new tensions for the transatlantic alliance and for US-German relations." That's putting it mildly.

German diplomats hope their flashy campaign – an act of cultural diplomacy, if you will – can ease the tension a bit.

"We aren't trying to sell a glossy version of Germany," says Christoph Mücher, director of the *Deutschlandjahr USA* campaign. "In a lucid anticipation of events, German officials early last year thought they might want to strengthen their partnership with the US."

Business leaders, meanwhile, hope to establish better business ties "in a time shaped by ambivalence," says Thomas Schuelke, vice president of Fraunhofer USA, a research group that is participating in the campaign.

It isn't the first time that Germany has launched a campaign like this in a foreign country. It's held similar events around the globe for decades. "Year of Germany in Mexico" took place in 2017. A first stab at the concept came out in China in the 1990s. This time around, the budget is much larger, Mücher says.

The campaign's focus, according to a dry conceptual document by the Federal Foreign Ministry, is "how Germans and Americans can inject fresh impetus into their friendship in the fields of political, scientific, economic, cultural, and social life."

A sample of concrete projects includes a conference series of the German-American Fulbright Commission and a summer camp co-organized by the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science and Berlin's Haus der Kulturen der Welt.

Initiatives to promote collaboration in Industry 4.0 automation developments in manufacturing are also being planned.

Mücher tries to emphasize the livelier side of the planning. Events, he says, will include Berlin-style techno clubbing in Los Angeles, a German industry pop-up tour, and a slackline event in Monument Valley organized by Bavarian start-up One Inch Dreams.

Officials are fond of that last idea. "It reflects the relations between Germany and the US so well," Mücher says. "It is a balancing act right now. But the line is still taut."

Altogether, 900 potential projects have applied for funding. The initiative will take place from October 2018 through the end of 2019. ●

MASTHEAD

Publisher
Manuel J. Hartung
Editor-in-Chief
Deborah Steinborn (fr.)
Art Director / Photo Director
Julia Steinbrecher
Creative Director
Haika Hinze
Editorial Advisor
Dr. Anna-Lena Scholz
Assistant Editor
Caspar Shaller (fr.)
Editorial Assistant
Jana Spychalski

Contributing Writers
Yermi Brenner, Adam Flechter, Julia Gundlach, Milena Merten, Anne Nelson, Maria Retter, Luisa Schumann, Dr. Elisabeth von Thadden

Contributing Photographers
Ludwig Ander-Donath, David Avazzadeh, Fritz Beck, Dávid Biró, Jörg Brüggemann, Alexander Coggin, Evelyn Dragan, Anne Gabriel-Jürgens, Ériver Hijano, Lara Huck, Monika Keiler, Christina Körte, Simon Koy, Volker Kreidler, Lorenzo Maccotta, Thomas Meyer, Lisa Morgenstern, Julia Luka Lila Nitzschke, Roman Pawlowski, Nikita Teryoshin, Paula Winkler

Contributing Illustrators
Golden Cosmos, Jelka Lerche

Copy Editor
Gerrit Wiesmann (fr.)

Publishing Director
Sandra Kreft
Publishing Manager
Malte Riken (in charge), Lina Göttsch, Laurence Heesch
Managing Director
Dr. Rainer Esser
Distribution
Nils von der Kall
Marketing
René Beck
Corporate Communications
Silvie Rundel
Production
Torsten Bastian (in charge), Tim Paulsen, Oliver Nagel
Director of Sales ZEIT Group
Matthias Weidling
Head of Sales ZEIT Magazines
Maren Henke (in charge)
Sales Manager
Alexandra Lion
Director Brand Management iq media
Michael Zehentmeier
Head of Brand Management iq media, ZEIT Magazines
Anja Väterlein

Printing
Mohn Media Mohndruck GmbH, Gütersloh
Repro
Andrea Drewes, Hanno Hammacher, Martin Hinz

Publishing House
ZEIT Germany
Zeitverlag
Gerd Bucerius GmbH & Co. KG
Buceriusstrasse,
Entrance Speersort 1
20095 Hamburg
Tel.: +49 40 32 80-493
Fax: +49 40 32 71 11
Email: germany@zeit.de

ZEIT Germany is available digitally in its entirety at www.zeit.de/study-research-work

ZEIT Germany is distributed mainly through the network of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Goethe-Institut, and Germany´s Federal Foreign Office. We thank them for their support.

GOETHE INSTITUT

Federal Foreign Office

DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL

LEUPHANA
UNIVERSITÄT LÜNEBURG

MASTER ARTS AND CULTURAL MANAGEMENT

New English-language distance-learning programme for professionals from all over the world.

GOETHE INSTITUT

» www.leuphana.de/macuma

Technische Universität Braunschweig

TU9 German Institutes of Technology

"As a CSE engineer my passion is to combine the latest numerical methods with sophisticated algorithms and complex engineering models. We solve real life problems to make the world a better place."

Georgi, 2nd year student

Check out our programme and get ready to earn a master in Computational Engineering.

www.tu-braunschweig.de/cse

WHAT THE ****!

Debates about gender identity have created problems for English. That's nothing compared to the struggle of German with its legions of gender-specific nouns. ZEIT's culture critic takes aim at an unassuming pronoun: "*man*." We try to translate

BY ELISABETH VON THADDEN **ILLUSTRATION** GOLDEN COSMOS

To overcome the Teutonic rigidity of gender-specific nouns, modern Germans have reached for the asterisk. It can unite the male reader, *der Leser,* and his female counterpart, *die Leserin,* into the gender-neutral *d* Les*er*in.* Its work may not be pretty. But the gender asterisk is a way of ridding German of the lazy usage of masculine-only noun forms, or the long-winded inclusion of male and female – for instance, when addressing you, dear *Leser und Leserinnen.*

But what about one pronoun that seems very gender-neutral in one moment, and not at all in the next? The pronoun *man* means "one" or even "people" in English. Gender-neutral sentence openings like "one can never tell" or "people believe" would take the subject *man* in German. Yet few words sound more innately masculine than *man.*

First used in Old High German, it morphed into the modern German *Mann* sometime after the 8th century. It's hard to deny that *man* implies both a person and a man. Yet the dictionary defines it as an indefinite pronoun, meaning it doesn't refer to any particular man, woman, or thing. It's just somebody, anyone, almost as if there's never a subject at work.

Really? I beg to differ. In Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's 1808 book *Der Mann von funfzig Jahren,* a male character describes an amorous encounter with a woman. He's excited by the touch of her hand; he caresses and kisses it. An intimate description, and then... that word again! "One *(man)* didn't pull away."

There's no subject in this context? That's absurd. And that's a relief. The signifier *man,* without a signified, would have more than a whiff of totalitarianism. It would merely reinforce the stereotype that Germans prefer to erase the agent, or disappear into a collective, rather than stand firm as individuals.

Let's instead be inspired by Goethe's *man*. Like him, let's see in the word *man* the person who did not draw their hand away – unmistakably a woman. And I'd mark this insight with an asterisk. All in all, I'd say: *man* is *ma*n*.

THIS IS A ROUGH ENGLISH TRANSLATION

THIS IS THE POETIC GERMAN EXPLANATION

Das tut man nicht, aber ich möchte einmal ein Sternchen in *man* unterbringen, um zu zeigen, dass ich ein weibliches Subjekt bin, das macht, was es will, egal was man dazu sagt. So: *ma*n*. Das Sternchen bedeutet ja, dem generischen Maskulinum keine Chance zu geben, der Tatsache also, dass im Deutschen viele Worte von Geburt an männlich sind. Was wäre generisch maskuliner als *man?* Es stammt aus dem Althochdeutschen, kommt vor seit dem 8. Jahrhundert, hat immer schon deutsche Eichen gefällt und Wildsauen gejagt, immer als *man* im Sinne von Mann oder Mensch.

Es ist laut Wörterbuch so: *man* sei ein Indefinitpronomen, was bedeute, dass nicht wichtig ist, wer genau gemeint ist oder dass eine exakt gemeinte Person nicht bekannt ist. *Man* ist ziemlich subjektlos. Irgendwer. Leute.

Nun möchte ich diese Auffassung aber zerstreuen. Denn wie heißt es, 1808, in Goethes *Mann von funfzig Jahren?* Da ist ein Verliebter tief bewegt, „auf einmal ihre Hand zu fassen, diese zarte Hand zu küssen… Man zog sie nicht weg…" *Man!* Das soll ein Indefinitpronomen sein? Subjektlos? Dass ich nicht lache. Das ist nur ein Beispiel von vielen.

Von Subjektlosigkeit also keine Rede. Und ist das nicht beruhigend? Denn hat man bei diesem Indefinitpronomen nicht vor allem Angst, es könnte der schrecklichen deutschen Haltung assistieren, immer lieber in einem Kollektiv zu verschwinden als individuell erkennbar als Mensch zur Stelle zu sein? Man denke an die Totalitarismen, in denen es hinterher keiner gewesen sein wollte. Doch so ist es ja nicht, es verhält sich anders: im *man* steckt auch eine gute europäische Nachricht, denn es funktioniert genau wie das französische *l'on,* das ja auch ein generisches Maskulinum ist.

Also: Nehmen wir es wie Goethe, und sehen wir in dem *man,* das seine Hand nicht wegzog, eine unverwechselbare Frau. Alles in allem würde ich sagen: *ma*n*. ●

Translation: Maria Retter

Make it in Germany

Working in Germany – find your individual way!

+49 (0) 228 713 1313
make-it-in-germany@arbeitsagentur.de
www.make-it-in-germany.com

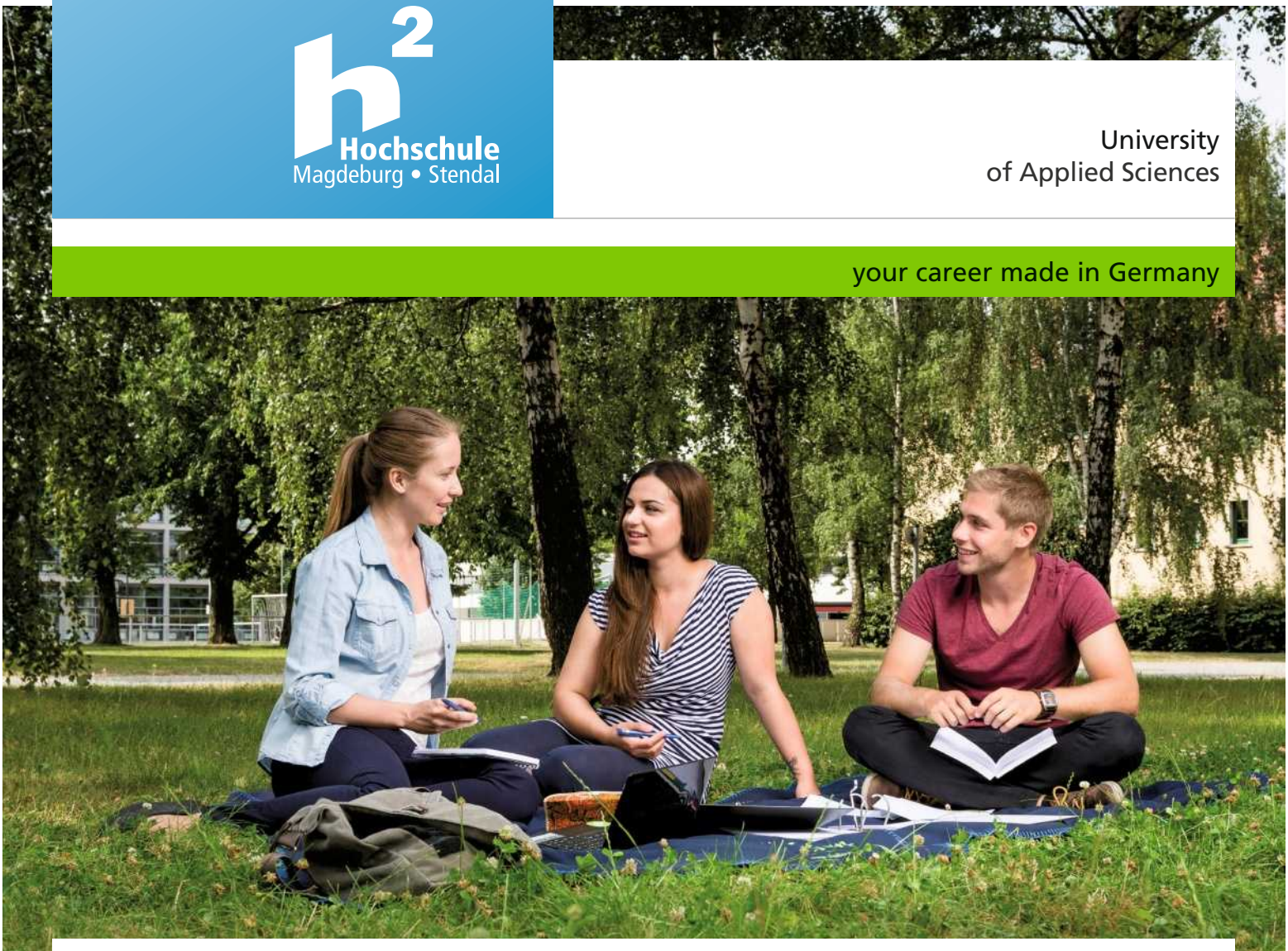
Bundesagentur für Arbeit

EURES
THE EUROPEAN JOBS NETWORK

Hochschule
Magdeburg • Stendal

University
of Applied Sciences

your career made in Germany



Make the most of your studies

unique

Select from more than 50 study programmes including Water Engineering, Smart Systems, Journalism and Sign Language Interpreting.

united

Benefit from good student-to-faculty ratio, one-to-one support via mentoring & tutoring and a variety of language courses.

unforgettable

Enjoy intercultural activities, concerts on campus, an international atmosphere and extensive sports programme.

www.hs-magdeburg.de