Dear readers,

Team Information Centre Singapore
We would like to welcome our new Information Officer, Kerstin Schulze, who joined us last month in November. Kerstin studied Media Technology at the University of Applied Sciences, Deggendorf (Germany) and holds an MBA from the Rotterdam School of Management (The Netherlands). Prior to her move to Singapore, she has also worked in Germany, Finland, as well as the UK. Kerstin arrived here in March 2012 but did not join the DAAD until November 2015.

As this would be our last newsletter for 2015, we would like to take this opportunity to wish our readers Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year. We sincerely hope that 2016 will bring you joy, happiness, and many blessings for your dreams.

The DAAD office will be closed over the holidays from 18 November 2015 to 3 January 2016. We will be back to serve you from 4.1.2016 at our regular opening times from Monday to Thursday, 2pm – 6pm.

In this issue ...
We will focus on the life of studying in Germany, providing some first-hand testimonials from recent students who will give you some tips on what to expect if you intend to study at a German university.

We hope that you will enjoy reading our newsletter. If you have any queries, feedback, or even ideas regarding the content, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards

Kerstin Schulze & Claudia Finner

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Information Officer Kerstin Schulze (left) and Director Claudia Finner (right) at the DAAD Information Centre Singapore
Events in November

DAAD-TUM Asia Symposium
23-24 November 2015: “Sustainable Buildings with a Positive Footprint”

DAAD, together with TUM Asia, organised its final event for the year which addressed the issue of sustainability in the building sector, as advances in building technology are constantly changing the way our cities look, the way we live, and the way we use energy.

Claudia Finner welcoming the participants

After the welcome address by DAAD and the Head of Science and Technology Department from the German Embassy Mr. Sascha Kienzle, speakers from Singapore and Germany proceeded to provide insights into their research work.

Key issues discussed included energy consumption during the building process as well as for the completed building itself, waste and the reusability of materials, alternative energy, and new architectural concepts to create buildings with low carbon footprints.

Particularly interesting were site visits to the BCA Academy’s ZERO Energy Building, also known as ‘Singapore’s Greenest Building’, and to CapitaGreen Singapore, a Grade A office building featuring sustainable building technologies such as a green façade and a rooftop wind scoop.

The speakers were on Day 1 Prof. Dr.-Ing. Werner Lang, M.Arch. II (UCLA) Architect Institute of Energy Efficient and Sustainable Design and Building Center for Sustainable Building, Technische Universität München (TUM) and Co-Director of LangHuggerRampp GmbH Architects, Munich; Dr Gao Chun Ping, Director (Research/ GBIC) Building & Construction Authority; Prof Dr Thomas Schröpfer, Professor and Associate Head of Pillar Architecture and Sustainable Design, Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD); Mr Tan Phay Ping, SGBC Board Asst Technical Coordinator and Managing Director, Building System and Diagnostics Pte Ltd.

On Day 2 we had Dr Johnny Wong, Group Director (Building Research Institute) Housing and Development Board (HDB); Mr Goh Chee Kiong, Executive Director, Clean-tech and Executive Director, Cities, Infrastructure & Industrial Solutions Singapore Economic Development Board; Prof Dr Karl Wagner, School of Business, Programme Master Eng. Green & Energy Efficient Buildings University of Kuala Lumpur (UniKL); Assoc Prof Dr Runa T. Hellwig, Associate Professor & Cluster Director Solar and Energy Efficient Buildings Cluster (SEEB) & Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore (SERIS); and Mr Lim Fatt Seng, SGBC Board Member Managing Director, Comfort Management Pte Ltd.

Prof. Dr. Karl Wagner, speaking with some of the symposium participants

Upcoming DAAD events

You can look forward to many exciting events in January and February that will be held by the DAAD in cooperation with our partners. Stay tuned and check our website for the 2016 schedule of events and updates at: http://ic.daad.de/singapore/
At a Glance

Did you know?

Over 2.6 million students were enrolled in German higher education institutions in 2014 out of which over 300,000 were foreign students.

Most foreign students (over 23,000) enrolled in German universities come from China.

Over 1.7 million students were enrolled at universities and over 879,000 at universities of applied sciences.

There are 110 universities in Germany and 253 universities of applied sciences.

On average a university has 15,000 students while a university of applied sciences has 3,500 students on average.

Due to the degrees offered, the proportion of female students is 51% at universities and 41% at universities of applied sciences.

The biggest university with over 77,000 students in the “Fernuni Hagen” which offers its degree online.

Study in Germany

University or University of Applied Sciences? What is right for me?

With more than 400 institutions of higher education and over 18,000 degree programs available in Germany, students are spoiled for choice. One of the biggest questions asked by prospective students is which type of university to apply for.

Universities in Germany place strong emphasis on research and innovation. Full universities offer courses in virtually all subject areas. Some universities specialise in specific subject areas, such as the Technische Universität (Technical University) or the Medizinische Hochschule (Medical School). With their impressive research resources and facilities, their often long-standing tradition, and extensive libraries and archives, universities provide excellent opportunities for specialisation and advanced research.

Universities of applied sciences (Fachhochschulen) offer more practice-oriented studies and applied research. Research at these institutions is primarily directed towards practical requirements. In teaching and research, the universities of applied sciences often closely cooperate with local industries.

Universities of applied sciences offer Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees. However, only very few award doctoral degrees. This is recent development in the Federal State of Hesse. Some universities of applied sciences require applicants to complete internships before they can be admitted. You should therefore enquire at the institution of your choice as soon as possible to find out if pre-study practical experience with relevance to your chosen subject is required.

To note:

Both university types offer excellent Bachelor and Master degree programs.

Only universities used to award doctoral degrees or State Examinations. Few FH’s in the Federal State of Hesse recently were granted the right to award Ph.D. degrees.

If both universities offer reputable degrees, how do I chose?

Germany offers no ranking system comparable to US or UK schools, therefore, your choice of university depends more on your own personal criteria. Ask yourself this: Do I prefer to study in large or small groups? Do I want to continue to do a doctorate after my Bachelor/Masters? Do I want to have a practical focus and complete internships? Do I have a preferred location of study?

The CHE Ranking offers you the ability to filter out universities based on some of these criteria and may help you in your decision making process.

https://www.daad.de/deutschland/studienangebote/ranking/en/

Another way to start your search is to use the DAAD course filter which can be accessed via the DAAD website (Information for Foreigners > Study Programmes > All Study Programmes OR Study Programmes in English). Here you may find a suitable course which fit your needs and more information on the programme, admission information, and contact details.

https://www.daad.de/deutschland/studienangebote/studiengang/en/
Study in Germany

Life in Germany

They say a picture paints a thousand words, and watching first-hand about the real experiences of former international students is usually the best way to gain insights into the actual life and studies in Germany.

The film „Germany ways to success“ by the DAAD Study-in-Germany campaign tells the stories of six international Alumni from China, France, Honduras, Cameroon, Canada and Poland, who studied in Germany and are successful professionals back in their home countries or in Germany. Listen to how studying in Germany offers a variety of possibilities and how a German degree can open doors to a successful career.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZMy4KHxTJUQ

Additionally, the “Study in Germany” YouTube channel contains more short, entertaining videos on living in Germany and answers question such as “How safe is Germany?”, “How do I find a job?” or “How much Germany do I need in Germany?”

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJ_7CUHExD_m1KDsxHE4G3w

Grants to Syrian Refugees

As the biggest scholarship organisation in Germany, the DAAD also takes responsibility to help in the current migrant situation in Europe. Building on the concept that education is key to successful integration and the fact that more than half of the refugees arriving in Germany are below 25 years old, the ministry for education and research (BMBF) and the German universities have taken steps to provide assistance to qualified refugees to ensure their integration. In the coming years, they will provide close to 100 million Euros, 27 million alone in the upcoming year. Three pillars are key to the programme: 1. Identifying competencies and potential; 2. Assuring the ability to successful studies by providing language and professional preparation; 3. Supporting integration in the universities.

Universities can also play an integral role in the integration process. Their years of experience in education have equipped them with tools to support, consult, and integrate foreign students. The DAAD assisted in the development of the programme and is now providing scholarships. The ‘New Perspectives for Young Jordanians and Syrians’ programme has been added to the scholarship list and specific information for refugees is provided on the ‘Study-in-Germany’ website. This year, 271 refugees have taken up their studies in Germany universities with a DAAD scholarship and are on their way to creating new opportunities and perspectives for their futures.

Read more about it the DAAD’s measures for refugees:

and

https://www.study-in.de/en/refugees/
Testimonial - Li Zikai

Li Zikai from NUS is currently on a student exchange at the Georg-August University Göttingen.

“This summer, I had a great chance to embark on an 8 month long journey in Germany, where I did a three month long internship at a German multinational corporation and then a semester long exchange at a German university. From May to August, I worked at the headquarters of Bayer Technology Services, a subsidiary firm of Bayer AG, one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world. Subsequently, I moved to Göttingen where I commenced my exchange program at the Georg-August University Göttingen.

Interns at Bayer

The company was located at Leverkusen, a small city in the state of Nordrhein-Westfalen, the most populated state in Germany. However I lived in Cologne, a much larger city located only a short distance away from Leverkusen and I commuted everyday by train to Leverkusen where I interned. I was assigned a supervisor and I also assisted a manager in one of the sub-units of the Supply Chain/Operational Excellence department. Here I experienced first-hand the work culture in Germany. I managed to learn many new skills and I must say, this three month internship experience was very valuable to me. Not only did I have the chance to practice my German, I also get to work in a truly international surrounding. As this is the headquarters of a large multinational corporation, the staff consisted of not only Germans but also colleagues from different parts of the world.

After my three month stint at Bayer had ended, I moved to Göttingen, a small university town in the state of Lower Saxony where I began my student exchange program. Göttingen is completely different from Cologne and Leverkusen, a large part of the population here consist of students and the city is dominated by the university, which is one of the most prestigious in Germany.

I first took up a four weeks long intensive German course to improve my German further and then subsequently I enrolled in the university and took part some of the courses. This would prove to be a challenge for me as I took some courses in German, which would undoubtedly prove to be difficult. This was a completely different learning experience as not only were the courses in a foreign language, the style in which the German university conduct their lessons were also markedly different from how my home university in Singapore do. So far I had been living in Göttingen for 3 months and my exchange program will end in January, upon which I will return home to Singapore.

So far, this has been a wonderful six months for me. I get to experience the German and European culture, made new friends and also learn how to be more independent in a foreign land. I hope that in the future I would be able to return to Germany, either for further studies or for work. Being abroad for such a period of time has opened my eyes to a whole new world and experience newer and greater things.

I am truly glad to be able to do my international internship and my student exchange program in Germany and I will not trade anything for this great experience.”
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- Customized and open enrollment Executive Education Programs

WHU’s international network includes more than 195 partner universities with which there are exchanges of lecturers and students, as well as cooperation in research worldwide. WHU is regularly certified by EQUIS and FIBAA and a member of the renowned accreditation institution AACSB, which guarantees the excellent standard of courses and a high degree of internationalization. In addition, WHU is the only private business school in Germany, which is a member of the German Research Association (DFG). In both national and international rankings WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Management continues to occupy leading positions.

Our goal is your success!

For more information please visit www.whu.edu/en.
Useful weblinks

www.studienwahl.de

This page offers short descriptions of all the academic fields offered in Germany along with a database containing information and links to all degree programmes. The website also provides a whole range of information and advice on studying for foreign students, such as the market situation, the various kinds of higher education institutions, on how to finance studies, on insurance matters and much more.

www.internationale-studierende.de

The National Association of Student Services Organisations is the umbrella organisation of student services organisations (Studentenwerke) in Germany. These organisations are partner organisations of the universities that support around two million students in Germany with study-related services.

www.tatsachen ueber deutschland.de

Information on Germany and its people, on social life, politics, economy and industry etc.

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