

Information concerning the Application

Dear Applicant,

We are delighted that you are interested in applying for a place in Theological Stift. This letter includes basic information about our house and the application process.

The Theological Stift belongs to the theology department of the Georg-August-University in Göttingen and is located inside of the inner city. We are within easy walking distance from the train station. The Stift is both a house for students of theology as well as an educational training center. Living in the Stift is rent free. Once your application is accepted you are admitted to live in the Stift for two semesters. You may request to extend your application for up to six semesters. Up to five places can be given to students who are not studying within the field of theology.

We in the Stift are a self-governed communal community. Decisions which concern our communal community and the formation of the academic, political and cultural engagements of our house are made together by the residents of the Stift. Three times a week, after lunch, a Plenum is held in which questions and concerns pertaining to life in the Stift are handled. These Plenums are the core of our self-government. We are organized by a council, which consists of the Stiftsinspektor and elected residents. The council is responsible for current business, questions concerning planning and activities in the Stift, and the preparations for running the Plenums.

Beginning in the second semester, each resident of the Stift receives a ministry, which lasts for the duration of one semester. For example, the library ministry is responsible for acquisitions of new books and the overall administration of the library. The ministry of culture plans and implements the literature evening, the culture evening, and other cultural events. At the beginning of each semester, during a weekend retreat, we decide which themes and events will take place during our weekly Monday night plenums. In addition, residents, who choose, may offer a tutorial of their own for those living in the Stift, complimenting tutorials offered by the faculty as well as providing an opportunity to gain personal teaching experience. All residents of the Stift are required to participate in at least one in-house tutorial per week.

What else is there to say about Stift life? During the semester we eat together as a community for both lunch and dinner. While classes are in session, each resident pays a monthly rate of €120 which covers the costs of the meals as well as the newspaper. During the semester holiday a one time fee of €15 is required. There is also a monthly energy cost fee of €51.

There are 35 single rooms in the Stift which range from 12 – 24 qm. The rooms are divided between three floors. There is also a kitchen available on each floor.

Life in the Stift provides the opportunity for you to be involved in a community and to bring your own interests. If you're interested in studying theology within a diverse community and to take part in discussions with theology students from other denominations and cultural backgrounds, then we look forward to your application.

Please send us your application, along with a passport sized photo, your university enrollment confirmation, proof of church membership, and a statement of your interests (both within and outside of your studies). Please be sure to fill out the application entirely and include all requested documents. Incomplete applications may lead to refusal of your application. There are no exceptions. After we have received your application you will be invited to the Stift for an interview. This interview is critical for your admission to the Stift. Therefore it is necessary for you to come to Göttingen on one of the given dates (this does not apply to applicants from outside of the country). Your acceptance into the Theological Stift is based on your written application and your interview with a committee made up of students and the Stiftsinspektor. The committee will then give their recommendation during a plenum to be voted on by the residents of the Stift. During this plenum all applicants, based on their interview, will be introduced and a statement of their interests given. Therefore, it is important that you give us a detailed account of your interests. This information is only for internal use and will remain confidential. Upon acceptance of your application by the plenum, your application will then be referred to the board of trustees, who will make the final decision on all applications. The board of trustees oversees the house and consists of two representatives from the Stift, a representative from the department of theology, and a representative from the regional church in Hanover.

We wish you all the best and look forward to getting to know you.

The application committee