

October 2009

## Auslandsaufenthalt (UK): info, tips, websites

### 1. ERASMUS EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

- A number of university places are available in the UK (and Ireland) within the EU-sponsored ERASMUS exchange programme. Applications are received and approved here in Oldenburg; successful applicants receive a modest grant; you do not pay tuition fees (*Studiengebühren*) on this programme (compare "direct application" below).
- Our English Department has exchange agreements with the University of Limerick (Ireland) also Coventry, Kingston-on-Thames, Manchester Metropolitan Uni, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Sunderland (England).
- For the ERASMUS programme, contact **Lauren Freede**.

### 2. DIRECT APPLICATION TO UNIVERSITIES

- As the number of exchange places is limited, some of you will want to apply direct to British universities. Begin by examining university websites, looking for *courses, application, visiting student, fees, and accommodation*. It is a good idea to apply to *several* universities, not just one. When you apply, make it clear you are a *visiting student from the EU*.
- Students pay tuition fees in England. This is means tested, so depending on your income (or your parents' income), as an undergraduate student you will currently be expected to pay £3000 for a year's study. Some unis offer EU students a "rebate" or "stipend" or reduction of up to half of these fees (make sure you *ask!* about this). Fees for one semester will be half of the above. Most unis accept visiting students for the winter semester only; some but not all unis also accept visiting students for the summer semester (*ask!* if this is not clear from the uni's website). The summer semester generally starts straight after the Christmas break.
- At Scottish unis, EU students pay reduced fees, in some cases no fees. See uni websites.
- BAFöG students: Your Auslands-BAFöG office will pay your tuition fees (there is a limit - *ask!*). Contact the Bezirksregierung Köln, Ausbildungsförderung, Theaterplatz 14, 52062 Aachen telling them of your intention to spend some time abroad. Do this well in advance of your planned stay in the UK. "Die Leistungen nach der BAFöG-Auslandszuschlagsverordnung werden in voller Höhe als *Zuschuss* geleistet, brauchen also nicht zurückgezahlt zu werden" says the Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung.
- Do not apply via an organisation called UCAS unless you want to do a three-year BA course in the UK.
- For university addresses, go to *universitiesuk.ac.uk* or *britishcouncil.org*
- You will probably need to send in the results of a standardized English test with your application. The best-known are the American TOEFL test and the British IELTS test. Since the testing schedules vary, try to take one of these tests as soon as you can. Go to *de.toefl.eu* for TOEFL, or *britishcouncil.de* for the IELTS test.

### 3. ASSISTANT TEACHER POSITIONS

- The job of assistant teacher in a British secondary school entails teaching 12 hours of German a week, to full classes and/or small groups of pupils. It is a paid position, the pay at the moment standing at around £800 per month (minus health insurance). "Kindergeldzahlungen werden weiterhin gewährt" (PAD brochure).
- Applications are channelled through the PAD (the Pädagogischer Austauschdienst in Bonn). You can download and print the application form from the PAD website at *kmk-pad.org/de/fsa/fsa* Send your completed forms direct to the PAD. Deadline **1 December 2009** for the school year 2010/11.

### 4. MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

- A link on the Anglistik website will take you to the decisions that the English Department took on what a stay abroad should look like as far as the exam regulations are concerned (Prüfungsordnung MEd.). If you are not sure about whether your plans conform to the regulations, contact either **Deidre Graydon** or **Joanna Pfingsthorn**.
- Explore these useful websites: *britishcouncil.org* also *daad.de* also the website of the Uni OL's own International Student Office: *uni-oldenburg.de/iso* ("Auslandsaufenthalte").
- The EU Hochschulbüro Hannover/Hildesheim will advise on "Auslandspraktika in Europa (Praktikumsstipendien für Studierende und Graduierte)". See their website at *eu.uni-hannover.de* You might also look at "Arbeitsstellen im Ausland" at *arbeitsagentur.de*