

White Rose University Consortium: College of Arts and Humanities

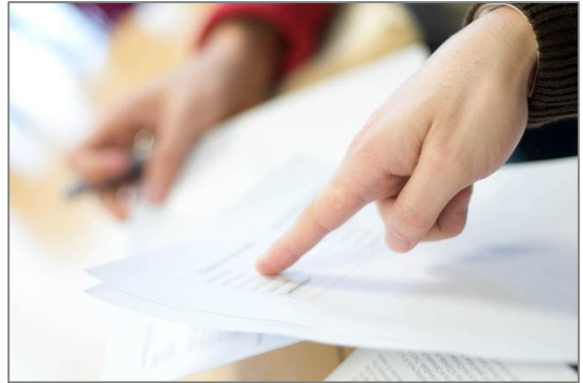
Arts and Humanities Research Culture in Germany

Academia

Differences

Moving to Germany, a large academic community with 415 higher education institutions awaits you.

The most noticeable difference, and one that will matter to you, is with regards to tuition fees: Only a few years after most German states (i.e. Bundesländer) had implemented these, they are now abolished in the whole of Germany. And it will most likely stay this way.



A second major difference is in the funding structure; while BAföG and the like ensure that everyone in Germany can afford to study, the 12 major funding bodies in the country (amongst others) additionally offer scholarships for the best students – and you can apply from your first semester at university to be accepted into one of their schemes, giving you more financial freedom as well as intellectual incitements and great networking opportunities.

In terms of language, German academia is less monolingual than you might know it from the UK. The working language in certain degree courses may be neither German nor English (e.g. when studying another philology), or may be English rather than German (e.g. in the sciences). However, it seems vital that you learn German to as high a standard as possible; if only to feel more integrated in every-day life, but also because depending on your degree course of choice, being proficient in German is an entry requirement.

Beginning to study in Germany, you will realise early on that the responsibility for your success lies with you. However, the structures are in place for you to succeed – you just need to make use of them. Especially as a B.A. student, sometimes you might feel the professor-student ratio is certainly better in the UK.

International exchange is important to German students – a lot of the people you will meet will have been abroad or are planning to go abroad during their studies, for at least a semester or two.

Lastly, employment rates are good for those with an academic degree; and there is virtually full employment for those with a PhD – just not necessarily within academia. And while overall, academia in Germany might seem a little more conservative than in the UK, public engagement activities etc. are up and coming.



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