



Fachhochschule für
Interkulturelle Theologie
Hermannsburg

INFORMATION PACKAGE

with Questions & Answers

for Students and Prospective Students of
Fachhochschule für Interkulturelle Theologie Hermannsburg (FIT)



Compiled by

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In Cooperation with

Diversity Team & FIT Staff Members

Dear student,

Welcome to the Fachhochschule für Interkulturelle Theologie Hermannsburg (FIT). It is great that you are studying here!

This brochure is intended to give you some information on the FIT, its programmes, schedules, cooperation partners – including the University of Göttingen – and the environment in Hermannsburg. We hope it will be helpful to prepare your stay. Please let us know if you have any other questions; we will try to help as much as we can. We are grateful for any input you can provide and do look forward to a good and successful interaction.

With every good wish for your studies at the FIT,

Yours sincerely,

Frieder Ludwig

Principal

October 2015

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PART A:
Essential Background Information

1. INSTITUTIONAL BACKGROUND

(a) About FIT

The University of Applied Sciences for Intercultural Theology Hermannsburg (**FIT**) was founded and accredited in 2012. It is the successor of the Mission Seminary, which was founded in 1849. The Seminary prepared theologians and missionaries for overseas service for more than 150 years.

The FIT is the academic institution of the Evangelical-Lutheran Mission in Lower Saxony (**ELM**). The ELM is a foundation financed by the Evangelical-Lutheran Churches of Hanover, Brunswick and Schaumburg-Lippe.

The academic principles of freedom of research and teaching are guaranteed, and the FIT has its own constitution and regulations.

The mission statement of FIT is:

- to establish a dialogue between critical Protestantism and Lutheran theologies and Pentecostal and Charismatic movements
- to become a place where Protestant theological teaching in Germany meets the different theologies of Africa, Asia and Latin America
- and to contribute to cross-cultural understanding and integration.

The FIT offers the B.A. programmes "Intercultural Theology, Migration, and Congregational Leadership" and "Mission Studies and International Diakonia". Besides, the M.A. programme "Intercultural Theology" is conducted in cooperation with the University of Göttingen.

(b) Cooperation Partners and Other Institutions of Interest

Faculty of Theology, University of Göttingen

Especially in the M.A. programme „Intercultural Theology“, but also in other academic initiatives, the FIT cooperates with the Faculty of Theology at the University of Göttingen. The students of the Master programme are enlisted in Göttingen, but are encouraged to spend the first year in Hermannsburg.

The University of Göttingen was founded by Georg II, King of Great Britain and Elector of Hannover, in 1737; his name became its name – Georgia Augusta. He founded one of the first institutions of higher education in Germany in which Faculties were on an equal footing rather than subordinate to an all-powerful Faculty of Theology. The University was created in the spirit of the Enlightenment.

The Enlightenment movement had a decisive influence also upon the Faculty of Theology which, according to the custom of the time, was the first among the faculties in Göttingen. In the 18th and 19th centuries the Faculty was marked by a pragmatic and historical approach to the disciplines.

During the late 19th and 20th centuries, the Faculty in Göttingen pioneered important impulses within theology. The concept of *Religionswissenschaft* (religious studies), for example, was coined by the Faculty during this time. This concept, like the *School of the History of Religions*, decisively determined the profile of the Faculty for a time. Dialectical theology has also been greatly influenced by Göttingen through the work of theologians like K. Barth, during the 1920's, and F. Gogarten in the 1930's.

www.uni-goettingen.de/en/history-of-the-university---an-overview/90607.html

www.uni-goettingen.de/de/theologische-fakultaet/356435.html

Academy of Mission at the University of Hamburg

The Academy of Mission at the University of Hamburg and the FIT are dedicated to intercultural theological education and developmental studies; both work with migrant communities. Several areas of cooperation between these two institutions have been established and the courses and conferences offered at Academy of Mission might be of interest for FIT students. The following description is taken from the website of the Academy of Mission

(www.missionsakademie.de/en/index.php):

“Our institution contributes to the development of intercultural education in the field of Protestant theology. Our team consists of four heads of study who supervise doctoral dissertations by students from Africa, Latin America, Asia and Oceania. Besides the academic work with the stipend holders, the Academy of Mission is a place where international conferences are being held. Conferences may be organized by our team or by groups renting our facilities.

In addition, the Academy of Mission is considered a laboratory of ecumenical theology. We offer a space for discussing subjects relevant for the Protestant world. In particular, we closely observe the surprising dynamics of the unfolding of charismatic and evangelical movements in global and local perspectives. Other subjects of special interest to us, are globalization, and questions of justice and peace. Hamburg, as economic center with a long standing, global commercial history, represents a unique environment where the implications and consequences of globalization can be perceived and studied.

Pastors and leaders of African migrant churches have discovered the Academy of Mission as a place for theological formation where diverse perspectives on the world, on religion, faith and theology can be shared in an atmosphere of utmost respect. A good number of African pastors residing in Germany have participated in the ATTiG program (African Theological Training in Germany) which aims at deepening theological understanding by insisting on the contextuality of all forms of theology, including classical western theology.

The Academy of Mission was installed in the 1950ies as a place for the theological formation of missionaries to be sent out into the “mission fields”. Due to beginning processes of decolonization in Africa however, the function of the Academy of Mission was quickly changed. Ever since it has become a theological institution dedicated to theological education in a global perspective.”

Department of Church History, Faculty of Theology, University of Munich

The Research Project „The African Christian Elite and their media around 1900“ is carried out at FIT in cooperation with the University of Munich.

International Partner Institutions

The FIT is part of the Network of Theology and Religious Studies which also includes:

- Institut Luthérien de Théologie, Meiganga / Kamerun
- Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary, Addis Abeba / Äthiopien
- Lutheran Graduate School of Theology, Fianarantsoa / Madagaskar

- MHS School of Mission and Theology, Stavanger/ Norway
- Lutheran Theological Institute / University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg / South Africa
- Religious Studies, Makerere University, Kampala / Uganda

The University of Göttingen also has a wide network of Partner Institutions:

- Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute, Chennai / India
- Karnataka Theological College, Mangalore / India
- St. Ephrem Ecumenical Research Institute (SEERI), Kottayam Kerala / India
- Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kottayam Kerala / India
- University of Pune / India
- Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary, Addis Ababa / Ethiopia
- Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology, Addis Ababa / Ethiopia
- The Graduate School of Theology, Ewha Womans University Seoul / South Korea
- Osaka University, Osaka / Japan
- Trinity Theological Seminary Legon, Accra / Ghana
- Near East School of Theology, Beirut / Lebanon
- Yerevan State University, Faculty of Theology, Yerevan / Armenia
- University of Tartu / Estonia

2. STAFF

(a) Academic Staff

Prof. Dr. Dr. Frieder Ludwig; History of World Christianity & Mission Studies,
Tel.: 05052 48101-20, f.ludwig@fh-hermannsburg.de

Prof. Dr. Drea Fröchtling; Practical Theology & Diakonia in Intercultural
Perspective, Tel.: 05052 48101-33, a.froechtling@fh-hermannsburg.de

Prof. Dr. Erna Zonne-Gätjens; Social Work in Intercultural Perspective,
Tel.: 05052 48101-34, e.zonne@fh-hermannsburg.de

Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Richebächer; Systematic Theology in Intercultural Perspec-
tive, Tel.: 05052 48101-31, w.richebaecher@fh-hermannsburg.de

Prof. Dr. Andreas Kunz-Lübcke; Biblical Hermeneutics in Intercultural
Perspective, Tel.: 05052 48101-32, a.kunz-luebcke@fh-hermannsburg.de

Prof. Dr. Ulrike Schröder; Religious Studies and Interreligious Dialogue,
Tel.: 05052 48101-35, u.schroeder@fh-hermannsburg.de

Harald Faber; Language Courses, Tel.: 05052 48101-40,
h.faber@fh-hermannsburg.de

(b) Honorary Professors, Lecturers and Research Fellows

Honorary professor Rev. Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Dietrich Werner; mission theology
and ecumenical science, dietrich.werner@brot-fuer-die-welt.de

Private lecturer Frederek Freckmann; Asylum and immigration law,
kanzlei@orrae.de

Dr. Mirjam Laaser, Sociology

Dr. Christoph vom Brocke, Languages/Biblical Studies

(c) Non-Academic Staff

Erich Fiebig – chief executive officer, responsible for the FIT administration;
office: “House 1”; Tel.: 05052 48101-23, e.fiebig@fh-hermannsburg.de

Marina Herrlich & Dietlinde Rückert – secretaries, responsible for
administrative matters. Their offices are in “House I”;
Tel.: 05052 48101-0, office@fh-hermannsburg.de

Birgit Flader – administrative assistant for student affairs; office: “House 1”;
Tel: 05052 48101-44, b.flader@fh-hermannsburg.de

Gerlinde Winkler – head librarian;
Tel.: 05052 48101-90, g.winkler@fh-hermannsburg.de

Dorothea Müller – public relations; office: “House 1”; Tel.: 05052 48101-43,
d.mueller@fh-hermannsburg.de

Horst Hinken – house-keeping; Tel.: 01520 6097246,
h.hinken@fh-hermannsburg.de

Manfred Hilmer – in charge of residence facilities; Tel.: 0172 5479130

Heike Nordhaus & Katharina Hefle – Maintenance/Cleaning Assistants

Magdalene Buhr & Margitta Bosselmann – Dining Hall, Kitchen & Meals

(d) Professors & Lecturers in Göttingen involved in the M.A. programme

Prof. Dr. Martin Tamcke – responsible for programme M.A. ICT / Church History

Dr. Cornelia Schlarb – Coordinator M.A. programme M.A. ICT

Prof. Dr. Andreas Grünschloss – Religious Studies

Prof. Dr. Florian Wilk – New Testament

Prof. Dr. Jan Hermelink – Practical Theology

Prof. Dr. Thomas Kaufmann – Church History

PD Dr. Fritz Heinrich – Religious Studies



3. IMPORTANT DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

Academic Year 2015/16

Winter Term 2015/16

Beginning of Semester: October 1st, 2015

Orientation Week: October 19th – October 23rd, 2015

Time Change Summertime – Winter Time: October 25th, 2015:

Clocks are adjusted backward one hour

Lectures Start: October 26th , 2015

Christmas Break: December 23rd, 2015 – January 3rd, 2016

End of Lectures: February 12th, 2016

Good Friday: March 25th , 2016: Public Holiday

Time Change Winter Time – Summer Time: March 27th, 2016:

Clocks are adjusted forward one hour.

Easter Monday: March 28th, 2016: Public Holiday

End of Semester: March 31st, 2016

Summer Term 2016

Beginning of Semester: April 1st, 2016

Lectures Start: April 11th, 2016

Labour Day: May 1st: Public Holiday

Ascension Day: May 5th; Public Holiday

Pentecost Monday: May 16th; Public Holiday

End of Lectures: July 15th, 2016

End of Semester: September 30th, 2016

Block Weeks for B.A. Students Summer Term 2016

Block weeks ITMC 1:

04.04.-08.04.2016;
25.04.-29.04.2016

Block weeks ITMC 2:

18.04.-22.04.2016;
17.05.-20.05.2016; ¹⁾
13.06.-17.06.2016;
04.07.-08.07.2016.

¹⁾ Please notice: Start of lessons on 17.05.2016 and end of lessons on 20.05.2016 at 06.00 pm because of Pentecost Monday.

Block weeks ITMC 3:

11.04.-15.04.2016;
09.05.-13.05.2016;
06.06.-10.06.2016;
27.06.-01.07.2016

Block weeks ITMC 4:

02.05.-06.05.2016 ¹⁾;
30.05.-03.06.2016;
20.06.-24.06.2016;
11.07.-15.07.2016;

¹⁾ This Modul is finished at 06.05.2016, 06.00 pm due to cancellation at Ascension Day (05.05.2016).

Academic Year 2016/17

Winter Term 2016/2017

Beginning of Semester: October 1st, 2016

Lectures Start: October 17th, 2016

Christmas Period: December 24th, 2016 – January 6th, 2017

End of Lectures: February 3rd, 2017

Good Friday: March 25th, 2017; Public Holiday

Easter Monday: March 28th, 2017; Public Holiday

End of Semester: March 31st, 2017

Summer Term 2017

Beginning of Semester: April 1st, 2017

Lectures Start: April 10th, 2017

Ascension Day: May 25th, 2017; Public Holiday

Pentecost Monday: June 5th, 2017; Public Holiday

Lectures End: July 14th, 2017

End of Semester: September 30th, 2017

Block Weeks for B.A. Students in 2016/ 2017

A) Winter Term 2016-2017

Block weeks ITMG 2:

26.09.-30.09.2016;

17.10.-21.10.2016;

07.11.-11.11.2016;

28.11.-02.12.2016;

02.01.-06.01.2017.

Block weeks ITMG 3:

04.10.-08.10.2016;

24.10.-28.10.2016;

14.11.-18.11.2016;
05.12.-09.12.2016.

Block weeks ITMG 4:

10.10.-14.10.2016;
31.10.-04.11.2016;
21.11.-25.11.2016;
12.12.-16.12.2016.

MID 2 Block Weeks

Together with ITMC 3 (see above)

Additional MID only:

Yet to be determined.



FIT students at the Deutsche Evangelischer Kirchentag 2013 in Hamburg.

Some Extra-Curricular Activities:

Study Trip to Israel: September 10th - September 17th, 2015

Orientation Week: October 19th - 23th, 2015

Visit at Celle District Administration: Date not yet fixed

Visit at Bergen Belsen Memorial: Date not yet fixed

Study Trip to Berlin: Date not yet fixed

4. STUDENT SERVICES AND FACILITIES AT FIT

(a) Administrative matters, housing, board

The secretaries, *Ms. Marina Herrlich*, and *Ms. Dietlinde Rückert* will help you in administrative matters. Their offices are in the main house (“House I”). Their email is: office@fh-hermannsburg.de.

Upon arrival, matters with regard to housing, meals and accommodation should be directed to *Mr. Horst Hinken*, who is responsible for house-keeping, or *Mr. Manfred Hilmer*, our care taker. They are assisted in by *Ms. Heike Nordhaus* and *Ms Katharina Hefle* (maintenance/cleaning) as well as by *Ms. Magdalene Buhr* and *Ms. Margitta Bosselmann* (meals/kitchen).

(b) Library

Centrally located on the campus, the FIT library holds about 75,000 volumes, including particularly literature in the fields of Intercultural Theology, Mission Studies, History of Christianity and Religion, Bible Studies, and Social Work, and 70 current journals. The library offers the following services:

- The library catalogue is always available online at www.bibliothek.fh-hermannsburg.de.
- The library is accessible to our students, faculty and staff 24/7.
- Books which are not available in the library can be ordered via inter-library loan free of charge since our library is part of the national interlibrary-loan network. There are no charges for students, faculty and staff.
- Free WIFI is available for notebooks.
- There are also desktop computers with internet access.



If you have any questions concerning books/journals in the library or loan service, head librarian Gerline Winkler will be happy to support you. Her email is g.winkler@fh-hermannsburg.de

(c) Chapel Services

Services are held in the chapel on the campus at 9:45 on weekdays during the semester, on Mondays at 18:45. The style of worship varies and you are invited to contribute to the service by preaching or by enriching the liturgy. Your attendance and participation will be appreciated, but are not required. Please feel free to talk to Prof. Wilhelm Richebächer for further information.

(d) Student Organisation and Student Representatives

Before end of October each course elects a student who represents the course in the Students' Council ("Studierendenrat"). The Students' Council elects two representatives for the "Fachhochschulkonferenz", a committee which decides about affairs of fundamental importance to the FIT. The representatives have to be students enlisted at the FIT (one from each B.A. programme), but represent the whole student community (including the M.A. students).

(e) Students' Residences

Students residing at FIT will have individual rooms. The rooms in the students' residences are fully furnished (bed, bedding, desk, desk lamp, shelf, wardrobe, chair, easy chair. A small corridor outside provides additional space for e.g. shoes and jackets.



Sanitary facilities are shared and available on each floor. Each floor also provides a common room and a small tea kitchen.

For details, please see the contracts. In order to plan ahead, we request that you return the filled-in contracts to us by September 30th.

A security deposit for the room, amounting to 400.00 Euro, needs to be paid ahead of arrival. The amount will be reimbursed to you after your removal from the register of students.

For detailed information about family accommodation in Hermannsburg, please contact Ms. Rückert d.rueckert@fh-hermannsburg.de or Mr. Fiebig e.fiebig@fh-hermannsburg.de.

Internet is accessible in the residences through hotspots. A maximum fee of Euro 7.00 per month applies. Internet access free of charge is provided in the lecture hall, the library and in the computer lab which can be accessed 24/7.

(f) Tuition Fee, Board and Lodging

Fees for the B.A. Intercultural Theology, Migration and Congregational Leadership (ITMC)

Total costs for the B.A. Course ITMC amount to Euro 6,700.00 for the set-programme of 8 semesters. This amount includes tuition fees, a charge for administrative services as well as board and lodging during the allocated block modules within the semester-period. Thus, the costs per annum add up to currently EURO 1,675.00, payable in four instalments á Euro 418.75 on October 1, January 1, April 1 and July 1, to be deposited into the FIT's bank account.

Fees for the B.A. Mission Studies and International Diakonia (MID)

Total costs for the B.A. programme MID for tuition and admin fees currently amount to EURO 3,000.00 for the set-programme of 6 semesters, payable in 6 instalments á Euro 500.00, due at the beginning of each semester. In exceptional cases it is possible by arrangement with the management of FIT, to pay 36 monthly instalments á EUR 85,00 due on the first of each month.; in this case, the total costs for tuition and admin fees amount Euro 3,060.00.

The rent for a room on the FIT campus, if available, is currently Euro 200.00. Full board during lecture times is Euro 540.00 per semester (90.00 per month). If you decide not to use the full board and to prepare your food in the student residences, a surcharge of Euro 15.00 per month has to be paid for additional costs (electricity, water, waste disposal, etc.).

Total costs for the B.A. programme with use of lodging, full board and the monthly instalments of the tuition fees amount Euro 13,500.00, allocated over a period of 36 months and amounting to Euro 375.00 monthly.

Please note: The proper enlisting for the following semester takes place only after timely payment of the tuition and admin fees. In order to ensure that recipients of educational support granted under German Federal Education Assistance Act (BAFöG) will receive their payment without interruption, they have to pay their tuition and admin fees already up to July 31 each year. Only after payment we can make out the "certificate according to § 9", which has to be submitted to the BAFöG Office in time and which is required for further payment of "BAFöG".

Living costs in Hermannsburg for the M.A. Intercultural Theology

Full pension is 375.00 Euro monthly for singles. It includes the rent of a room on the campus of FIT, full board (breakfast, lunch, supper) during the lecture times and additional services (85.00 Euro) like transport to and from the station in Unterlüß and overnight stay in Göttingen when there are lectures there or during the welcoming days, or special study trips etc. For administrative reasons the cost of all meals and the additional services are apportioned pro rata to the monthly rates for the period from October to July (10 months).

Please note: During Christmas holidays and the semester break no meals are offered. During these times, however, no money will be paid back for food, as this time is included in the calculation of the board.

Boarding is compulsory from the arrival day until November 14th. Therefore you have to pay 375.00 Euro monthly for October and November in any case. By November 15th you can decide whether you want to board till the end of the lecture time (mid-February) or to save the room rent and use additional services only.

If you decide not to use the full board, there is a possibility to cook in the student residences. In this case you have to pay the following amount per month beginning in December:

- Room:	Euro 200.00
- Additional fees per month for water, electricity, garbage disposal etc.:	Euro 15.00
- Additional services like transport to and from the station in Unterlüss, overnight stay in Göttingen, excursion fees etc.:	<u>Euro 85.00</u>
	<u>Euro 300.00</u>

By February 15th you can decide again whether you want to use the full board during the lecture time in the summer semester (mid-April to mid-July).

Meal Packages

From November 15th onward students may opt for either self-catering or opt for the all-inclusive plan. All-inclusive package provides students with

- 3 meals a day (meals will be served at 7.30 AM, 12.30 PM and 6 PM)
- hot meal at lunch
- tea and coffee in the morning and afternoon
- vegetarian options can be made available to those who request it

If students opt for selfcatering, they have to pay in addition to room rent of Euro 200.00 a surcharge of Euro 15.00 per month for electricity, water, waste etc.

Campus

Access to all buildings including library and computer room is possible 24/7 with keys given to the student at check-in.

Laundry facilities are available next to the library building:

- 2 washers and 1 dryer are provided
- Students are expected to buy their own washing powder
- Coins are necessary to operate and can be purchased at the Students' Office

Each student will have his/her own mail box in the lecture building.

Requirements & Recommendations

Keys: Please make sure that you always lock your door when you leave buildings and rooms on campus after opening hours.

Duration of your stay: Please keep us informed about your plans. If you travel during vacation we need to know how we can contact you. You are expected to be back at the beginning of the next semester.

In any case, the room rent needs to be paid until the end of the current semester.

(g) Communication/Computer/Internet Availability

Internet/Computers

The FIT provides students with 24/7 access to seven computers. These computers are internet-connected and are located in the main lecture hall. Internet is also available in the rooms at an additional cost through ethranet cable. Wireless Network is available in Haus I as well as in the auditorium.

You have the possibility to phone via Skype to many countries. Rates may be dictated by country called. More information will be given during orientation week.

Telephone

Telephone calls within the FIT and the ELM agency

The phones on all floors in the students' residence can be used for internal calls (within the FIT and the ELM) free of charge. A list of internal extensions is available.

Private phone calls outside and abroad

For calls within Germany dial the regional code (e.g. 0511 for Hanover) followed by the number of the person you wish to call. If you phone abroad, please dial the country code (e. g. 0046 for Sweden), the regional code (skip the "0" in the beginning) and the recipient's number.

There is a computer room which students may use. You have the chance to phone via Skype to many countries. Rates may be dictated by country called.

Emergency Calls

In case of an emergency dial “112”. The fire station and police will be notified.

(h) Studying with Disabilities

The FIT has an equal-opportunity policy that is inclusive of students living and studying with disabilities. Special allowances can be made concerning e.g. the mode of examination or the timeframe allocated to perform a certain task.

Most areas on campus are accessible to wheelchair-users, and the FIT offers wheelchair-users an apartment that provides extra space e.g. in the bathroom and the main room. The library and the lecture halls as well as the auditorium are wheelchair-accessible as is the canteen and the admin building.

The lecture building is equipped with a toilet that accommodates the needs of wheelchair-users.

(i) Extra-Curricular Activities Offered by FIT

FIT offers excursions and study tours on a regular basis. Some of the excursions offered form part of the B.A. Programme, such as excursions to Berlin and Hamburg to visit social and diaconal service providers, which are carried out during the first semesters of the MID Programme. These smaller excursions that form part of the curriculum are free of charge for the students. Other larger study tours e.g. to Israel and Palestine or to Istanbul are subject to a fee to be paid by the students themselves and are not compulsory. A small contribution is currently offered by the FIT to reduce the total costs payable by the students for these longer study tours.

FIT students and staff visiting Jerusalem in March 2014



Other extra-curricular activities offered by the FIT include an orientation week prior to the beginning of each winter semester for new incoming students for the Bachelor Programs and the Master Course. This week includes excursions as well as fun- and leisure activities conducive to group formation. Also, Movie nights are organized a couple of times during the semester by the FIT, with snacks and soft-drinks provided. In addition, some events are organized by the students themselves.

(j) COUNSELLING AND STUDENT ADVICE

The Student Administration OstNiedersachsen (Studentenwerk Ostniedersachsen) provides the following services:

Counselling

Counselling is often the first contact point, if personal, social and financial problems should occur during the studies. Personal consultation and information are of paramount importance. There are often very complex problems, where personal, financial or organisational difficulties interrelate. Sometimes, a single piece of information may suffice to solve the problem, but more often, an intense support in regard to decision-making processes and finding solutions is necessary. In order to make the counselling as suitable as possible, it might become necessary to consult other institutions or authorities. Please note: if you need counselling in another language than German, the Student Administration offers one-to-one consultation in English.

Psychological Counselling

Psychological Counselling is available to students who

- suffer from lack of concentration
- have exam nerves or suffer from other fears
- have conflicts with parents, partner or flat mates
- often feel cast down or depressed
- have problems with your self-esteem
- have unsatisfactory relationships with other people
- often feel overstrained or insecure
- have an acute personal crisis

- want to talk about a problem with someone who listens to you openly, neutrally and with appreciation
- need information about psychotherapy

Legal counsel

The Student Administration offers legal counsel in cooperation with the student union (AStA) of Braunschweig, which are organising the consultation. The service includes a free initial consultation of a lawyer. For further information please check www.stw-on.de/en/ueber-uns

5. LIFE IN HERMANNSBURG & SURROUNDING AREAS

(a) Places of Worship

- **St. Peter-Paul-Kirche:** The St. Peter-Paul-Kirche is part of the Church of Hanover. It is based in Billingstraße. Services are held in German, they start Sundays at 10.00 a.m. More information: www.peter-paul-hermannsburg.de
- **Große Kreuzkirche:** The Große Kreuzkirche is part of the Independent Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Germany. It is based in Georgstraße. Services are held on Sundays and start at 9:30. More information: www.grossekreuz.de
- **Kleine Kreuzkirche:** The Kleine Kreuzkirche is also part of the Independent Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Germany. It is based in Lotharstraße. Services (partly bilingual German-English) are held on Sundays and usually start at 9:30. More information: www.kleinekreuzkirche.de
- **Auferstehungskirche:** The Catholic Auferstehungskirche is based in Hustedtstraße near the cemetery. It is part of the Catholic congregation Sühnekirche in Bergen. Holy masses are held on Sundays and Thursdays at 18:00 and on Tuesdays at 9:00. More information: www.suehnekirche-bergen.de

Große Kreuzkirche
in Hermannsburg.



(b) Shops and Grocery Stores

- **Netto** (Lotharstrasse 40) is the closest shop to the FIT premises; it is just a 5 minutes walk to. It is a discounter and prices are low. Opening hours: On Mondays to Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- **Penny** (Celler Straße 14) is another discounter where prices are low. Sometimes it makes sense to compare them with Netto. Opening hours: On Mondays to Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- **Edeka Neukauf Ehlers** (Celler Straße 18) provides good service and good quality (fresh meat and sausages, fresh cheese) at somewhat higher prices. Opening hours: On Mondays to Saturdays from 7.30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- **Rossmann** (Am Markt 1) is a Drugstore chain but they also sell food, wine and other items. Opening hours: On Mondays to Fridays from 8.30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
- **Aldi Nord** (Celler Straße 45) is a bit far to walk, but Aldi has a wide range of products (also inexpensive computers and other electronics) and it makes sense to check the website www.aldi-nord.de. Opening hours: On Mondays to Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Euronics** (Celler Straße 58): a very good electroshop. Opening hours: On Mondays to Fridays from 8 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.
- **Buchhandlung im Ludwig-Harms-Haus** (Harmsstraße 2): a book store offering a variety of Christian literature as well as books about the Lüneburg Heath. Opening hours: On Mondays to Fridays from 8.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
- A variety of small shops selling clothes, shoes, toys, stationery etc., most of them located at a walking distance from FIT.

Most shops are closed on Sundays, but some items may be purchased at the gas station (Celler Straße 30).

In addition, regional farmers and grocery producers sell fresh products on the Hermannsburg market place on Fridays in front of the Rathaus.

(c) Bicycles and Clothes/Second Hand

Since transportation is difficult, a bicycle may be a good investment and there are some second hand bikes available from *Fahrrad Knoop* (Weesen, Wiecheler Weg 1, Tel.: 05052/2441) and 2rad Eilmes (Bahnhofstraße 13, Bergen, Tel.: 05051/8367)

Second hand clothes can be bought on Thursdays in a small charity shop close to the Hermann Billung Elementary School (CVJM building, Waldstraße 8).

Besides, many private people sell used stuff like bikes or furniture at a low price or give it away for free. Offers can be found in the local/regional newspapers and in the internet at “Ebay Kleinanzeigen”.

(d) Post Office and Travel Agency

The **post office** (Celler Straße 1) is located inside “Findefuchs”, a store selling stationary and toys. Letters are collected/sent away daily at 17:00, parcels at 16:00.

The **travel agency Malys Eck** (Celler Straße 17) sells train, bus and flight tickets. You can also do hotel bookings etc.

(e) Health Care

If you have a health issue, you should consult one of the doctors at the local Health Clinic/Medizinisches Versorgungszentrum (Billingstraße 4). There are also several dentists in town. Pharmacies are located in Gerichtsweg 1 and Billingstraße 6, next to the Medizinisches Versorgungszentrum.

The closest hospital is the Allgemeines Krankenhaus Celle (Siemensplatz 4 in Celle). Tel: 05141 / 720.

(f) Restaurants and Cafés

- **Café Bacio** (Billingstrasse 12) is one of the students’ favorites. They have home-made ice cream and excellent Tiramisu.

- **La Taverna Ristorante** (Lotharstraße 27): Authentic Italian look and feel. Good quality food at sensible price. Highly recommended.
- **Café-Restaurant Candace, Ludwig-Harms-Haus** (Harmsstraße 2): Named after the first ship which sent out missionaries from Hermannsburg. It is situated in an old farm house and has the typical North German flair. They also have buffets and specials, including international meals.
- **Heidjer Grill** (Georg-Haccius-Straße 2): If you like home-made burgers, sausages and Schnitzels, this is the place to go. It is fast food – but individually prepared and tasty.
- **"Ole Müllern Schön"** (Alte Dorfstraße 6, Müden). The *Ole Müllern Schön* serves the most amazing cakes and its fame has spread to German television. As a result, it can get very busy in the summer months, so you may need to book in advance even for a coffee! Specialities include *Buchweizentorte* ("buckwheat gateau") and *Blaubeertorte* ("bilberry gateau").
- **Zur Alten Fuhrmanns-Schänke** ("The Old Carters' Inn") near Oldendorf in the forest. Traditional, rustic, German restaurant specialising in game - venison, wild boar and *Heidschnucke*, the local moorland sheep. Not cheap, but great for special occasions.
- **Kaffeegarten Sülze**: a nice garden and good food; sometimes they also have concerts and live music.

(g) Sports and Recreation

Hermannsburg

During the semester students arrange a weekly football match on the opposite side of the "Missionsstraße" in the secondary school "Christian-Gymnasium" on Tuesdays 8–10 p.m.

There is also a gym in town (**Body Und Care**) that offers fitness classes and a weight room. Charge for students amounts - depending on the contract term - 33,50 €/months or 39,50 €/month. Tel.: 911992.

The local sports association **TUS Hermannsburg** offers a wide range of sports opportunities, free of charge for FIT students: badminton, basketball, fist-ball,

soccer, judo, handball, long-distance-running, competitive dancing, tennis, table-tennis and more. www.tus-hermannsburg.de

Celle

Bowling No 1 (Ludwig-Erhard-Str. 5): This 16 lane bowling centre is capable of catering for both large and small parties and has a large restaurant and bar area.

Fitness Planet (Telefunkenstr. 45A): The Gym with the largest training area in Celle.

Swimming

- **Waldschwimmbad Hermannsburg** (Lotharstraße 66): The public indoor swimming pool Waldschwimmbad in Hermannsburg has basins for adults and children. For opening hours please check <http://waldbad-hermannsburg.jimdo.com>
- **Waldschwimmbad Herrenbrücke in Faßberg**: A heated outdoor pool close to the forest: Six 50-meter lanes, jump system with 1 and 3 meter springboard, large non-swimmer areas with doormats, Kiddie pool, many activities such as beach volleyball, table tennis, basketball, bowling, football. For opening hours please check www.fassberg.de/oeffentliche-einrichtungen-waldschwimmbad.de
- **Celler Badeland**, (Just a short walk from the town centre in 77er Straße in Celle), The *Badeland* is a swimming and wellness centre, a mini waterpark with 7 indoor and outdoor pools, waterslides, sauna, whirlpools and a solarium. There is also a professional medical department, offering massages etc.. The complex also has a restaurant for hungry swimmers and an area where customers can just relax away from water. For opening hours please check www.celler-badeland.de

Dancing

- “Incognito” in Celle is the only discotheque within the next 30 kms. For further information please check inkognito-celle.de/
- Sometimes, “Kaffegarten” in Sülze has party music.

Events



HeideLand Games
2014 in
Hermannsburg.

- **HeideLand Games**, Hermannsburg: usually at the end of June, similar to the Highland Games in Scotland
- **Trachtenfest**, Hermannsburg: Festival with traditional costumes, which takes place every other year in mid-August
- **Schützenfest**, Hermannsburg, every summer
- **"Heidschnucken" Auction Müden**. Every year, on the second Thursday in July, the moorland sheep (*Heidschnucken*) auction takes place. The strongest young rams are presented to breeders and spectators and the best animals win prizes. The *Heidschnucken* rams can be bid for at the accompanying auction.
- **Mill Festival (*Mühlenfest*) Müden**. On the second Sunday in September a mill festival (*Mühlenfest*) is held at the old mill in Müden.
- **Christmas Market**, Celle town centre. Celle town centre's Christmas market is one of the biggest and best in Lower Saxony. Annually, usually from the end of November through towards the end of December (closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day), over 100 stalls gather together in the

beautiful historic town of Celle to sell their wares and celebrate Christmas in true German tradition and style. Here you can buy hand crafted Christmas presents, or simply enjoy typical German food and drink. In Celle you will find Northern Germany's highest Christmas Pyramid. For further information on all German Christmas markets, visit www.germany-tourism.de.

- **Wine Market**, Celle town centre. Don't miss this brief festival of wine (mainly German) which takes place annually, in the last week of July. Celle's town centre is full of stalls selling their wares including many local wines, *Flammkuchen*, cheeses etc and, of course. A festival atmosphere is also created by live music including jazz, folk and piano.
- **Congress-Union Celle**, Congress-Union Celle (Thaerplatz 1). The Congress Union is a fantastic facility in Celle. It offers international shows on a regular basis. For current shows and other information visit the website.

(h) Museums, Parks, Sightseeing*

Around Hermannsburg

- **Berlin Airlift Museum** (*Erinnerungsstätte Luftbrücke Berlin*), (Approx. 8 km from Müden in the village of Faßberg). A museum commemorating the Berlin Airlift, when West Berlin was saved from the Communist blockade in 1948/49. The museum is located in Faßberg airfield, formerly Royal Air Force Fassberg.
- **Wietzer Berg**, (*Signed to the "Lönsstein" about 2 km before Müden just NW (left) of the L240 from Hermannsburg*). The Wietzer Berg is a low hill (102 m) with good views over the Heath and the Örtze valley to the south and a hub for numerous walks in the area. At the summit is the *Lönsstein*, a large "glacial erratic" rock that has been turned into a monument to Hermann Löns, the well-known heath poet. There are various scenic walks from ½ hr to 4 hrs in length and you can also walk into Müden from here.

There is a car park and café by the road at the foot of the gentle rise leading to the monument. You can also park in Müden and take a longer walk from there.

* The information included in this section is mostly taken from wikitravel.org/en/Celle.

Müden Animal Park and Treetop Climbing (*Wild- und Abenteuerpark Müden, Heuweg 23*). Two courses of high-rope climbing through the woods. For experts, there is an alternative course. The animal park is great for young children and very interactive.

- **Bergen-Belsen Memorial** (*Gedenkstätte Bergen-Belsen, Anne-Frank-Platz, Lohheide, 10 minutes from Bergen, just south of the village of Belsen*): The infamous Belsen concentration camp, liberated by British forces in 1945, is now a memorial site with a comprehensive visitor centre. Today, only the sombre mounds of mass graves remain along with various monuments to those who died; the original camp was destroyed by the British after its survivors had been rescued and, in most cases, temporarily housed in the nearby barracks of *Lager Hohne*. The suffering of Anne Frank and her diary are worldwide associated with the concentration camp Bergen-Belsen.



Monument in commemoration of the Jewish victims at Bergen-Belsen Memorial.

Celle

- **Celle Palace**: The ducal palace, *Schloss Celle*, whose foundations date to the 13th century, is the oldest building in the town. What started as a castle for the dukes of Lüneburg, fortified with moats and ramparts, was

gradually expanded and modified into a mixture of Baroque and Renaissance architecture. In the 19th century the castle was occasionally used by the Hanoverian royal household as a summer residence. Guided tours visit the Renaissance chapel, Baroque theatre, ducal chambers and palace kitchen.

- **Garrison Museum** (Hafenstraße 4): This is a Museum which concentrates on the military history of Celle. The Military history goes back to 1626 and includes the role of the Luftwaffe before and during WW2 and also the British garrison post WW2. There are hundreds of exhibits ranging from weapons and uniforms to signals equipment. The museum has many artifacts from the history of the various units and regiments that have been stationed in Celle.
- **Bomann Museum** (Schlossplatz 7, opposite Celle Castle): Celle's cultural museum and one of the largest and most important museums in Lower Saxony. Numerous displays and reconstructions show how people lived, worked and dressed in the Celle region in centuries past. Interesting portrayal of Celle's industrial history.
- **The French Garden** (*Französischer Garten*) in Celle: The French Garden (German: *Französischer Garten*) in Celle is a public park in the south of the historic old town or *Altstadt*. On both sides of a straight avenue of lime trees forming its east-west axis are flowerbeds, lawns, copses and a pond with a fountain. Its current appearance is no longer that of a true French Garden, but rather that of an English Garden. Laid out towards the end of the 17th century as a baroque courtyard and leisure garden by French gardeners, Perronet and Dahuron, the gardens were given their present shape in the mid-19th century based on plans by the inspector of gardens, Schaumburg.
- **Lower Saxon Stud Farm** (Spoerckenstrasse 10): At this world famous Stud Farm, Hanoverian stallions are kept, schooled and sold for thousands of euros to buyers all over the world. Traditionally, on the last 2 weekends of September and the first weekend of October, the annual 'parade' (*Celler Hengstparade*) takes place. All stallions are presented in hand, under harness or under saddle. It is celebration of horses and a treat to watch - even for non-riders.

Other Attractions in the Area

- **Explore the Heath.** There are plenty of easy walking trails in the area with good car parking facilities. Good starting points for walks are the car parks at Overhaverbeek and Niederhaverbeek northwest of Bispingen. From there you can walk or catch a horse and coach ride to the Heath's highest hill, the Wilseder Berg - all 169 metres of it! From here there is a great panorama of the surrounding area. On clear days you can see as far as Hamburg. Beware, it is often teeming with tourists on summer weekends! But there are many other quieter walks all over the area as well as long distance walks like the *Freudenthalweg* and *Hermann-Billung-Weg* that are over 100 kilometres long. Many of the trails are suitable for cyclists and Nordic walkers too. There are cycle paths beside many of the roads.

Closer to Hermannsburg there are also popular heath trails starting e.g. at the parking lot Misselhorner Heide.



Exploring the Lüneburg heath near Hermannsburg by bike.
The best time for it is August/September when it all turns purple.

- **Heide Park**, in Soltau. The biggest amusement park in Northern Germany. Expensive, but fun for families and groups alike.

- **Serengeti Park**, south of Bad Fallingb. The largest safari park in Europe, the Serengeti Park is a top attraction for visitors to the area.

It features 4 zones: Animal World, an open safari park which can be toured by car or bus; Water World, with a mix of water rides, whitewater rafting, pedal boats and more, as well as lakes of waterfowl; Monkey World, with safari tours through the terrain, and Leisure World, a fairground and leisure complex with high rope course, baby park and play parks for children. Pricy, but a great day out for families.

- **Walsrode World Bird Park (*Weltvogelpark*)**, in Walsrode. The world's largest bird park and one of the top ten zoos in the world for numbers of species, this park is a must for families and quite reasonably priced as one of the area's major attractions.
- **International Wind- and Watermill Museum (*Wind- und Wassermühlen-Museum*)** in Gifhorn.
- **Hankensbüttel Otter Centre**, in Gifhorn. A great place to relax and enjoy wildlife. As well as otters, there are polecats, minks, otter hounds, badgers and much more besides. Well worth a detour.
- **Snow Dome Bispingen**, in Bispingen. Go skiing all year round at this superb indoor ski slope equipped with a 300 metre slope and snowboard park served by a six-seater chairlift. Children's slope. Ski and snowboard hire. Shop. Bavarian-style restaurant. Equally good for warming up before a skiing holiday or just for a fun day out.
- **Holstein Switzerland (*Holsteinische Schweiz*)** just an hour north of Hamburg is an expansive Lake District nestling like a hidden jewel amongst the hills and fields of Holstein. Take a cruise on Lake Plön or a tour around Eutin Castle. Hire a bicycle and just explore the lakes.
- **Lüneburg** – a town full of picturesque historic buildings
- **Hamburg** – Tour Germany's biggest port by boat, stroll round the Alster Lakes, visit the Warehouse Quarter (*Speicherstadt*) and *HafenCity*, where an industrial wasteland has been converted into a posh shopping district. Or check out the *Hamburger Kunsthalle*, one of Germany's biggest art museums.

- **Bremen** – Visit the *Marktplatz*, one of the most beautiful market squares in Germany, walk down the tiny lane of *Böttcherstraße*, educate yourself at the Overseas Museum or take a tour of the port by boat.
- **Hanover** – Shop in the capital of Lower Saxony. Follow the red line guided tour around all the important sites - you can even get a recorded commentary in English. Enjoy the wildlife at Hanover Zoo. And don't forget to visit the amazing Herrenhausen Gardens.
- **Harz Mountains** – if you want a change of scenery, head for the Harz with its breathtaking ravines, rocky crags, castles and spruce-covered slopes. Mining museums recall the days when the wealth of the Kingdom of Hanover was underpinned by silver mined in these hills. Go canoeing, mountain biking, climbing or just chill out with a beer by a mountain lake or enjoy a coffee in a former mining village.

6. TRAVELLING TO FIT

(a) By Air

- The nearest airport is **Hanover** which is a main international airport with regular flights from all over the world with services to most European capitals and major cities. The airport is situated in Langenhagen which is 11 kilometres to the north of Hanover centre and has easy access to the autobahn. It is the ninth largest airport in Germany and is one of very few German airports which are open 24 hours a day, although there are very few flights between 11pm and 4am. Hermannsburg is approximately 70 kilometres from Hanover airport with an estimated driving time of 60 minutes. Hanover airport is also accessible by a combination of trains, buses and taxis.
- There is also an international airport in **Bremen** which has many of the budget airlines operating regular flights to most European countries. The airport is located close to the city centre and there is a tram which departs every 5 to 10 minutes (on Sunday evenings up to 30 min) to Bremen city centre. The journey takes 11 minutes. This airport is also close to the autobahn links but is 125 kilometres and about a 90-minute journey to Hermannsburg.
- **Hamburg** international airport is approximately 8 kilometres north of the city centre and is the fifth busiest airport in Germany. In 2009 extensive refurbishment improved road access and connections to the Hamburg S-Bahn system which will connect with the main Bahnhof in Hamburg city centre. Although this airport is about 115 kilometres away from Hermannsburg and will take approximately 90 minutes by car. It is still a viable alternative to Hanover and Bremen airports.

(b) By Train and Bus

The nearest railway station is in **Unterlüß**, a 15 minute drive from Hermannsburg. From Unterlüß, every hour a train (Metronom) runs to Uelzen, Celle, Hanover and Göttingen. Please check the website of “Deutsche Bahn” for connections, services and offers: www.bahn.de. During the week there are

regular bus transfers from Hermannsburg to Unterlüß, see www.cebuse-celle.de/fileadmin/downloads/linien/260.pdf. The closest bus stop from the FIT is “Sägenförth,” a 5 minute walk, near the Netto market.

You can also use buses to Bergen and Celle. Services operate Monday through Friday. There are very few connections on weekends. For connections check www.cebuse-celle.de.

Celle Bahnhof runs a variety of localised trains and is also a stop for the IC/ICE trains running on the Hamburg to Hanover route. Trains to Hanover and Hamburg stop hourly at the station as do individual IC trains during busy periods. Metronom trains link Celle to Uelzen, Hanover and Göttingen as part of the regional transport network. Celle is also the terminus for routes S6 and S7 of the Hanover S-Bahn network. Links to the east and west are not part of the structured bahnhof system so Hanover is the better option for travelling more extensively around the area.



The small railway station at Unterlüß, where the Metronom to and from Hanover and Göttingen stops.

(c) By Car

Hermannsburg is 28 kilometres from the nearest autobahn but is located near the main B3 route which runs from north to south. Access from Hanover centre would be via the A37 which connects to the B3 in a north-easterly direction and the journey is ca. 60 kilometres and will take approximately 60 minutes. Travelling from the north (Hamburg) is via the route A7 and the junction to the south-east of Soltau leads directly onto the B3. Follow it until you reach Bergen and then turn left to Hermannsburg.

7. INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

(a) Health Insurance and Liability insurance

Please ensure that you are covered by a valid health and a liability insurance during your studies in Germany.

Students from EU countries need a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC).

Students from non-EU countries have to be covered by a German health insurance company while studying in Germany. You have to be covered prior to enrolment. A travel insurance will not be sufficient.

International Students younger than 30 years of age better choose a statutory health insurance company. The fees are equal for all state health insurance companies (about 80.00 EUR per month). If you are covered by state health insurance your family members are included in the price you pay. Private health insurance companies take charges for each person separately. Please also note that the coverage offered by the state health insurances is more comprehensive than the services offered by EDUCARE.

Students who are 30 years of age and older can also contract a state health insurance, but at a rate of about 154.00 Euro monthly and only if their income does not exceed 875.00 Euro per month.

Students who choose a private health insurance may take for example "L"-premium coverage from EDUCARE 24 (the payment depends on your age). This health insurance also includes the liability insurance. For more information check their website: (www.educare24.com/leistungen/ueberblick.html)

Please note that you can only apply for "L"-premium coverage from EDUCARE 24 up to November 1st (one month after start of the winter semester).

Information about liability insurances are provided in German: <http://www.studi-versicherungen.de/haftpflichtversicherung-student/#1342183294/tariff/PHV/tarifliste> . The **amount for one year** with a co-payment of 150,- Euro in case you need the insurance starts with 35,10 Euro (subject depends on the company, amount of co-payment and other criteria) or 40,46 to 45,22 Euro for a family with two children and a student older than 30 years of age.

An overview about the German Health Care System and more helpful information about the health insurance you will find under:
<http://www.germanyhis.com/> and
<https://www.1averbraucherportal.de/versicherung/krankenversicherung/en>

(b) Visa Procedures for International Students

International students have to apply for a student visa at the German Embassy in their respective countries. Please keep in mind that in some countries the issuing of visa can take up to 8 or 10 weeks. Therefore, please apply immediately after receiving the Letter of Acceptance from us. In some countries, the German embassy might conduct interviews. Please prepare carefully for this.

(c) Blocked Accounts for International Students

If you do not receive a scholarship, you have to open a blocked bank account in Germany with a minimum amount of 8.040 Euro for one adult for one year. For a family with two children the amount is 22.080 € (16.080 Euro for two adults and 6.000 Euro for two children). You can only withdraw a limited amount each month. Please check the Deutsche Bank website for more detailed information:

https://www.deutsche-bank.de/pfb/content/privatkunden/konto_international-students.html

(d) Your residence address:

Your residential address (= postal address) is:

Your name -----

Fachhochschule für Interkulturelle Theologie Hermannsburg

Missionsstr. 3-5

29320 Hermannsburg

Germany

(e) Student Programme for Non-EU Students (from Africa, Asia and Latin America)

STUBE-Niedersachsen is a student programme for students from Africa, Asia and Latin America. STUBE is a development-oriented education programme and offers seminars, workshops and other activities related to development issues.

STUBE seminars and activities take place mainly during weekends. They supplement the professional university studies with issues related to social, economic and cultural situations in the students' home country.

The STUBE program is practice-oriented, interdisciplinary and intercultural.

With STUBE foreign students will

- participate in weekend seminars, workshops and other activities
- get information on important development related themes/issues
- discuss and exchange knowledge and experiences with other students from Africa, Asia and Latin America
- receive support for a study-related internship or research in their home-country
- exchange experiences with other students concerning studying in Germany
- build up networks and contacts
- get in contact with companies, political institutions and civil society organisations
- participate in the organization of seminars with the possibility of giving lectures
- meet new and interesting people from all over the world and have on enjoyable weekend with like-minded people

www.stube-niedersachsen.de

8. FINANCIAL HELP AND SCHOLARSHIPS

(a) BAFÖG

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research wants all young people to be able to pursue qualifications that suit their talents and interests, regardless of their background. Therefore national students and students with a permanent residence permit who qualify can apply for BAFÖG (German Federal Training Assistance Act) to cover the costs for their studies according to the Federal Education Assistance Act. Recently some changes have been made to increase the number of people eligible for support and raise the rates of funding. In total 959.000 students were awarded Bafög grants and loans in 2013. For details please check www.bmbf.de/en/892.php

(b) Scholarships

ELM-FIT Scholarships

There are some scholarships available by the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Society in Lower Saxony (ELM) in cooperation with FIT. If you want to apply, please note the general criteria and the procedure of application:

General Criteria:

Only applications of students admitted to the M.A. Programme Intercultural Theology or of FIT students are considered. Please remember that admission to the M.A. Programme Intercultural Theology or to one of our B.A. programmes does not imply that an award will finally be made.

For the M.A. ICT programme, applications from partner churches of the ELM are preferred. Applications from partner institutions in Africa and Asia cooperating in the M.A. Intercultural Theology can also be accepted. Scholarships will be offered to students coming from families whose household income does not cover the costs for the programme. In this way we are trying to ensure that the most talented students, regardless of their financial means, can participate in the programme. Family scholarships are not available. No support can be provided for any children accompanying a parent.

Applications for scholarships for courses of study which have already begun are not accepted.

We are committed to the principle of gender balance and encourage women to apply. Younger candidates (up to 35 years) are preferred.

Procedure for Application:

Application forms must be obtained from and returned to the ELM scholarship desk. The application form must be accompanied by the following documents:

- questionnaire
- any documents proving that you are a promising student
- M.A.: permission to use copies of the documents you submitted to Göttingen University
- income declaration/declaration of financial need (“Binding Declaration”). In this declaration it also has to be stated whether other sources of support or other scholarships are available.

If you want to apply for an ELM/FIT-scholarship, please contact us. The final decision about the applications lies with the *ELM Scholarship Committee*, which meets after the application period is closed. *The annual deadline for application is May 1.*

Brot für die Welt – Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst / Bread for the World – Protestant Development Service

Ecumenical scholarship programme: The scholarship programme supports National Christian Councils, churches and development-oriented NGOs in developing countries in the up-grading and advanced training of their personnel.

In fulfilment of its mandate the scholarship programme grants scholarships for development-oriented studies in Germany, other European countries and developing countries to graduates with professional experience from developing countries. It provides guidance to scholars and helps them with their integration. It offers counselling and co-curricular activities, especially seminars on development issues and ethics of science. And it prepares the scholars for reintegration at home.

Deadlines: The final decision about the applications lies with the *Ecumenical Scholarship Committee* which meets twice a year in *May* and *November*. Please note that they need to receive the application well in advance before the meeting. *The deadline for the meeting in May is January 1; the deadline for November is July 1.*

For further information, please contact: stipendien@brot-fuer-die-welt.de

Theological scholarship programme: The scholarship programme supports Christian students or graduates of theology worldwide who want to use their knowledge acquired in Germany for their future work in their home churches. For further information please contact: stipendien@brot-fuer-die-welt.de

Bread for the World also offers a specific scholarship programme for orthodox students or graduates of theology. For further information, please contact also stipendien@brot-fuer-die-welt.de.

DAAD: Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst

As a rule the application cannot be submitted to DAAD directly, but should be sent to the appropriate authorities in the applicant's home country. The DAAD website www.daad.de provides further specific information for applicants from your home country including the exact deadlines. The DAAD offices abroad, the German embassies or consulates or your university will give you these pieces of information as well.

Application form: Antrag auf ein Forschungs-/Studienstipendium/ Application for Research Grants and Study Scholarships:

www.daad.de/medien/deutschland/stipendien/formulare/forschungsstipendium_en.pdf

To receive Country-specific information please check if there is a DAAD office in your country or get in contact with the German Embassy.

The DAAD also provides some information on scholarships of other institutions:

www.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/en/

KAAD: Katholischer Akademischer Ausländer-Dienst

The KAAD (Catholic Academic Exchange Service) offers two different scholarship programmes. For you the **Scholarship Programme 1** of KAAD might be worth considering. For this programme you can apply if you come from a developing or emerging country in Africa, Asia, the Middle East or Latin America, have a university degree and professional experience from your home country, are a Catholic Christian (or generally belong to a Christian denomination). Candidates from other religions can apply if they are proposed by Catholic partners and can prove their commitment to inter-religious dialogue.

Required is an above-average performance in studies and research, the orientation of your studies or research towards permanent reintegration in your home region (otherwise the scholarship is turned into a loan), religious and social commitment (activities) and willingness to inter-religious dialogue and German language skills before starting the studies (KAAD can provide a language course of max. 6 months in Germany).

KAAD is working with focus- and partner countries in your region. There are so-called Partner Committees in these countries and applications are channeled via them. Applications from other countries can be considered only in exceptional cases.

For further information please check www.kaad.de

Other Scholarships

There are more institutions providing scholarships, first of all the 13 “Begabtenförderungswerke” for highly talented students, which are supported by the German government. One of them, Avicenna, supports Muslim students, mainly from EU-countries. For more information (in German) about the different institutions and their scholarships: www.bmbf.de/de/294.php.

(c) Education Loans

Another way of financing your studies could be a bank or student loan.

More information in English about financial aid for students:

www.hochschulkompass.de/en/degree-programmes/fees-funding.html

(d) Student Jobs

There is a limited number of student positions at FIT and in its various projects. Sometimes, small jobs are also available in hotels and restaurants in the area, such as Best Western Hotel Heidehof or Heidjer Grill. At Haus Gerhus in Oberrohe careworkers for old and mentally disturbed people are needed. In most jobs, a decent knowledge of German is required.

For current job opportunities, check the local newspapers (*Blickpunkt, Bergener Stadt- und Örtzeanzeiger, Heidekurier*) or contact the Arbeitsagentur (Employment Office) in Hermannsburg (Tel. 05052 / 989114).



FIT students helping to prepare the FIT Open Day in June 2014.

PART B:
Questions & Answers

B.A. MID (Mission Studies and International Diakonia) Programme

How many lectures are in a week for MID students?

That depends on how many modules are allocated for a semester. In most semesters this would be between 3 and 4, meaning, in most cases, that there would be 3 lectures, 3 seminars and 3 tutorials to be attended, with the lectures and the seminars often being double-sessions (i.e. 90 min).

How does a typical MID week look like?

Hard to say as the amount of modules offered per semester differs throughout the course. On the average, students will achieve +/- 30 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) Points per semester, amounting to the total of 180 required for the BA Degree within six semesters time.

A module generally comprises of a lecture, a seminar and a tutorial, with some of the modules being accompanied by either a brief practicum, or an excursion/a study tour.

In addition to the compulsory modules, additional language classes are offered in German, at some stage during the course of the studies also in Arabic or other languages. These additional courses are electives and not compulsory.

Most students need about 40 hours per week for attending classes, structuring their notes after the classes and reading time to prepare for these.

Early morning lectures start at 8:00, a lunch-break is provided between 12:05 and 14:15, and some tutorials conclude at 20:30. But as there is nothing like a 'typical' MID week, work load during the week will differ.

Where does the focus lie in the MID Programme?

The MID Programme has a strong focus on interculturality, theology, social-diaconal theories and practices as well as on development studies and the intersection thereof. Intercultural competence will be one of the soft core competences developed in the course of the study, accompanied by profound theoretical knowledge and practical experiences in the above mentioned areas.

B.A. ITMC (Intercultural Studies, Migration and Congregational Leadership) Programme

How are the career opportunities in the job market for the courses offered?

The B.A. ITMC offers the opportunity to serve as a pastor in various parts of the world. For the German job market positions in the field “integration” or “migrants work” could be interesting. Whether a B.A. ITMC holder in the future will have the opportunity to enter a Master of Theology course leading directly into a pastor’s profession in a German mainline church, has not been clarified sufficiently; negotiations are ongoing.

What are the requirements for one to join the ITMC programme?

A-level as well as any internationally recognised matriculation or school-leaving certificate, or a professional education of (at least) three years and three years practical experiences. A participation in various theological programs like ATTiG, KiK would be helpful.

In which fields can I get my Masters degree, after the Bachelor ITMC study?

ICT is the joint venture programme of FIT and University of Göttingen. The master programmes of the Universities of Heidelberg and Marburg are under consideration in this regard. These programmes are open for students who are planning to serve as pastors of the German Churches and have worked already for more than three years in a profession requiring an academic qualification.

Are there examples of people that have studied ITMC and work successfully?

Not yet, the FIT programmes are fairly recent and there are no current graduates. We will have an alumni catalogue in 2016.

Which denominations are welcome at the FIT?

Basically all denominations are welcome at the FIT, because the focus is on intercultural methods and interdenominational perspectives of academic output.

From which dominations are the Professors?

Currently all professors are from Protestant denominations though appointments are open to applicants from all World Council of Churches (WCC) related denominations.

How much Lutheranism is in the content of the study material?

Naturally not little, but surely not exclusively. We are teaching and setting up a hermeneutics for INTERCULTURAL theology and therefore listen also to many other denominations and religious views.

Is there an opportunity to shorten up the study instead of studying 4 years?

In principle yes, though not recommendable as long as a candidate is working on in his/her church/congregation.

Is there also a language programme for the ITMC course?

Language courses can only be attended rudimentally as the course stays in Hermannsburg only one week/month. Therefore, language studies outside Hermannsburg are principally not impossible to take part in if one's study calendar allows. The institution offers other additional languages such as Greek, Hebrew and Arabic.

Is there also a spiritual program for the pastors or a mentoring program?

Spiritual exercises during studies are provided for by devotional life of the study community. A special mentoring programme has not yet been established, as the training normally does not directly prepare for pastoral work (this only in ITMC – and as “in service training”).

M.A. ICT (Intercultural Theology) Programme

What are the career opportunities in the job market for the course offered?

The programme prepares its students for careers in institutions of mission and ecumenism, development organisations, non-governmental organisations, media, and academia. See: www.uni-goettingen.de/de/109075.html

What are the requirements to join the M.A. program?

The programme is open to all who hold a Bachelor's degree in theology, cultural or social anthropology, philology, politics, development studies, or related subjects. Applicants are expected to demonstrate interest in theology, ecumenism, mission, or religious studies. Given the international diversity of higher education, there are no mandatory requirements; each application will be reviewed individually. For applying please check: www.uni-goettingen.de/de/application--financing/111666.html.

Where are the lessons for the MA based?

Please see the website: www.uni-goettingen.de/de/course-of-study/111665.html

Is it possible to work while studying?

It is hardly possible, except small and time-wise marginal jobs. ICT is an intensive 2 year course which generally takes place in two places: Hermannsburg and Göttingen. It however exposes you to a study and life community in Hermannsburg!

How big are the classes?

Class sizes differ, but generally up to 20 students.

Concerning all Programmes

Are students engaged throughout their lesson or unit?

Yes, of course! Every lesson has study outcomes which relate to the overall study programme.

Can students get a description of the criteria by which their work will be evaluated?

Yes, but they differ depending on the subject. You are welcome to enquire from your lecturer at the beginning of the course or semester.

Can students explain what they are doing and why (i.e how today's work relates to the larger units' course goals)?

Yes, always. There are different levels of understanding. In a situation where a student is not sure, he/she is welcome to ask the lecturer for clarity.

Can I get credit transfer for various courses offered by FIT?

Depending on a concrete request. In principle: yes.

What is the formula for FIT for evaluating the students?

Depending on the course you are enrolled for, there are different evaluation methods including written exams, oral exams, essays, research projects, as well as class and seminar attendance. These will be indicated at the beginning of your course.

How do I get a transcript from FIT?

An academic transcript means a certificate reflecting the courses undertaken and the grades obtained. The student receives the certificate after he/she has passed all the tests. These documents are available from FIT Administration Office.

Where can I find the FIT alumni members?

There are currently post-graduate 2012–2014 M.A. graduates for FIT and its affiliated university of Göttingen who are part-alumni of the FIT. Since the FIT was founded in 2012, there are currently no specific graduate “FIT-alumni” for ITMC and MID existing, as there has not yet been any course completing their studies in FIT alone (first time in summer 2016). The FIT plans to build up an alumni network. If there is a specific interest to join, please contact the administration of FIT.

What is the grading scale in FIT (Germany)?

100-89%: excellent (1), 88-76%: Good (2), 75-63%: Satisfactory (3), 62-50%: Pass (4), below 50%: Fail (5)

How do I find the contact information for FIT students, staff and faculty?

Contact information for faculty, staff and student representatives can be found on our website: www.fh-hermannsburg.de. Other contact information cannot be provided due to data protection laws in Germany. You can try to get in touch with some students via the FIT Facebook page.

What is the study language in FIT?

Major languages are: English (M.A. ICT + B.A. ITMC) and German (MID).

Does FIT offer free courses?

No, there is a study or tuition fee charged.

Are there distance learning programmes offered by FIT?

Basically no, but the ITMC programme is seminar-based and can be considered part-time. Students travel to Hermannsburg for a week almost once every month.

Does the FIT offer school opportunities during the summer?

Until now just a German language course for beginners every year in September.

Does the FIT offer English courses for non-speaking English people?

Not yet.

Are there any foreign language courses offered at the varsity?

There are elective courses in Greek, Hebrew and Arabic. Indicate your interest in time for timetable arrangements.

Are there any extra-curricular activities offered by the varsity?

Yes. Extra-curricular activities include guest lectures, study trips, movie nights, soccer matches and a Christmas celebration. Students are welcome to suggest or organize more activities.

Where do I find information about the courses?

On our website.

It would be helpful if the number of German study materials which some non-English ITMC students are receiving could be increased. Is there any opportunity for them to do their exams in German?

Yes.

Who is the contact person for course details?

Prof. Dr. Kunz-Lübcke for B.A. ITMC; Prof. Dr. Fröchtling for B.A. MID; Dr. Cornelia Schlarb for M.A. ICT.

What are the documents required to apply?

Look at the website of FIT und University of Göttingen.

Can I extend my time for the Bachelor Thesis/Master Thesis?

Yes, a student can extend studies according to university regulations and guidelines. Depending on the time of extension, fees for the semester may still need to be paid, or may not be refunded.

How can someone meet with the academic advisor?

The academic staff at FIT is mostly accessible and helpful. You can make an appointment personally with the professor or via email.

How is the student body at FIT composed?

The student body of FIT is diverse - in terms of average age, in terms of country of origin and also in terms of denominational and even religious backgrounds. There are also changes from academic year to academic year. We are very happy about this diversity!

The students of the Master's programme so far have come from Africa, Asia, Europe and the USA. They are usually aged between 23-40 years.

The Bachelor's degree programme "Intercultural Theology, Migration and church leadership" commenced in 2012. In the first year especially leaders from West African migrant communities enrolled; here the average age is higher. In the second and third year of its existence, however, this B.A. attracted a more diverse group of students from around Germany.

The B.A. programme "Mission Studies and International Diakonia" was launched in the academic year 2012-13. Students in this course are younger and mostly from Germany and African countries.

What can I do after the completion of my studies?

There are many possibilities and options, but no guarantees. The B.A.s of the FIT are new and innovative programmes. When we developed them, we did this in consultation with potential employers, and the experience after two years confirms that there is a strong interest in qualified, committed and reliable intercultural bridge-builders. First contacts to employers can be made during the practical periods within your studies, and we will do everything we realistically can do to support you.

With a completed B. A., you also have the option to continue your studies and in principle you can apply to all further theological and liberal arts master's degree programmes; admission is decided by the selection committee of the respective university.

I feel overwhelmed and think I need to take a break from pursuing this degree for a little while. Is that an option for me?

Inform the FIT administration in good time if you need to take time off your studies as it involves a de-registration process.

Why are students of the Master programme not represented in the Fachhochschulkonferenz?

The M.A. students are enlisted at Göttingen University which cooperates with the FIT in this programme. Technically, therefore, they are not students of the FIT. However, they are part of the student body living on campus and as such participate in all student meetings. They should channel their concerns through the FIT students' spokesmen/spokeswomen who will then approach the Fachhochschulkonferenz.

Finance and Employment Issues

How can I finance my studies?

German students may receive BAFÖG, foreign students not entitled to BAFÖG can apply for a FIT/ELM scholarship. Otherwise students must bear the cost of the courses themselves or apply for a scholarship with other organizations.

Who can apply for a FIT/ELM scholarship?

All except German students entitled to BAFÖG.

Do the students have access to minijobs?

Yes, if there is a valid work permit.

Do you have student jobs at FIT?

We do not have jobs except tutorials and student assistant jobs. Jobs outside the university have to be arranged privately. If possible, the institution can support your search. It is easier to find jobs in neighbouring cities like Celle, Hannover or Hamburg, but travelling in and out also comes into consideration.

How can I apply for a job at FIT?

If there is a job-advertisement, any student of the FIT can apply. Requirements are indicated in the job-advertisement.

Can students combine work and lectures?

Full employment is not possible in combination with M.A. ICT or B.A. MID studies; with B.A. ITMC studies it depends on the job.

I have a friend who is really struggling financially and doesn't have anyone to talk to. Is there someone I can refer him to?

FIT administration staff is capable and always willing to help students with problems within socio-academic parameters.

International Students

Do you offer part time courses for international students at FIT?

Not yet, because that seems to be very impractical! There is an ITMC course which is part-time and is possible even for students from neighboring countries of Germany in Europe. The M.A. programme Intercultural Theology is not offered as a part time course.

What are the general application procedures to undergo till one makes it to Germany?

You have to apply for a student visa at the German Embassy in your country. Please keep in mind that the issuing of visa can take up to 8 or 10 weeks. Therefore, please apply as soon as you have received a Letter of Acceptance. In some cases, the German embassy might conduct interviews. Please prepare carefully for this. You might find the information about the Master's programme provided on the University of Göttingen website helpful. If you do not receive a scholarship, you have to open a blocked bank account in Germany with a minimum amount of 8,040 Euro for one adult for one year. For a family with two children the amount is 22,080 € (16,080 Euro for two adults and 6,000 Euro for two children). You can only withdraw a limited amount monthly. You may contact Deutsche Bank to get more detailed information:

https://www.deutsche-bank.de/pfb/content/privatkunden/konto_international-students.html.

How long does the visa process take?

Depending on the country of application, the process can take up to 3 months and more. It is therefore important to apply as early as possible and as soon as you receive an acceptance letter. For example, some students from Africa wait up to 5 months, therefore applying as early as March or April allows enough time for official procedures.

How much do I need to pay to extend my visa?

Currently, usually 110.00 €, but that differs from time to time. Please contact the nearest Immigration Office to get updates.

Which health insurance company is best for international students?

For students younger than 30 years of age each German state health insurance company or private companies, for students older than 30 years of age only private companies like EDUCARE 24.

What should I do if my visa is delayed?

Best of all, to make the visa request in time as indicated above. Whenever there is a delay, contact the FIT Administration Office and inform them so that the Office knows your intention, otherwise it may be assumed that you are no longer planning to study.

I've never been to Europe. What advice can you give me?

There are many sites one can visit for different input. The reference provided here and in Part 1 of this document is not conclusive. For study abroad information visit www.studyabroad.com › europe › germany and for general information about Germany visit www.howtogermaany.com. Notice that these are not the only information sites. There is more information on websites and the German embassy in your country can also help provide specific detailed information.

What are the admission and visa requirements for international students?

Please contact the website of the German embassy in your home country and check the requirements for student visa.

What do I as a foreign student need in order to be accepted at the university?

For the M.A. ICT programme please see www.uni-goettingen.de/de/application--financing/111666.html. For the B.A. programmes please see our website.

Do I need any special papers for my stay in Germany?

Depends on the German embassy in your home country.

Where can I do my TOEFL test / German test?

Please enter www.uni-goettingen.de/de/application--financing/111666.html. Here you find links to the respective websites for the TOEFL or the IELTS.

Can I work as a foreigner in Germany?

Yes, if your visa includes a valid work permit. EU citizens do not need a work permit.

How can I get finance support as a non-German Student?

Applications for scholarship with several institutions such as DWED/ Bread for the World, DAAD, or application for partial scholarship in the first year of studies to FIT faculty.

What are the emergency phone numbers in the country?

110 for police and ambulance,
112 for fire brigade.

Campus Life

Does FIT accept students with physical challenges?

Depending on the nature of your disability, FIT can accept students with physical mobility challenges. So far, there are no facilities for blind students. In general, it is better to enquire, if you are interested but have physical challenges. The FIT has an equal-opportunity policy that is inclusive of students living and studying with disabilities. Special allowances can be made concerning e.g. the mode of examination or the timeframe allocated to perform a certain task.

Most areas on campus are accessible by wheelchair-users, and the FIT offers wheelchair-users an apartment that provides extra space e.g. in the bathroom and the main room. The library and the lecture halls as well as the auditorium are wheelchair accessible as is the canteen and the admin building. The lecture building is equipped with a toilet that accommodates the needs of wheelchair-users.

Is there a library on site?

Yes, FIT has an excellent library on campus with more than 75 000 books. The library is open 7 days a week and 24 hours a day. Students do not pay for membership and can access many other reading resources through inter-library loan system.

Who can use the FIT library?

The library at FIT is private and can only be used by registered students at FIT and its staff. There is a local library open for the public.

What is the spiritual life like on campus?

A chapel service is held on campus every weekday during lecture times. On Tuesdays it includes the Holy Communion. Students are encouraged to take part in the service. There are churches for Sunday service within walking distance such as the Kleine Kreuzkirche, Große Kreuzkirche, Peter-Paul-Kirche and the Catholic Church. Students of other faiths are accommodated according to their worship preferences.

What campus facilities are there for students (e.g. is there a laundry room)?

Laundry room, table tennis, bicycles, TV lounge, Wi-Fi.

How are the rooms equipped?

Wardrobe, desk, table lamp, chair, bedside cabinet, bed, waste paper basket, armchair, shelf.

Can I have access to Internet in my room?

Yes, via Hotspots up to 7 € per month.

What kind of food is served in the Mensa?

German food hot and cold.

Is it compulsory to have meals in the Mensa?

It is highly recommended that students take meals in the Mensa because the kitchen facilities in the residence halls are not conducive to general daily catering for students. Special meal requests such as vegetarian or religious preferential diets are catered for.

Can I bring my family with me?

Yes, provided the possibilities for accommodation for families are not occupied at Hermannsburg, and the family finances itself. For MA students who wish to reside in Göttingen please refer to www.uni-goettingen.de/en/accommodation-for-students.

Where do I find accommodation when someone pays me a visit?

Guests of students may stay in the FIT if they pay the fixed overnight fees.

Is there a campus tour for visitors?

There is a possibility of arranging one when someone is interested.

Other FIT-Related Questions

Where can I find the FIT Mission Statement?

Refer to Part 1 and to the FIT website www.fh-hermannsburg.de.

Where can I learn more and find important materials relating to FIT?

Look at the website: www.fh-hermannsburg.de. Some printed materials are available at our office.

Where can I find out about the major events of FIT?

Major events are announced on our website and Facebook.

How can I make a gift or donation to support the FIT?

To donate money in support of the FIT, kindly deposit your donation into our Bank Account:

Ev. Darlehns-genossenschaft eG
(BLZ 210 602 37)
Account No. 140 80 00

IBAN: DE42 2106 0237 0001 4080 00
BIC: GENODEF1EDG

Currently, we mainly collect donations for our scholarship fund that supports needy students who are not entitled to BAFÖG.

Public Transport

Can I travel everyday from Hanover to Hermannsburg for lectures?

In principle: yes (60 min to travel one way); practically not recommendable for many days a week. Travel opportunities between Unterlüß and Hermannsburg can be challenging.

Which is the nearest train station in Hermannsburg?

There is no train station in Hermannsburg. The closest train station is Unterlüß railway station (16 km from Hermannsburg).

Is there a public transport system?

Yes, there are regular bus and train services to and from Hermannsburg, however, the bus service operates within limited times. There is a taxi service available for frequent travel arrangements.

Is there any standard affordable transport between Unterlüß and Hermannsburg?

Yes, but very limited and only on school days. The most affordable and flexible transport is taking a bike! But this may take 1 hour or more, depending on your physical condition.

How can I find public transport to and from Hermannsburg?

Check out the webpage of Cebus: www.cebus-celle.de

Is the accessibility of transportation reliable?

Yes, generally public transport services in Germany are reliable. There is a bus to and from Celle to Hermannsburg.

Is there any possibility of having semester tickets?

Not yet, FIT students pay the normal price for bus services. However, there are cheaper train ticket options for weekends, group rates and advance bookings.

Does the student identity work with local transport in Braunschweig and Hanover?

No, such arrangement is not yet in place.

Hermannsburg

What kind of food is available in Hermannsburg?

German, Chinese, Greek, Italian und Turkish Food are offered in restaurants. There are also several supermarkets within walking distance where one can purchase various food stuff. At the Ludwig Harms Haus, international dishes are offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Is the environment conducive to study?

According to many students' experience: very conducive!

Can I buy medicine without a prescription in a drugstore?

There are several drugstores or pharmacies in Hermannsburg. Most "over-the-counter" drugs are limited in Germany. Students are advised to consult with a doctor for prescriptions.

What kind of mobile connection is good in Hermannsburg?

Best connections are with D1 or D2 net.

How do I come into contact with people around Hermannsburg?

You can make friends on campus, and meet people in church congregations, at sports and social activities in and around Hermannsburg. A certain level of German is helpful, although many people here speak some English.

Are there any sight-seeing places near Hermannsburg?

Yes, there are places of interest in Celle, Lüneburg, Hanover, Braunschweig, Hamburg, as well as the Lüneburg Heath. Further information is provided during Orientation Week and from Rathaus (Tourist Information) in Hermannsburg and neighbouring towns and cities.

Cultural, Lifestyle and Environmental Questions

How is the yearly weather?

FIT is in North Germany and has a four season weather pattern; in summer (June-August) temperatures range between 15 and 35 C°, in winter (December-February) between 12 and -12 C°. In the Hermannsburg area, the weather tends to be unstable. Be prepared for snow in winter, although Hermannsburg usually does not get as much as other regions. For more snow, you should visit the Harz mountains.

Why are summer days longer and winter days shorter in Germany?

The Earth's tilt on its axis is what causes the change in the seasons and explains why summer days are longer than winter days. The Earth orbits in an ellipse around the Sun, and because of this, it draws closer to the Sun at some points than at others. It is the direction of the Earth's tilt in its axis that determines the length of days and nights.

An ellipse is an oval shape rather than a circle. In the summertime in the northern hemisphere, the Earth is farther from the Sun because of the ellipse in its orbit, but the angle of the Earth's tilt points the hemisphere towards the Sun, making the days longer. The Sun's angle is also higher during the summer months than the winter months. In the winter, the Earth's orbit draws it closer to the Sun, but the Earth's axis tilts away from the sun, making the days shorter in the northern hemisphere. The summer solstice marks the first day of the summer and the longest day of the year. This is because the North Pole is pointed the closest to the Sun than any other day of the winter. The reverse is true during the winter solstice when the North Pole is tilted the farthest from the Sun.

Why is there a “time change” in spring and fall each year? Why do clocks have to be adjusted?

Daylight saving time (DST) or summer time is the practice of advancing clocks during the summer months that have more daylight so that people get up earlier in the morning and experience more daylight in the evening. The intention is to save energy. Typically clocks are adjusted forward one hour near the start of spring and are adjusted backward in the autumn.

Are shops open during Sundays or public holidays?

Sundays and Federal Holidays in Germany are observed by most businesses meaning that most establishments are closed on public holidays. You can buy some items at filling stations. Bakeries may also be open in the early morning. Bus and train services may also be limited.

Why do some Germans often offer beer, wine and other alcoholic drinks at their invitations?

Both in the Bible and in Martin Luther's writings there are positive references to drinking wine or other alcoholic beverages. For many Germans, it is part of celebrating life and they want to share it with their visitors. However, always feel free to say No. And if you consume alcohol, do it moderately.

Are potatoes really the staple food in Germany?

Food has always been a major part of German culture. King Frederick II (Frederick the Great, 1712–1786) introduced the potato, a staple in the German diet. He gave away seed potatoes and taught the people how to grow them. But wars caused food shortages and hardship twice during the twentieth century.

Germans tend to eat heavy and hearty meals that include ample portions of meat and bread. Potatoes are the staple food, and each region has its own favorite ways of preparing them. Some Germans eat potatoes with pears, bacon, and beans. Germans from the capital city of Berlin eat potatoes with bacon and spicy sausage. *Sauerbraten* is a large roast made of pork, beef, or veal that is popular throughout Germany, and is flavored in different ways depending on the region. Besides potatoes, rice or pasta are part of many meals, and the millions of immigrants have contributed to a more diversified cuisine. Many Germans also prefer vegetarian food.

What kind of animals live in Germany?

Germany has a large animal kingdom. There are foxes, raccoons, hedgehogs, squirrels, to name a few. In the Lüneburg Heath, wolves are resettled – but there is no need to worry. There are also many wild pigs in the area. Dogs and cats are popular pets. In the Lüneburg Heath you will also find many horses and a special type of sheep, the so called "Heidschnucke".

Part C:

Open Libraries, Websites and Online Reference Resources for Intercultural Theology, International Diakonia etc.

www.globethics.net/web/gtl/about GlobeTheoLib is the first project worldwide to address strategically the challenge of a more balanced theological knowledge transfer between churches and institutions of theological education in the North and South, East and West, and to provide a common platform for existing digital resources and theological libraries in the world.

www.library.yale.edu/div/MissionsResources.htm Resource links of Yale Divinity School.

www.worldchristiandatabase.org/wcd: The World Christian Database (WCD) represents the core data from the *World Christian Encyclopedia* (WCE) and *World Christian Trends* (WCT). The WCD includes detailed information on 34,000 Christian denominations and on religions in every country of the world. Extensive data are available on 238 countries and 13,000 ethnolinguistic peoples, as well as data on 7,000 cities and 3,000 provinces. Statistics in the WCD represent a significant update of the data published in *WCE/WCT* in 2001. WCD is an initiative of the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

www.imagesonline.bl.uk Art Gallery: British Library Images Online is a unique resource for picture buyers, graphic designers and publishers, enabling you to license thousands of high quality images from the British Library's unparalleled collections.

www.dacb.org/index.html Dictionary of African Christian Biography.

www.religion-online.org Full texts by recognized mission scholars.

www.bmpix.org Important collection of photos by Mission Agencies.

www.library.yale.edu/div/yaleedin.htm yale/edinburgh group on history of mission.

www.missionaryetexts.org Missionary ETexts Archive, an electronic repository of historical texts by, about and for missionaries.

ricci.rt.usfca.edu/archive/index.aspx This section contains institutions of archival resources on Christianity in China (including Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao)

www.earlychristianwritings.com Contains sources on mission in the early church.

www.ocmc.org Orthodox Christian Mission Centre.

www.kb.dk/elib/mss/poma/index-en.htm Guaman Poma de Ayala – Chronicles.

www.ttc.edu.sg/csca.htm The Centre for the Study of Christianity in Asia (CSCA), Trinity Theological College, Singapore is developing a website to assist researchers and Christian communities in the Singapore-Malaysia, Indonesia and Indochina regions in studying their local histories. It has so far posted listings of Christian material available in public institutions and theological colleges in Singapore.

www.ttc.edu.sg/csca/CS/CS.htm Journal “Church and Society in Asia Today”

www.newbigin.net Newbigin.Net is a dynamic searchable database concerned with the writings and life of Bishop J.E. Lesslie Newbigin. It includes both a comprehensive bibliography of his writings and a wide-ranging collection of texts written by him - over two hundred in all. It also contains some significant interactions with his thought.

www.aecg.de Website of Prof. Klaus Koschorke in Munich with some information on African, Asian and Latin American Church History.

www.livingstoneonline.ucl.ac.uk Includes the 100 or so letters written by Livingstone between 1840 and 1857 while an LMS missionary (as well as letters written by Mary Livingstone nee Moffatt), the originals of which are housed at SOAS.

dcommon.bu.edu/xmlui/handle/2144/33 Boston University Digital Research Archive, Christian Mission collection.

www.missionaryetexts.org Missionary E-Texts Archives: Historical Writings by, about and for Missionaries.

anglicanhistory.org Project Canterbury is a free online archive of out-of-print Anglican texts and related modern documents. It was founded in 1999 and is an all-volunteer effort.

www.ttc.edu.sg/csca/csca.htm Documentation, Centre for the Study of Christianity in Asia.

www.library.yale.edu/div/fa/Karnataka.htm Journeys and Encounters: Religion, Society and the Basel Mission in North Karnataka 1837-1852 - Translations and summaries from published materials in German, by Jennifer and Paul Jenkins.

www.archive.org/details/texts Internet Archive: The Internet Archive Text Archive contains a wide range of fiction, popular books, children's books, historical texts and academic books.

digitallibrary.usc.edu/impa/controller/index.htm The International Mission Photography Archive offers historical images from Protestant and Catholic missionary collections in Britain, Norway, Germany, France, Switzerland, and the United States.

www.arts.kuleuven.be/sinology/cct The Chinese Christian Texts Database (CCT-Database) is a research database of primary and secondary sources concerning the cultural contacts between China and Europe in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (from 1582 to ca. 1840). The cultural contacts comprise documents in the various fields of cultural interaction: religion, philosophy, science, art, etc.

www.archive.org/bookserver The Internet Archive, a San Francisco-based nonprofit group, has created a system for helping people find digital books on the Internet. The service, called BookServer, collects information on digital books that are available online, either free or for a fee.