



>> Internationales Sommerfest der Uni

Am 2. Juli 2014 ab 16 Uhr findet auf dem Mensavorplatz am Uhlhornsweg das Internationale Sommerfest der Universität Oldenburg statt.

Im Jubiläumsjahr steht das Internationale Sommerfest unter dem Motto »Offen für Vielfalt«. BesucherInnen dürfen sich auf einige Neuerungen freuen!

Mehr zu der Veranstaltung unter www.uni-oldenburg.de/iso/aktuell/sommerfest/



>> Austauschplätze 2015

Vom 15. Juli bis 31. August 2014 können Sie sich auf Austauschplätze im kalendarischen Jahr 2015 an unseren außereuropäischen Partneruniversitäten, u.a. in Südafrika, Australien, Brasilien, Tansania, Chile sowie in der Russischen Föderation, bewerben.

Bitte beachten Sie die teilweise abweichenden Semesterzeiten und geben Sie konkret an, für welches Semester/welchen Term Sie sich bewerben. Weitere Informationen sowie das Bewerbungsformular finden Sie auf der ISO-Webseite.



>> Kurzfilmabend

Am 7. Juli um 19 Uhr veranstaltet Marie Hartlieb, Integrated Media-Studentin der Universität Oldenburg, in Zusammenarbeit mit dem ISO einen internationalen Kurzfilmabend im BIS-Saal. Es werden Filme in Originalsprache mit englischen Untertiteln aus dem »Changing Perspectives«-Filmfestival in Istanbul gezeigt. Der Eintritt ist frei.



Participation at NAFSA conference and at CSUMB's »Family Meeting«

San Diego skyline, California picture: Katja Kaboth-Larsen

The month of May has been an intense period in the field of international networking with our current US-American and Canadian partner institutions as well as finding new possibilities for student exchange mobility on a global scale. Katja Kaboth-Larsen, International Student Adviser at the ISO participated at networking highlights on the worldwide education market: she attended the annual NAFSA

conference and joined the »Family Meeting« of our partner university California State University Monterey Bay. Meeting in person with our partners and discussing details of student exchange contributes enormously to a fruitful and smooth cooperation. Furthermore, it enhances ideas for further fields of cooperation and facilitates access and networking possibilities to finding new suitable partners.

Katja Kaboth-Larsen

Ein Semester in Sogndal, Norwegen

In meinem fünften Bachelorsemester der Umweltwissenschaften war ich in Sogndal, Norwegen am Sogn og Fjordane University College und habe das internationale Programm »From Mountain to Fjord« besucht. Das Programm »From Mountain to Fjord« ist recht geologisch orientiert. Das Beste an dem Programm sind die 21 Exkursionstage, bei denen man z.B. eine Gletschertour macht. Die Unterrichtssprache war gut verständliches Englisch, da muss man sich keine Gedanken machen, dass man etwas nicht versteht.

Sogndal ist mit 7000 Einwohnern eine kleine, eher naturnahe Stadt: es ist von Bergen umgeben und liegt direkt am Fjord. Dementsprechend ist das Freizeitangebot der Uni: Es gibt viele Sportangebote wie Kajak fahren, tauchen, klettern und wandern; im Winter wird viel Ski gefahren. Es gibt aber auch einen Chor, einen Bandraum, Klaviere und Gitarren;

außerdem Angebote zu Tanz, Fotografie oder Rollenspiel. In der Stadt gibt es die Meieriet, in der jeden Donnerstag ein Quiz stattfindet, am Wochenende Disco ist und ab und an auch Konzerte stattfinden.



Studentenwohnheim Elvatunet, Foto: Ines Kalus

Insgesamt sind Norweger eher sehr zurückhaltender Natur, also ist es an einem selbst auf sie zuzugehen. Das ist um einiges einfacher und schöner, wenn man die Sprache beherrscht, worüber sich Norweger sehr freuen. Allerdings wird auch Englisch von fast allen gut gesprochen.



Exkursion nach Jostedal, Foto: Ines Kalus

Alles in Allem kann ich ein Auslandssemester in Sogndal nur jedem empfehlen. Die Natur in Norwegen ist einfach unvergleichlich und atemberaubend! Es ist eine Zeit, in der man Freunde findet, in der man sich ausprobieren kann, eine andere Sprache und Kultur kennen lernt und neue Erfahrungen macht.

Ines Kalus



West Georgia Summer School

UWG students, picture: John Blair

For the ninth year in a row, students from the University of West Georgia (UWG) in Carrollton, Georgia have come to study in Oldenburg during the Summer Semester. This year, sixteen students from diverse backgrounds and from varying majors are here in Oldenburg, housed in student dormitories with local and international students. All of them have completed at least two semesters of German in Georgia and continue learning German here both inside and outside of the classroom. They take classes with their American professors, with the instructors of DaF (Deutsch als Fremdsprache) here in Oldenburg, and when possible – this is dependent on language ability and area of specialty – with professors at the University here in Oldenburg too, primarily with those in the departments of English and German. They are accompanied, mentored, and taught by two professors from the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at their home institution, Prof. Dr. John Blair, Professor of German and Film and director of the Study Abroad Program, and Prof. Dr. Muriel Cormican, Professor of German and Film.

The students from Georgia are in Oldenburg for as much of the summer semester as the American academic schedule allows, ten weeks in this case. They leave for Germany right after their spring semester's (January–May) final exams, start work in Oldenburg in early May, and return, mostly, to Georgia on July 18th. As American Study Abroad programs go, this one is relatively lengthy. Most US Study Abroad Programs are between three and six weeks long and involve a lot of sight-seeing, eating at nice restaurants, and excursions to »must see« monuments and museums

for the given country, but this program aims for a more modest lifestyle in the host country, encouraging living in the country and culture as its natives do – including using the language and not relying on English – rather than being a tourist in the culture. This means that our students live like German students during the week, sharing accommodations with other students, attending classes, eating at the Mensa or at home, and learning about the frustrations and intricacies of, among other things, doing laundry in your residence hall, getting your internet hooked up, negotiating bicycle culture and the public transport system, and developing a relationship to Oldenburg that makes them feel like it is a kind of second home. It is always a little exhilarating to see a student post something like »back home in Oldenburg after a weekend in Berlin« on their Facebook wall five weeks into the program. Oldenburg as home away from home! This is a compliment to this wonderful city and to the ongoing cooperative efforts between the University of West Georgia and the University of Oldenburg (UO).

Oldenburg becomes »home« because while here in Oldenburg, the UWG students develop real and lasting relationships to German students and Germans in general. The students are fully engaged academically, officially registered at the University of Oldenburg, and spend between twelve and eighteen hours each week in class. They see themselves primarily as students and explorative travelers and not as tourists marking off the Lonely Planet hot spots of Germany – though they do some of this too on weekends. But living in Oldenburg with their German and international peers for ten weeks allows them the time to

become acquainted with the culture and the life style of the Oldenburg student community, and the courses that the students take are also geared toward increasing their integration into, and understanding, of Germany and Germans. Even those students who do not return to Oldenburg – and many do – have gained something that will benefit them personally and professionally for the rest of their lives.

During the past nine years, many students have returned to Oldenburg at a later date, either to study again, to live with their German partners whom they met on the program, and/or to work. The length of the UWG–UO Study Abroad makes the development of such life-long, life-altering, meaningful, and important relationships possible – relationships to both to the place and to people. Not only do West Georgia students benefit from an unusually long stay abroad then, but the program allows for students from the University of Oldenburg to study at the University



UWG students and their German buddies meeting in a pub, picture: John Blair

of West Georgia. UWG sees the influx of German students as part of its sustained effort to encourage diversity and internationalization, and is proud of its partnership. Over the years we have seen American-German relations and relationships (academic, professional, and personal) flourish in our home in Georgia and here in our second home in Oldenburg. We are grateful to everyone at the University here in Oldenburg for continued cooperation but most especially to members of International Student Office, the English department, the Studentenwerk, and the Oldenburg students who volunteer as buddies every year.

John Blair and Muriel Cormican

Impressum

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