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# 10 BRINGING YOUR FAMILY

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## 10.1 CHILDCARE

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If you wish to bring your children to Oldenburg, you should find out about daycare options and facilities prior to your arrival. The kindergarten year usually starts in August, and only in exceptional cases is it possible to get a place in a facility on short notice.

### STATUTORY RIGHT

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Children between the ages of three and six years have a statutory right to a place in a kindergarten, though kindergarten attendance remains voluntary. As childcare provisions and care times vary from facility to facility we recommend that you contact these facilities prior to your arrival. In addition to kindergartens, there are *Kindertagesstätten* (daycare centres or nurseries) that provide all-day care, often including lunch, and (*Kinder-*) *Krippen* (crèches) that provide childcare for babies and toddlers.

### REGISTRATION

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There is a signing up period in January of each year. Many facilities have an Open Day (*Tag der offenen Tür*) for parents who would like to see the facility and meet the staff before signing up. In Oldenburg, places in childcare facilities are assigned in a centralised procedure. Details on the procedure can be found on the website of the City of Oldenburg. Parents fill in a form and name their preferred childcare facility. The City's *Amt für Jugend, Familie und Schule* (Agency for Youth, Family, and Schooling) is in charge of assigning places and will inform parents some time between the end of February and the end of April of its decision.

### CHILDMINDERS

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A childminder (*Tagesmutter*) is a more individualised, flexible childcare option. Childminders generally look after several children during the day in their own home. Childminders are required to hold a valid state certificate and a licence from the child protective services (*Jugendamt*). They are also required to update their paediatric first aid training every 2 years. You can find *Tagesmütter* in the classified ads sections of newspapers or through the child protective services. If you are looking for a babysitter to look after your children for a few hours a day, it is a good idea to ask your colleagues and neighbours for recommendations.

### QUICK INFO

*A fee based on the parents' income level, on the range of services the respective facility provides and on the number of siblings is charged for places at childcare facilities.*

# 10.2

## CHILDCARE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OLDENBURG'S STUDENTENWERK

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### CRÈCHE (*KINDERKRIPPE*) ON HUNTEMANNSTRASSE

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The Studentenwerk offers 44 places in the crèche on Huntemannstraße for children aged between around eight months and three years. Childcare is provided in the morning and/or in the afternoon, from 7:30 to 16:00. The crèche has an Open Day (*Tag der offenen Tür*) every year in January for parents to view the facility and meet the child carers.

### DAYCARE CENTRE/NURSERY (*KINDERTAGESSTÄTTE*) ON HAARENTOR CAMPUS

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The *Studentenwerk* also has a daycare centre („*Kindertagesstätte Uni-Campus*“) directly on Haarentor Campus. 45 places divided among three groups of 15 children each are available for children aged three or younger, and 25 places for kindergarten-aged children (between the ages of three and six). Like the crèche on Huntemannstraße, every January the *Kita Uni-Campus* has an Open Day for parents.

### FLEXIBLE AFTERNOON CHILDCARE

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Flexible afternoon childcare is an additional service offered by the *Kita Uni-Campus*. From 1 October to 15 July it provides afternoon childcare for children aged one to six. Please note that this service is not intended as a supplement to regular childcare in childcare facilities. It is meant to help parents who need childcare on short notice, for example when a babysitter or childminder cancels at the last minute. You can register either in person at the *Kita Uni-Campus* or by phone.

### INFORMATION

*Kinderkrippe Huntemannstraße*

*Director: Barbara Wübbens*

*Huntemannstraße 2*

*26131 Oldenburg*

*Telephone: +49 (0) 441 - 56 00 783*

*Email: kinderkrippe.huntemannstrasse@swol.de*

*Kindertagesstätte Uni-Campus*

*Director: Gerta Kutter*

*Uhlhornsweg 47b*

*26129 Oldenburg*

*Telephone: +49 (0) 441 - 217 197 72*

*Email: kita.uni-campus@sw-ol.de*

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### OTHER CHILDCARE FACILITIES NEAR THE UNIVERSITY:

*Studentenselbsthilfe – Kindertagesstätte e.V.*

*Küppersweg 91*

*26129 Oldenburg*

*Telephone: +49 (0) 441 - 764 34*

*Email: info@kindergarten-kueppersweg.de*

*Waldorf Kindergarten*

*Schützenweg 25A*

*26129 Oldenburg*

*Telephone: +49 (0) 441 - 361 810 04*

*Evangelischer Kindergarten*

*Schützenweg 40*

*26129 Oldenburg*

*Telephone: +49 (0) 441 / 729 67*

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# 10.3 SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

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Compulsory school attendance (*Schulpflicht*) in Germany requires that all children between the ages of six and fifteen attend school. The German general school system has two stages of school education: primary and secondary. Primary education runs from years 1 to 4. Secondary education (*Sekundarstufe I*) runs from years 5 to 10 with three different tracks of schooling: *Hauptschule*, *Realschule* (in Lower Saxony, these two tracks are combined into *Oberschulen*) and *Gymnasium*. Students receive an intermediate-level qualification once they have successfully completed year 10. Students who are eligible to take *Abitur* exams continue secondary education until either year 12 or 13 (*Sekundarstufe II*), depending on the school they attend. The German school system also has *Gesamtschulen* (GS) and *Integrierte Gesamtschulen* (IGS). These schools combine all three tracks of schooling and allocate students to different course levels according to performance: remedial, basic, and advanced. *Kooperative Gesamtschulen* (KGS), on the other hand, keep the three tracks of schooling separate and teach students separately even though they all attend the same school.

As each federal state has its own school holiday dates, the school year starts in either August or September. In the past, part-time education was more common in Germany than full-time education, with the school day ending early, between 13:00 and 14:00. In recent years, however, full-time education has become increasingly prevalent and

many schools now offer full-time education until 15:00 or 16:00 and provide lunch at cafeterias and/or dining halls (*Mensas*).

Most schools in Germany are public and do not charge tuition. Parents do, however, have to pay for learning materials and school trips and outings. Private schools are less common in Germany.

You can consult the school administration (*Schulleitung*) and go and see the schools for yourself before choosing one for your children.

## INFORMATION

[www.oldenburg.de](http://www.oldenburg.de) > [English](#) > [City Administration](#) > [Families](#) > [Schools](#)

For further information: [www.landesschulbehoerde-niedersachsen.de](http://www.landesschulbehoerde-niedersachsen.de)

School holiday dates in Lower Saxony: [www.holidays-info.com/School-Holidays-Germany/Lower-Saxony.html](http://www.holidays-info.com/School-Holidays-Germany/Lower-Saxony.html)

# 10.4

## FAMILY BENEFITS

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Family benefits vary greatly within the European Union. Your economic status and your place of residence determine which country is responsible for providing your family benefits:

- If you live in a European country and pay contributions to the (national) social security system, the country you live in is responsible for your family benefits.
- If you live in a European country temporarily (i.e. for less than two years) and continue to pay contributions to the social security system of your home country, your home country remains responsible for your family benefits.
- If your family lives in a country other than the one where you live, your family could be entitled to family benefits from different countries. The relevant national authorities will then take account of both parents' situations and decide which country has primary responsibility for paying the benefits. You will not receive benefits twice.

The following family benefits are statutory in Germany:

- Parental leave and parental benefit (*Elternzeit* and *Elterngeld*)
- Maternity protection (*Mutterschutz*)
- Child benefit (*Kindergeld*)

For more detailed information, please go to: [www.uni-oldenburg.de/en/iro](http://www.uni-oldenburg.de/en/iro) > Visiting Researchers > Bringing your Family > Family Benefits

### CONTACT

#### CHILD BENEFIT

Visiting Address:

Familienkasse Oldenburg

Federal Employment Agency Oldenburg

Stau 70

26122 Oldenburg

Postal Address:

Familienkasse Niedersachsen-Bremen

30131 Hannover

Telephone: 0800 - 4 5555 30

(nationwide and free of charge)

Email: [Familienkasse-Niedersachsen-Bremen@arbeitsagentur.de](mailto:Familienkasse-Niedersachsen-Bremen@arbeitsagentur.de)

#### PARENTAL BENEFIT

Elterngeldstelle of the City of Oldenburg

(Amt für Jugend, Familie und Schule)

Bergstraße 25

26122 Oldenburg

Telephone: +49 (0) 441 - 235 4444

Email: [familie-schule@stadt-oldenburg.de](mailto:familie-schule@stadt-oldenburg.de)

Telephone advice service:

Mon to Fri 7 to 18

Personal consultation on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 to 12 and in the afternoon after making an appointment by phone; on Fridays from 8 to 12

### INFORMATION

Employment Agency, Kindergeld: [www.arbeitsagentur.de](http://www.arbeitsagentur.de)

> English > Benefits > Child Benefit

### EUROPEAN UNION

[europa.eu/youreurope/index.html](http://europa.eu/youreurope/index.html) > Citizens > Family > Children > Family benefits

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# 10.5

## EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS FOR YOUR PARTNER (DUAL CAREER)

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If your partner is accompanying you to Oldenburg and would also like to work during his or her stay here, you should find out about the employment regulations as soon as possible. The *Ausländerbüro* (Foreign Residents' Office) of the City of Oldenburg is your contact for such inquiries and can inform you about whether you are allowed to be gainfully employed in Germany and how to apply for jobs. Current job offers are listed in daily newspapers (generally in the weekend editions) and online, on the University's noticeboard or at the Federal Employment Agency in Oldenburg.

### INFORMATION AND ADVICE

*EURES – European Job Mobility Portal: [www.ec.europa.eu/eures](http://www.ec.europa.eu/eures)*

*German Federal Employment Agency website: [www.arbeitsagentur.de](http://www.arbeitsagentur.de)*

### EMPLOYMENT AGENCY IN OLDENBURG

*Agentur für Arbeit Oldenburg*

*Stau 70*

*26122 Oldenburg*

*Telephone: 0800 - 4 5555 00*

### USEFUL ONLINE JOB PORTALS

*[www.euraxess.eu](http://www.euraxess.eu) > Jobs*

*[www.zeit.de/jobs](http://www.zeit.de/jobs)*

*[www.academics.com](http://www.academics.com)*

*[www.academics.de](http://www.academics.de)*

*<http://jobsuche.monster.de>*

### QUICK INFO

*Job offers at Oldenburg University:*

*[www.uni-oldenburg.de/stellen](http://www.uni-oldenburg.de/stellen)*