

Study in Oldenburg

The university town in Germany's Northwest





Welcome to the University of Oldenburg !

Welcome to the University of Oldenburg! We appreciate your interest in studying with us.

In this brochure, we would like to introduce our university and give you some information and tips on living and studying in Oldenburg.

The International Student Office (ISO) is your contact point from the beginning on and is there to support you in every phase of your studies. We would love to have you!

Your International Student Office Team

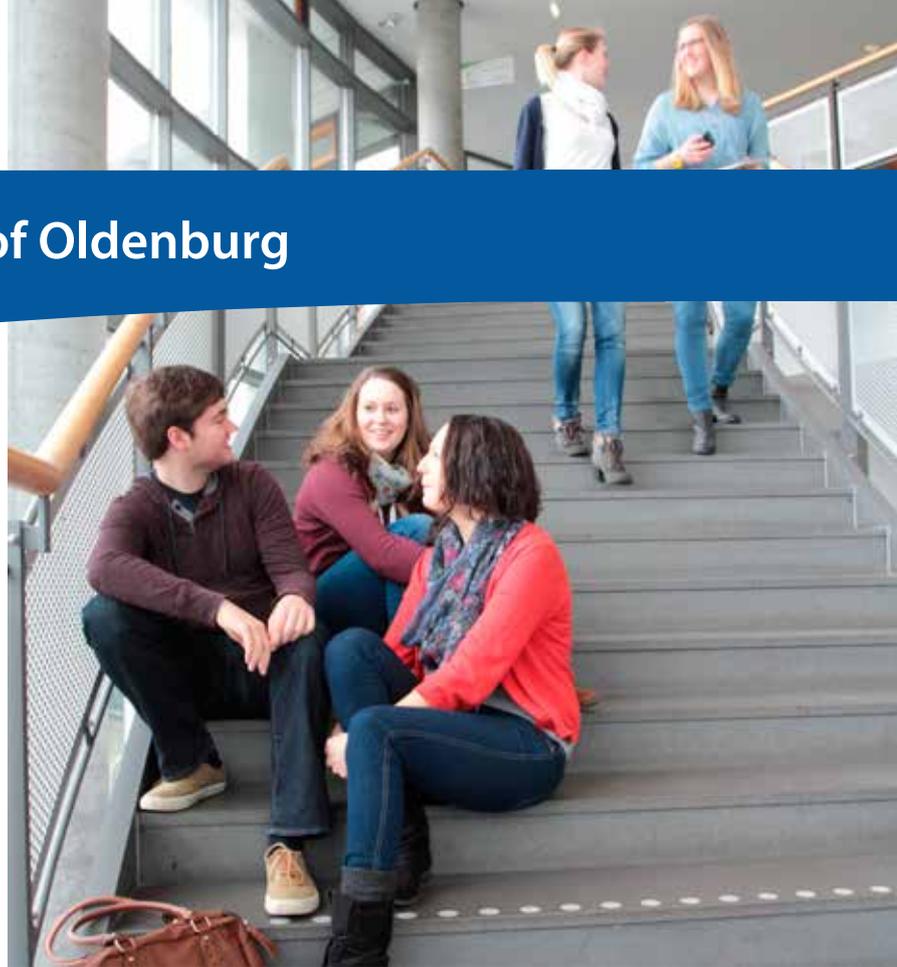
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International Student Office

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The university and city of Oldenburg



The University of Oldenburg

Promoting talent, inspiring ideas, and aspiring for tolerance – these are major themes at the University of Oldenburg. The university was established in 1973, and is among the youngest universities in Germany. The university is named after the Nobel Prize winner Carl von Ossietzky (1889 – 1938), who was among the most distinguished journalists of the Weimar Republic.

With more than 200 professors and over 15,000 students, the University of Oldenburg is a dynamic and ever-developing institution. Over 100 courses of study offer a broad spectrum of educational options, including such areas as the social sciences, economics and business, education, cultural studies and languages, information science, mathematics, the natural sciences, and medicine. As a relatively young institution, the University of Oldenburg is strongly committed to future-oriented research, as well as with promoting interdisciplinary studies and internationalisation. Accordingly, the university has more than 1,000 international students and cultivates roughly 250 partnerships with universities worldwide. The naming of the university after Carl von Ossietzky emphasizes the institution's commitment to the idea that science has a responsibility to society, and should thus take an active role in public discourse.

The students are the heart of the university, and they are involved in carrying out science and research from the very beginning. The

university sees itself as a »campus university« where there is a great degree of close interaction between students and professors, and seminars have the optimal size for this. It is easy to get to know other students and find your way at the University of Oldenburg.

The university itself is divided into two campuses. The natural sciences and medicine are located at the »Wechloy campus« and all other fields can be found at the main »Haarentor campus«. The two locations are about a kilometre apart and can easily be reached with a bicycle, by bus, or on foot. The city centre is also only about two kilometres away.

The university as a whole is divided into six faculties:

- I. School of Educational and Social Sciences
- II. School of Computing Science, Business Administration, Economics, and Law
- III. School of Linguistics and Cultural Studies
- IV. School of Humanities and Social Sciences
- V. School of Mathematics and Science
- VI. School of Medicine and Health Sciences

The university and city of Oldenburg

Living and studying at the University of Oldenburg

Studying is more than just learning. The university also serves as an everyday living space, offering libraries, cafes, and canteens, as well as other amenities and cultural events such as athletic facilities, theatre, and concerts. Would you like to play in the orchestra, show films, participate in the theatre, or play inline hockey?

Library

The university library is located at the centre of the Haarentor campus, and houses over a million books and over 25,000 newspapers and magazines. You can access or borrow all of it free of charge. Furthermore, the library has numerous individual and group workspaces, as well as copiers, scanners, internet access, and a collection of current international newspapers. There is also free wireless internet access in the library and other places on campus.

Athletics

Sport enthusiasts are in their element at the University of Oldenburg. All students can use the university athletic facilities, and there are numerous courses in the most diverse of sports on offer. There is a swimming pool with a sauna, a modern fitness and health centre, a strength training room, a climbing sports halls, and beach volleyball and tennis courts. Many activities are free of charge.

International Student Life

The International Student Office (ISO) not only offers advice during the semester, but also maintains an interesting and varied calendar of events with weekend excursions, trips, and visits to cinemas, theatres, and museums.

You are also invited to participate in our International Dinner, to join our regular games night or to meet local students at the Intercultural Meet-Up.

The current calendar of events can be found on the ISO website:

www.uol.de/en/events-international-students

Eating and Drinking

The »Mensa« or main canteen offers a variety of inexpensive food options. Many of these are derived from organic agriculture or sourced from farmers in the region. The various cafes offer drinks, snacks, and a variety of coffees, many of which are fair trade.

Culture

The student club »Gegenlicht« showcases rarities from far outside mainstream cinema, and the student theatre UNIKUM features cabaret, theatre, music, and readings. Students who are interested in film and theatre have the opportunity to become actively involved in these student clubs on campus.





Oldenburg – a lively university town in Germany's Northwest

Student city, bicycle city, the capital of curly kale – Oldenburg has many names. The little big city has more than 165,000 inhabitants and is situated in Germany's Northwest between the North Sea, Hamburg, and the Dutch border. The North Sea strongly influences the climate, and it is neither too hot in summer nor too cold in winter.

With its quarter of a million or so bicycles (1.5 per resident), Oldenburg is a true bicycle city. Roughly 250 km of city bicycle lanes ensure that virtually everything is quickly and easily accessible by bicycle: the large pedestrian zone in the city centre, government offices and public institutions, cultural amenities and meeting points such as the Staatstheater, the Kulturetage, Oldenburg Castle, museums, cinemas, or the many bars and clubs, not to mention the University of Oldenburg itself. Those who prefer not to cycle can comfortably get around town by bus.

Oldenburg is not only ideal for cycling, but its parks and gardens make it a paradise for walkers and runners. There are opportunities for recreational walking and jogging almost everywhere. The Oldenburg Marathon takes place every October, and between May and September, there are monthly bike and inline skating nights.

For those who prefer spectator sports, a home basketball game with the EWE Baskets or the VfL Oldenburg's first Women's Handball Team would be perfect. Both teams offer first class professional sports in the highest German league. A visit is well worthwhile!

Oldenburg is a green city with many parks and woods in the midst of a rural setting surrounded by villages, small lakes, and bogs. In summer, you will see locals swimming and grilling at the many small lakes in the area, as well as enjoying picnics in the ever-popular Schlossgarten. A special highlight of the warm season is the Oldenburg Kultursommer, a festival of culture that takes place every year in July and August. In the winter, the Oldenburg Christmas Market attracts crowds, and Oldenburg's legendary »national dish« of curly kale and sausage lends strength and warmth during the cold months.

There is a great deal to discover around Oldenburg. With the semester ticket, students can travel free of cost to the North Sea coast, the Hanseatic Cities of Bremen and Hamburg, and to the Dutch border. Groningen, Oldenburg's Dutch partner city, is just an hour and a half away, and can be reached cheaply and easily on one of the buses that run several times daily.

All of this makes Oldenburg a comfortable place to live, and perfect for your stay abroad!

Your exchange studies in Oldenburg

Application

Would you like to join us as an Erasmus+ or exchange student? If so, we would be happy to have you!

Please visit the international office at your home university to find out if there is a partnership between your institution and the University of Oldenburg. Applications are possible in both the summer and the winter semester through the international office at your home university.

Required documents

Please submit the following documents in support of your application for an exchange stay at the University of Oldenburg:

- Application for temporary enrolment
- Application for accommodation
- Registration for the Buddy Programme (if desired)

All forms can be found on our website:
www.uol.de/en/iso/forms

Application deadlines

For the summer semester (April to July): 15 January
For the winter semester (October to February): 15 July

Please send your application documents and any further questions to:

University of Oldenburg
International Student Office (ISO)
Ammerlaender Heerstr. 114-118
D- 26129 Oldenburg
Germany
Phone: +49 (0)441 798-4266
Fax: +49 (0)441 798-2461
exchange@uni-oldenburg.de

We will send you a confirmation by email as soon as we receive your complete application. After the application deadline has passed, we will send you an information packet along with your acceptance letter by mail.

Organisation

Academic advising

At the University of Oldenburg, you will be assigned an academic advisor, also referred to as a Departmental Coordinator, who will be able to help you with all issues and questions relating to your studies, including your study programme and learning agreement. We will give you the name of your academic advisor well in advance. Please contact this person by the beginning of the semester at the latest.

Credit points / ECTS

Credit points (CP) indicate the average required workload per course (including preparation and other outside work). One CP corresponds to roughly 30 work hours. The University of Oldenburg uses the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). The average workload per semester is 30 CP, and individual modules vary between 3 and 10 CP.

Credit transfer

During their time at the University of Oldenburg, Erasmus+/exchange students accumulate certificates showing their academic achievements (credits), which are signed and stamped by each respective module instructor. These certificates form the basis of the transcript of records that is drawn up at the end of a student's stay. You will need this document, which is issued by the International Student Office, in order to have your credits transferred to and recognised by your home university.

Academic Calendar

Each semester comprises 14 weeks of courses. After courses end, there is a two to three week long examination period. Before the beginning of each semester, the ISO organises an international orientation week for new exchange students.

Winter semester

October 1st – March 31st

Orientation week for international students:
beginning of October
Lectures: Mid October – Mid February

Summer semester

April 1st – September 30th

Orientation week for international students:
beginning of April
Lectures: Mid April – Mid July

Preparations

As soon as the University of Oldenburg accepts you as an exchange student, you will have to take care of the following things:

Entry visa

Please find out if you must apply for an entry visa to enter Germany. Citizens of EU countries and a number of other countries (e.g. the USA, Australia) do not require an entry visa.

www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN

Health insurance

Health insurance is mandatory in Germany. Exchange students from EU countries who have a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) do not require additional health insurance. Exchange students who do not have a European Health Insurance Card will require insurance coverage for their entire stay.

Accommodation

The »Studentenwerk Oldenburg« (SWO) offers inexpensive accommodation in student residences and helps students find private accommodation. There are several student residences available, and all are situated close to the university or the city centre. There are single and double flats with their own kitchens and bathrooms, larger flats for several students, and rooms in living facilities with shared kitchens. Our Erasmus+/exchange students will be offered furnished or partially furnished rooms. Every student residence has washing machines and drying areas, lockable bicycle storage, cable-TV connections, and internet access. Such residences are quite cheap in comparison with housing on the private market. Rent ranges from roughly €165 to about €380 per month, depending on the type of accommodation and furnishings. You can get a first impression of the available facilities here:

www.sw-ol.de/en/internationale-studierende

Erasmus+/exchange students should use the application for accommodation that has been made available on the International Student Office website. You should submit this along with your application for a study place to the International Student Office.

Getting to the university

The University of Oldenburg is located in Germany's Northwest, and can easily be reached using public transport from the



international airports in Bremen (BRE), Hamburg (HAM), and Hannover (HAJ). Please note that the University of Oldenburg is located in Oldenburg in Niedersachsen (Oldb), and not in Oldenburg in Holstein. Train timetables for Deutsche Bahn can be found at www.bahn.de. It would be a good idea to arrive in Oldenburg before the beginning of International Orientation Week.

Living expenses & Finances

You should expect to spend about €720 per month for accommodation, health insurance, and food.

Estimated monthly expenses:

- Accommodation: €165 to €380
- Health insurance: approx. €90
- Food: €150 to €200
- Miscellaneous expenses (e.g. leisure, books, materials, etc.)

Additional expenses:

- Semester fees, including a semester ticket for unlimited use of the public transport network in and around Oldenburg: €265 per semester
- Residence permit for students from non-EU countries: €110

Students are permitted to work alongside their studies. In the case of students from non-EU countries, employment is limited to 120 full or 240 half workdays per year.

Your exchange studies in Oldenburg

Service

International Student Office

The incoming team and advisors in the International Student Office (ISO) are here to help you with all questions and issues concerning your exchange stay in Oldenburg.
exchange@uni-oldenburg.de
Office hours: Tuesday 10–12.30 and 14.30–16.30 h, Thursday 10–12.30 h

Facebook

International students can join our Facebook group: »International Students in Oldenburg«.

Buddy Programme

The buddy programme at the University of Oldenburg provides Erasmus+/exchange students with an Oldenburg student (buddy) who can offer a great deal of support, particularly in the beginning phase of your stay. Your buddy could, for example, agree to pick you up from the train station or obtain the key to your room for you.
www.uol.de/en/buddy

Tutors

The ISO tutors support all international students with practical, everyday, and organisational issues concerning their studies in Oldenburg, and help them take care of formalities. Up to date contact information can be found on the ISO website:
www.uol.de/en/international-tutor

International orientation week

You can take care of a number of important formalities (enrolment, registration with the City of Oldenburg, library card, etc.) during orientation week.

In the week prior to the beginning of courses, the ISO organises an orientation week for international students. This serves to help international students become acquainted with the university, their course of studies, the city of Oldenburg, and other students. For an up to date event schedule for the International Orientation Week, please see:
www.uol.de/en/iso/study/life-in-oldenburg/



German language courses

The Language Centre offers intensive language courses at A1.1, A2.1 and B1.1 level (according to CEFR) before the beginning of the semester. These intensive courses are subject to fees (250 Euro), and take place in September and in March, respectively. Courses are worth 6 ECTS. Free German courses are offered during the semester (Oct–Feb/ Apr–July), covering levels A1.1 to B2.2. These are worth 9 ECTS. Furthermore we offer courses in Creative Writing, German for scientists, Academic Writing, etc.

Our mandatory placement test during international orientation week places you in courses at the appropriate level. Please find more information on the Language Centre's website:
www.uol.de/en/school3/language-centre

The Language Centre also offers a language tandem for all students. This project matches students with suitable conversation partners based on their language learning goals. Both language partners improve their language skills by exchanging their native languages. Students can earn 3 ECTS.
www.uol.de/en/sprachtandem

Checklist

First steps in Oldenburg

You will need to take care of several formalities after your arrival. We have prepared this checklist to help you keep track of all of the things you will need to take care of in your first couple of weeks in Oldenburg.

Registration with the City of Oldenburg

You will have to register with the City of Oldenburg within a week after your arrival. You will need your passport and visa (if applicable). NOTICE: Please keep your registration form!

Bank account

In order to open a bank account at a bank in Oldenburg, you will need your passport/ID and your residential registration form from the City of Oldenburg. Accounts are usually free for students up to 27 years of age.

Health insurance

Health insurance is mandatory in Germany, and students cannot be enrolled without valid health insurance.

Enrolment

Enrolment takes place during International Orientation Week. If you are unable to participate, please visit the International Student Office (ISO) during office hours.

A few days after enrolment, you will receive your semester documents (Leporello) by post. These documents include your semester ticket, email/ Stud.IP user name and password, student ID, and enrolment certificates.

Residence Permit

Students from non-EU/EEA countries require a residence permit for their stay in Germany. Students must apply for their residence permit at the Foreigners' Office of the City of Oldenburg at least two months before their visas expire. The International Student Office offers support for students as they take care of formalities with the Foreigners' Office.

You will require the following documents for your residence permit:

- your passport
- current proof of health insurance coverage
- proof of adequate finances
- enrolment certificate
- biometric passport photo

Facebook

International students can join our Facebook group: »International Students in Oldenburg«.

Stud.IP and email account

Along with your semester documents, you will receive a user name and password that will give you access to your email account and the learning platform Stud.IP. You can register for courses/modules in Stud.IP. You can also log into your email account through Stud.IP and find/place offers on the »Schwarzes Brett«, a bulletin board where you can browse offers for things like rooms and flats for rent, used furniture, and bicycles.

University Library

In order to borrow books from the library, you will need to get a library card. You can do this at the user services desk located by the library entrance. For this process, you will need a passport or ID, your city registration form, and €5. You can use your library card to print, scan, and copy, and it can also be used as a »key« for the lockers in front of the library entrance. You will also receive a password with your library card. This will allow you to access your online library account.

Semester ticket

After enrolment, you will receive your enrolment certificates, student ID, and semester ticket. The semester ticket is your personal public transport ticket that will allow you unlimited use of the regional transport network for the next 6 months. You can also explore Oldenburg and the surrounding region on weekends and during holiday periods; the ticket is good for all local and regional trains in a wide area around Oldenburg (as far as Hamburg, Hannover, Osnabrück, and the North Sea), as well as on all bus lines inside Oldenburg and bus connections to outlying towns. Public transport in Germany is normally quite expensive, so your semester ticket will save you a lot of money.

