

Hohenheim, Germany Study Abroad Program

Academic Year 2025-2026

CALS Study Abroad Program Handbook

The exchange program in Hohenheim, Germany is offered by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in conjunction with the University of Hohenheim (UHOH). This CALs Study Abroad Program Handbook supplements handbook(s) or materials you receive from the University of Hohenheim as well as the Study Abroad Handbook and provides you with the most up-to-date information and advice available at the time of printing. Changes may occur before your departure or while you are abroad.

Questions about your program abroad (housing options, facilities abroad, etc.) as well as questions relating to your relationship with your host university or academics (e.g. course credit and equivalents, registration deadlines, etc.) should be directed to CALs Study Abroad at UW-Madison.

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Contact Information

On-site Program Information - Universität Hohenheim | University of Hohenheim

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Referat Studierendenmobilität und Internationale Zulassung | Student Mobility and International Admissions Unit

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Martine.Renz@verwaltung.uni-hohenheim.de

<https://exchange.uni-hohenheim.de/en/homepage>

Zoom consultation hour

Wed 1 - 3 p.m., digital on [Zoom](#)

(join without password)

UW-Madison Information

CALS Study Abroad

University of Wisconsin-Madison

116 Agricultural Hall

1450 Linden Dr

Tel: (608) 265-3835

Email: studyabroad@cals.wisc.edu

www.studyabroad.wisc.edu/cals

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Kaley Grunwald

IAP Program Accountant

kgrunwald@wisc.edu

Emergency Contact Information

In case of an emergency, call the main IAP Study Abroad number (608) 265-6329 between 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; after-hours or on weekends call the IAP staff on call at (608) 516-9440.

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) Registration

All program participants who are U.S. citizens must enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive security messages and make it easier for the U.S. Embassy in Germany to assist you in case of a loss passport or other mishap, and locate you in an emergency. If you are not a U.S. citizen, you are advised to register with your home country's embassy or consulate.

There are U.S. consulates in Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Leipzig, and Munich that offer services to U.S. citizens in Germany and you can find information on each one here: <https://de.usembassy.gov/>. The closest one to the University of Hohenheim is in Frankfurt.

U.S. Consulate General in Frankfurt

Gießener Str. 30

60435 Frankfurt am Main

Federal Republic of Germany
Tel: +49-69-7535-0
American Citizen Services Emergency Tel: (030) 8305-0
Email: GermanyACS@state.gov
Website: <https://de.usembassy.gov/>

Program Dates

The University of Hohenheim's academic year consists of two semesters (Winter and Summer), which do not coincide directly with UW-Madison's Fall and Spring semesters:

Winter: October 1 through end of February

Summer: April 1 to beginning of August

You will receive exact dates from your contact at the University of Hohenheim. Dates given above are a general timeframe. Since the Winter semester at UHOH overlaps with the Spring semester at UW-Madison, it is most convenient for UW students to study abroad at UHOH during the UHOH's Summer semester (early April to early August) or for the full academic year (early October to early August).

The academic calendar may differ slightly depending on the faculty your courses are offered in and whether or not your courses are taught in a blocked module structure (see Class Schedule section below).

Students must check with their Professors about exam dates, as these may be after the class end dates. Most Winter semester exams will be complete by end of February and most Summer semester exams will be complete by mid-August.

Preparation Before Leaving

Immigration Documents

Passport

A passport is needed to travel to Germany. Apply immediately for a passport if you do not already have one. Passport information and application forms can be found on the U.S. State Department website (<http://travel.state.gov/passport>). If you already have your passport, make sure it will be valid for at least 6 months beyond the length of your stay abroad.

Visa

Starting in 2024, U.S. citizens will need to get an [ETIAS travel authorization](#) to travel to Germany. You should apply for your travel authorization after you are accepted to the program. It can take up to 30 days to process your application. ETIAS is valid for three years or until your passport expires, whatever comes first. If you are not a U.S. citizen check the ETIAS travel authorization web page to determine if ETIAS or another visa is required. Non-U.S. citizens consult with the German consulate and University of Hohenheim for visa requirements.

Students Receiving Scholarship and Financial Aid

If you need evidence of financial support from a scholarship, you can request a letter of scholarship award specifying amount and duration of award from the UW-Madison Office of Student Financial Aid. To request this letter, you can call the Office of Student Financial Aid and let them know that you need this for your visa or residence permit application for study abroad. They are typically able to prepare the letter for you with 1-2 business days and have it ready for you to pick up at their office.

Residence Permit

After your arrival in Germany you have to register at the Residents Registration Office (Bürgerbüro) within two weeks and apply for a study residence permit within the first 90 days of your stay. During your orientation in Stuttgart, the staff of the International Office will explain the application process to you and assist you with obtaining the necessary documents.

In order for immigration authorities to process your application for an *Aufenthaltsgenehmigung*, you must submit your passport for about seven to ten days directly after your arrival. Do not plan on traveling outside Germany during this period.

If you are planning to travel in Europe after the end of the program, please make sure to check current visa regulations. An extension of your residence permit may be granted up to four weeks if you have proof of health insurance and sufficient funds for this period of time.

Health Insurance

While you have excellent [international health insurance through CISI](#), which is included as part of your program fee, Germany requires that all exchange students from countries outside of the European Union purchase additional German health insurance. Hohenheim will share more information with you.

Handling Money Abroad

You can check the current exchange rate [here](#). Cards are taken at most businesses, but you should carry some cash for incidental purchases as well as for bus and train fares. It is possible to convert almost any currency into Euros at the airport when you arrive or to take out cash in Euros from an ATM in the airport upon arrival. Ask for small bills so you can pay for transportation to your accommodations without needing too much change.

Banking

Be sure to notify your bank and your credit card companies in advance of your travel plans and dates in order to avoid having your card(s) blocked when you attempt to use them internationally.

Because you will stay for a longer period in Germany, it is recommended to open a current account at a bank so that you can pay your rent easily. For more information, visit the UHOH [Bank Account](#) page.

ATM/Debit Cards

Another way to access funds from the U.S. is to use an ATM debit card for your U.S. checking account. With the card, you will be able to withdraw cash (in Euros) from a *Geldautomat* (money machine) and have it debited (in U.S. dollars) to your U.S. account at a fairly favorable exchange rate. Most ATMS

charge a transaction fee, which can add up if you make a lot of individual ATM withdrawals. Ask your bank in the U.S. if they have any partner banks in Germany that would not charge transaction fees if you were to use their ATMs.

Throughout Western Europe, *CIRRUS* and *PLUS* are the most widely available ATM systems. Be sure to ask your U.S. bank or credit union for an internationally accepted ATM card and PIN number. The upper limit on the amount that can be withdrawn at any one time or on a single day is established by your U.S. bank. Thus, it is important to consult with your bank on these matters prior to leaving for Germany. Past participants recommend increasing your ATM withdrawal limit so that you may withdraw enough funds for program expenses.

Credit Cards

Both Visa and MasterCard may be used to pay for purchases. Prior to departure, ask your credit card company about international fees. Some credit cards do not charge fees for international use, but many do. If you wish to use your credit card to obtain cash advances at banks or ATMs, ask your bank for an international four-digit PIN and inquire about fees for cash advances.

Packing

Germany has a moderate climate in comparison with Wisconsin, but the weather is cold during the late winter and early spring. Be prepared for overcast skies and nonstop drizzle. Bring a waterproof jacket and umbrella, or plan on buying one shortly after you arrive. You can access most day-to-day items, clothing, and toiletries in Germany, so avoid over packing. That being said, be aware that certain items, such as jeans and shoes, are more expensive in Germany than in the U.S. so bringing a good set of everyday basics and warm layers is important.

Other items to remember include: Documentation for the residence permit, journal, your letter of admission to Hohenheim, small personal items that will help you feel at home.

Electronics

Germany runs on 220V (volts), 50Hz (cycles) AC and uses the “europlug” with two round pins. If you plan on bringing any appliances from the United States, keep in mind that they will require adapters/converters which you should purchase before departure if possible. Depending on what you need, it may be more convenient and less expensive to purchase appliances in Germany rather than purchasing the necessary converter/adapters in the United States.

Travel and Arrival Information

How to Reach University of Hohenheim

Hohenheim will share information about how to travel to campus. Take this into account when you are taking out cash before you leave, or upon arrival in Germany.

Arrival

Upon arrival, you will complete the tasks on the checklist Hohenheim provides to exchange students. First, you will enroll with the Office of International Affairs and receive a student card. In order to do so, you must bring the following documents with you:

- 1 passport photo (you should bring along at least 4 passport photos, because you need photos for other offices, as well; you will have to submit biometric photos for the residence permit)
- Confirmation of your German health insurance.
- Passport or identity card. *If you are not a U.S. citizen, you may also need to show your visa.

Orientation

Orientation takes place the week before classes begin. The orientation is organized to help you get to know the University, course structure, and the city. In cooperation with the International Student Organization, guided tours of the campus and the Hohenheim Palace and sometimes a trip outside the city can be arranged during the orientation. Detailed instructions and dates will be sent by email by the University of Hohenheim's Office of International Affairs.

The Academic Program

***Information shared by University of Hohenheim will be the most accurate academic information. This is meant to be a secondary resource to the information you receive from the international team at Hohenheim.*

University of Hohenheim

The origins of the university date back to 1818, when King William I of Wurtemberg founded an agricultural institution for teaching, experimentation and demonstration. It was inaugurated on November 20, 1818 by its first director, Johann Nepomuk Schwerz, in the castle that Duke Carl Eugen of Württemberg had built in the years 1771– 1793.

Throughout the 19th century, the number of international students enrolled at the university was around one-third of the total, giving the university an international reputation at a very early age. In 1847 the institution was raised to the rank of an "Academy of Agriculture and Forestry," and in 1904, the name was changed to "Agricultural College". In the early 1920s, the number of enrolled students rose over 1,000 for the first time. Shortly thereafter, new fields of study and research in the natural sciences as well as economics and the social sciences developed in accordance with its original agronomical orientation. Today, the university offers over 40 courses of study for ~9,000 students from almost 200 countries.

Location

The University of Hohenheim is situated in the south of Stuttgart, the state capital of Baden-Wurttemberg, and is the oldest university in Stuttgart. Surrounded by botanical gardens and experimental farming grounds, the University's many green spaces provide a pleasant study and working atmosphere. Hohenheim is one of the few universities in Germany with a true campus; all facilities like lecture rooms, institutes, Language Centre, library, computer rooms, refectory as well as the Office for International Affairs are within walking distance of each other. Stuttgart's city center can be reached within half an hour by public transport.

Course Information

The University of Hohenheim offers Master's Degree programs taught entirely in English (see section on classes available below).

Please note that the semester number associated with the class tells the regular degree students which semester of their studies they should take that class. So, semester 1 refers to the winter semester of the student's first year at the university, while semester 3 refers to the winter semester of the student's second year at the university. Odd-numbered semesters always refer to the winter semesters and even-numbered semesters always refer to the summer semesters. You may register for all classes you take within any of the English Master's programs by contacting the professors offering those courses and asking permission to attend their course. Also, send the Exchange Student Coordinator at UHOH a list of courses you intend to take. If your language skills allow and you choose to take classes offered in German, you generally do not have to enroll for those classes because the number of participants is not limited.

Class Schedules

Classes for all the English Master's programs are taught in a block modular structure. This means that students take one class, which meets for four hours every day for three and a half weeks. Students take five blocked modules each semester and take only one class at a time. As an exchange student, however, you are free to take less than five modules. You can also take courses from different semesters as well as from different study programs. All blocked module courses are taught in the afternoon. Classes offered in the mornings generally meet fewer hours per week and throughout the entire semester. The courses offered in the mornings are only available in German. If you feel comfortable with your German language skills, you can take the classes offered in the morning as well. Most courses at UHOH use a variety of teaching methods, including lectures, seminars and practical training.

Classes Available

Classes are available in English in the following International Master programs:

- Agricultural Economics
- Agricultural Sciences in the Tropics and Subtropics
- Crop Sciences
- Environmental Protection and Agricultural Food Production
- Environmental Sciences – Soil, Water & Biodiversity
- Organic Agriculture and Food Systems
- Economics

If your German language skills are advanced, you can also choose to take courses taught in German. Programs at UHOH offering courses in German include:

- Agribusiness
- Agrobiology
- Agricultural Sciences
- Biology
- Food Chemistry
- Food Technology
- Nutritional Science
- and more!

Course Equivalent Requests (CER)

Each course you take abroad must be assigned a UW-Madison "equivalent" course in order for your grades and credits to be recorded on your UW-Madison transcript. In order to establish UW-Madison course equivalents for your study abroad courses, you will submit a Course Equivalent Requests in the "Academic" section of your My Study Abroad account. Detailed information on the UW course equivalent process is available on the [Academics](#) under the "Course and Credits" section.

Course Load and Credits

In Germany, students typically take ECTS credits in one academic year. Students studying abroad for one semester should plan to take about 30 ECTS credits during that semester. ECTS (European Credits Transfer System) credits are a numerical value (between 1 and 60) allocated to course units to describe the student workload required to complete them. They reflect the quantity of work each course unit requires in relation to the total quality of work necessary to complete a full year of academic study, that is, lectures, practical work, seminars, tutorials, field work, private study (in the library or at home) and examinations or other assessment activities. ECTS is thus based on a full student workload and not limited to contact hours only.

1 full academic year = 60 ECTS credit

1 semester = 30 ECTS credit

An average course consists of 200 study hours (classes, preparation, and exams are included), and thus equals 7.5 ECTS credit-points. In general, students at the university take 4-5 courses each semester.

Credit Conversion Scale

ECTS Credits	UW Madison Credits
2.5	2
3	2
4 or 4,5	2
5 or 5,5	3
6 or 6,5	3
7 or 7,5	4
8	4
9	5
10	5
12	6
12,5	7
15	8

Caution When Selecting Module Courses

If you choose to take module courses (those that meet for part of the term), note that many courses are offered that carry fewer than the 5 ECTS (equivalent to 3 UW credits). Courses must be worth at least 2.5 ECTS to be approved at UW. Courses under 2.5 ECTS should be combined with other courses of similar content to create a UW course equivalent. The combined courses should be at least 5 ECTS to provide meaningful credit.

For example: *Systematic Botany* (2 ECTS) and *Practical course with Field Exercise in Systematic Botany* (3 ECTS) = UW's Botany 400 (3 UW credits).

It is possible to have courses approved as 2 UW credits instead of 3 UW credits. However, if you are taking courses to apply to major, certificate or college requirements, the ECTS must be equivalent to the UW courses credits. For example, Botany 130 is 5 credits at UW. If this course is needed for your major, certificate, or college requirement, you need to combine UHOH courses to equal at least 9 ECTS. If you have any questions on course credit, please contact your Study Abroad Advisor.

Limits and Load

Your course schedule should be equivalent to 12 to 18 UW-Madison credit hours per semester).

Pass/Fail/Drop/Audit

Please refer to the General Study Abroad Handbook for [academic policies](#).

Transcripts

Please note that German universities do not create transcripts automatically at the end of the term. To have a transcript sent directly to your CALS Study Abroad Advisor at UW-Madison, email Martine Renz, Martine.Renz@verwaltung.uni-hohenheim.de.

Grades and Grade Conversions

UHOH Grade	UW Grade	German Number with Decimals
A	A	1,0
A-	A	1,3
B+	A	1,7
B	AB	2,0
B-	B	2,3
C+	B	2,7
C	B	3,0
C-	C	3,3
D+	C	3,7
D	C	4,0
	D	4,3
	D	4,7

	F	5,0
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Please note the UHOH Grade and German Number are set by UHOH. Grades D-F at UW have been assigned based on the German Numeric grade.

Language Center and German Intensive Course

Even though you can choose to take all your classes at the University in English and many Germans speak excellent English, other students who have studied in Germany highly recommend you study German before you leave or while abroad.

The [Language Center](#) offers foreign language courses in ten languages, including an [intensive German language course](#) and [German as a Foreign Language](#). The preparatory intensive German course is offered in September and March and includes trips to the surrounding area, cultural activities, and a welcome dinner, are highly recommended for exchange students.

The intensive German course in September or March offers a diverse program, which aims to systematically improve the four skills listening, speaking, reading and writing, as well as to increase grammar and vocabulary proficiency. The course is supplemented by seminars on regional, cultural and economic topics as well as a supporting program comprising excursions, movie nights, an international evening and much more. Additionally, participants can use, either independently or with guidance, all self-study language learning materials in the Language Center's modern-equipped Mediatheque. For exchange students of all degree programs, the course offers specialized preparation for their studies at the Universität Hohenheim.

Students can apply for language courses through their Mobility Online account with UHOH. You must request UHOH have it recorded on your UHOH transcript and complete the associated Course Equivalent Request through MyStudyAbroad if wishing to earn credit. Students pay UHOH directly for the course cost.

University Facilities

Libraries

The [UHOH library](#) is divided into a Central Library with a main focus on Agricultural Sciences, Biology and General Natural Sciences, and a Department Library (*Bereichsbibliothek*) for the Economic and Social Sciences. The library is open seven days a week. The Hohenheim Electronic Library System provides access to the catalogues of other libraries and external databases.

Internet & Computers

Wifi is available at many locations on campus, but not in all residence halls. All residence halls do offer internet connections using an Ethernet cable. The University of Hohenheim has public computer rooms, which are open partly into the evenings. More information can be found here:

- https://exchange.uni-hohenheim.de/en/internet-computer#jfmulticontent_c148191-1
- <https://kim.uni-hohenheim.de/en/students-internet-access>

Living Abroad

Germany

Germany is situated in Central Europe, bordering the Baltic Sea, the North Sea and Denmark in the north; Poland and the Czech Republic in the east; Austria and Switzerland in the south; and France, Luxemburg, Belgium and the Netherlands in the west. Three of Europe's major rivers pass through Germany, including the Danube in the south, the Rhine in the west, and the Elbe in the northeast. Northern Germany is relatively flat lowlands and the central region is uplands. The Bavarian Alps create alternating peaks and valleys in the south. Germany's climate is typically temperate but varies with the different regions in country. The weather also changes frequently, making daily predictions difficult. Generally, the weather tends towards cool, cloudy, and wet. Winters vary greatly from west to east. Winter temperatures in western Germany fall around freezing but are well below freezing in the east. Summer temperatures are typically between 20 and 30 degrees Celsius (68 and 86 degrees Fahrenheit).

The Federal Republic of Germany is divided into 16 states, which all have their own constitutions, parliaments and governments. The state governments are responsible for police regulation, education and implementing federal policies. On a national level, the President serves as Chief of State and the Chancellor as Head of Government. The President is elected every five years by a Federal Convention. The Federal Convention consists of the Federal Assembly, which is elected by popular vote and represents part of Germany's bicameral Parliament, and an equal number of delegates elected by the state parliaments. The Chancellor is elected by an absolute majority of the Federal Assembly for a four-year term. Berlin is the nation's capital.

Germany's population is about 83.5 million, almost 80% of whom live in urban areas. Germany has the largest population of all European Union member countries and is also one of the most densely populated countries in Europe. German is the national language although local dialects can be strong in certain areas.

German food is more than what may first come to mind - beer, sausages and sauerkraut. Much of what may be considered American foods actually came from Germany: hot dogs, hamburgers, deviled eggs, meatloaf and more. Germans typically eat three meals a day, with lunch as the main meal. Breakfast typically consists of bread, meat and a soft-boiled egg. Traditionally Germans like hearty foods. Meat, often in the form of sausages, and potatoes are very common and beer is a very common beverage. German cuisine is evolving, however, to a more health-conscious, lighter diet.

Roughly half of the German population identify with a Christian denomination, and almost 7% are Muslim. The remaining are either unaffiliated with a church or practice another religion.

Stuttgart

Stuttgart-Hohenheim (also known simply as *Hohenheim*) is an area of Plieningen, one of 18 outer districts in the German city of Stuttgart in the state of Baden-Württemberg. Hohenheim is famous for

Castle Hohenheim (which was built in 1782 by Karl Eugen) and Stuttgart's oldest University, the University of Hohenheim, which was established in 1818.

Baden-Württemberg is among the most prosperous states in Germany and is one of the wealthiest regions in Europe with a traditionally low unemployment rate. A number of well-known enterprises are headquartered in the state, such as Daimler AG, Porsche, Robert Bosch GmbH (automobile industry), Carl Zeiss AG (optics), and SAP AG (largest software enterprise in Europe), but Baden-Württemberg's economy is still dominated by small and medium-sized enterprises.

Housing

Students can either live in a residence hall, provided through the university, or find private housing on their own. Housing is in high demand in Stuttgart, so students are advised to apply for a room in a residence hall through the university. Past participants have noted that student housing is not the best but is very affordable.

University Housing

Placement in a residence hall is not guaranteed, but UHOH does its best to place international students in university housing. Apply early for the best chance of receiving a room assignment. Some residence halls are located close to the university campus, but commutes of 30 minutes or more on public transit from a residence hall to the university campus are not uncommon. Public transportation is reliable and comes by regularly to most off-campus housing areas, making it easy to access the campus.

Rent prices for university housing differ depending on which residence you live in. You will also be required to pay a deposit which you will get back three months after your rental agreement expires. Heat and electricity are included in the rent and washing machines are available for an additional fee. Some residences have an additional cost if you want a private telephone line. To pay for your room, you must open a German bank account. Once your bank details are given to the housing department, your rent is deducted directly from your account. When your deposit is returned, it will be credited to this account. You will have a private room with a shared kitchen and shared bath. Furniture in your room includes a bed with pillow and bedspread, closet, table, chair, etc. You will have to provide your own towels, sheets and kitchen supplies.

Find more information on housing through the university, visit UHOH's [Housing for International Students](#) page.

Private Housing

For information on how to search for private housing, review all the information on the UHOH Office of International Affairs' [Housing Search](#) page and their housing search [fact sheet](#).

For the first few days, if you are looking for permanent housing and visiting potential apartments, you can arrange temporary accommodations at a local hotel or youth hostel. Reach out to UHOH's Office of International Affairs if you need recommendations.

Student Life

Hohenheim has a variety of student organizations/groups and club sports available to students. Learn more [here](#).

Transportation

Transportation within Stuttgart

Public transportation is readily available in Stuttgart and includes commuter trains, light rail or trams, buses, a cog railway, and a cable car. Your registration fee includes a [StudiTicket](#), which allows you to ride any form of public transportation within Stuttgart at certain times of the day for free. This pass is only valid during the official semester dates, i.e. it is not valid during the German language course in September and March.

Trains

For national train transportation, any student under 26 years of age can buy a *BahnCard*, which entitles you to a 25% or 50% discount on all regular fares. However, no further discounts are granted on special offers such as the "Schönes Wochenende Ticket." The *BahnCard* is valid for one year and is automatically renewed for a second year unless cancelled in time. You may want to visit the Internet homepage of the Deutsche Bahn (German Rail) for conditions, routes, times, connections, and special offers: www.bahn.de. You can purchase the *BahnCard* online and print out a temporary *BahnCard* before setting foot on German soil. As with all online purchases from the DB, however, it is important to make sure to bring the exact same credit card along that was used to pay for it. The DB will ask you to present the card as a form of ID for added security.

Bicycles

Traveling by bike is quick and easy and is often the most practical means of transportation. Keep in mind, though, that bicycles sometimes need repairs and are also prone to theft. Used bikes (*Gebrauchträder*) are best bought from other students (see notices hung on bulletin boards or the classifieds) There are also a number of used bike stores, and some will actually make an agreement with you to buy your bike back at a set price when you leave. You should check the bikes' condition carefully before buying. With some luck, you may be able to bargain down the price a bit. Make sure that you get a receipt and a *Fahrradpass* for any bike you buy. This bike pass is proof that the bike was not stolen. If you do not have a bike pass, you may have problems when you try to sell your bike. Bike helmets are highly recommended, but they are quite expensive in Germany, so if you plan to bike, bring your helmet from home.

It is German law that all bikes have working front and back lights. Also, bicyclists are held responsible for obeying the same traffic laws as motorists. You may be ticketed for running red lights, not stopping at stop signs, going the wrong way on one-way streets, riding without lights at night, etc., or taken to court in case of an accident. Get acquainted with German traffic laws before riding your bike on public streets. Right-of-way and passing, for example, are handled differently than in the U.S. Check out these websites to learn more about traffic rules in Germany: www.adfc.de

Health and Safety

Emergency Information

Here are some important phone numbers and other contact information should an emergency arise during your stay in Germany. All numbers are written as they should be dialed from Germany.

Ambulance: 112

Fire: 112

Police: 110

Burgerhospital: 0711-25990

Tunzhoferstr. 14-16 70191 Stuttgart

Bethesda Hospital: 0711-21561

Hohenheimer Str. 21 70184 Stuttgart

Katharinenhospital: 0711-2780

Kriegsbergstr. 60 70174 Stuttgart

Communication

Apps

Generally, it will be cheapest and easiest to communicate with friends and family back home using a communications app such as WhatsApp, FaceTime, or Zoom.

Cell Phones

You can bring your own phone from the U.S. if you have the option of an international phone plan. Or if you have an unlocked phone, you can purchase a SIM card upon arrival in Germany and pay as you go. Or, you can purchase a phone in Germany with a prepaid phone plan, so you can add money/minutes to your phone as you use it. Contracts are typically 24 months, so it is best to avoid them. Be sure to ask local people about the different providers so you can choose the provider that best fits your needs.

Calling to Germany

International access code: 011

Country code: 49

Stuttgart city code: (0)711

To call Germany from the United States, your family and friends must dial the international access code, followed by Germany's country code and Stuttgart's city code, and finally your phone number: 011 + 49 + 711 + telephone number

Calling from Germany

International access code: 00

Country code: 1

To call the United States from Germany, you will need to dial the international access code, the United States' country code, the area code and phone number: 00 + 1 + area code + telephone number.

Calling Within Germany

Please note that when you make calls within Germany you must include a 0 before the city code: 0711 + telephone number. However, the 0 is dropped when friends and family make international calls to Germany, as shown in B above.

Diversity Climate In-Country

Germany is known as one of the more progressive countries in Europe, with German citizens proud of both their infrastructure and open society. In most cases, students will find people to be accepting of multiculturalism and helpful when assistance is requested, although instances of racism, sexism, etc. may still occur.

Identity Resources

Everyone brings their personal identity and background to their study abroad experience. Your unique identity will present opportunities and challenges as you prepare for your program, engage in experiences abroad, and reflect after your return.

All students are strongly encouraged to research how they may be received in Germany based on their personal identity(ies) and reach out to their Study Abroad Advisor if they would like to discuss any particular questions or concerns.

Students are also strongly encouraged to review our [Identity Resources](#), which are made up of quotes from returned study abroad students based on their experiences abroad. These resource pages are based race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, and other aspects of identity.

Student Organizations

The University of Hohenheim offers a number of student groups that can provide community and support, such as the International Students Organization, Global Campus, Muslim Students Group Hohenheim, and a Chinese Culture group. A list of student orgs can be found [here](#). Students looking for other specific groups or community representatives can contact the international student office for assistance.

Disabilities

At Hohenheim, students are encouraged to contact the international student office on campus as soon as possible when looking for assistance with disabilities. Basic information on accommodations and processes for assistance can also be found [here](#).

University housing offers a few accessible rooms in the Egilolfstrasse residence hall. You can apply for them online or contact the residence department. It is encouraged that you look into applying as soon as possible due to limited availability.

Students with disabilities can typically access most areas of major cities, though some older buildings and transportation systems are less adapted than newer facilities. Germany offers a multitude of services for people with physical disabilities across the country.

Student Testimonials

“What I liked most about my program was that there were a lot of exchange students from all over the world and not so many American students. This was nice for me to meet all kinds of new and different people from different countries all over, both in Europe and outside of it. I also liked the simplicity of the campus as being an exchange student it can be difficult to find everything at first. Also it is only a 30 minute metro ride into the city so it's still somewhat close.”

“An advisor was there for all of the exchange students but her hours were limited (as that is a common thing in Germany). The dorms provided were very nice and a lot of events and parties were set up for the exchange students at the beginning so that we could get to know one another very easily.”

“Not much is offered by the school in terms of student support - had to look outside of the university's bubble to find a community that I felt a part of.”

Academics

“It was hard to expect what the program academics would be like because the Hohenheim website doesn't provide much information about its courses. I had to learn about what courses had the most engaging professors by talking to other students once I had already arrived on campus.”

Safety

“Hohenheim is an incredibly safe place and would advise the same precautions as we follow in Madison.”

Outside of Class

“I volunteered at German elementary schools and taught German children about American culture.”

Fieldwork and Research

“One of my classes had us doing field work on various agricultural research methods such as catching bugs, studying bat echolocation in the wild, etc. Learning about different research methodologies in the field really broadened my understanding of what it means to conduct research. I have only ever worked on the molecular level or with gene-altered organisms, so experiencing the recording of data in the real world environment was a very cool experience for me.”

“[I was in a] Research lab about 15hrs a week doing basic molecular biology experiments with fungi.”

Housing

“Communal living helps integrate you into the culture and people on campus which allows for easier transition while being an exchange student.”

“Low rent, but very low quality living conditions. If you would like to apply for student housing and take advantage of the incredibly low rent prices, look to apply sometime in January (if you plan to study here in the summer).”

Language

“I greatly expanded upon my knowledge of the German language and German culture at the university level. I spent about 8 months in Germany during high school, so I wasn't that shocked or challenged by any of the German culture; however, I could definitely recommend learning some German before coming here as it will greatly increase the ability for you to "mingle" with locals, but that could be said for just about any country.”

“Language barrier is not a problem here but learning the language can be very helpful for creating relationships.”

Other

“I would advise any students doing this program to avoid opening a German bank account unless they can be here in person to close it, there is an international money transfer program called "wise" which worked much better for me in my initial months for transferring money before I had opened my German bank account.”

“Don't buy new, there are plenty of exchange students coming and leaving and you can usually find whatever you need at a good price from these folks.”

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT INFORMATION/WEBSITES OF INTEREST

U.S. State Department Students Abroad site:

<http://www.studentsabroad.state.gov/>

UW-Madison CALS Programs

https://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu/programs/results.asp?academic_type=371

U.S. State Department:

<http://travel.state.gov>

Center for Disease Control

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/>

Current exchange rates

<http://www.oanda.com>

Lonely Planet

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com>