# **4** STUDYING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN



The first steps are always the hardest – even at a university. In this chapter you will find information about the way the studies in Göttingen are organised, as well as an overview of the services and infrastructure of the university.

## **ORIENTATION DAYS AT THE** FACULTIES

Separate Orientation Days (abbreviation: O-Phase) are held at every faculty, and they are organised by students of that faculty. Like the Introduction Days of the International Office, the O-Phase is usually held before the courses begin. In order to take part, it is advisable to arrive in Göttingen before your courses start, since the O-Phase is something you should not miss when starting your first semester.

The O-Phase will provide you with first-hand information about your subject, the university and life in Göttingen. The fun side is certainly not neglected since first-semester parties and tours of the local pubs are just as much a part of the O-Phase as understanding the examination regulations. You will find detailed information about the times and programmes of your O-Phase on the website of your programme/ faculty.

#### **INTRODUCTION DAYS FOR** FOREIGN STUDENTS

At the beginning of each semester, the International Office of the university hosts Introduction Days for international students. Participation is strongly recommended.

A team of student tutors will show you around the campus, the faculties, and the leisure facilities. Furthermore, there is a pub evening and other events which are both interesting and fun. This is a great opportunity for you to get to know the city of Göttingen and the university, to become familiar with your "new home", and to meet fellow international students!

### HOW ARE YOUR STUDIES ORGANISED?

### ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The academic year is divided into winter and summer term, with each period lasting six months. During these terms there are periods when lectures are held, and periods when examinations are taken, as well as breaks and public holidays. Courses usually run over 14 weeks, followed by a two-week examination period. Students are expected to use the time between these periods for independent studies. Many students, however, also take on jobs, complete internships or travel abroad during semester breaks.

#### WINTER SEMESTER 2015/2016:

- **Beginning of semester:**  $\rightarrow$ 1st October, 2015
- → End of semester: 31st March, 2016
- → Period of lectures: 26th October, 2015 – 12th February, 2016

INFORMATION The page www.uni-goettingen. deldates-study always has up to date information on the academic calendar.

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#### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN LOWER SAXONY

	2015	2016
New Year's Day (Neujahr)	ıst January	ıst January
Good Friday (Karfreitag)	3rd April	25th March
<b>Easter Monday</b> (Ostermontag)	6th April	28th March
<b>Labour Day</b> (Tag der Arbeit)	1st May	1st May
Ascension Day (Christi Himmelfahrt)	14th May	5th May
Pentecost Sunday (Pfingstsonntag)	24th May	15th May
Pentecost Monday (Pfingstmontag)	25th May	16th May
<b>German Unity Day</b> (Tag der deutschen Einheit)	3rd October	3rd October
<b>1st Christmas Day</b> (1. Weihnachtstag)	25th December	25th December
<b>2nd Christmas Day</b> (2. Weihnachtstag)	26th December	26th December



## COURSE OF STUDY

Your studies are divided into modules, which are study units that consist of thematically-related courses. Modules normally consist of several courses of different type during the lecture period (e.g. lectures and seminars). Each module involves a workload of two to ten hours per week. The workload needed to successfully complete a module is measured in credit points, according to the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). Students receive credits for modules that they have successfully completed.

Some modules are offered as block courses.

#### CREDITS AND GRADES: MEASU-RING YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Most study programmes at the University of Göttingen are structured in modules and the corresponding ECTS-Credit Points. This system provides a way of measuring the students' workload, comparing learning outcomes, and transferring it to other institutions and countries. The number of credits you can achieve per class and module is given in the directory of modules of each course. 1 ECTS = 30 hours of workload. As a rule, students need to complete 180 credits to graduate with a Bachelor's degree, and 120 credits for a Master's degree. In addition to receiving ECTS, the student's performance is also graded. Lecturers evaluate the quality of a student's work by giving grades (1 to 5). Grade "1" is the best, whilst "5" corresponds to "fail". In a few cases, e.g. language courses, capital letters (A to F) are used instead of numbered grades. In this case, "A" represents an excellent and "E" a sufficient, but not really satisfactory, performance. If you receive the grade "F", then it means that you have failed the class.

#### **TYPES OF COURSES**

The University of Göttingen offers different types of courses. Each of these courses focuses on different skills and has a particular approach to learning and to disseminating information.

#### Lectures (Vorlesungen)

In lectures, university professors generally speak on a specific topic. They provide a comprehensive overview on, or an in-depth knowledge of, one topic. Upfront teaching is the most common teaching style. Students receive credits for attending lectures and often have to present what they have learned in written exams at the end of the semester.

#### Seminars (Seminare)

Seminars are an interactive form of learning and require active student participation. Usually, oral presentations and/or papers are provided by students and followed by a discussion with peers and a review by the lecturer.

Students earn credits if they present a paper, hand in assignments, and/or pass a written exam. To ensure that you can attend a certain seminar, you might have to sign up prior to the beginning of the lecture period since the number of students per seminar is limited. Please ask the academic advisor of your programme for the procedure of registration in your subject.

#### **Tutorials (Tutorien)**

Tutorials are headed by advanced students (tutors) and deepen the knowledge taught in lectures and seminars. The groups in tutorials are often small and the atmosphere is personal.

#### **Problem Sessions (Übungen)**

Problem sessions are held by university teachers, lecturers or research assistants and have a similar approach to tutorials. They are common in the natural sciences.

#### **Colloquium (Kolloquium)**

In colloquia, students present their current scientific research (e.g. Bachelor's, Master's, or doctoral thesis) and discuss it with their peers and interested scholars.

## STUDY REGULATIONS

Each of the academic subjects has its own set of rules, which you can find in the study regulations (Studienordnung). They are published online in the A to Z List which is available here: www.uni-goettingen.de/subjects

#### **Excursions and field trips (Exkursionen)**

Excursions are trips organised by a group of students which are made for educational purposes. They are often an adjunct to a longer journey or visit to a place, e.g. to observe natural or geographical phenomena or features. Short excursions are called field trips.

#### Laboratory work (Laborpraktikum)

Particularly in the natural sciences, students work in laboratories, applying appropriate procedures and using the necessary equipment. In this way, they learn how to conduct scientific practices (e.g. analyse chemical substances or use tests).

#### **Online teaching modules**

Online teaching, also called E-learning, is a type of course in which web-based or online-education plays a major role. It might, however, also involve face-to-face interaction. Often, students take lectures or seminars via the Internet and contribute to this class through blogs, emails and chats.

### **EXAMINATIONS**

Examinations are usually taken within the first two weeks after the last day of lectures. Failed exams can be retaken at a later date. At the University of Göttingen, failed examinations can be repeated twice. Bachelor's and Master's thesis that are graded or qualify as "non-sufficient" may only be repeated once.

The framework and details of a particular assessment as well as examination types are introduced and explained by the responsible lecturer at the beginning of the semester.



#### TYPES OF EXAMINATIONS

#### **Oral exams**

During an oral exam, an examiner asks you questions in spoken form. Students have to answer the question in such a way as to demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the subject in order to pass the exam. Oral exams can range from a straightforward question and answer format, to more problem-based, or hypothetical scenarios which may evaluate not only academic knowledge but also your interpersonal communication, diagnostic and/or creative abilities.



#### Written exams

Exams frequently last between 30 minutes and several hours, and are intended to test a student's ability to recall, assimilate and apply the knowledge gained from a seminar or lecture course. Many examiners will test the students by requiring a mixture of both short and long answers, and/or multiple-choice questions.

#### Giving a presentation / Presenting a paper

During oral or written presentations, students present reports on a project or particular topic and summarise scientific publications. They often evaluate other scholars' approaches and classify them according to state-of-the-art knowledge in a particular field. The correctness and appropriateness of content, structure, and style are assessed, as well as the way in which a discussion is led following a presentation.

#### **Project work**

Project work is a way of introducing real and practical problems as well as independent study to education. Two or more students collaborate and identify a problem or question they wish to solve or explore. The workload is then shared in the group and carried out independently. The outcome, however, is the result of the collaboration and presented as a project report and/or a paper.

#### Cheating

The Rules and Regulations for studying at the University of Göttingen (Allgemeine Prüfungsordnung/APO) state that if a student attempts to influence examination results to his/her own, or somebody else's, advantage through deception or by using material that is not permitted, then the relevant examination results are considered "not satisfactory" (5.0) or as a "fail", respectively.

#### PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is regarded as a crime and both staff and students are responsible for preventing plagiarism. The standards of scientific practice include using citations, references and acknowledgements. These standards are not met by copying someone else's work without indicating the source. The University of Göttingen is committed to assisting staff and students in maintaining high standards of academic integrity, and to minimising the possibility of students submitting plagiarised material.

## **ONLINE SERVICES**

Lots of information and services related to your studies are available online. Search facilities for lectures, registration for examinations, and the printing of study-related certificates, for example, can be easily accessed from your own computer around the clock. Many seminars are also supplemented by material available online.

#### eCAMPUS STUDENT PORTAL

eCampus (electronic campus) is a portal for students in Göttingen and the central access point for online services relevant to studying. Logging on to the eCampus portal automatically triggers a login onto the systems, so that most services (self-service functions; FlexNow; Stud.IP; UniVZ and email account) can be used immediately. To access eCampus, please use the following link: www.ecampus.uni-goettingen.de

#### UNIVZ

UniVZ, the course and people's directory, answers the following questions:

- → What courses are offered?
- → Who teaches the class?
- → Where and when is the class being held?



#### STUD.IP

Stud.IP is an Open Source Learning Management System that helps you to manage and participate in your classes. Stud.IP also documents courses available in the current course catalogue (exception: University Medical Center). Through this platform you can download and share learning material, discuss course contents, or create your own content.

To be able to make use of Stud.IP's full set of features, you have to register and login to the system. For this purpose, the university provides a username and password for each student. This username and password is the same one you use for your student email-account or when you register for examinations through FlexNow. For more information on Stud.IP see: www.studip.uni-goettingen.de

### ACCESS TO YOUR EMAIL ACCOUNT

To log on to your email account, go to http:// webmail.uni-goettingen.de. Type in "ug-student\" directly followed by your username, e.g. "ug-student\firstname.lastname". Then type in your StudIT-password (not the library password) and press ok.

#### FLEXNOW EXAM MANAGEMENT

FlexNow is used to administer exam assessments for all Bachelor and Master degree courses. It allows you to register up to seven days prior to the exam date and cancel your registration 24 hours before your exam, view your grades and credits, and to create a summary (PDF file) of your attainments to date.

You can register for your exams online from wherever you are, without visiting the examination office. Confirmation of your registration is sent to you by email. Also, you receive an email as soon as the exam results are released by the examination office. Please refer to this page www.uni-goettingen.de/en/45582.html for further information.

## INFORMATION

You can obtain an online summary of your achievements within 13 months of ex-matriculating from the university. Make sure that you retrieve them on time.



#### **IMPORTANT**

Your university email account will be the ONLY account to which the university will send emails and notifications once it is created. You will receive updates on your classes, notices in case the lecturer is ill, messages related to the payment of your tuition fees, or messages from the examination office. It is therefore ESSENTIAL that you check your university emails REGULARLY, or have them forwarded to a WORKING private account.

#### UNIVERSITY EMAIL ACCOUNT

Each student of the University of Göttingen receives free access to the Internet and a free email account together with the student ID card. This account is created automatically, usually using the student's first and last name.

The password is identical to your password for self-service functions and the examination services FlexNow.



### UNIVERSITY INFRASTRUCTURE

#### GÖTTINGEN STATE AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Göttingen State and University Library (SUB Göttingen) is one of the five largest libraries in Germany. It is accessible free of charge to all students and academics and offers a broad range of services for study and research purposes.

The library has nine locations: mostly you will use the Central Library on the University Central Campus. Open Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., the Central Library offers you all the services of a modern academic library within 22,000 square metres. The historical building, where Goethe and the brothers Grimm once worked, houses the library's historical collections and is used as an exhibition and lecture venue. In addition, seven divisional libraries offer you access to subject-specific literature and information.

#### **INTERNET ACCESS**

Your username and password allow you to login on any university computer, and also to use high speed wireless connection via GoeMobile and Eduroam with your own laptop or smartphone on campus.

In order to access the Internet via GoeMobile, all you need is a studIT account. After connecting to the network, you will be led directly to the portal page of GoeMobile for authentication. You then have to give your student email address as your username in the first field, the password of your student account in the second field, and tick the box asking you to accept the terms of use.

## INFORMATION At the University Me-

dical Center the wireless network GoeMobile is not available. Please use eduroam instead!



#### **DIVISIONAL LIBRARIES:**

The following eight divisional libraries offer you a wider selection of subject-specific books, as well as a wide range of working facilities:

- → Chemistry Divisional Library (Tammannstrasse 4)
- Cultural Studies Divisional Library (Heinrich-Düker-Weg 14)
- → Economics and Social Sciences Divisional Library (Platz der Göttinger Sieben 3)
- → Forestry Divisional Library (Büsgenweg 5)
- → Medical Library (Robert-Koch-Str. 40)
- → **Physics Divisional Library** (Friedrich-Hund-Platz 1)
- → Waldweg Library Pedagogy, Philosophy, Psychology, and Sports Sciences (Waldweg 26)

In addition to the Göttingen State and University Library, the university has over 100 specialised academic libraries throughout the university's institutes, faculties and seminars. Please refer to the faculties' webpages for more information.

#### LEARNING AND STUDY BUILDING (LSG)

The Learning and Study Building is a part of Göttingen's State and University Library and it offers you around 650 study places for individual undisturbed reading, as well as for various forms of group activities. In addition, there is a lecture hall, a room with individual cubicles, a family area which offers child care free of charge on Saturdays, recreation and lounge areas, and open working spaces. You can book these individual and group study rooms through eCampus.

www.uni-goettingen.de/lsg

#### RELAXATION AREA IN THE VG BUILDING

If you need a break from learning, you can make yourself comfortable in the relaxation area that you will find in the basement of the Verfügungsgebäude at the Central Campus (VG; Platz der Göttinger Sieben 7). The relaxation area is a big open room which gives you everything you need in order to temporarily switch off from your studies.



#### **Computer and IT services**

In cooperation with StudIT and the GWDG, the Learning Resources Centre in the Central Library offers you a wide array of IT services. You can use the equipment provided for printing, scanning, editing files and holding video conferences. The Centre's staff are happy to give you advice and technical support. The Learning Resources Centre is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on working days and from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the weekend.

#### Individual and group study spaces

All the libraries also offer individual and group study spaces; many of them provide technical equipment and guarantee a silent atmosphere in which to work.

#### Library card

No registration is necessary to use the library resources and services on site in the library. However, you will need a library card to order items from the stocks, to check them out at the self-issue terminals, and to reserve items currently on loan. Your library account enables you to view and renew your loans and manage your reservations.

Your Göttingen student card is also your library card. Your library card number is given on the back of your student ID chip card ("0007"+ matriculation number, e.g. 00071234567). Your initial password will be assigned to you upon matriculation.

The library also offers orientation tours for new users. For more information, please refer to the library website www.sub.uni-goettingen.de.

#### **ORDERING BOOKS**

Did you know that you can order books, journals, etc. from other libraries to be delivered to Göttingen? Göttingen State and University Library offers an inter-library loan and delivery service for numerous books, journals and documents which are located in other libraries in Germany or worldwide. Just ask the library staff for more information during your visit or check their website **www. sub.uni-goettingen.de**.

## ZESS - LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE

The central contact point for students interested in learning languages is the Language Teaching Centre (ZESS). A number of languages are offered on a free of charge basis, namely Arabic, Chinese, English, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish and Turkish. Please note that you have to take a placement test in order to be able to register for a course. This can be done via Flexnow.

Classes normally start in the same week that the lectures start. The list of courses which are offered in a particular semester, as well as starting dates and other information, can be found in the UniVZ. In order to access information about language courses, please go to Vorlesungsverzeichnis - Zentrale und gemeinsame Einrichtungen - Zentrale Einrichtung für Sprachen und Schlüsselqualifikationen - Fremdsprachen.

More information about the courses (to date in German) can be found at www.uni-goettingen. de/de/423445.html



#### ZESS INTENSIVE COURSES

If you want to use the semester break to learn a new language or to improve your already existent language skills, don't miss the chance to join one of the intensive courses held by ZESS. Registration has to be done via FlexNow as well.

#### **International Writing Centre**

To write an academic text means more than simply putting your thoughts down into writing. Many requirements must be fulfilled when writing an academic assignment. The International Writing Centre offers writing peer tutoring in English to students from all faculties. Both native and non-native speakers are welcome.

#### LONG NIGHTS OF POSTPONED TERM PAPERS

Since 2011, the International Writing Centre organises "Long nights of postponed term papers" (Lange Nacht der aufgeschobenen Hausarbeiten), where all the students who have unfinished term papers/assignments receive support (writing and brain-storming tips, workshops) from the Centre's staff. Find more information (in German) here:

www.schreibzentrum.uni-goettingen.de

### **UNIVERSITY CANTEENS**



The cafeterias or canteens (Mensa) are among one of the most important university facilities. Here you can meet friends, have a bite to eat, or read a book over a cup of coffee between lectures.

#### **CANTEEN ADDRESSES**

- → Zentralmensa Platz der Göttinger Sieben 4
- → Mensa am Turm Goßlerstraße 12 b
- → Nordmensa Grisebachstraße 10
- → Mensa Italia Rödererstraße 15 a
- → Kantine MPI Am Faßberg 11
- → Mensa im Klinikum Robert-Koch-Str. 40

You can check the menu of the day in the canteen of your choice online (www.studenten werk-goettingen.de/speiseplan.html) or by using a canteen app (Mensaplan GÖ).

## MEALS AT THE UNIVERSITY CANTEENS (BASED ON 2014 PRICES)

<b>Soup</b> (Eintopf)	1,45€
Menu 1	2,35€
Menu 2	2,60€
Vegetarian	2,30€
Vegan	2,30€

All students can use their student card for cashless payments in canteens and cafeterias. The card can be (re)charged at a chip card topup terminal either by paying cash or by direct debit (EC-Card). The top-up terminals can be found in every canteen.



#### CAFETERIAS

There are a lot of cafeterias throughout the university's institutes. They all offer coffee, tea, water and snacks at reasonable prices. In some of them you can also find warm meals.

- → Café Central The building of the Zentralmensa, Platz der Göttinger Sieben 5
- → Café Campus Platz der Göttinger Sieben 5
- → Cafeteria SUB Library building, Platz der Göttinger Sieben 1
- → Bistro am Turm The Mensa am Turm building, Goßlerstraße 12
- → CaPhy (Physics) Friedrich-Hund-Platz 1
- → Cafeteria HAWK Büsgenweg 1a
- → Coffeebar ins Grüne (Nordmensa) Grisebachstraße 10

#### AUTONOMICUM

There is a self-managed café and recreation room located at the central campus - Autonomicum. Apart from coffee machines and tea, here you can also find an info-corner with flyers and brochures, a play corner for kids, a bookshelf, a fridge, as well as a computer to access your university account. It is funded through a donation box. You will find the Autonomicum on the ground floor of the Blauer Turm.



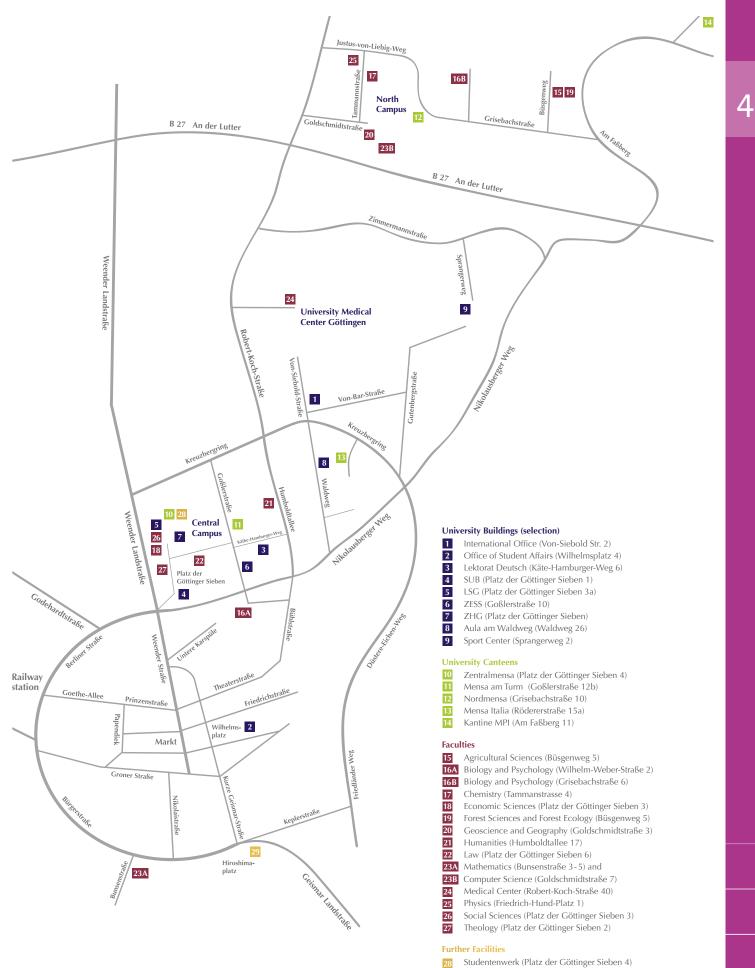


### **SPORTS**

Sport is an important part of student life at the University of Göttingen. The University Sports Centre (Hochschulsport Göttingen) offers more than 80 different types of sport, so there really is something for everyone! Among the sports facilities are an indoor swimming pool with saunas, a large fitness centre, excellent climbing walls and more than 8 different gyms. Sports halls and sports equipment can be hired. Here you will find the list of all the

different types of sports on offer: www.hochschulsport.uni-goettingen.de/cms/sportarten. html. The Sports Centre is situated within a ten minute bicycle ride from either the North Campus or the city centre. The sports centre is open seven days a week. In order to use the facilities, you have to become a member and pay a monthly membership fee of 2 Euros. For more information, please refer to: www.hochschulsport.uni-goettingen.de





Studentenwerk (Platz der Gottinger Steben 4)
Foreigners' Registration Office (Hiroshimaplatz 1-4)

## **BEING ACTIVE AND CREATIVE**

For those of you who like to sing, dance, perform, create – Göttingen offers countless activities to indulge in your hobby.



#### DANCING

Whether it's tango, salsa, belly dancing, hip hop, Indian dance or any other dance – you are bound to find it in Göttingen! The Studentenwerk and the University Sports Centre offer a wide range of courses. The cultural centres KAZ and Musa have a number of courses as well.

www.studentenwerk-goettingen.de/kurse.html www.hochschulsport.uni-goettingen.de/cms/ sportarten.html

www.kaz-goettingen.de/tanz-und-musik



#### SINGING AND PLAYING INSTRUMENTS

If you are interested in joining a choir or playing an instrument in an orchestra, you can join the University Choir and Orchestra, which are open to all those who have experience in singing or playing instruments and classical music. Auditions are held at the beginning of the semesters at the Casa Musica (Herzberger Landstraße 2), where you are asked to perform a piece of your choice. Particular dates are announced online.

#### www.uni-goettingen.de/unichor; www.uni-goettingen.de/uniorchester

UniCante, a Studentenwerk choir, is open to those who like singing and prefer modern songs to classics. UniCante's repertoire mostly consists of a-cappella arrangements of popular pop and rock songs. You can join them at the beginning of each winter semester. www.unicante.org

Those who like playing jazz and funk are welcome to join the Studentenwerk's UniRoyal. www.uniroyal-jazz.de

Those who want to go for Latin percussion, African drums or Spanish guitar, can join one of the KAZ cultural centre's workshops. www.kaz-goettingen.de/tanz-und-musik

Have you ever heard of a concept of international singing? People from different countries teach each other songs from their home countries. Everyone is welcome to join: www.kaz-goettingen.de/buhne-und-gesang

#### PERFORMING IN THEATRES

Most plays in the ThOP (Theater im OP) - the theatre in the former surgery lecture room are produced and performed by students, and therefore it is a great opportunity to try performing out for yourself! Each semester, on the first Wednesday, upcoming plays are presented and you can join the ThOp team, either as an actor in one of the plays, or at the back stage. No experience is necessary: your enthusiasm is the only prerequisite!

Those who don't speak German can take part in an English Drama Group production. And those who prefer writing plays to performing have an opportunity to participate in a script contest (your play has to be written in German, though). www.thop.uni-goettingen.de



#### TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS

Do you like taking photos and want to learn more? It doesn't matter whether you already have experience in this field, or whether you are simply taking your first steps in the world of photography, you will find a suitable course for you. Studentenwerk offers photography courses for all levels. www.studentenwerk-goettin gen.de/fotokurse.html

#### **EXHIBITING YOUR PHOTOS OR PAINTINGS**

If you would like to display your photography, graphic arts or paintings, Studentenwerk offers exhibition rooms and supports you in organisational matters. It can print out your pictures and provide you with free of charge 70cm x 100cm frames and passe-partouts. www.studentenwerk-goettingen.de/kultur

#### POTTERY

All Göttingen students can try out pottery on a free of charge basis in the ceramic studio of the KAZ. You can do it every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and every Thursday from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.; no appointment is needed, just drop by!

www.kaz-goettingen.de/kunst-und-gestaltung

You can also consider joining FotoAG, which offers a platform for all those who love photography and want realise photo projects, try out new techniques and simply exchange ideas. http://fotoag-goettingen.de/

## INFORMATION

Do you have a culture-related project in mind and need support? Just contact the Studentenwerk's Cultural Office and they might provide non-monetary support for your project: www.studentenwerk-goettingen.de/kultur.

## MEETING NEW PEOPLE

#### FOYER INTERNATIONAL

Foyer International, a cultural programme run by students, is a meeting place for students from all over the world. International cooking evenings, film nights, language workshops and much more are organised on a regular basis by students. It is a great place to meet interesting people from all over the world who speak English, Spanish, French, German, Japanese, Italian and other languages!

www.uni-goettingen.de/foyer-international



#### **JOIN US!**

Do you plan to meet your study buddy for a coffee or tea? Or would you like to discuss different cultures, talk about university life and get to know new people? Join the InDiGU Network Coffee at the Mensa am Turm every Thursday starting from 1 pm. Of course you can also drink tea! :)

#### **EXCURSIONS**

The University's International Office also organises excursions to German cities of political, cultural and historical interest, as well as to other general tourist attractions. For more information, please check www.uni-goettingen. de/excursions.

#### **CULTURAL CENTRES**

Göttingen has three cultural centres in which dance, music, art, and theatre groups can rent a room for rehearsals and regular meetings. Many theatre and music performances, as well as theme-based festivals, take place in these centres.

www.musa.de www.kaz-goettingen.de www.stilbrvch.de

#### INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES

In Göttingen there are different national communities which bring together representatives of the respective countries, whether they are students, scientists or working professionals, and their families. These communities organise numerous social activities and offer support to those who are planning their stay in Göttingen.

Indian community www.uni-goettingen.de/de/132691.html

Chinese community www.uni-goettingen.de/en/305763.html

Indonesian community www.ppi-goettingen.de

Mexican community www.mexgoe.de, www.facebook.com/profile. php?id=100005676607028

Nepalese community nepaleseingoettingen.blogspot.com

#### COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The ASR (Ausländischer Studierendenrat) is elected every year and is the direct representation of all international students at the university. It raises/promotes all their concerns and is the contact point for any problems and queries you may have.

Contact: Phone: +49 5513922374 Email: asr@asr.stud.uni-goettingen.de Address: Goßlerstr. 16a EG



## SPECIAL SERVICES

#### BARRIER-FREE STUDYING

#### **Barrier-free access**

Many of the new buildings on the central campus and in the northern part of the university are barrier-free and wheelchair-accessible. But some of the old buildings are accessible only by stairs and/or don't have any wheelchair space. For further information about the accessibility of the buildings, including rooms, elevators, stairs and additionally the routes from handicapped parking spaces and bus stops to the buildings, please refer to www.geodata. uni-goettingen.de/lageplan.

#### **Barrier-free accommodation**

The Studentenwerk Göttingen offers barrier-free accommodation in its student houses to students with disabilities. For more information, please refer to www.studentenwerk-goettingen.de/studieren mit behinderung.html.

## DONT KNOW WHERE TO ASK FOR HELP?

No matter what, you can always contact the International Office and they will try to help or redirect you to the right contact person!

#### Study assistance and technical aids

Sometimes students can better manage their course of studies with the help of study assistants and technical aids.

#### Study assistance

Study assistants support students with disabilities and/or chronic diseases in managing their everyday student life. This includes services such as taking notes during lectures and seminars, processing study literature for visually impaired/blind students, helping with the use of libraries, etc.

#### **Technical aids**

As a technical aid for blind and visually impaired students, the State and University Library (SUB) has installed a special electronic workplace at the Learning Resources Centre. Here, an enlargement table, a Braille reading device, a book scanner, JAWS and Magic are available to students to compose their own texts, use the Internet, and benefit from all the library services. The Scan Service of the SUB will scan documents from the library's holdings in various text and image formats, and send the scanned material to you via email free of charge. For further questions and inquiries, please contact the staff of the library: Tel: +49 551 39-5231, +49 551 39-22432 Email: scanservice@sub.uni-goettingen.de

These and further aspects of studying with disabilities and/or chronic diseases, such as compensation possibilities for handicaps and financial support, can be found on the webpage www.uni-goettingen.de/barrier-free.

## STUDYING WITH CHILDREN

The University's Family Service supports student parents by offering individual advice on how to best combine student life with family life, and assists them in their search for suitable childcare. INFORMATION The University's Family Service www.uni-goettingen.del familienservice

#### DAY-CARE FACILITIES

The Studentenwerk offers 247 places in the following day care facilities:

- → "Kinderkrippe am Campus" and "am Wall"
- → "Kita Bunte Welt"
- → "Kita am Nordcampus" with bilingual education
- → I-Krippe "Farbkleckse" integrative day care facility



#### **EMERGENCY CHILDCARE**

If your child falls ill, or regular day care is cancelled at short notice, you have the possibility of applying for free day care up to four times per year. Please note that you have to register yourself in the emergency pool at the childcare agency in advance.

#### FLEXIBLE CHILDCARE

In certain cases, students can receive subsidies for childcare. Please contact the Family Service staff.



#### PARENT-CHILD ROOMS

Various faculties offer rooms designed for working, playing and nursing babies. The rooms are equipped with computers, internet access, toys and a changing table. The parent-child rooms are intended to bridge gaps in childcare, for instance if the kindergarten is closed in summer or if the child minder is not available. The rooms do not constitute an alternative childcare facility, but rather an important step towards better juggling studying, a job and your family.

For more information, please refer to www.uni-goettingen.de/en/128101.html.

#### FAMILY-FRIENDLY HOUSING

The Studentenwerk offers a lot of one and two bedroom apartments which are designed to meet the needs of couples with children, or single parents who are studying at the university. Most residential areas have a playground right in front of the house and day care and schools nearby.

## CHILD-FRIENDLY CANTEENS AND CAFETERIAS

There are highchairs and play corners available in the canteens (Mensa) and cafeterias of Studentenwerk. You can reach all dining halls by elevator (e.g. with a stroller, buggy). At the dining facilities Zentralmensa, Mensa am Turm and Nordmensa, there are also nappy-changing rooms available. Children (up to the age of 14) of students receive complimentary meals if their parents show the "MensaKidsCard" at the cashier. Please refer to this page www.studentenwerk-goettingen.de/mensakidscard.html for more information.

#### **STUDY SATURDAYS**

Family Service offers child care free of charge on Saturdays, held in the Learning and Studying Centre. Study Saturdays also offer the opportunity to meet and get to know other students with children. Prior registration is required.

#### www.uni-goettingen.de/en/475208.html

For more information about other childcare-related topics, please refer to the Guide for Parents at universities in Lower Saxony

www.uni-goettingen.de/en/186498.html

#### PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSULTATION/ ADVICE

It is often stressful coping with several obligations, such as studying, taking exams, working or taking care of a child. This can result in feelings of being overstrained, burnout, guilt and trouble.

Academic studies are not always fun. Exam stress, inhibitions regarding speaking in front of others in seminars, the pressure to perform: all this can result in study-related difficulties and a personal crisis. Unfortunately, it is not always possible to overcome such crises quickly and without any external assistance. The counselling centre of the Studentenwerk (Psychosoziale Beratungsstelle des Studentenwerks) can help in problematic situations so that a crisis does not result in serious problems. Please refer to this page for further information www.studentenwerk-goettingen.de/psb.html.