



15/08/2022



SIMPSON's 2022-23 Winter Semester Newbie Info Letter

Welcome to the [International Study Program \(ISP\)](#) community at the [Faculty \(School\) of Economics and Management](#)! We look forward to meeting you very soon!

If you still need to get health insurance, there are several options in Magdeburg such as AOK, BKK, DAK, TK etc. Find a full list and compare your options [here](#). The Techniker Krankenkasse (TK) offers a membership service for international students (age limit: 29), which includes a digital blocked account for the visa, health insurance, liability insurance, and an international student card. Check out this [link](#), use the Expatrio app, or contact andreas.ihle@tk.de

IMPORTANT Note:

The OVGU is an in-person university. We have to ask you to arrive in Magdeburg by October 1st at the latest in order to study and take part in the mandatory orientation week.

Quick Overview:

- Recommended arrival **before 26/09**
- SIMPSON [Buddy program](#) (registration required) available from 26/09
- Math preparation classes for IBE students: 26/09 – 30/09
- Orientation Week – **MANDATORY**, in person, 04 – 07/10; **schedule @ www.isp.ovgu.de**
- Classes start 10/10 (class schedules provided in the **MANDATORY** orientation week)
- Examination registration period: [TBA here](#).
- Enrollment information: [here](#).
- Enrollment Period 2022-23 WS (winter semester): 01/09 – 30/09/22 **online only**
- Your [account activation](#): [here](#).

Please check out www.isp.ovgu.de for exact dates! Dates are subject to change.

Useful Apps the SIMPSON team recommends:

- [Edubao](#) Tips and guidance for studying in Germany
- [Expatrio](#) – Study in Germany
- [DB – Deutsche Bahn](#) Transit app throughout all of Germany
- [INSA](#) Local transportation info in real time – Trams & buses in Magdeburg
- [UniNow](#) Mensa (Cafeteria) menu, student email, grades, uni-blog, and more
- [UNiDAYS](#) Exclusive discounts and deals for enrolled students

Internet hotspots are available on campus and around Magdeburg. Be aware that students must take care of housing themselves; **housing will not be provided automatically** for students. It is typically easier to find housing several weeks before the start of the semester via the [Studentenwerk Magdeburg \(Student Union\)](#). Fill out the forms, and once approved, wire the money as soon as possible. Other options can be found in our FAQ section.

Students who arrive without securing housing beforehand will have to get a hotel or hostel and can expect to pay several hundreds of Euros. Arrange your first accommodation from home or arrange a hostel, AirBnB, Booking.com, etc. A guide from the train station to the OVGU campus: [here](#).

Bring some cash for your first accommodation and general living expenses (for approx. 4 weeks) until you have a German bank account. We recommend flying in from Berlin, Hannover, or Leipzig. We encourage you to download a translation app and the apps listed above in advance to assist you on your journey (especially DB).



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Please note that **03/10 is a federal holiday** in Germany. Therefore, the enrollment process and accommodation search cannot be carried out on this date, and shops and the administrative institutions are closed on Sundays and during all holidays.

Please find additional information, news, events and important dates on the ISP homepage (Newsletter, Welcome Hall, FAQs and Students' Support).

For the upcoming study term, we are awaiting many new ISP students from around the world. To make sure that the arrival of all students goes as smoothly as possible, please take note of the following:

A prerequisite for a student visa in Germany is a **blocked bank account (Sperrkonto)**. Non-EU newbie students are required to have a fixed amount of money to cover the cost of living. This sum is about €11,000 at the moment. It is only necessary to block this for one year. In the second year, it is sufficient to sign a document stating that you have kept the required money. It is possible to open a bank account for Deutsche Bank from abroad, which only needs to be activated in Germany after your arrival. Everything can be done via email correspondence with the Deutsche Bank. This is much safer and more convenient for you. You can find more information on their website [here](#).

However, we must once again mention that you should bring cash to make sure you "survive" the first weeks until you will receive your ATM card that will be sent to your German address.

The study program advisor, Grit Voigt (she/her), will be happy to assist you via Zoom during the ISP office hours. More information: [here](#).

Lastly, we must ask you to observe the COVID -19 regulations valid on campus Magdeburg and throughout Germany. Please check out the OVGU Corona information published: [here](#).

We are looking forward to seeing you on campus soon!

Follow us on Instagram! [@ispofficeovgu](#)

Your SIMPSON Coordination Team
Grit Voigt & Ian A.

Your Primary Contact at the Faculty of Economics and Management (FEM):
Grit Voigt, Coordinator and Counselor (via Zoom only) for International Affairs
Office of International Affairs & International Study Program (ISP), Building 22 B-006
Email: isp@ovgu.de

For study program info, orientation week, updates and schedules, SIMPSON mentoring program, registration issues, thoroughly review our website www.isp.ovgu.de.