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Preface

Welcome to Thuringia

On behalf of the Studentenwerk Thüringen, we would like to welcome you to your new ‘temporary home’. We are delighted that you have decided to study here in Thuringia. In order to make it easier for you to adjust and answer many of your questions, we have created this booklet.

In short articles we will inform you about the services and offers of the Studentenwerk as well as provide you with useful tips and advice concerning life in Germany. All of the terms in the articles which are marked with ‘<’ are explained in more detail in the glossary. In this glossary, we have put together an alphabetized list of interesting, valuable and enjoyable information from A for Anna Amalia to Z for Zwiebelmarkt (Onion Market). By naming important terminology, first in German, then in English, this PATHfinder helps guide foreign students through the intercultural offers at their university location.

We wish you lots of success in your studies and hope that you will enjoy your stay in Germany.

Dr. Ralf Schmidt-Röh
CEO
Studentenwerk Thüringen - Service Under One Roof

The Studentenwerk Thüringen is responsible for taking care of you and 52,000 other students at eight Hochschulstandorte (University Locations) in Thuringia. The Studentenwerk manages all of the things in your daily schedule that are not directly related to your education. We offer a wide range of services which are suited to your needs to help you complete your studies successfully. Our Informationszentren (Information Centers) inform you about our services at your university location.
Thuringia the ‘Think Tank’

Germany is often identified as the land of poets and intellectuals. Many of these bright minds have lived, studied or at least left their marks in Thuringia. Follow in the footsteps of Thuringia’s most highly renowned historical figures and wander the trails of Anna >Amalia, Johann Wolfgang von >Goethe, Friedrich von >Schiller, Martin >Luther and Johann Sebastian >Bach.
Thuringia can also hold its head up high when it comes to the field of natural sciences. Carl Zeiss, Ernst Abbe and Otto Schott all worked in Jena, and together they revolutionized the fine mechanical and optical industry. Very successful: The companies have been, and still remain, a part of the world elite!
In the Heart of Germany

Thuringia is a green oasis that has been appreciated by each of its visitors. Everyone who has been to Thuringia either comes back to visit numerous times or settles down in the area. While the thriving green forests of Thuringia attract many visitors during the summer, in the winter people are captivated by the beauty of Thuringia’s snow-white mountains and valleys.

>Hiking in the Thuringian Forest
>Skiing in Oberhof
>Biking along the river sceneries of the Saale, Ilm and Werra.

Our convention and recreation center in Siegmundsburg is both affordable and comfortable. Located at an altitude of 800 meters (2625ft.) and surrounded by the Thuringian Forest, the >Haus Rosenbaum invites you to join them for enchanted evenings and adventurous expeditions.
**Thuringian for Beginners**

Thuringians may not use many words but they are authentic in their own way. They are likely to swallow entire sentences – especially endings, and only rarely open their mouth to talk. Instead, they speak using nasalization. This is a sound that cannot be understood simply by listening with your ears. It is easier to comprehend when you listen with your heart. With the help of the two unofficial >Thüringenhymnen (Thuringian Anthems) you will be more likely to understand what we mean.
Thuringia ‘A Creator of Culture’

Have you always dreamed of displaying your photos, organizing a concert on your own, or hosting a workshop? Summed up shortly: Are you just bursting with ideas? If so, then come to the Culture Office (Kulturbüro) of your Studentenwerk and make use of our Thuringian-wide infrastructure and the extensive range of services we have to offer. Best of all: In addition to the organizational assistance, the best ideas are supported financially. With our exhibition and event services, we provide suitable framework conditions, and complete our range of services with effective public relations (PR) programs.
We All Need Somebody to Lean On

Making friends can sometimes be like an easter egg hunt at >Ostern (Easter): whoever does not take out attempt to look, will not necessary find his luck. At first, Germans may appear reserved and unapproachable. However, just keep in mind that although you may not win a German’s heart all at once, all you really need is a bit of perseverance.

German students are very curious about the exotic, the Erasmus program and its participants! Go up and talk to them and take them on a journey through your country! Let them take part in your traditions and they will thank you with their friendship!

Your Studentenwerk offers many opportunities to get involved actively in addition to regular campus life. At international meeting points, such as the >Café International or >Stammtische (Regulars’ Tables) as well as with the help of your >Wohntutoren (Housing Tutors) you can arrange meetings with other people and hang out together in a relaxing environment.
Pay No Price for Good Advice

Just when you think there’s nothing more you can do, the Studentenwerk is there - to help and guide you: As a service organization concerning all aspects of studying, the Studentenwerk helps solve all your questions and problems competently and, most importantly, for free. Hereafter, we want to introduce you to our counselling programs, so that you will complete your studies successfully and worry-free.

ASB
The General Social Counselling Center (ASB: Allgemeine Sozialberatung) can show you the way out of a difficult situation. Here, you will be given comprehensive advice on Versicherungen (Insurances), on studying as a parent or with disabilities as well as advice on other social services, such as emergency loans and much more.

PSB
The years of studying present tremendous challenges to everyone. At the same time, problems are often just as complex as their many solutions. The Psychosocial Care Center (PSB: Psychosoziale Beratung) can be approached by all students if they feel the urge to talk about themselves, their problems and difficulties with a neutral person. Each semester we offer group services and courses.

Current information concerning these services and courses can be found in the Semesterprogramm (Semester Schedule) as well as in the magazine Infood and on the internet.

Legal Counselling
Legal Counselling is another service that is offered at your University Location. Here, lawyers offer students advice for free.

For more information please check out our homepage: www.stw-thueringen.de (Beratung)
No Roof over your Head

You cannot fit a bed into your suitcase?
No table? No closet?
No chair?
Just an umbrella?

Your Studentenwerk has the All-Around-Carefree-Housing-Package (including sheets) ready for you at unbeatable prices. Simply register under:
>www.stw-thueringen.de (Wohnen)

>Wohntutoren (Housing Tutors) are your immediate contact persons at the residential complex. During your stay, they are there for you - in good times and in bad. They will always try to support you - and cheer you up when you are worried or sad. The housing tutors are there for you whenever you need them and even pick you up from the train station upon your arrival. They help you with those annoying visits to authorities and mediate whenever problems arise. At the same time, they are also very likely to participate in the fun stuff and are thrilled when you join them in various leisure activities. During these activities, you may get to know your German and foreign neighbours in the housing complex better.
Mensa Meals are Real Good Deals

Have you almost completely run out of money? Would you still like to fill your grumbling stomach with delicious food like roast with red cabbage and dumplings or rather ‘Rostbrätli’ with mustard and sauerkraut?

In the >Mensa (Canteen) your craving for energy will be satisfied with dishes rich in diversity starting at 1.50€ every day. Vegetarians are also taken care of with appetizing meatless meals. We also attach great importance to BIO and FAIRTRADE.

Just make sure you do not forget your >thoska ....
Service Package

The service package of the Studentenwerk offers you the ‘All-Around-Carefree-Living-Service’ with all our services in one small package, which is sent to you even before you start your studies. Claiming your right to a room in a residential area is particularly recommendable in cities with a bad housing market. So, please make sure to secure your service package prior to your arrival in Thuringia. It comes at an affordable final price and assures that you do not have to sleep on a campground.

>www.stw-thueringen.de (Servicepaket)
Nothing Comes for Free

Foreign students normally have no right to >BAföG. You can, however, get information on >Stipendien (Scholarships) in the >Informationszentren (Information Centers) of your Studentenwerk. You can also find a list of sponsors and foundations offering scholarships with the >DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service).

Jobbing/Internships

In Germany, students often support themselves with jobs, paid internships or by working as a >HiWi (Student Research Assistant) at their university.

You can find current offers on the internet pages of your Studentenwerk and your university or on the >Schwarzes Brett (Bulletin Board).
Kids, Kids, Kids

In comparison to other European countries, Germany has some of the oldest students. Therefore, it often happens that students decide to start their own little families during their study. Many even think this is the best time to have a child.

Thuringia is indeed a very fertile land, which not only refers to its green meadows and fields. We are happy about every child that grows up in Thuringia and offer numerous child care services in >Kindertagesstätten (Day Care Centers, all-day) and through >Flexible Kinderbetreuung (Flexible Child Care Services, for a few hours).

With a >Kinderausweis (Child ID, Child Identity Card), children can eat in the >Mensa (Canteen) for free, which makes studying also financially easier for young parents.
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Anna Amalia (1739-1807)
The name Anna Amalia is inseparably linked to >Weimar. At the age of 16, Princess Anna Amalia of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel married the duke of Saxony-Weimar-Eisenach, Ernst August II Constantin, and followed him to Weimar. After the death of her husband only two years after their marriage, the young widow took over his position, reigning over the duchies Weimar and Eisenach in 1758 until her oldest son reached legal age. After she handed over the official obligations to Carl August in 1775, Anna Amalia was finally able to devote more time to pursuing her pronounced intellectual interests. This fortunately led to her now famous court gatherings. Since 1775, these meetings have been regularly attended by the great minds of intellectual history in order to engage in lively exchanges of ideas about the fine arts. >Goethe was also a regular visitor here.

Arzt (Doctor)
Every time you visit the doctor you have to give them your ‘Chipkarte’ (chip card), which you receive from your health insurance. At each first visit of every quarter year, you need to pay a 10€ practice fee before seeing the doctor (usually paid in cash). For additional treatment from specialists you need a referral from the doctor’s office where you paid the practice fee. Please keep in mind, if you visit another regular doctor or a specialist without a referral, you will have to pay the 10€ practice fee for that particular doctor’s office again. For visits to the dentist in the same quarter year, you will have to pay an additional practice fee anyway.

ASC (Academic Service Center)
ASC is an abbreviation for the 'Akademisches Service Center' of the >Universität of >Ilmenau. Here you will find contact persons from the university and your Studentenwerk combined under one roof. At the ASC, all of your questions concerning science and your studies will be answered. The staff will also help you solve any problems concerning social or financial difficulties in your daily life.

Bach, Johann Sebastian (1685-1750)
Bach was born in the Thuringian city of Eisenach in 1685. His successful career as a musician led him to see many cities and hold several important positions until his death in Leipzig in 1750. While he was concertmaster at the ducal court in >Weimar, the majority of his world famous ‘Orgelwerk’ (organ opus) came into existence. The Thüringer >Bachwochen (Thuringian Bach Weeks) serve as an annual reminder of his great productive period in Thuringia.
**Bachwochen, Thüringer (Thuringian Bach Weeks)**

The ‘Thüringer Bachwochen’ (Thuringian Bach Weeks) refer to the largest musical festival in Thuringia, which is held annually in honor of Johann Sebastian Bach. Here, in the homeland of the master, Bach’s baroque arrangements are performed in the authentic settings in which they originated. During the festival, performances are held at the ‘Bachhaus’ and the ‘Taufkirche’ (Baptistery) in Eisenach, as well as at the places of Bach’s work in Mühlhausen, Arnstadt and Weimar.

**BAföG (Federal Law on Support in Education)**

BAföG originally stood as an abbreviation for the Federal Law on Support in Education. Nowadays, however, the term BAföG is generally used to refer to the federal funding of students at college and university levels. The aim of the ‘BAföG’ is to give children from financially weak families the opportunity to obtain an advantageous apprenticeship or to study at a college or university. Foreign students can be eligible for BAföG funds under some circumstances. Please contact your BAföG-office for further information.

**Bahn (Deutsche Bahn, DB, German Railway)**

Within Thuringia, your student identity card assures you almost unlimited mobility. As an enrolled student, you are allowed to use the regional trains (Regionalbahnen, RB) and regional express trains (Regionalexpress, RE) for free immediately after you receive your own personal thoska! For longer routes with the Inter City Express (ICE) or outside of Thuringia, we highly recommend you to ask the Deutsche Bahn (DB) directly about special offers (group rates, savings fares, BahnCard).

**Bank**

Banks and savings banks (thrifts) usually offer students accounts for free. When you go to the bank to open your account, you need to bring your passport, a confirmation of your residence in Thuringia as well as your letter of acceptance (Zulassungsbescheid) from your university.

**Bauhaus**

In 1919, Walter Gropius founded a new school of arts: the (Federal) Bauhaus. The essence of the concept, which was quite revolutionary at that time, was to bring the formerly separated branches of the fine, applied and performing arts together.
The distinction between arts and crafts was also nullified in order to form a productive study group of all disciplines. With this universal education, Gropius was able to bring such important artists as Lyonel Feininger, Paul Klee and Wassily Kandinsky to Weimar for the Bauhaus. This has had its long-lasting effects: the Bauhaus Weimar has influenced many people all over the world in terms of architecture, art and design and still continues to do so to this day. Until 1925, the Bauhaus was based in Weimar. However, being subjected to the political and financial pressures from the government, the entire school had to move to Dessau. After moving again to Berlin, the school was permanently closed in 1933. Yet, the idea of uniting arts and technology survived both the era of National Socialism and the era of the GDR (German Democratic Republic). Since 1995, the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar has pursued to make this unique concept of education as universal as possible.

**Bauhaus Internationals**

You have just arrived in Weimar and want to be able to find your way around in the city and get to know the students better? Then you should contact the ‘Bauhaus Internationals’. This student initiative mediates contact between German and international students. The students also try to make it easier for you to integrate and they support you in dealing with daily problems of life. Another part of this initiative is the >Buddy Programm. Above all, the ‘Bauhaus Internationals’ tries to encourage international dialogue at the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar through cultural events, such as ‘Cultural Talks’, at which foreign students tell others about their home countries and their lives there.

**Berufsakademien (University of Cooperative Education, abbr.BA)**

Berufsakademien are highly praxis-oriented educational institutions that, in contrast to >Universitäten (Universities) and >Fachhochschulen (Universities of Applied Sciences), cannot award academic degrees. The qualification at ‘BAs’ takes place in two parts: In addition to theoretical studies, there is also a corresponding practical part, which is conducted in a company that the student signs articles of apprenticeship with before the start of the program. In this kind of training, periods of theory and practice alternate in a 3-month-rotation period. This ‘dual education’ was founded in Germany and is considered to be unique and exemplary worldwide.
Bibliothek (Library)

Luckily, there are university libraries at all university locations. This makes it possible for you to find the room you need to read specific academic literature and converse with your fellow students. If, however, you need the peace and quiet of your own four walls, you will usually be able to check out the books you need and take them home. University libraries are generally open to all students, which means that you are also allowed to check out books located in other cities. This is particularly advantageous in the case of rare or frequently checked out literature, because there might not be a sufficient amount of copies available at all times. If you are looking for fiction, DVDs and music, you will be more likely to find them in public libraries. You might, however, have to pay a small annual fee to use the services they offer.

Bratwurst

The bratwurst is almost every Thuringian’s favourite dish and it is also a big hit for international export. No matter where you are, whoever hears the name Thuringia will automatically think of grilled bratwursts (in Thuringia traditionally called ‘Rostbratwurst’) with Brötchen (Bread Rolls). Since 2006, the first German Bratwurst Museum in Holzhausen near Arnstadt has even borne witness to the outstanding relevance of bratwursts for the Thuringian way of life. Of course, you may enjoy bratwursts and other Thuringian dishes in the cafeteria. You can find the current menus for your Mensa (Cafeteria) online and in the Infood.

Brötchen (Bread Rolls)

Soft on the inside and crispy on the outside, these bread rolls are a staple food that can be found all over Germany. As a typical German breakfast, they are cut in half and smothered with butter and marmalade. They can also be bought as a sandwich at one of the cafeterias for a quick lunch on the go. Whether you prefer plain bread rolls, ones made with whole wheat, pumpkin or sunflower seeds, there is something to match everyone’s tastes. Try them at your local bakery!

Buddy-Programm (Buddy-Program)

The Buddy-Program is organized by the Bauhaus Internationals from the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar. It fosters contact and cultural exchange between German and international students. Interested German “Buddies” are put into contact with foreign fellow students as personal contact persons in order to help them with the initial orientation in their daily routine in Germany.
Bus
In the cities of >Erfurt, >Weimar and >Jena, you can ride the busses and trams in your university town for free with your student identity card >thoska. In all other cities, you need to buy a ticket. The tickets can either be bought at ticket machines at the station, on the bus, or directly from the bus driver. It would be best if you informed yourself prior to your trip about ways to obtain a ticket, since it is not always possible to buy tickets on the bus or tram in each city. A ride without a valid ticket in Germany is called >schwarz fahren (fare-dodging) and costs at least €40.

Café International
The 'Café International’ takes foreign and German students in >Erfurt, >Ilmenau, >Weimar and >Jena on a journey around the world. Informative talks and lectures as well as unforgettable entertaining multicultural parties will make your adjustment to your new home easier. Here, your German fellow students are given the opportunity to get to know foreign cultures without travelling far from home.

Car Sharing
Car Sharing is not only reasonable environmentally, but it also helps you out financially. Car sharing makes it possible for you to travel without needing to have your own car in >Jena, >Erfurt and >Weimar. There are, however, affordable offers for students to rent a car from a central office. The >Informationszentren (Information Centers) of your Studentenwerk will be happy to inform you about the offers of Car Sharing.

Copy Shop
Apart from the multiple copy machines at the libraries and universities, there are also often various ‘Copy Shops’ (stores where you can make copies) in close proximity to the universities in all cities. They usually offer special deals for students.

Couch Surfing
Through the internet, you can find many hosts in various new cities, who let you stay in their apartments. In return you, too, commit to allowing travelling visitors sleep on your living room couch and agree to show them your city. The couch surfing network is the largest of its kind and has, by now, already united far over a million ‘couch surfers’ from 246 countries and regions.
DAAD – Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
(GAAS – German Academic Exchange Service) 
‘Change by Exchange’ – that is the concept of the world’s largest organization for the promotion of international exchange of students and academics. 
The DAAD not only grants scholarships to graduates/young scholars, but also fosters international diversity at German >Universitäten (Universities) and >Fachhochschulen (Universities of Applied Sciences). With more than 250 programs, the DAAD annually supports more than 55,000 Germans and foreigners all over the world. The offers range from semesters abroad for students to doctoral programs, from internships to visiting lectureships and from informative stays to the development of a university or college in foreign countries. 

Darlehen (Loans) 
Your Studentenwerk may give out non-interest-bearing loans for a maximum of 12 months. Students may use this possibility if they, through no fault of their own, somehow run into financial difficulties that jeopardize their studies. In order to be eligible to apply for a loan, the student not only has to provide proof that they need one, but also should ensure the possibility that they might receive long-term funding for their studies or at least the prospect of graduating with a degree. 
Hardship loans are thought of as financial support in temporary emergency situations. They cannot be a substitute for scholarships or other long-term funding for one’s studies. Besides, the Studentenwerk Thüringen can only award a maximum of €700 for short-term financial aid. Applications can be filled out at the >Allgemeine Sozialberatung (General Social Counselling Center, p.19), where the staff will gladly help you find an answer to all your questions concerning loans. 

Deutschkurse (German Courses) 
Most Germans are eager to study foreign languages, and are thrilled when they can use them! However, in order for you to ride the bus or to buy >Brötchen (Bread Rolls), it is helpful to be able to communicate in German. In all of Thuringia there are various offers for foreign students to learn the German language. German courses are offered at the >Hochschulen (Universities) and at >Volkshochschulen (Community Colleges). 

Diesel 
In Germany, Diesel is not only a type of fuel offered at gas stations, but also a very popular mixed drink of beer and coke. It is mixed at a ratio of 1:1 and often
served in a large glass measuring 0.5 liters (0.13 gallons or 17 oz. US). The color that is created by mixing the drink, which resembles that of diesel fuel, is probably how the drink got its name. Nevertheless, it is worth a try. While for some it is absolutely disgusting, others think it is the best tasting drink ever.

Drahtesel (Bicycle)
In Germany, a bicycle or bike is also colloquially called a “Drahtesel”.

EC-Karte (Debit Card, Electronic Cash Card)
EC is the abbreviation for ‘Electronic Cash’. A debit card enables you to make payments without cash and is only accepted with a valid PIN or your personal signature. There are no additional fees for paying with your debit card. In contrast to >Kreditkarten, debit cards are accepted in almost all stores and restaurants.

Einkaufen (Grocery Shopping)
For groceries and convenience goods there are, in addition to the more expensive stores, many affordable supermarkets. In Germany, Sunday is protected by law as a day of rest. This means that stores will only be opened Sundays as exceptions and on special occasions. Bakeries, for instance, are allowed to sell their goods on Sundays. But most of them are only open in the morning. Gas stations are usually open longer, but in return, the prices are more expensive than in general stores. >Kreditkarten (Credit Cards) are not accepted everywhere, but in almost all larger supermarkets and stores payments can be made with >EC-Karte (Debit Card).

Eisenach
This city in western Thuringia, which is home to 42,750 people, lies near the >Thuringian Forest and the >Rennsteig. It was here, in Eisenach, that the famous musician, Johann Sebastian >Bach came into the world in 1685. The >Wartburg castle is a landmark that belongs to UNESCO-World Cultural Heritage and can also be found in Eisenach, standing on a hill peering over the entire city. The city is also the location of the >Berufsakademie Eisenach. During the time of the DDR, parts of Eisenach lied inside a special secured area that one could only enter with official authorization. Luckily, today people can travel to Eisenach without any problems, as it is easily reached by >Bahn (Train). Visiting Eisenach is always worth it, even in the winter, when you can, for ex. pay a visit to the historical Christmas market at the Wartburg castle.
Erfurt
With more than 200,000 inhabitants, Erfurt is the largest city in Thuringia and also the capital of this Free State. In addition to the >Fachhochschule (University of Applied Sciences), it is also possible to study at the university. The >Universität (University) of Erfurt was already founded in 1392, which makes the school the third-oldest university in Germany. The most famous student of the university was most likely Martin >Luther. After its closure in 1816, the university was newly founded in 1994. Curiously enough, this makes the university one of the oldest as well as one of the youngest in Germany. The most popular tourist attractions of the city are the Erfurter Dom (Erfurt Cathedral), the >Krämerbrücke and the historic medieval downtown, which has more than 25 churches and various picturesque half-timbered houses. During winter time, the >Weihnachtsmarkt (Christmas Market) attracts many visitors to the capital of Thuringia.

Fachhochschule (FH) – University of Applied Sciences
Universities of Applied Sciences (abbr. ‘FH’) are independent institutions in the sector of third level education. In contrast to >Universitäten (Universities), these institutions concentrate more on the practical application of studied theories. The Universities of Applied Sciences have been legally equivalent to universities since 1976. The requirement for studying at Universities of Applied Sciences is generally a High School diploma (‘Abitur’), a technical High School diploma (‘Fachabitur’) or a ‘Fachschulreife’ (secondary school degree). Since 2009, successfully finishing a master apprenticeship (‘Meistertitel’) with good grades has also been a recognized entrance requirement to study at Universities of Applied Sciences. In Thuringia, the Studentenwerk takes care of the students at four Universities of Applied Sciences in the cities of >Jena, >Schmalkalden, >Nordhausen and >Erfurt.

Fahrradverleih (Bike Rental)
Whether you are in Thuringia, Saxony or Bavaria, you will find that the >Drahtesel (Bicycle) is definitely the most popular means of transportation of students in Germany, nationwide. If you are only staying in the country for a short period of time and do not want to buy your own bike, you can also rent a >Drahtesel (Bike, Bicycle). The >StuRa (Student Council) of your university will gladly inform you about the cheapest ways of renting and repairing a bike in your city.
Feiertag (Holiday)
In Thuringia, important events of outstanding religious or secular value are celebrated with legal holidays. You can already mark the following days as times to celebrate or relax:

Fixed Holidays (on the same day every year)
January 1st: New Year
May 1st: May Day (Labour Day, Br.)
October 3rd: Day of German Unification
October 31st: Reformation Day
December 25th: Christmas Day
December 26th: Boxing Day (Br.), Day after Christmas

Changeable Holidays (on different days each year)
Good Friday
Easter Monday
Ascension Day (‘Christi Himmelfahrt’): 39 days after Easter Sunday
Pentecost Monday (‘Pfingstmontag’): 50 days after Easter Sunday

Festivals und Veranstaltungen (Festivals and Events)
Of course, we cannot compile every daily event at every >Hochschulstandort (University Location) into a list. So instead, we would like to draw your attention, from here on, to the annual highlights in Thuringia in order to help you planning your visits to the cultural scene. The >Festival Calendar, pages 44-45, presents you with a small section of the various cultural events in Thuringia that you should not miss! It is best to visit the internet sites of your city or to read the newspapers in order to find out where you should go tonight or tomorrow night.

Flexible Kinderbetreuung (Flexible Child Care)
In >Erfurt, >Jena and >Schmalkalden, your Studentenwerk offers flexible forms of professional child care. At ‘JUNI-Kids’ in >Jena, children are taken care of by trained child care workers for 2 to 4 hours a day maximum and up to 10 hours a week. Parents may then use this service in order to attend seminars, visit office hours or the library, for instance, or simply run daily parental errands. The long open hours make studying even more convenient and relaxed. In >Erfurt and >Schmalkalden, one child care worker respectively reacts to the needs of student parents. Please contact the >Informationszentrum (Information Center) of your Studentenwerk to get more detailed information.
January - April

**Trans Thüringia 1**: Longest dog sledding race along the ‘Rennsteig’ (a historic ridge way and hiking path across the Thuringian Forest), 1st week of **February** in Altenfeld, Masserberg, Neustadt am Rennweg

**Thüringer Bachwochen** (Thuringian Bach Weeks): Largest music festival in Thuringia plus ‘Lange Nacht der Hausmusik’ (Long Night of House Music), 3 weeks **March/April** in Amstadt, Eisenach, Erfurt, Mühlhausen, Waltershausen, Wechmar and Weimar

June

**Krämerbrückenfest** (Krämer Bridge Festival): Largest Thuringian medieval old town festival, 3rd weekend in **June** in Erfurt

**Bürgeler Töpfermarkt** (Pottery Market): Blue-white stoneware and ceramics/pottery from around the world, **last weekend in June** in Bürgel

**Rosenfest** (Rose Festival): The festival in rococo-style, **last weekend in June** in Dornburg

**Festival de Colores & Internationale Tage** (International Days): Sometime in **June**; both in Jena

July - August

**Tanz- und Folkfest** (Dance and Folk Festival): The largest German folk, root and world music festival, **1st weekend of July** in Rudolstadt

**Auerworld-Festival** A festival with music and light-video-installations at the Weidenrutenpalast in **July/August** in Auerstedt

**Yiddish Summer** Workshops, concerts, symposia, jam sessions in **July/August** in Weimar
May

**Guts-Muths-Rennsteiglauf** (Guts-Muths-Rennsteig Race): About 15,000 athletes take part in the biggest cross-country race of Europe, on a Saturday in **May** in Eisenach, Neuhaus am Rennweg, Schmiedefeld, Oberhof, Schnepfenthal.

**KulturArena** (Culture Arena): Culture festival with theatre performances, rock and pop concerts, movies, 7 weeks in **July/August** in Jena.

**DomStufen-Festspiele und Sommertheater** (Dome-Festival and Summer Theatre): Bare-foot ruin and the huge stairway of the Mariendom are made into open-air stages, **July/August** in Erfurt.

**Sonne Mond und Sterne Festival** (Sun Moon and Stars Festival): Festival of electronic music at the Bleichlochstausee, 2nd weekend in **August** in Saalburg.

August - September

**“pèlerinages”**: Art festival with music, theatre and literature, 2 weeks in **August/September** in Weimar.

**Sonne Mond und Sterne Festival** (Sun Moon and Stars Festival): Festival of electronic music at the Bleichlochstausee, 2nd weekend in **August** in Saalburg.

**October - December**

**Zwiebelmarkt** (Onion-Market): Braided onion plaits, onion tart and folk festival, **2nd weekend in October** in Weimar.

**Jazzmeile** (Jazz Mile): International jazz workshops and high-quality concerts, **October/November** in all of Thuringia.

**Martinsfeier** (Festival of St. Martin): Thousands of people gather at the Domplatz in Erfurt at nightfall, **November 10th** in Erfurt.

**Weihnachtsmarkt** (Christmas Market): Märchenwald (forest of fairy tales) and Florales zur Weihnachtszeit (Floral Christmas Decorations at Christmas-time) in front of the Domberg, **December** in Erfurt.

**Historischer Weihnachtsmarkt** (Historical Christmas Market): At the Wartburg in Eisenach on the 4 weekends during **advent season**.
**Freizeit-Unfallversicherung** (Recreational Accident Insurance)

In addition to legal Unfallversicherung (Accident Insurance), all students are covered for accidents during leisure activities through your Studentenwerk. This holds true for all incidents outside the university and on the way directly to and from the university. Only when you do an internship or study outside of Thuringia, your insurance needs to be covered by the internship organization, by the university abroad or through a private accident insurance. Any more questions? Your Studentenwerk will gladly advise you when you need answers concerning your personal insurance protection.

**Fremde werden Freunde** (Foreign Strangers to Friends and Neighbours)

‘Fremde werden Freunde’ is an initiative for more tolerance and hospitality in the cities of Erfurt and Weimar. The project facilitates contact between foreign students and local families. Once you have found your mentors, they will help you with the initial orientation in your new home. Together you can take trips into the immediate surrounding environment, go to the theatre or the movies, cook or exercise and much more. We help mediate the first contact, but you put together the program of your partnership.

**Gera**

The ‘smallest major city’ in Germany is located in eastern Thuringia. With 99,000 inhabitants, however, Gera is the third-largest city in Thuringia after Erfurt and Jena. During the period of prosperity of the fabric and cloth industry, Gera was one of the richest cities in Germany. The prosperity of past times is still recognizable in hundreds of prominent urban villas. The Berufsakademie Gera is also located in the city.

**GEZ** (Fee Collection Center of the Public-Law Broadcasting Institutions)

The great variety of high-quality public-law radio and television programs has its price in Germany. All devices – including computers – which are able to receive radio and television channels need to be registered with the GEZ. Even if you are not actively using your broadcasting devices, but still hold them in your apartment, you are obligated to pay a monthly fee which currently amounts from €5,76 (for radio and/or PC). The obligation to register these devices remains at all times. If, however, you receive BAföG or other social benefits, you can be annually exempted from paying the fee upon request. By the way, in a WG (Shared Apartment) it is sufficient if one resident registers all of his/her devices with the GEZ.
Also, if a staff member of the GEZ knocks at your door, you have the right to deny access to your apartment or information.

Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von (1749-1832)
Goethe is, without a doubt, Germany’s most famous poet. His epochal work is inseparably linked with Thuringia. Already at the age of 25, Goethe became the superstar of literature with his novel ‘Die Leiden des jungen Werther’ (The Sorrows of Young Werther). One year later, in 1775, the young Duke Carl-August of Saxony-Weimar-Eisenach invited Goethe to Weimar and appointed him as a minister in 1776. Besides his poetic occupation, he also held various political and administrative positions at the court in Weimar during his lifetime. The capital of the duchy >Weimar only consisted of about 6,000 inhabitants at this time. But due to the work of the duke’s mother, >Anna Amalia, the city would soon become a cultural centre of global importance. It was in this inspiring environment that Goethe wrote the famous poems ‘Der Erlkönig’ and ‘Wandrers Nachtlied’. Goethe’s literary creativity was inspired even more by the latter friendship with his colleague Friedrich von >Schiller who had followed Goethe to Weimar. It was during this period that he created such significant pieces as ‘West-Östlicher Diwan’ (West-Eastern Divan) and ‘Dichtung und Wahrheit’ (Poetry and Truth). In Weimar, shortly prior to his death in 1832, he finished the second part of his drama ‘Faust’, which belongs to world literature to this day. As a universal scholar, Goethe studied nature and its laws throughout his life. His friendship with Schiller did not only influence his works tremendously but together, Schiller and Goethe also developed a new approach to literature and art: The >Weimarer Klassik.

Goethewanderweg Ilmenau (Goethe Hiking Path Ilmenau)
Hiking on the trails of >Goethe? No problem in >Ilmenau! The trail, 20 kilometres (12.4 miles) long, starts in Ilmenau at the market place. Here, in Ilmenau, is where the district office building, in which Goethe once lived and worked, stands. Today, there is also a museum which provides information about Goethe’s work in and around Ilmenau. The path then leads through the historic part of downtown through woods and meadows to the top of the ‘Kickelhahn’, 861 meters (2824.8 ft.) high. From the observation tower, 24 meters (78.7ft.) high, you have a wonderful view over the >Thüringer Wald (Thuringian Forest). The end destination of the journey, the Goethe Museum in Stützerbach (which has an attached glass blowing factory) is also not far from this point!
Haftplichtversicherung (Liability Insurance)
As enrolled student in Thuringia you automatically have liability insurance. This insurance covers all damages you may cause while participating in teaching and research programs, during internships or excursions. This insurance financially protects you against damages to materials, capital and people. It is a requirement for the services of the insurer that the Studentenwerk is informed of the damage as soon as possible! The liability insurance covers Thuringian students worldwide. The insurance coverage ends, however, as soon as you lose your student status!

Hausratsversicherung (Household Insurance)
There is no general household insurance coverage through the Studentenwerk. So when you sign a rental contract with the Studentenwerk, there is no coverage against theft or the damage of personal items. We, therefore, recommend you to also obtain a private household insurance.

Haus Rosenbaum
The conference centre and leisure facility of the Studentenwerk Thüringen can be found amidst the >Thüringer Wald (Thuringian Forest). Located at an altitude of 800 meters (2624 ft.), you will find a jaw droppingly beautiful landscape with diverse recreation offers both in the summer and in the winter. Besides the in-door sauna, ping-pong room, foosball table, children’s playground and volleyball courts, this place also has a number of other attractions available: Anything and everything is possible here, from a skiing centre to a bowling alley. There is even a dry bob sledding track! And best of all, at Haus Rosenbaum there are up to 50 beds available at unbeatable student rates. So, there are no obstacles standing in your way to organizing a trip to the Forest with your friends, right?

Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek (Duchess Anna Amalia Library)
The library that bears the name of duchess >Anna Amalia, is currently a significant research center for European cultural history. The focal points of the work in the >Weimar library are the periods of Enlightenment and the late romantic era. In September 2004, a fire destroyed a treasure of at least 50,000 valuable books dating from the 16th to 20th century. The severely damaged library building with its famous rococo hall was reopened in December 2007. Yet, to this day, numerous experts are still working on the reconstruction of books of inestimable value. In order to preserve as many books as possible, a new method of paper decomposition was developed. Thuringia was and remains the land of great inventions.
HiWi (Student Research Assistant)
A ‘HiWi’ is officially called a student research assistant (Studentische Hilfskraft). The abbreviation for student research assistants has been incorporated into the university vocabulary and made part of daily student life. Research assistant positions are in high demand among students, because one can increase one’s income by working for a department or professor. Such jobs also look good on your Curriculum Vitae. You may find current job offers online on the pages of your Studentenwerk, the university or on the >Schwarzes Brett (Bulletin Board).

Hochschulstandorte (University Locations) in Thuringia
Overall, there are about 52,500 young people from all over the world studying at 11 institutions of higher education in Thuringia. You may find the respective number of students in brackets below (effective 2010).

> Jena (25,378)  > Ilmenau (6,394)
> Erfurt (9,553)  > Weimar (4,560)
> Schmalkalden (2,495)  > Nordhausen (2,676)
> Gera (754)  > Eisenach (702)

Ilmenau
Ilmenau, a >Hochschulstandort (University Location) and a city of Goethe, is located at the edge of the Thuringian Forest about 40 kilometres (21.5 miles) south of the state capital >Erfurt. With roughly 26,000 inhabitants, Ilmenau is only the twelfth largest city in Thuringia, but since it has more than 6,300 students, it has the second largest >Universität following >Jena. The Ilmenau University of Technology (TU Ilmenau) is also the most important economic factor of the city. Already during Goethe’s lifetime, Ilmenau was well-known as a popular destination for trips and vacations by the ‘Weimar Elite’. A visit to ‘Ilmenau-himmelblau’ (Ilmenau skyblue) is well worth it today as well.

Informationszentrum (Information Center)
The Information Centers of the Studentenwerk are new students’ first places of interest. With a visit there, you can save yourself from making time-consuming trips from A to B via C and then back to A and B, only to get sent back to C anyway. You will find information about the offers and services of your Studentenwerk, all under one roof. Ranging from A to Z, from applications for an apartment to extra grants for your main residence. The Info Centers will gladly advise you on any of your questions and competently send you to the correct locations in your city.
**Infood**

Infood is much more than a regular monthly canteen menu: the Studentenwerk magazine informs you about current events all over Thuringia. You can find ‘Infood’ for free at all >Mensen (Canteens) as well as in the >Infozentren.

**INFOtake**

INFOtake is the name of the >Informationszentren in >Jena and >Weimar.

**Interclub Ilmenau**

At the Interclub, rooms in the basement of house L are available to you and may be used for events or smaller festivities. The goal of the Interclub is to create a cultural meeting place for and with international students. There are >Sprachkurse (Language Courses) available on a regular basis. Additional offers are planned through the international department of the >StuRa (Student Council) and your creative ideas are always very welcome!

**International Student Identity Card (ISIC)**

You may receive the ‘International Student Identity Card’ for a fee of €12 at the >Infozentren of your Studentenwerk. The international student ID grants you many special deals with joined companies and partners as well as in some travel agencies in more than 100 countries.

**International Student Service Ilmenau**

This service of the Ilmenau University of Technology coordinates the supporting network ‘we4you’, so that you will be personally guided in social, academic and leisure-time oriented aspects from the day of your arrival. This service brings you into contact with the various mentors and organizes excursions, country nights, welcome nights as well as parties and festivities.

**Internationales Centrum (IC) Jena**

The IC Jena is a joint project of the Studentenwerk, the universities of Jena and the city of >Jena. In 2008, they founded this central point of reference for foreign students and academics which also serves as a place to meet and communicate with others. The ‘residents’ of the house are student organizations. It is also the location of several departments of the Studentenwerk Thüringen and the universities of Jena. The IC organizes the >Café International and offers enough room for concerts, lectures, talks, discos, parties and much more. Feel free to swing by and make yourself comfortable in your International Center in Jena.
Internet
What would a student be without the internet? We do not wish to find a comprehensive answer to this question, but we do want to recommend problem-free surfing at the PC pools at your university. At the universities, the >URZ (University Computer Center) are the reference points for data processing and services. After registering with the university, where you will receive your university account and login information, you may use the internet for free at various locations. Whoever does not have a university login yet can always turn to the >International Center in Jena. There, computers are available for use without a university account. Otherwise, you can always go to one of the numerous internet cafés. People who bring their laptops along with them can use the internet in various cafés and bars, where a fast internet connection has become an act of courtesy.

Int.Ro
Int.Ro is the common abbreviation for 'International Room’ or more complicated: The Official Department for Intercultural Exchange of the Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena. Altogether, there are 14 international-orientated collegiate associations as well as the intercultural collegiate magazine UNIQUE, which are organized within the Int.Ro. The students within the Int.Ro have made it their goal to put as much effort as possible into the improvement of your living situation and to support the exchange between foreign and German students. In addition to that, the Int.Ro offers a number of collegiate language courses, >Sprachtandems (Language Exchanges), international >Stammtische (Regulars’ Tables), an intercultural festival calendar as well as various international events. Among those international events is the student festival called “Internationale Tage” (>Festival Calendar). Joining the Int.Ro is always worth it, because you can actively shape and influence the history/legacy of the >International Center here.

Jena
To express it in the words of an old student song: “In Jene lebt sich’s bene” (Living in Jena is splendid). With 104,000 inhabitants, Jena is the second largest city in Thuringia after >Erfurt and also has the biggest >Universität (University) in Thuringia. Together with the >Fachhochschule (University of Applied Sciences), there are more than 25,000 students receiving a university education in the city – and it tends to be increasing! Numerous cultural and leisure time offers, as well as the beautiful scenery around the Saale valley, complete the picture of a typical university city with short pathways to and from places.
The Friedrich Schiller University (abb. FSU) Jena was founded in the year 1558. Its famous eponym, Friedrich von Schiller, taught here, along with Georg Friedrich Hegel, Johann Gottlieb Fichte, Novalis and Friedrich Schlegel. The city has established a worldwide reputation as a centre of the optomechanics industry. With numerous research laboratories and institutes, the city is also an important center for education and science in Thuringia. In 2008, the city carried the title ‘Stadt der Wissenschaft’ (Science City). With so many students and scientists, Jena is one of the youngest cities in Germany: A third of the population is younger than 27 years old!

**Jobben (Jobbing)**

Students from the European Union and the EEA basically stand on nearly equal terms with German students and have free access to the German job market. International students from outside the EU, as well as those from Bulgaria and Romania, are allowed to work 90 full or 180 half days in a year (without the authorisation from the Employment Agency). If you want to work more than 90 full days or 180 half days you need the approval of the Employment Agency and the Immigration Office. Whether or not you can obtain such an approval depends on the job-situation at your Hochschulstandort (University Location).

In regions with a high rate of unemployment you will have little chance of working more than 90 days. The only exception is when you can get a job as an academic or HiWi (Student Research Assistant). As long as it does not affect your studies, this work can be carried out for an unlimited period of time. But of course, the Immigration Office must still be informed about your new job. Please remember, that, as a student, you are neither allowed to work self employed or as a freelancer. If you do not come from the EU or the EEA and have a work placement in Germany, your job will count as normal work - even if the placement is unpaid! Every day of your work experience will be subtracted from your 90 days. The only exceptions made are for work placements that are a compulsory part of your studies. For further and more detailed information, please contact the international office of your university or the ASB of your Studentenwerk (p.19).

Please note: If you attend a language course or study at a preparatory college, the regulations for work are a bit stricter: You are only allowed to work during the lecture-free period with the approval of the Immigration Office and the Employment Agency.
Kindergarten (nowadays called >Kindertagesstätte)
The first kindergarten in Germany was founded, not surprisingly, by a Thuringian. In 1840, Friedrich Wilhelm August Fröbel opened the original kindergarten in its modern form in Blankenburg. The title ‘Kindergarten’ purposely bears the term ‘Garten’ (garden) in it because its founders believed that children need to be nurtured and grow up the same way plants do.

Kindertagesstätte (abb. Kita)
In order for you to successfully complete your studies, your child needs to be well taken care of. Overall, the Studentenwerk Thuringia is operating seven day care centers at five university locations in which primarily students’ children are taken care of. In >Jena, >Erfurt, and >Schmalkalden there is even the possibility of >Flexible Kinderbetreuung (Flexible Child Care).

Klöße Thüringer Art (Dumplings Thuringian Style)
Why is our greatness always reduced to the sausages and dumplings that we produce? (Doch warum reduziert man unsere Größe auf Würste und Klöße?) Rainald Grebe sings this line in his (still) unofficial >Thüringenhymne (Thuringian Anthem). The answer is easy, simply because dumplings are so delicious.

Recipe Dumplings Thuringian Style
“The preparation of dumplings is challenging and demands some skillfulness as well as a good familiarity with one’s kitchen. The shredded raw potatoes, often under running water, are pressed and processed further in a dry state. The extracted potato flour is mixed with the pressed mixture. Soft-boiled potatoes, usually extremely hot and often mixed with the boiling water, are forcefully stirred in with the pressed potato mixture in single servings until the mixture peels off the side of the cooking bowl. Subsequently, the dumplings need to be rolled and put into hot water for cooking. Roasted white bread croutons will often be added into the dumplings. A perfect dumpling is ideally spherical, even and formed smoothly. The swimming response of a perfect dumpling reveals when the dumpling is done, because dumplings that are done slowly rise to the top.” (Source: Wikipedia (German) November 2009)

Luckily, Dumplings Thuringian Style are served often enough at your >Mensa, so that you can spare the elaborate procedure of their making for now. They are definitely worth trying, because you will never ever forget this texture!
**Kneipe (Tavern)**
What for some is a bistro or for others a bar, for Germans is their ‘Kneipe’. It is also a good example for how student culture first rendered living circumstances and then altered the German language. The term ‘Kneipe’ is strongly connected to students because they are well known to be very thirsty. Traditionally, you drank in a tavern and ate at a restaurant. Meanwhile, however, the boundaries have become more indistinct. Thus, it is well worth it to try the dishes offered at your tavern of choice.

**Krämerbrücke in Erfurt**
The Krämerbrücke is the oldest secular building in >Erfurt and cannot be left out on a visit to the capital of Thuringia – it is indeed one of the most known landmarks of the city. There are half-timbered houses on each side of the bridge which makes the bridge the only inhabited bridge north of the Alps. As part of the west to east trade route ‘Via Regia’, stone churches with gateways have been erected on both ends of the bridge. Today, there are 32 residential houses on the 79 metre (about 260 ft.) long bridge, most of them housing small shops for handicrafts and antiques. It is no surprise, then, that the largest festival of the city has been named after the bridge: The ‘Krämerbrückenfest’ takes places around the bridge and the historic district on a weekend in June (see >Festival Calendar).

**Krankenversicherung (Health Insurance)**
To study in Germany, you must be insured with a legal health insurance company. Most companies offer student rates at reasonable prices. If you are older than 30 years old or have already completed your 14th academic semester, you will no longer be eligible for these student rates. You still, however, have the option to take out a voluntary health insurance cover with a legal health insurance company or take out a private health insurance. In the latter case, the Deutsches Studentenwerk (>www.studentenwerke.de), has negotiated favourable conditions for you. Privately-insured people must first pay all the costs of medical services and medication themselves! Apart from this, Germany has finalized special Social Security Agreements with some countries (check here >www.dvka.de). If you come from one of these countries, you may remain insured via the health insurance in your home country. As a student from the EU, it will be sufficient to present a European Health Insurance Card or form E 128 / E 111 in most cases. In any case, please contact your health insurance provider in your home country BEFORE coming to Germany! For further information, please contact the international office of your university or the ASB (>p.19) of your Studentenwerk.
Credit Cards are not a common method of payment and are only accepted in a few stores. Since payment with credit cards requires a fee from businesses, only larger chains and supermarkets accept this method of payment. When paying with credit card, only your signature is needed. Paying with EC-Karte (Debit Card) is much more common in Germany.

**Luther, Martin**

Martin Luther was born in Eisleben in 1483. At the age of 18, he began his studies in Erfurt. After being almost struck dead by lightning, however, he took an oath to become a monk and joined the Augustinian order in Erfurt. As a reaction to sermons in favour of selling indulgences delivered by Johann Tezel, Luther composed his 95 Theses, which he supposedly posted on the door of the “Schlosskirche” at Wittenberg in 1517. He wanted to offer the sole orientation in Jesus Christ as a reply to the abnormalities occurring within the Catholic Church. During this time, Luther also criticized the Pope. The Catholic Church reacted immediately and excommunicated him. Since he continued to hold on to his theses, he went into hiding at the Wartburg under the alias ‘Junker Jörg’. There, he began translating the Bible into German, thereby greatly contributing to the emergence of the standardized written German language that we know today. Back in Wittenberg, he prepared the ultimate reorganization of the churches. Even though this was never his intention, his influence contributed to the anew separation of the Christian Church. In consequence, the Evangelical Lutheran Church and other confessions of Protestantism developed, which exist next to Catholicism to the present day. Martin Luther died in Eisleben on 18 February 1546.

**Märkte und Feste** (Markets and Festivals)

Similar throughout the world, markets or market places in Germany are certain gatherings on town squares/spaces where commodities are traded on a regular basis. Even though the market bustle in Germany cannot be reminiscent of such at an oriental bazaar, a walk across a market place in Thuringia is worth it, because here you will be able to buy many good local products. Information on the weekly markets in your place of residence can best be found on the website of your home town. You may also find special highlights, such as the Weihnachtsmarkt (Christmas Market) or the Zwiebelmarkt (Onion Market), in our Festivalkalender (Festival Calendar) or in this glossary.
Mensa (Canteen, Cafeteria)
In Latin, the term ‘mensa’ means table or tablet. The German usage of the word refers to canteens of universities. They serve the important purpose of providing warm meals to students. Good quality for low prices – how is that even possible? They are this inexpensive because they are supported by the state.

Mitfahrgelegenheit (Catching a Ride)
This is a low-priced way to travel all through Thuringia. The principle is easy and saves the environment: the drivers offer free seats in their cars for a certain route that they would have taken anyways. The costs for gas are split between all the riders and the driver.

Müllsortierung (Separation/Sorting of Waste)
In Germany, daily domestic waste is separated in many ways. Bottles and glasses, paper, plastic trash and grocery leftovers are thrown away separately and collected in specially designated containers.

Nordhausen
The city of Nordhausen is located, as part of the name suggests, in the north of Thuringia. At the same time, the city is located at the southern edge of the Harz Mountains. The Harz narrow-gauge railway (‘Harzer Schmalspurbahn’) also starts here. The most significant building of the city is the roman-gothic Cathedral ‘Zum Heiligen Kreuz’. The town is also known for the production of ‘Doppelkorn’, a liquor made of corn. With approximately 44,200 inhabitants, Nordhausen is the county’s capital and also home to the local >Fachhochschule (University of Applied Sciences) with about 2,700 students.

Notlage (Emergency Situation, Hardship)
Whoever finds themselves in a financial emergency situation through no fault of their own does not need to panic. The Studentenwerk Thüringen will not let you down: With hardship and bypassing loans as well as tokens from your Studentenwerk, the most severe shortages can be overcome so that it is possible to continue studying! Please contact our >ASB (p.19) in these cases.
ÖPNV - Öffentlicher Personennahverkehr (Public Transport)
The term refers to passenger services on the streets and the railways in your city. If it gets too cold, windy, or snowy for >Radeln (Biking), you can easily resort to >Bus and >Bahn (Train). In the cities of >Erfurt and >Jena, you can use public busses and streetcars for free with your >thoska!

Ostern (Easter)
On this >Feiertag (Holiday), German children search for colourful Easter Eggs and sweets hidden by the Easter Bunny. It is an Easter tradition to ‘blow out’ the inside of the eggs and colour the egg shells. The most beautiful eggs are used for decoration on green branches, in vases, or are put into Easter baskets.

Pfand (Deposit)
All packaging for beer, mixed beer drinks, sparkling or regular water and carbonated soft drinks in both cans and disposable bottles (plastic or glass) are liable to deposit charges. Stores selling drinks in disposable packages must take such packages back. Exceptions are made for those stores with a size of 200 square meters (2150 square ft.) or less. Exempted from the deposit charge are juices, wine, spirits, milk, diet drinks and all drinks in so-called ecologically beneficial packages. There is a distinction between disposable (single use) and reusable packages: the latter receive a deposit for materials that can be immediately re-used in production. In contrast to disposable packages, reusable materials need to be split up into their basic components and then further processed. The bottles and glasses are chemically cleaned and re-introduced to the production circle. For disposable materials (from 0.1 of to 3 litre packages) the uniform deposit charge is 25cents.

Post (German Postal Service, Mail)
The ‘Deutsche Post’ can be widely recognized by its logo: a black post horn on a yellow background. In residential areas there are always mailboxes within a radius of 1 kilometer (0.62 miles). These are emptied on a regular basis. A red dot on the mailbox signals that this particular mail box is emptied on Sundays as well. Within Germany, letters usually take only between 1-2 days to deliver; international mail takes a little longer. Besides the Deutsche Post, there are other private postal services - a comparison of rates can be worth checking into!
**Quark**

‘Quark’ is a typical German milk product that is best described as a mixture of cream cheese and yoghurt. The German proverb: ‘Das ist doch Quark’, however, can be misleading, as it does not refer to the product in the refrigerated aisle, but means that something is nonsense.

**Radeln (Biking)**

Generally, the rights of bike riders are respected by car drivers in Germany so that one does not need to be afraid (even when there is no clearly designated bike lane or bikeway). In pedestrian zones and on sidewalks, bicycling is not allowed. The important requirements a bike needs to have in order to be approved for traffic are working brakes, (non-flashing) front and back lights, a bike bell as well as reflectors in the spokes. Listening to music while riding your bike is prohibited, but, of course, no one can stop you from singing a song or whistling. Occasionally, the police conduct examinations, which they also do willingly during the night. A violation of the regulations is punishable with fines from 5 to 100 €. Also, young people’s favourite means of transportation is unfortunately very popular with thieves as well. For this reason, a good bike lock is absolutely necessary!

**Radler**

A “Radler” (a word derived from the German word ‘Rad’ for bike) has nothing to do with >Radeln (Biking), but is, nevertheless, part of student culture. It actually refers to a mixed drink of beer and lemonade. If you want, you can try it at one of the many >Studentenclubs (Student Clubs) in Thuringia.

**Rennsteig**

The Rennsteig is a ridgeway as well as a historic border trail in the >Thüringer Wald (Thuringian Forest). The path runs at the ridge of the Thuringian mountains from the northwest to the southeast, at an altitude of about 970 meters (3182 ft.). The Rennsteig begins in >Eisenach and ends in Blankenstein after 169.3 kilometers (105.2 miles). Siegmundsburg, with the convention and recreation center >Haus Rosenbaum of the Studentenwerk, is located directly along the Rennsteig. It is the perfect starting point for long hikes in beautiful scenery. During the winter, you can start cross country skiing from this point. Every year in may, on the occasion of the traditional ‘Rennsteiglauf’ (Rennsteig Run), the Rennsteig turns into a large race track. As a hiking path, the Rennsteig almost has a symbolic meaning to Thuringia. The >Rennsteiglied (Rennsteig Song) is not called the ‘secret anthem’ of Thuringia for no reason.
Rostbrätli
Colloquially, the term “Rost” (roast) is used to denote a grill and ‘braten’ or ‘bräteln’ (both for roasting) are other words for grilling. The ‘Rostbrätli’ thus refers to a marinated slice of pork meat grilled over charcoal. Besides the Rostbratwurst (roasted bratwurst), the ‘Rostbrätli’ is, without a doubt, the second most famous grilled specialty of Thuringia. You can try a ‘Roster’ (roasted bratwurst) and a ‘Brätl’ (roasted pork steak) in the canteens/dining halls of your Studentenwerk. The current menu for the Thuringian >Mensen (Canteens) can be found on the internet pages of your Studentenwerk under ‘Speisepläne’ (menus).

Rückgabe/Umtausch (Return/Exchange)
If you present the original receipt, it is possible to return or exchange purchased articles in most stores. The businesses are, however, not obligated to refund or replace any merchandise. Exceptions for this are, for example, purchases through an online-store or by telephone. Here, the customer has the right of revocation (Widerrufsrecht), which lasts 14-days. In addition, all merchandise, except groceries, also have a 2-year warranty. This means that you can claim repairs etc. in case the products no longer work properly. For that, however, you need to keep the original receipt and present it at the cashier or customer service desk.

Schiller, Johann Christoph Friedrich von (1759-1805)
Schiller is said to be the greatest German dramatist and is, next to >Goethe, one of the most recognized representatives of the >Weimarer Klassik. During the transition period from absolutism to the bourgeois age, Schiller gave the German people a competent understanding of the values of the Enlightenment (reason, humanity and liberty) through his literary work. The poem ‘Ode an die Freude’, probably his most famous piece, was set to music by Ludwig van Beethoven. The instrumental version became the official anthem of Europe in 1985 to avoid discrimination against any language. After 30 troubled and economically harsh years, Schiller moved permanently to Thuringia in 1789 in order to start his professorship in history in >Jena. Due to the publication of his works, Schiller was already known well enough that the news of his teaching in Jena caused some exultation. His now famous acceptance speech brought more people than the Jena lecture hall had place to offer. From Jena, an exchange of letters between Schiller and Goethe developed, which started out very professional but then turned into a deeper exchange between friends. In 1799, he and his family moved to >Weimar, where he died on May 9th, 1805 from a severe illness after spending only six short but intense years there.
Schmalkalden
Located in southern Thuringia, the city of Schmalkalden has about 19,823 inhabitants and hosts the >Fachhochschule Schmalkalden with more than 2,400 students in the Schools of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Economic Sciences and Business Law. The FH Schmalkalden ranks high in comparative college rankings on a regular basis and is proud of having the most satisfied students in nationwide comparisons. Schmalkalden’s first documented mentioning occurred as ‘Villa Smalcalta’ in 874 AD, and in 1335, the city was granted town privilege. The city gained a historical record through the founding of the “Schmalkaldischer Bund” (Schmalkaldian League) in 1531. This League united protestant imperial cities in an act of protest against the refusal of Emperor Charles V to take the protestant oaths (statements of faith). In 1546/47, tensions between the Emperor and the League erupted in the ‘Schmalkaldischen Krieg’ (Schmalkaldian War). Even today, the cityscape appears noticeably medieval because of the multitude of its reconstructed half-timbered houses. Besides the close by >Thüringer Wald, Castle Wilhelmsburg is worth a daytrip as well!

Schwarzes Brett (Bulletin Board)
Displays or ads on the Bulletin Board are really an insider hint when it comes to finding an apartment, job or furniture. You can find such Bulletin Boards at various locations all around your university halls, usually in the form of blackboards or cork boards. Here, you are allowed to put up displays without receiving authorization beforehand, and you can catch up on current offers and requests. Meanwhile, such Bulletin Boards are also available online with all its useful information. Online examples would be the ‘Piazza’ of the >Bauhaus-Universität Weimar or the Online Bulletin Board of your >International Center in Jena.

Schwarzfahren (Fare Dodging)
Schwarzfahren is a colloquial term for using the >ÖPNV without a ticket. Students of Thuringian university or colleges, however, do not need to ‘dodge fares’ because their >thoska is also valid as their personal >Semesterticket.

Semesterprogramm (Semester Program)
The Semesterprogramm of the counselling center of your Studentenwerk is published twice a year and includes information on all workshops, courses, lectures and information sessions that Thuringian students can attend. Participation is possible upon prior registration and/or in exchange for a small fee. Current offers concerning counselling and advising are available on the internet as well.
Semesterticket (Semester Ticket)
In Thuringia, your semester fee is also your key to mobility! That is because the fee also includes your semester ticket. For all students of Thuringian universities, the Studentenwerk has made a fair arrangement with the Deutsche Bahn (German Rail) concerning the use of regional trains. Between university locations, the use of trains is included in your semester ticket. For this service, you only need to present your >thoska card or your student ID to the conductors. At some locations, you can also use the >ÖPNV (Public Transport) for cheaper fares or for free. By the way, in regional trains you are also allowed to take your >Fahrrad (Bicycle) along without paying any additional fee. The semester ticket is, unfortunately, not valid in long distance and high-speed trains. Precise regulations concerning your university location can be found on the internet pages of your Studentenwerk >www.stw-thueringen.de

Servicepaket (Service Package)
For the >Hochschulstandorte (University Locations) of >Erfurt, >Ilmenau, >Jena, >Nordhausen, >Schmalkalden and >Weimar, the Studentenwerk offers you the service package. With that, you get an all-encompassing service offer for a reasonable price: All costs for housing and food vouchers for the >Mensa (Canteen) are paid prior to the beginning of the semester. That way your financial burden, once you are at the university location, is substantially reduced. You can apply for the service package for one or two semesters. The application only needs to be turned in early enough prior to the beginning of the semester. Current deadlines and more information are available online.

Skifahren in Oberhof (Skiing in Oberhof)
For both people crazy about sports and those seeking relaxation all year around, the health resort Oberhof is definitely worth a visit. It is not just a popular destination for hikers along the >Rennsteig. World Championships, international tournaments as well as the numerous successes of winter sport athletes have contributed in characterizing Oberhof as a center for winter sports. When temperatures rise, you can still go to the tunnel to go cross-country skiing, because in Oberhof, there is snow all year round!

Sport
According to statistics, Thuringians have the biggest bellies in Germany, which comes as no surprise considering all the delicious offers in food and drink at the numerous >Mensen (Canteens) and >Kneipen (Taverns).
Whoever wishes to distract themselves from these culinary delicacies, can choose from the many possibilities for sporting activities Thuringia offers. Many universities also have their own >USV (University Sport Clubs) where you can sign up for very low fees.

**Sprachtandem** (Language Tandem)
A tandem is a >Drahtesel for two people. If there are two people pedalling together, the destination is reached faster and the ride is more enjoyable. That’s exactly what learning a language should be like! A Language Tandem offers you the perfect opportunity to learn German or any other language in regular meetings with native speakers. In return, you introduce your language partner to the secrets and tweaks of your native language. Whether you decide to meet in a >Kneipe, take a walk or cook together in your apartment, you get to know your language partner and his/her language and you both have loads of fun doing it!

**Stammtisch** (Regulars’ Table)
Regulars’ tables is a term given to regular voluntary meetings of people communicating in a cosy atmosphere. Of course, you came to Thuringia to speak German most of all. Therefore, there are numerous so-called ‘Deutschstammtische’, where you can come into contact with your international and German fellow students and thereby learn German more easily. However, we also understand that sometimes you prefer communicate in your native language. Thus, you can find various offers for international student regulars’ tables in your new hometown.

**Straßenbahn** (Tram)
Trams are one of many means of public transportation >ÖPNV that you can use for free in your >Hochschulstandort (University Location) simply by using your >thoska. Different from busses, which drive on the roads and can be held up by traffic, trams have their own tracks and, therefore, drive much faster. You can normally check the departure time online in advance.

**Stipendien** (Scholarships)
The internet portal >Stipendienlotse of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research assists you with many details in your search for scholarships. In this database, you can specifically search for the right scholarship for you. In addition, all public and private sponsors can introduce themselves through the website. The search can be modified to target specific groups and other criteria, so that it is possible to extract only those scholarships eligible for international students.
**Studentenabonnement (Student Subscription)**
Many regional and national >Zeitungen offer special subscription rates to students. Usually, you receive the newspaper at first for a few weeks as a free trial, then you have to decide if you want to continue the subscription (and pay for it).

**Studentenausweis (Student Identification, Student ID)**
Your student ID serves as proof that you are a student and makes it possible for you to make use of numerous offers and discounts. For instance, you may receive discounts on movie and theater tickets, admission charges at museums, concerts and many other events. In the >Mensa you can eat your meals for the student price upon presenting your student ID. Some apparel stores, hair dressers, fitness centres, swimming pools and so on might offer student discounts. Thus, asking just might be worthwhile! In Thuringia the >thoska is, nowadays, almost exclusively used as student ID.

**Studentenclubs (Student Clubs)**
Thuringia offers a rich young cultural scene with many student clubs. In order to offer free admission, and this or that drink, students become actively involved behind and in front of the counter. Most clubs are organized through registered associations, and have the goal of providing student culture with as much freedom as possible (free rooms included). And in case we forgot to mention: everything in the student clubs is offered at reasonable student-friendly prices. If you feel so comfortable in a student club that you wish you could move in, we can assure you at this point: The student clubs in Thuringia not only appreciate a party-willing audience but also (new) active members. So take your chance to actively influence the program of your favorite student club, to evoke publicity and to get to know your fellow students better by working behind the counter.

**Student Clubs around you**

Uni-kum Erfurt
Studentenzentrum Engelsburg Erfurt
Studentenclubs Ilmenau
Café Wagner Jena
Med Club Jena
Rosenkeller Jena
Schmiede Jena
Karzer Nordhausen
SC Schmalkalden
Kasseturm Weimar
Schützengasse Weimar
Studentenzeitungen (Student Newspapers)

AKRÜTZEL – Founded in February 1990, it is Jena’s leading university newspaper. One of the three oldest local university newspapers and, with an overall circulation of about 80,000 per year, it is Germany’s largest university newspaper with respect to circulation numbers. It is published every two weeks during the semester and available for free at various locations all over Jena.

Dschungelbuch – The ‘Dschungelbuch’ is your navigation guide through the ‘jungle’ of the universities in Jena and Erfurt. The ‘Dschungelbuch’ is designed by the student representations of the universities in Jena and Erfurt and offers all necessary information concerning studies, city and culture – and is particularly useful to first year students.

Fachhochschulzeitung Nordhausen – With two issues per semester, this newspaper can be purchased at the canteen of your Studentenwerk and in the lobby of ‘Haus 19’. It can also be read online through the webpage of the University of Applied Sciences.

Lemma – The ‘Lemma’ is a collaborative project of the universities in Erfurt, Weimar, Jena, and Ilmenau. It is supported by the ‘Thüringer Zeitungsgruppe’ (Thuringian Newspaper Group) and available for free throughout Thuringia.

Micro Weimar – The ‘micro Weimar’ views itself as an independent voice for publications from the StuKo, initiatives, departments and all students of the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar. This newspaper is issued twice a semester with contributions from editors of all schools.

Port Weimar – The ‘Port’ is the overreaching magazine of the students of the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar. Published at the end of each semester, it is used as a presentation platform for projects and works of students of the university. The editing and design of the magazine are under complete student authority.

UNIQUE – The ‘UNIQUE’ is an independent newspaper that deals with inter- and sub-cultural issues and questions. It is published between 6 and 8 times a year (only during the semester) and is available for free in Jena and Erfurt.
**Studierendenvertretung** (Student Representatives)

Student Councils (abb. StuRa) or the Student Convention (abb. StuKo) are the central bodies of representation of all students at any given university. The StuRa is elected in order to represent the interests of the students within the university as well as in outside matters. Through the StuRa, students are given a voice and the right to make co-decisions within and outside the university in all matters relating to student issues. The StuRa, in addition, also administers the funds of the students. It consists of different departments, for example Culture, Gender Equality and Environment, that every enrolled student can get elected into.

**Taxi** (Cab)

Taking a taxi in Germany is relatively expensive and students only very rarely use it as a means of transportation. However, some cities offer special vouchers to women for night cab rides.

**thoska**

‘thoska’ is an abbreviation for the ‘Thüringer Hochschul- und Studentenwerkskarte’ (Thuringian University and Studentenwerk Card). It is a chip card that combines a number of functions. With the thoska, you are able to check out books from (almost) all >Bibliotheken (Libraries), you can copy and print, you can pay without cash at the >Mensa (Canteen) and you can also renew your university registration each semester. In Thuringia, the thoska is also valid as a >Semesterticket.

**Thüringer Wald** (Thuringian Forest)

Here, in the Thuringian Forest, you can go hiking especially well and enjoy the beautiful scenery of Thüringen. The name describes a mountain range, which stretches from the Werra River in the northwest to the ‘Frankenwald’ (Franconian Forest) in the southeast. The highest mountain in Thuringia is the ‘Große Beerberg’ with an altitude of 982 meters (3221 ft). The >Rennsteig runs at the ridge of the Thuringian Forest and is 169 meters (554 ft) long.

**Thüringenhymne, inoffiziell** (Thuringian Anthem, unofficial)

Besides the official Thuringian Anthem, there are two unofficial ones, which are no less charming songs about the nature of the Thuringia. Those who want to get to know Thuringia should listen to the songs:

> Rennsteiglied by Roth/Müller
> Wissenswertes über Thüringen by Rainald Grebe
TROLL
Troll, this term does not only describe a figure from mythology, but also functions as the >Informationszentrum of your Studentenwerk in >Schmalkalden. Here you can obtain all kinds of information and services concerning your studies.

Tüte und Tragetasche (Bags and Totes)
Even though this may seem unusual to you, bags and totes available at supermarkets, whether plastic, paper or cloth, need to be purchased. For this reason, your fellow students bring along their reusable shopping bags for grocery shopping. That also saves the environment!

Unfallversicherung (Accident or Casualty Insurance)
As a student at a Thuringian university, you are automatically covered in terms of accident insurance. Thus, you are covered in all activities that have either a temporal, local or causal connection to your studies at the university. This includes the attendance of classes (including breaks), library visits, excursions, activities in the >StuRa, travelling all distances to and from your university as well as paying visits to your >Bank. Accidents made during times of your study or leisure activities need to be reported to the Studentenwerk immediately. Note that for internships outside of Thuringia, your internship organization or company is responsible for your insurance coverage.

Universität (University, abbreviated as ‘Uni’)
Universities in the original German usage of the word – refer to schools of higher education with the legal authorization to award doctorates (PhDs) that place research, teaching and studying at the center of their efforts. In contrast to >Fachhochschulen (Universities of Applied Sciences) and other institutions of higher education (for example music or art academies), universities are distinguished by their wide range of subjects (the principle of universal education). In Thuringia, there are four (full) universities in >Jena, >Ilmenau, >Weimar and >Erfurt.

Universitätsrechenzentrum, URZ (University Computer Labs)
The URZ are the IT experts at your university. They provide you with high-performance data and telephone networks, operate the central computer and communication servers and also support administrative processes with numerous services and special software solutions. As an enrolled student, you can use the internet for free and without any problems in many registered computer labs.
**USV, Universitätssportverein** (University Sports Club)
The university sports clubs provide compensatory sport workouts with multiple wide-ranging course programs which are as diverse as they are affordable. The reason for this being the motto: ‘great minds exercise!’ Please check out your >Universität (University) homepage for more information, in some cities the name (Hochschulsportverein ) can vary a bit but the goal behind it still remains the same.

**Versicherung** (Insurance)
> Freizeit-Unfallversicherung (Recreational Accident Insurance)
> Haftpflichtversicherung (Liability Insurance)
> Hausratsversicherung (Household Insurance)
> Krankenversicherung (Health Insurance)
> Unfallversicherung (Accident or Casualty Insurance)

**Volkshochschule, VHS** (Community College, College of Further Education)
Community Colleges are independent institutions of adult education and further training/education. The German term ‘Volkshochschule’, which can be translated as ‘schools for the people’, are not exactly institutions of higher education such as >Universitäten (Universities) and >Fachhochschulen (Universities of Applied Sciences). Instead they offer a wide range of classes, seminars and events to everyone interested. Language classes are especially popular at these community colleges.

**Wartburg**
The Wartburg castle is located above the city of >Eisenach on the north-western edge of the Thuringian Forest and stands as most significant monument of the feudal age. It was built by Ludwig ‘der Springer’ (the Jumper) around 1067 and has been part of the UNESCO World Heritage since 1999. Here, >Luther translated the New Testament from Greek into German during the years in 1522 and in doing so, laid the foundation for a standardized written form of the German language. Due to the close proximity to the former inner German border, the Wartburg has always stood out as a symbol for German reunification.
Weihnachten (Christmas)
Christmas is, next to Easter and Pentecost, one of the three most important holidays of the year. Christmas begins on Christmas Eve (Heiligabend), December 24th. Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and the day after (December 25th and 26th) are national >Feiertage (Holidays). Advent season gets you into the Christmas mood. An advent calendar increases the anticipation of Christmas Eve: Each day, from December 1st to December 24th, a door (‘Türchen’) of the calendar is opened, behind which usually chocolate or other small presents are hidden. On each of the four Sundays prior to Christmas, a candle is lit on the Advent wreath (‘Adventskranz’). This tradition is carried on in other decorations as well, there are numerous holiday lights, candle arches, and stars of Bethlehem visible in the windows and apartments during advent season. Christians and non-Christians exchange presents on Christmas Eve, which are usually placed beneath the Christmas tree. In families with small children, Santa Claus (‘Weihnachtsmann’) might make a personal appearance and personally deliver the gifts which were put on the wish list with the help of mom and dad. In Germany, roasted goose or duck served with red cabbage and >Klößen (Dumplings) are traditional Christmas meals.

Weihnachtsmarkt (Christmas Market)
Despite the cold weather, the Christmas Market is a well-liked tradition during advent season in all cities. Originally, Christmas markets were held at the beginning of advent season so that people could provide themselves with all the necessities. Nowadays, a city which does not have a Christmas market by early December is almost unimaginable. Besides the obligatory woolen hats and fur slippers, arts and crafts as well as wooden toys are traditionally sold at the markets. Equally popular are those vendors which sell Christmas bakery goods or other culinary delicacies. In order to fight the cold and as a social event, ‘Glühwein’ (hot wine punch), children’s punch and other hot, and often alcoholic, beverages are offered. The most beautiful and biggest Christmas market in Thuringia is held in >Erfurt at the ‘Domplatz’ (Cathedral Square). However, each city in Thuringia is worth a visit during this time to experience the flair of advent.
Weimar
With about 65,000 inhabitants, Weimar is the fourth largest city in Thuringia after >Erfurt, >Jena and >Gera, and its population is still continuing to grow and grow. The city, located in the geographic center of Thuringia, hosts the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar as well as the Hochschule für Musik Franz Liszt (The Franz Liszt School of Music Weimar). In addition, the famous library of duchess >Anna Amalia is also located here. The rich cultural heritage of Weimar was not only influenced by the >Weimarer Klassik (Weimar Classicism) evolving around >Goethe and >Schiller, but also by the >Bauhaus as well as by the origin of the first republic on German soil, the so-called Weimar Republic, established in 1919. Thus, the city rightfully carried the title of ‘Kulturhauptstadt’ (European Capital of Culture) in 1999! Nevertheless, it should also be noted that as the founding place of the Weimar Republic, Weimar also was of great symbolic value for the National Socialists. The downside of this attention is revealed on the nearby Ettersberg mountain: the concentration camp Buchenwald was one of the largest concentration camps in the years between 1937 and 1945. Overall, more than 250,000 people from all over Europe were imprisoned here under extremely cruel circumstances. The number of victims is estimated at about 56,000 of which 11,000 were Jews. Since 1991, the grounds have been transformed into the ‘Gedenkstätte Buchenwald’ (Buchenwald Memorial). Through numerous exhibitions and tours at the original sites, the memorial tries to draw the attention of the visitor to how these sites are connected to those brutal crimes against humanity and reminds them to remember them admonishingly.

Weimarer Klassik (Weimar Classicism)
Besides >Goethe and >Schiller, Wieland and Herder were also part of the ‘Four Great Minds’ of Classicism. These four great minds of intellectual and cultural history lived in >Weimar during the end of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth century. Duchess >Anna Amalia of Saxony-Weimar-Eisenach laid the foundation of the Weimar Classicism when she called Martin Wieland to Weimar in 1772 to assist her in the education of her sons. Goethe, already famous through ‘Die Leiden des jungen Werther’ (The Sorrows of Young Werther), followed the call of the Duke to the city on the river Ilm three years later. Goethe soon called on Johann Gottfried Herder in 1776, and >Schiller finally followed his friend to Weimar in 1799. The ‘classical epoch of the German art of poetry’ was particularly influenced by the French Revolution, which ideals were difficult to implement at the time.
This epoch thus resulted from the conflict in value between reason and emotion or sentiment of the Enlightenment period. The authors of this period aimed at the harmonic balance of all contrast, keeping with the antique ideal of art. Integrity and the parity of form and content were the central focus in the literary works of the ‘Great Four’ of the time.

**WG - Wohngemeinschaft** (Shared Apartment)
The living community is without doubt the most popular form of housing arrangements among German students. Community rooms, such as kitchen, bathroom, and maybe a balcony and living room, are shared and used equally. Whoever wants to live in such a housing model, should not shy away from lengthy so-called ‘WG-Castings’, after all this is not simply about finding the right room but also the right roommates. A working living community includes the commonly shared rights and duties as well as communal gatherings (most preferably on a balcony) after taking care of equally split household chores together. You can find WG-offers in your city online or in the >Informationszentren of your Studentenwerk.

**WIESEL – Service Center for Studies in Erfurt**
Wiesel is an acronym for ‘Wissenschaft’ (science), Information, Events, Service and ‘Leben’ (life). It is the point of reference for all students and prospective students to acquire competent and solid information about the university location >Erfurt at the Studentenzentrum (student center) Engelsburg. As a cooperating project of the Studentenwerk Thüringen and the Studentenzentrum Engelsburg with the universities in >Erfurt and the city of Erfurt, WIESEL is the first of its kind in Thuringia.

**Wohngeld** (Housing Allowance)
A housing subsidy is a form of financial aid from the government for residents, who have a low income and thus need a government grant in order to be able to pay their rent. In principle, it is possible for international students to apply for a housing subsidy. This depends, however, upon many different factors, for example the acquisition of a scholarship. Please contact the international office of your university or the >ASB (p.19) of your Studentenwerk for additional and more detailed information. If you need a residence permit in order to study in Germany, please inform yourself before you apply for a housing subsidy whether or not the housing subsidy influences your residence permit.
Wohnplatz or Wohnheimplatz (Housing Assignment)
As an enrolled student at a university in your new hometown, you can apply for a student room in one of the student residence halls with your Studentenwerk. The required form can be obtained from the internet site or at the >Informationszentren of your Studentenwerk. The room assignments are already made in August for the winter semester and in February for the summer semester of that year. Thus, early reservations usually pay off, particularly in cities with very dense and competitive housing markets. We recommend the >Servicepaket of the Studentenwerk to those students who want to be on the safe side when still abroad. Unassigned or suddenly available rooms are distributed at the beginning of the winter semester in a so-called ‘Wohnplatzbörse’ (housing assignment fair), the dates for these are announced on the web pages of your Studentenwerk.

Wohnsitz anmelden (Recording Place of Residency)
Each person moving within Germany is required by law to inform their local ‘Bürgeramt’ (Citizen’s Registration Office) of their new place of residence within the first two weeks. In order to record your place of residency, a passport or identification card (Personalausweis) is required. Also, you must prove that you have >Health Insurance and are able to finance your studies from your own funds. After doing so, most foreign students – except national citizens of EU and EEA countries – must go to the immigration office to apply for a residence permit for the purpose of studying. The residence permit is initially valid for two years and can be extended after it expires. The extension is subject to proper progress being made in your studies and must be applied for in enough time before it expires. For further information, please contact the international office of your >Universität.

Wohntutor (Housing Tutor)
Most of your fellow foreign students are living in residence halls. In many of these residential complexes, the very nice and helpful housing tutors of your Studentenwerk are there for you in order to make the adjustment to your new home easier. As counsellors and contact persons, they will assist you in every way throughout your studies. Especially during the first few days, they will accompany you to visits to public authorities, help you with forms and contracts and mediate first contacts. They will further accompany you throughout the semester and organize parties as well as trips, and are always there for you when you need them. You can find all housing tutors listed according to residential complex or residence hall on the internet sites of the Studentenwerk.
The letter ‘X’ is a tricky letter which is hardly used in German at all. The letter ‘x’ can be found, for example, in the terms ‘Boxen’ (boxing) and ‘Kickboxen’ (kickboxing), which are sports that you might be able to try out in the >USV (University Sport Clubs) of your university in order to be able to – as the German proverb goes – almost literally ‘box yourself’ through your studies.

**Yoga**

A very popular sport among students that is particularly useful in alleviating stress.

**Zeitung (Newspaper)**

Not only is it possible for students in Thuringia to subscribe to local and national newspapers for a reduced fee, but Thuringia also has a number of newspapers and magazines produced for and by students. You can choose your favorite out of a wide selection of these newspapers, many of which have been listed in this glossary under >Studentenzeitungen (Student Newspapers).

**Zwiebelmarkt (Onion Market)**

The Zwiebelmarkt (Onion Market) is a traditional folk festival held annually in Weimar on the second weekend in October. The market was already founded in the 17th century as a place for selling fruits and vegetables. Today, it has developed into one of the largest events in Weimar, which attracts hundreds and thousands of tourists. Throughout the (historic) downtown, there are a number of stages where artists perform, making a visit to the market an unforgettable experience.
Is there something missing?
Then email us at: kultur@stw-thueringen.de
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