

# Willkommen!



## Guide for Exchange Students

Year 2020/21

*Updated Version of April 2020*





Dear Exchange Student,

Welcome to Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg!

First of all, we want to thank you for having chosen Magdeburg University as your place to study abroad and for giving us the opportunity to be part of your future exchange studies.

My name is Anne-Katrin Behnert. I am the incoming exchange student advisor in the International office of our university. Anneke Niemann, my ERASMUS assistant, and I want to welcome you to Magdeburg. We are sure that you will enjoy our university and our town.

This Exchange Student Guide provides useful information about living at Otto-von-Guericke Universität (OvGU) and Magdeburg, and it will help you to cope with the application procedure and, later, with arriving at and doing your first steps on campus and in town.

With kind regards,

Anne-Katrin Behnert & Anneke Niemann

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# About the University

The Otto von Guericke University (OvGU) of Magdeburg was founded in 1993. Being established in a merger of the previous Technical University, the Teacher Training College and the Medical School, it is now one of the youngest German universities.

The university comprises nine faculties and offers more than 95-degree courses. With over 13,800 students coming from 95 countries, OvGU is becoming increasingly important as the centre of education and research in Central Germany and beyond.

The University is named after Otto von Guericke (1602 – 1686). He was Magdeburg's famous son, a politician, scholar and then-mayor of the town. He was the founder in the field of vacuum engineering, well-known beyond German borders.

## International Office

The International Office [*“Akademisches Auslandsamt”*] advises and supports all international guests of the university, whether undergraduates, postgraduates or scholars.

If you are an ERASMUS exchange student, your contact is Ms. Anne-Katrin Behnert, or her student-assistant Anneke Niemann.

International degree-seeking, non-exchange students please contact Mrs. Eva Boehning in our International Office.

## Contact

### Anne-Katrin Behnert

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# Becoming an Exchange Student

Otto von Guericke University has entered into bilateral agreements with numerous universities in many European and non-European countries. If your home university is our partner institution, you can be nominated for ERASMUS/exchange studies at OvGU. Please ask your International Office for the relevant conditions for your application.

## Application Procedure

If your home university has nominated you as an exchange student, we will contact you and invite you for application to Otto von Guericke University.

ERASMUS candidates please follow the instructions given on our website:

[https://www.ovgu.de/unimagdeburg/en/International/Incoming+\\_Ways+to+the+University/International+Students/Exchange+Programmes/Studying+as+an+ERASMUS\\_+Exchange+Student-p-107078.html](https://www.ovgu.de/unimagdeburg/en/International/Incoming+_Ways+to+the+University/International+Students/Exchange+Programmes/Studying+as+an+ERASMUS_+Exchange+Student-p-107078.html)

ERASMUS candidates are requested to make an online application. After submitting this application, please send the printout of the application form (signed by you and your Erasmus coordinator), a photo in passport format, your Learning Agreement, the proof of languages and the Transcript of Records of your current studies to our International Office by post (Otto-von-Guericke-Universität Magdeburg, International Office, Universitätsplatz 2, 39106 Magdeburg)

Only the complete application, both online and hardcopy, can be considered for admission.

**Application deadline:** We will not accept any application arriving after the closing date! We ask for your understanding for this policy.

## OVGU Academic Calendar

### Winter Term 2020/21

Overall:	01 October 2020 — 31 March 2021
Welcome Week:	19 October 2020 — 23 October 2020
Lecture Period:	26 October 2020 — 06 February 2021
Exam Period:	08 February 2021 — 07 March 2021
<i>Holidays:</i>	23 December 2020 - 01 January 2021

**Closing Date for Application: 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

### Summer Term 2021

Overall:	01 April 2021 — 30 September 2021
Welcome Week:	29 March 2021 — 02 April 2021
Lecture Period:	06 April 2021 — 09 July 2021
Exam Period:	20 July 2020 — 08 August 2020
<i>Holidays:</i>	02 April, 05 April, 13 Mai, 24 Mai

**Closing Date for Application: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

## Choosing Courses

OvGU has an online platform called “LSF”, where you can search for appropriate courses. Please use the link below:

<https://lsf.ovgu.de>

This platform provides various information for your studies, from complete course lists to individual courses. The study programmes can be sorted by level of education (Bachelor, Master).

Please inform yourself about the course offer in time.

Courses in English from the previous and current semester are listed in the PDF files: Courses in English SS19, Courses in English WS19/20. These lists can be used for information purposes because most of these courses will also be offered in subsequent semesters.

The final list of available courses will be available in the LSF portal some weeks before the semester starts. The LSF portal is OVGU's campus information system where you can find all courses offered in the current/past semesters. When selecting courses please use the same designation as listed in the LSF portal.

**Please note:** Your individual study programme should be in the discipline or faculty you were nominated for. If you wish to choose courses from other faculties, please get in contact with us.

The LSF is made out in German; the English version is only partly active. You can choose the English flag symbol on top of the right side of the page to switch to the English version.

### **Creating your timetable**

**Please note:** The course information in the LSF system is available for everyone, but you can only create your timetable after your enrolment and the activation of your student account.

Please follow the following steps:

- (1) Go to “Course Overview”
- (2) Choose your faculty (in German “Fakultät”)
- (3) Now you can choose between lectures or seminar sorted by:
  - Courses sorted by Degree Programmes
  - Courses sorted by Chairs and Professors
  - Courses for Degree Programmes of Other Faculties
  - Other courses / Events of the Faculty
- (4) You will get the list of courses that are offered for your programme and semester.
- (5) If you would like to enrol on a course, click on the course then under “Dates/Times/Location” mark the small checkbox. Then go on “Schedule preselected”.
- (6) Now you can see your course on your personal timetable. Go on “Course Overview” to select another one.
- (7) When you have finished selecting courses, go back to your personal timetable and press the “save schedule” – button.
- (8) Generating a PDF is possible by clicking on “Print (PDF)”.



### Learning German at the University's Languages Centre

Learning some German will make your stay at OVGU more valuable even if you are going to attend English courses exclusively. Exchange students are welcome to register for one of the German language courses via the moodle-platform once they are enrolled with the OvGU:

<http://moodle-n.ovgu.de/sprz>

Please note that we are facing a huge number of international students, so that a registration cannot be guaranteed.

German language courses are free of charge for our ERASMUS/exchange students for one semester and they may be credited with ECTS points.

The registration starts at **at the beginning of the semester**

### Sports courses

The OVGU Sports Centre offers a wide variety of courses and sports disciplines. Exchange students can register for the courses like any regular student. Note that the registration must be done online. The current semester's sports courses are announced at [www.spoz.ovgu.de](http://www.spoz.ovgu.de) a few days before the semester starts, mostly just before the Welcome Week. For some complex, material-consuming courses this fee might vary. The registration starts at **the beginning of the semester.**

## Housing

If you wish to live on campus, you must apply for housing at the Student Union, called "Studentenwerk" by completing an online application via <https://www.studentenwerk-magdeburg.de/en/accommodation/accommodation-form/>

**Please note:** Deadlines for housing application are 15 of January and/or 15 of July, same as for the study applications.

Rooms are furnished single-bed rooms of approx. 20 s.qm. with private bathroom, kitchen and internet included. Washing machines are located in the basement. The internet in the dorm rooms is included in the rent and can be used right after your arrival.

Most exchange students live in the dorm Walter-Rathenau-Str.19. Prices for rooms are around 270 EUR depending on size and equipment.

When you fill out the online form on <https://www.studentenwerk-magdeburg.de/en/accommodation/accommodation-form/>, please choose "Wohnheim 9" (dormitory 9) which is the dormitory reserved for ERASMUS students. Make a remark "ERASMUS/exchange student" on the form.

**Please note:** You may apply for housing starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of a month, exceptionally starting from the 15<sup>th</sup> day of a month. Rental fee has to be paid for full months, for half months you have to pay 50%.

After having received a room offer and after having secured it by paying the relevant deposit fee, you will get your rental contract on the day you move into your room. **Check your rental contract and related documents carefully, especially with regard to start and end dates of the contract!**

**Rental contract:** The termination notice for on-campus rooms is two (2) full months!



# Prepare Your Stay

## Required documents

EU nationals do not need to apply for a visa to enter Germany. Residents/nationals of any non-EU country need to apply for a student visa at the German embassy or a consulate general. All admitted exchange students receive a formal Letter of Acceptance from our International Office. It is needed for non-EU nationals to apply for student visa. EU nationals need it for registration formalities after arrival.

Please be prepared to take the following documents when departing for Magdeburg:

- Your Passport/National ID
- Your ERASMUS Letter of Acceptance
- Proof of international health insurance (EU insurants must bring the EHIC European health insurance card)
- 2 – 3 photos in biometrical format
- Non-EU residents only: proof of sufficient funds (min. 861 €/month).

## Directions to Magdeburg

By plane: The most common way to come to Magdeburg is by plane to one of the airports: Berlin, Leipzig, Altenburg or Hannover. From there you continue your travel by train to Magdeburg (duration of approx. 1.5 or 2 hours).

*[www.berlin-airport.de](http://www.berlin-airport.de)*

*[www.leipzig-halle-airport.de](http://www.leipzig-halle-airport.de)*

*[www.hannover-airport.de](http://www.hannover-airport.de)*

You will find schedules, prices and tickets on the website of German railways "Deutsche Bahn": [www.bahn.de](http://www.bahn.de)

By bus: Some international bus lines stop in Magdeburg at the central bus station, "ZOB Zentraler Omnibusbahnhof", which is located next to Magdeburg's central train station. Coming from Magdeburg train station or bus station, it takes a walk of 25 minutes or a tram ride of 15 minutes to reach the city campus. (Attention, the Medicine campus is not part of the city campus; it is in the south of the town, about 5 km from the train station.)

Pick-up service: Exchange students may enjoy our pick-up service, if they have registered for it at least 7 days in advance by filling in the arrival pick-up form that was sent to them.

**Please note:** Our pick-up service is by tram. Please take some cash with you for a tram ticket (2.20 € for a single ticket or 5.30 € for a day-ticket).

If you wish to arrive individually: Magdeburg is located close to highways A2 and A14. From those you reach the city centre and the campus within a few minutes.

**Please note:** The OvGU offers a Welcome Week which is compulsory for exchange students. The variety of essential information you get during the Welcome Week cannot be guaranteed for latecomers. Also, stay in touch with our International Office regarding your planned arrival date, which is important for securing your housing and/or pick-up.

# First Steps after your arrival



## 1. Enrolment

After your arrival, you should present yourself at the International Office to Ms Behnert. In order to enrol, you need the following documents:

- National ID card / Passport
- 1 photo in biometric format
- Health insurance

After your registration, you need to pay your semester fee in order to complete your enrolment and get your student ID card.

<u>Office Hours of Ms. Behnert:</u>	Mon:	10 – 12
	Tue:	10 – 12, 01 – 03 pm
	Thu:	10 – 12, 01 – 03 pm

The student ID card (UniCard) will work...

- as your semester ticket;
- as your library ID;
- as an authentication for W-LAN;
- as a cashless payment in the refectory and on the university copiers;
- for the use of the washing machines and dryers in the student union halls of residence.

## 2. Payment of the semester fee

In order to enrol, every student needs to pay the obligatory semester fee in the current amount of 129,90 € to OvGU. You will get the instructions for the payment during the enrolment at the International Office

The semester fee is charged for certain services that all students receive, like the “semester ticket” that allows enrolled students to use tram and buses for free during the semester. Also, student discounts for lunch in the university canteen (“Mensa”) are permitted by those fees.

## 3. Housing / Rental contract

You need a rental contract for your registration at the local citizens’ office. Therefore, please approach Mrs. Schmidt-Hlali (Studentenwerk) or your landlord’s representative soon after your arrival for the contract. Usually, rental contracts are handed out after payment of the first monthly rental plus security deposit, if any.

Mrs. Schmidt-Hlali

- dorm 7, room 343
- office hours: Mo/Tue/Thu/Fr 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.,  
and Tue 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

## 4. Citizens’ Office “Bürgerbüro”

Within 7 days after your arrival to Magdeburg, you are supposed to register at the “Einwohnermeldeamt/Bürgerbüro” located in the city centre (address: Leiterstraße 2a, tram stop “Leiterstraße”). However, during the Welcome Week, the Citizens’ Office offers on-campus appointments for students in the Campus Service Center (Building 01).

In order to register everybody needs a confirmation of the landlord / provider of housing (“Wohnungsgeberbestätigung”). The provider of housing is either

your landlord, a person mandated by your landlord or the main tenant, if you are a subtenant.

## **5. Foreigners Office “Ausländerbehörde”**

Non-EU residents need to register also in the foreigners’ registration office (“Ausländerbehörde”) within 3 months after their arrival.

Required Documents for the above registration formalities:

- Passport/national ID
- registration form
- Rental contract (“Mietvertrag”) that shows your Magdeburg address
- Confirmation of enrolment “Immatrikulationsbescheinigung”
- Proof of health insurance
- proof about financial ability to stay in Germany (ERASMUS+ Scholarship)
- cash for the grant of residence
- 1 or 2 photos in biometric format.

## **5. Health Insurance**

To register as a student, you need an adequate health insurance that is valid for your stay in Germany. As mentioned above, EU citizens need to bring the personal European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). Non-EU citizens need to register with/present a health insurance after they have arrived to Magdeburg. Compulsory health insurance in Germany is round about 90 € per month.

During the Welcome Week we offer appointments with health insurance companies on campus.

## **6. Bank**

Students with a bank account from a European country can use this bank account for the transactions in Magdeburg.

If you want to open a bank account anyway, you need to bring your passport, the ERASMUS letter of acceptance and the document you received from the citizens’ office, “Meldeschein” to the German bank. You can open up the account on your own, or you seek the IKUS’ help after your arrival.





# Welcome Week

The International Office and the IKUS – Intercultural Students ([www.ikus.ovgu.de](http://www.ikus.ovgu.de)) organize a compulsory Welcome Week for the new exchange students. This week invites all German and international students to experience the new surrounding on campus and to have all orientation events together.)

The Welcome Week also comprises a brief Intensive German language course. The details about the registration will be communicated to you with your Acceptance Letter.

# Useful Information



## The City of Magdeburg

At an age of more than 1200 years, Magdeburg is one of the oldest cities of Central Germany. It has experienced an interesting and eventful history through times of peace and war.

The city has approximately 238,000 inhabitants who live along Elbe River. Although Magdeburg was partly destroyed in during war times, the city offers many ancient, attractive buildings. The most famous is the Magdeburg Cathedral in the heart of the city centre.

The “Grüne Zitadelle” designed by the architect Friedensreich Hundertwasser constitutes a controversial but important component of the newer architecture of the city and has established itself as a major tourist attraction since its opening in 2005.

Find some more information about our green and enjoyable town on: [www.magdeburg.de](http://www.magdeburg.de)

## Finding your Way

On campus you will find several big maps to help you with orientation. The Student Service Center (Building 01, close to the tram stop “University”) is the main information point on campus. All campus buildings are numbered. An interactive map of the campus can be found on: [http://www.fokus-du.de/front\\_content.php?idcatart=492&client=5&lang=6](http://www.fokus-du.de/front_content.php?idcatart=492&client=5&lang=6)

## Public Transport

Magdeburg has a convenient public transport system, with trams, buses and even two Elbe river ferries. As enrolled student, you must take your student ID with you when using public transport. You need to show it to the ticket inspector in case of a control.

Before enrolment please buy a regular ticket at a ticket vending machine either at the tram/bus stop or inside the tram. Using public transport without valid ticket may be fined with 60€.

## Internet

During the very first days of your stay, you won't have access to the wireless internet/computers on campus. You can use several internet cafés in the vicinity of the campus.

After registration and receiving your student ID, you may register your account at one of the terminals in the computer lab (Building 26.1). With your university account you can log on to the computers on campus and you can check your OVGU student e-mails. With this account you can also use your own laptop to access the internet.

Usually you will find a cable in your dorm room if you live at Studentenwerk, then you can use the internet right away. If there is no cable you would need to buy a cable in an electronic store.

## Food

Most students have lunch at the canteen (Building 27), called “Mensa”. You have the choice of several meals: meat, fish and vegetarian food. You can also enjoy a large salad buffet.

Furthermore there are small cafés on campus, e.g. in the library (Building 30) and in some faculty buildings (Buildings 16, 18 and 40).

In your dorm you will have a kitchen, where you can cook individually or with friends. An “NP” supermarket, open from 06am to midnight from Monday to Saturday is located 200 meters from the campus in Jacobstraße 13.

## Shopping

The main shopping facilities are located in the city centre. There are two shopping malls: Allee Center and City-Carrée. The street “Breiter Weg” invites for shopping with numerous small shops and boutiques.

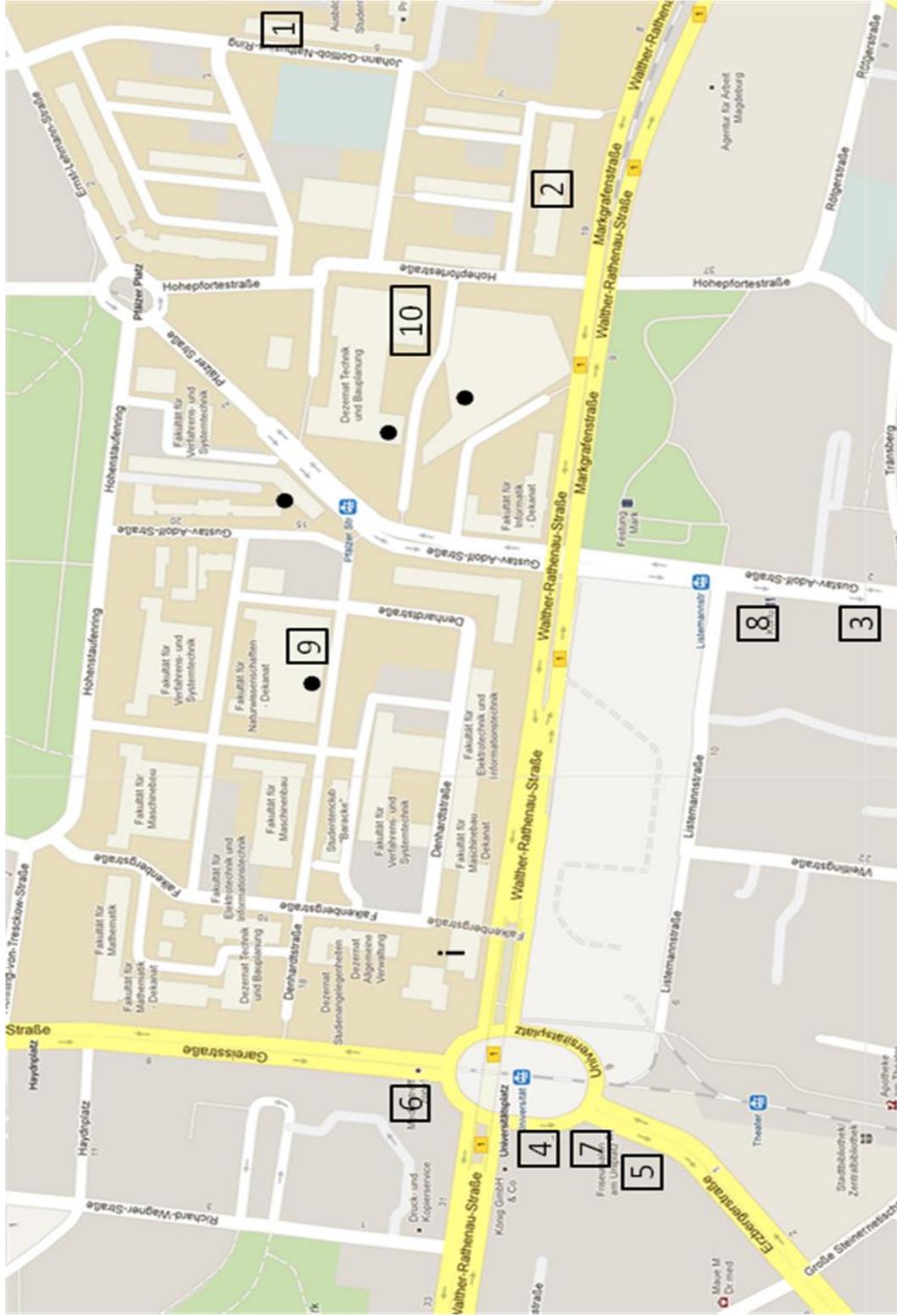
## Doctors and Pharmacies

In case of an accident or illness you have the choice of numerous doctors in town. Just call one and make an appointment but please note that not all of them speak English fluently.

If you need to see a doctor without previous appointment, you should be prepared to wait some time. You have to take your health insurance card with you. The nearest English speaking physician is near “Nordpark”:

<https://praxis-am-nordpark.net/en/>

The nearest pharmacy is located next to the University Place (“Universitätsplatz”), vis-à-vis the tram stop “Opernhaus” (Opera house).



i = info point

1 = Studentenwerk

2 = IKT and dorm Walter-Rathenau-Straße 19

3 = NP supermarket

4 = Post office

5 = Asian restaurant

6 = kebab restaurant

7 = Italian restaurants

8 = Greek restaurant

9 = studentenwerk cafe

10 = canteen / Mensa

● = snack / soft drink vending machines



## Leisure Activities

The University sports center offers a lot of free sports courses for students. Make sure to register early, since usually the most popular ones might fill up within half an hour after registration has started.

Furthermore there are several parks e.g. the Nordpark right behind the Campus and swimming pools (also outdoor) e.g. Elbeschwimmhalle and Nautica, which you can use for sports activities.

If you are tired of being active, why not heading for the Opera or the “Kammerspiele” theatre with their many offers ([www.theater-magdeburg.de](http://www.theater-magdeburg.de)), or for the Cinemaxx (movie theater) or for one of the small independent cinemas (Moritzhof, Studiokino, OLI at Olvenstedter Strasse).

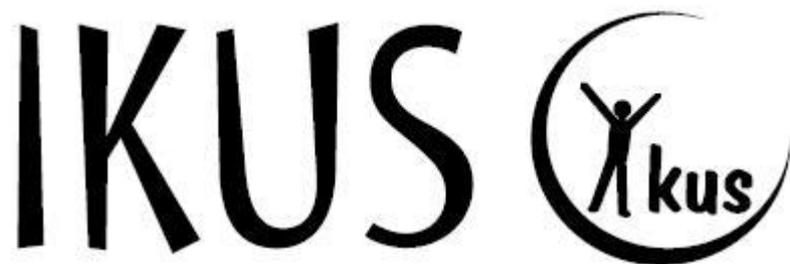
If you like to go out, the Hasselbach square area offers the best opportunities to relax in a café or bar.

## Last but not least – IKUS Intercultural Students

If you need help, if you have a problem, or if you just have a simple question, do not hesitate to visit the IKT place (“Interkultureller Treffpunkt”) and ask the IKUS for help. IKUS is a group of German and international students–volunteers who assist all international students at OVGU. Almost each week of the semester, the IKUS students offer several social and cultural activities for you to get to know the German culture, but also other students and their cultures.

Try the IKUS services: Weekly office hours for counselling, table football nights (Kickus), movie nights, country evenings, trips, sports tournaments, parties and many more activities in and around Magdeburg.

For more information check on [www.ikus.ovgu.de](http://www.ikus.ovgu.de), join the *IKUS Magdeburg* group on facebook or send an email to [ikus@ovgu.de](mailto:ikus@ovgu.de).



Interkulturelle Studenten der  
Otto-von-Guericke-Universität Magdeburg

We wish you a  
pleasant guest stay at  
Otto von Guericke  
University Magdeburg!

[www.ovgu.de](http://www.ovgu.de)

