

Reutlingen

Fall 2009

The usefulness of this handbook depends on student input.
If you find erroneous information, please contact *overseas@indiana.edu*.



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INTRODUCTION

This booklet is a supplement to the Getting Started handbook received earlier. While it contains specific program information, Getting Started contains information relevant to all students on Indiana University Overseas Study programs. Both booklets should be used now as you prepare to leave and later while you are abroad. Since most student questions are addressed in these handbooks, please consult them before calling the Office of Overseas Study.

PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

All students in the program are expected to participate fully in all scheduled activities and events. Your acceptance of an invitation to join the program implies your willingness to go on all field trips, attend any special meetings or events, and participate in all activities of the program. **Your personal travel plans must not be allowed to interfere with your full participation in the above mentioned activities and class schedules.**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Reutlingen University
International Office
Building 5/005

Phone: +49 (0) 7121 271-1006

Fax : +49 (0) 7121 271- 1103

E-mail: aaa@reutlingen-university.de

Preparing for Departure

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

Visa

According to the German Missions in the United States, citizens of the United States of America, Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, as well as EU citizens may apply for their residence permit after entering Germany without a visa.

Once in Germany you need to apply for a residence permit in person. Upon submission of all required documents the application will be forwarded to the Aliens' Office (*Ausländeramt*) responsible for your intended place of residence in Germany. Student residence permit applications take about 25 days to be processed. After the application has been approved by the Aliens' Office, the Consulate will issue a residence permit. The Aliens' Office requires all residence permit holders to register upon their first arrival.

Once in Germany to apply for the visa you will need:

- two fully completed application forms and required declaration in duplicate
- two passport photographs (strict requirements, see details)
- valid national passport and one copy
- additional for non-US citizens: original of valid US alien registration card or valid US resident visa (type A, E, F, G, H, I, J, L, O, R) and one copy
- letter of acceptance of a German university/language school/college and one copy
- evidence that you have sufficient funds to support yourself while living in Germany and one copy
- Visa fee

Note: All information was taken from the German Consulate in the US's Web site. Please see it for further information. (http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/o4__Legal/o2__Directory__Services/o1__Visa/__Study__Visa.html).

The Program in Reutlingen

CALENDAR

September 1.....	Arrival in Reutlingen
September 2	Intensive German class starts
September 22	Intensive German class ends
October 1	ESB classes start
October 3.....	German Unification Day
November 1	All Saints Day
December 21.....	Departure date

ARRIVAL IN REUTLINGEN



From Stuttgart Airport. The best way to get to Reutlingen is from Stuttgart Airport. Conveniently there is a new eXpresso bus that transports directly to Reutlingen every hour. You could reserve in advance or pay when you get there. The bus is yellow and black checkered and the bus stop is right in front of the airport exit. It costs 5 Euro and takes about an hour. Take the bus to ‘Unter den Linden’, where you switch to the No. 4 bus to campus. Take that to the ‘Pestalozzistraße’ stop, in front of the dorms. See the Web site for more information (www.naldo.de)

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The European School of Business has an international reputation as one of the best in the field. The school houses around seven different programs. Currently there are around 4,000 students are enrolled on a full-time basis. Of those students, about 25% are not from Germany. The school has partnerships with 120 universities internationally. The University occupies spacious modern buildings on a “green” campus on the very southwestern edge of town. Campus has all of the modern amenities such as a library, cafeteria, computer lab, and a bookshop. See www.reutlingen-university.de.

THE EDUCATIONAL STYLE



Classes can be different than they are here at IU. They are structured more like seminars where students are expected to participate. The courses themselves can be found at:

www.reutlingen-university.de, click on Studenten > Vorlesungen

This site is only in German, but the international office is willing to help. The timing of classes can also change. Not all are offered in two hour blocks twice a week. Sometimes they are once a week for four hours or even entire days a few times a semester.

TEXTBOOKS



As in the United States, you will have to buy your required textbooks as an addition expense. Most books can be found at the book shop on campus.

LIBRARIES, COMPUTERS & E-MAIL



The library at Reutlingen is modern and useful. It has around 200,000 books and 350 regular periodicals. There are also databases, 10,000 e-journals and 4,000 e-books can be accessed on the campus network. Many students choose to do homework at the library. This is also a good place to go for help when looking for resources in German.

Opening hours: Monday - Thursday 8.00 - 20.00, Friday 8.00 - 18.00, Saturday 10.00 - 15.00

There is also the option of going to the city library down town. It offers a lot of books and other facilities. For registration, please take your passport and student ID, as well as your semester address with you.

Computers

While there are computer labs on campus, it is highly recommended that you bring a lap top. The computer labs and library are not open nearly as long as we are accustomed to here in the U.S. Also, it is helpful in keeping your current e-mail account and staying connected with people back home.

Life in Reutlingen

HOUSING

Most of the international students choose either to live in the dorms. International students are granted preferential treatment. They are located close to campus, on Pestalozzistraße; additional ones are located down town.

For short-term students, the dorms usually provide double rooms, with a communal kitchen and bathroom with shower. Prices range between €170 for a double room and €200 for a single room per month. For some special programs, we also offer apartments in the guesthouse for €270 per month for one person and €300 per month for two people. A new dorm, administered by the Studentenwerk Tübingen, is a bit more expensive and runs around €200-€240 per month. You are also able to look for your own housing off campus if you so choose.

TELEPHONES

Germany's country code is +49. So if someone was calling you from home, they would dial 011 + 49 + Area Code + Telephone Number. If you were calling someone in the United States from Germany, you would dial 00 + 1 + Area Code + Number.

Cellular Telephone. As with most European countries, it is easy and cheap to purchase a cell phone and “pay as you go” for minutes used.

TIME

Reutlingen is 6 hours ahead of Bloomington, IN.

MEDICAL CARE

In Germany, visiting a doctor can only be done through appointment. If you are looking for medical care, talking with the International

Office is a good starting point. They can help set up appointments with English speaking physicians. Bring all documentation and insurance information. A lot more medicines can be bought over the counter in Germany than in the U.S, but others are done through prescription.

English speakers:

Doctor for general medicine:

Dr. med Klaus Neubert / Hermann-Ehlerstr. 8 Phone 239939 (ask in the International Office for help to make an appointment)

Dentist:

Dr. Hansjörg Stotz, city center in the MediaMarket building / Unter den Linden 16, phone 346076

Pharmacy: next to Penny Market right after the Kreissparkasse.

CLIMATE 

Germany is situated in the moderately cool zone. The weather in winter can include periods of intense cold (down to minus 20° Celsius) whereas in summer, temperatures of 30° C and above are quite common.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION 

Reutlingen is not a very large city, and can mostly be accessed by foot. The buses 4 and 11 run from the campus to the center of town, which is Stadtmitte at the Tübinger Tor. A very cost efficient idea is to get a pass for all of the buses and trains in a wide area for the entire semester through the University and Naldo. This costs about 47 Euro. You must carry a card when using transportation to not get fined. Information: www.naldo.de.

RAIL PASS/TRAVELING

Traveling by train is the best way to see Europe. Trains are punctual, clean, comfortable, and they go nearly everywhere. Students recommend purchasing a Eurail pass for vacation travel, although flying is another good option since there are many cheap airlines .

There are many Eurail options, all of which must be purchased in the United States. Check with STA Travel or go to www.raileurope.com about the best option for you. Read carefully the instruction booklet, maps, and schedules that accompany your rail pass.

There are now many discount airlines operating in Europe. Flying with these airlines is sometimes even cheaper than traveling by train, especially when you book far in advance, and of course much faster. You might want to consider this before you decide about buying a Eurail pass.

GUIDE BOOKS

Prepare yourself for life in Europe by reading student-oriented guide books, such as Let's Go, Lonely Planet or On the Loose. Traveling will be easier if you understand in advance how to read a train schedule, identify a second class train car, change money, locate a youth hostel, etc. Take the guide book with you, as it can be difficult to obtain general European travel information in English in Germany.

PACKING

PACK AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE. Experienced travelers rely on coordinated mix-and-match outfits and don't worry if they are seen frequently in the same skirt or jacket. German students dress conservatively and are not sloppy. They seldom wear white socks or sneakers.

Suggested Packing List

- one or two dressy outfits
- raincoat with hood, umbrella, scarf, mittens
- Windbreaker, warm coat and sweater

- good walking shoes, boots with waterproof soles
- warm bathrobe and slippers
- small knapsack for books
- larger knapsack (with zipoff bags) or weekend bag for travel
- iPod and dock
- batteries and battery charger
- travel alarm clock
- towels and washcloths
- notebooks and classroom supplies
- laptop computer (strongly recommended)
- a good European map (consider GPS with Euro map addition)
- Let's Go: Europe, Lonely Planet, or other travel
- photos of family and friends
- pocket knife, small bottle opener, corkscrew for travel
- deodorant (most European deodorant has no antiperspirant.)
- prescription drugs to last the duration of your stay.
- typewritten copy of your prescription using generic, terms
- first aid kit with medications for colds, headaches, stomach upset
- Headset (for Internet calling, e.g. Skype)

Note: U.S. electrical appliances work poorly in Europe, even with converters, and small items like hair dryers can be purchased inexpensively in Germany. Also, traveler's checks are **NOT** recommended.

Germany

Reference: CIA World Factbook. www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gm.html

POPULATION DIVERSITY

Germany is the most populous country in the EU with 82 million inhabitants. Germany is an aging country, which could cause issues in the future. The largest groups of people living in Germany from other nationalities come from Turkey, Eastern Europe, Russia, Spain and Italy.

Christianity is the most common religion at 68%. Islam is second, with marginal numbers of Buddhists, Jews, Hindus or other religions. 28% of the population claims no religious affiliation.

POLITICS

Germany consists of an Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branch. The executives include President Horst Koehler, who serves as the chief of state. The head of the government is Chancellor Angela Merkel. The legislature is bicameral with the Federal Assembly (614 seats) and the Federal Council (64 votes allocated to state governments depending on population.) The judicial branch of the Federal Constitutional Court is made of judges appointed half by the Federal Assembly, half by the Federal Council. The main political parties are Alliance '90/ Greens, Christian Democratic Union, Free Democratic Party, the Left Party, and the Social Democratic party.

ECONOMY

Germany's economy is the fifth largest in the world. After a low growth period from 2001-2005, recovery has taken place into 2007. Reintegrating the former East Germany is still taking place in Germany today. Modernization and globalization will continue to improve unemployment. The aging population of Germany is something else that will continue to be a challenge to the economy. They have been largely affected by the financial situation around the globe.

