

Sea your
Future
STUDY
IN >

MV.



EDITORIAL



Dear Readers

Unspoilt coasts, clean air, crystal clear water - for many people Mecklenburg-Vorpommern represents a unique natural environment. Every year, visitors from all over the world come to sample the picturesque landscape, the fantastic recreational opportunities and the magnificent cultural heritage of our region. So why don't you pay us a visit, too? For one semester or even for a whole degree program.

Not without a reason, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is Germany's number one holiday destination. However, it's not only the holidaymakers who feel good here: the region is attractive for industry and science too. Both traditional and innovative industries profit from the region's highly qualified workforce and its lively research environment. Centres of learning such as the Ernst Moritz Arndt University in Greifswald or the University of Rostock, which both boast histories of over 500 years, and newer research centres such as the Max Planck and Fraunhofer Institutes all contribute to a stimulating environment for innovation.

The environment is stimulating for your studies, too – after all, when you leave the lecture theatre you can dive straight in the sea! Studying at the coast is invigorating, and you'll soon see the advantage of studying where others come on vacation.

The two universities rich in tradition and the four other modern higher education institutes in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern have a tradition of offering young people the time of their life whilst studying. Here in north-eastern Germany you will find a combination of attractive conditions seldom found elsewhere: modern laboratories in honourable old buildings, short study courses, and the chance to go sailing straight after the lecture, to name but a few. There is a good diversity of subjects to choose from and the colleges are equipped to the highest level. In short, studying in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern offers top chances for quick, efficient and successful results.

It all goes to show that Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is a state where you can live, work, study, invest, research explore and relax.- "Sea your future - study in Northern Gemany". This is our state's slogan, which means Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is good for you.

And to help you discover the truth of this and feel at home here, this brochure offers you the information you may find interesting as a newcomer to Germany or to Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. You'll also find tips about student life in general, such as leisure activities, parties and how to explore the region between beach and lecture theatre.

Welcome to (student) life in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern!

> www.studieren-mit-meerwert.de

> www.bm.mv-regierung.de

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"... the noiseless quiet underlined by the soft breaking of the little waves; an occasional gull or tern, and that long, long line of the Baltic horizon, sometimes sporting a tiny sail at its edge . I know no region better suited to immersing yourself in your thoughts than this."

> [___](#) Carl Gustav Carus (1789.1869), doctor, naturalist and painter, referring to the Isle of Rugia.



THE BEAUTY OF NATURE

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is the place to be for all lovers of unspoiled natural beauty. The fine sand beaches of the Baltic coast and the Mecklenburg Lake District make it a paradise for bathers too. The region is also rich in natural resources such as chalk, peat and brine. For instance, its medicinal chalk – also known as white gold has unique thermal properties and is only found at Saßnitz on the Isle of Rugia, the biggest island in Germany.

>___ The pure quality of the air in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern means you can literally breathe in health here. Furthermore, the state boasts over 1,945 kilometres of coastline and over 2,000 lakes, and you do not have to worry about the quality of the water - in nearly 90 per cent of all bathing resorts the water quality has been officially assessed as good to excellent. And more than 20 per cent of the countryside in the state is under nature conservancy and landscape protection orders. The fields are alive with the shimmer of yellow rapeseed and regional farmers have adopted non-intrusive sustainable forms of agriculture. So it is no surprise that Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is a leader in organic farming - and that regional produce is tops for health as well!

That is why the locals say: "We live where others come on vacation". And this is not just a clever slogan, since Mecklenburg-Vorpommern really is the most popular holiday region in Germany.

The state's rural beauty is supplemented by an extraordinary array of socio-historical sights. Mecklenburg-Vorpommern's rich cultural landscape has more than 2,200 palaces, castles, manor houses and parks bearing testimony to the splendour of past centuries. Its glorious Gothic red-brick architecture is one of its most striking features and many notable examples of this kind of architecture have survived down to the present day, including the Minster cathedral in Bad Doberan and St Nicolas Church in Stralsund. The historic town centres of Stralsund and Wismar are now UNESCO World Heritage sites.

It is not surprising that leisure activities have a big role to play in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Over 200 years ago German kings and queens enjoyed the fresh sea breezes at resorts on Usedom and Rugia. In 1793 the first German bathing resort was established in Heiligendamm and during the following years many little fishing villages were transformed into pleasure resorts and health spas. Nowadays Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is well on the way to restoring its former status as Germany's premier health-care region with no less than 57 state accredited seaside resorts and a host of leading clinics specialising in a variety of different treatments.

That's why the state slogan reads: "Sea your future - study in Northern Germany".

THE PLACE TO BE

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is well known for its marvellous countryside. But entrepreneurs from all sorts of industry sectors also value its excellent infrastructure and innovation-friendly climate. The region is home to universities and research institutes that are international leaders in a wide range of disciplines, so innovation is very much in the air.

> ___ Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is one of Europe's most dynamic regions. At a pivotal point between Scandinavia and the European continent and as a gateway to the Baltic, it offers an excellent vantage point for establishing close links with the countries in those regions.

It is not just traditional industries such as ship building and mechanical engineering that find ideal manufacturing conditions in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern: its innovationfriendly climate is also proving increasingly attractive to young entrepreneurs from life sciences, biotechnology and medical technology. In recent years they have brought a variety of cutting-edge products and techniques onto the market and created new jobs. Mecklenburg- Vorpommern is also well established as a centre for supply- side companies for the automotive, aviation and space industries.

One of the important factors underpinning the innovative strength of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is the close bond it

fosters between industry and science. The university and research landscape includes the University of Rostock and the Ernst Moritz Arndt University of Greifswald, both with long and proud traditions. Alongside these venerable institutions, universities of applied sciences have been founded in Stralsund, Wismar and Neubrandenburg.

Numerous prestigious research institutes and technology centres have either spun off from the universities or grown up around them. They include such names as the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research in Rostock, the BioTechnikum in Greifswald, the Federal Research Centre for Virus Diseases of Animals on the Isle of Riems, and the Leibniz-Institute for Catalysis in Rostock. With such a wealth of resources, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is in an excellent position to play a leading role in the competitive field of international science.

COMMENT

Antonio Martinez

>___ "Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is innovative. That can be seen in the number of business start-ups and patent registrations that have come out of the higher education institutes here in recent years. We now have some real champions in this state - outstanding people with excellent inventions. The best ideas and entrepreneurs can be found every year in the state's idea competition 'venturecup."



Rong Hua A

>___ "Although I come from far away, I've never had a problem with Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. I like the mentality of the people here, and I would like to give something back to them with my music. That's possible as a member of the Rostock charity "Live Music Now"; this is an organisation which was founded by the famous violin player Yehudi Menuhin to help young artists. After my studies I would prefer to stay here; I like the tradition here, both in the music and in the city's architecture."

Viktor Luyali

>___"I come from Kenya, where I had finished my bachelor studies. In the internet I found out about the University of Rostock through the DAAD. In Rostock there is the course Computational Engineering. This is ideal for me: firstly, it's given in English, and secondly, it enables me to increase my IT-knowledge. I really like studying here, the professors, and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in general. There's a certain tranquillity in the smaller towns that is good for studying."





With its reputation for a wide range of subjects and interdisciplinary studies, the University of Rostock is back en route to becoming the "Light of the North".



> www.uni-rostock.de



TRADITIONS AND INNOVATIONS

Just from looking you wouldn't know that it's the third oldest university in Germany: the University of Rostock was founded in 1419. At that time the Pope granted university status, but he no longer has a say in the affairs of the alma mater – the "nourishing mother" – as the university is fondly known. Instead, the people who seem to have had the greatest influence recently are construction workers: the new buildings, including a whole new science campus in the Südstadt, are truly symbols of the innovative power radiating from the university teaching and research institutions.

>___ The university is proud of the traditions that have arisen over the centuries. After all, scientists as famous as the Nobel Prize winners Albert Einstein and Max Planck can be counted among its honorary doctors. They stand for the unity and freedom of teaching and research – which are still of utmost importance to the University of Rostock today.

The unity of the two is especially visible when you look at the range of courses on offer here: the University of Rostock has one of the widest ranges of subjects on offer at a German higher education institution. And it doesn't shy away from the so-called "frontier" subjects: biomechanics, medicinal technology and technical mathematics are all among the most popular courses. Particular highlights are the

Faculty of Medicine and the University Clinic. They are both leading institutions for the development of artificial organs, transplantation medicine and research into degenerative bone illnesses. Two courses – demography and "land management and environmental protection" – are unique: Rostock is the only place in Germany where you can take these subjects at this level. And another important factor for the university is an international outlook.

The University of Rostock was one of the first German universities to adopt the new Bachelor/Master system for its social science courses. With success. The time taken to complete courses has fallen further, supervision has continued to improve, and student numbers have now grown to some 15,000.

That all needs an immense reserve of knowledge, which is why Rostock Südstadt is home to the largest library in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Right next to the award-winning canteen: in recent years it has won many prizes for its healthy and varied menus and its friendly staff.



Julia Brinkmann, 24

“The small seminar groups, where you can really get to know the professors, help to make studying medicine bearable.”

SHOW-JUMPING, SAILING AND STUDYING



Student Portrait University of Rostock

>___ Julia had already decided to move from Uerdingen, in Nordrhein- Westfalen, to the North-east – bringing her parents with her. The reason for this move? Her love of show-jumping. The famous German show-jumper Holger Wulschner runs an equally famous stud in Passin, 30 kilometres from Rostock, and he was to be her teacher. Her cheerful Rhine personality quickly made friends here – in spite of the Mecklenburgers' reputation for being very reserved. And as she got to know the people, she began to love the region, too. "Even before I finished my Abitur (the German high-school exam), I knew I would stay here in the region to study."

Her first idea was to become a vet, but "I can't stand seeing animals suffer". So she decided to dedicate herself to healing humans, and enrolled to study medicine.

Her decision was all the easier thanks to the excellent reputation of the Faculty of Medicine in Rostock. "Biochemistry, pathology and physiology might be difficult subjects, but we wouldn't be good physicians if we didn't learn all of that!" However: it doesn't leave a lot of free time at all, and Julia had to give up show-jumping. To make up for that, she's discovered the pleasures of a new hobby – sailing.

YOUNG, INTELLIGENT, FEMALE

In Mecklenburg-Vorpommern you don't have to look far to find young professors. The state is even home to one of the youngest female professors in Germany. Kerstin Thurow is her name. At the age of 29, when others are just completing their degree, she was awarded the chair of Laboratory Automation at the University of Rostock. Today she is the director of "celisca - center for life science automation".

Professor Kerstin Thurow, 39
"Only in Rostock could I find such a good team that made it possible to conduct excellent research."



Ms Thurow, you were Germany's youngest professor. How did you achieve that honour?

K.T.: Hard work! Although, of course, you have to have a bit of luck as well. In 1992 I finished my chemistry degree after four years at the University of Rostock. Then I went to Munich as a graduate student and got my doctorate when I was 25. And asked myself the question: "What now?" Out of the blue I got an offer for a habilitation post – back in Rostock, at an external institute. That's how I got the chance to set myself a different focus and work in the fields of measurement and electrical technology. It's not the sort of thing you can plan – just as I hadn't planned to return to Rostock. And then it was just as much a surprise when the University made me a professor. I wouldn't have got a chance like that anywhere else other than in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

Was it one of your goals in life – a chair at the university so early on?

K.T.: No, that just happened by chance. My life course has had different stages. Firstly, I wanted to finish my studies. Then my aim was the doctorate. And then the habilitation. I decided to aim for that, in order to keep as many doors open for the future as possible. But becoming a professor so young was never part of the plan – that only became an issue after the habilitation, but I never reckoned on it happening before the end of my thirties.

How did the students treat you?

K.T.: Initially they thought I was a fellow student. And then they wondered why I was suddenly standing at the front when the lecture began. But there were never problems of authority: they could tell that I knew my subject and how to bring this knowledge across.

Most professors are male – what's the working relationship with them like?

K.T.: Very good. I also had a lot of luck here. That's the only reason, besides the excellent research, that we could build up "celisca" – the "center for life science automation".

What's behind the name?

K.T.: In celisca, equipment and technical solutions are being built to automate particular processes. That is interesting in fields such as biology, chemistry, biotechnology and pharmacy. In these areas it is often the case that particular reactions have to occur at or after a particular point in time. In many cases these also involve toxic or dangerous substances. Here it is better to have this done by machines instead of people. So, we built a reactor that can take control of 96 different reactions. At celisca we are always trying to stay two or three steps ahead of developments in science and technology. In total there are seven professors active here, and I'm the group's spokesperson. Then there are fifteen scientific and many other staff.

Does all that leave time for a private life?

K.T.: One advantage of being a professor is that you can take an afternoon off now and again. Nonetheless, it certainly would be true to say that my private life gets neglected sometimes. That's why I prefer "quieter" pastimes: in particular, I love to feel the wind around my ears when I go for walk along the beach. Happily, celisca is based in Warnemünde, so I can easily nip out and take in some sea air when I need to power up or seek inspiration. Other things I love doing include going to the theatre, listening to music or going out to eat.



Thanks to its location near the Baltic coast and in the centre of one of Germany's most beautiful holiday regions, Greifswald will form an unforgettable backdrop to your studies.

> www.uni-greifswald.de



THE APPEAL OF KNOWLEDGE

Studying productively and quickly in a place where others come on vacation – that is what distinguishes the education at the historic Ernst Moritz Arndt University in Greifswald. The distinctive individual support for the 12,000 students and the communicative atmosphere contribute to this and the success continues to be reflected in the university's upper placing in the national higher education rankings.

>__ The University of Greifswald was founded with the Pope's blessing in 1456, and was the first university in Pomerania. Today it continues to identify itself strongly with the Baltic region, whose cultures, languages and economies form the subject of intensive research and education. Nationwide, the university is recognised as being an unique centre of expertise for Baltic affairs.

The area of functional genomics marked the beginning of a new era in the sciences, and the University of Greifswald is leading the way in the field with its internationally recognised interfaculty centre for functional genomics. Additionally, the university is committed to the subject of "Community Medicine", established in 1996 and dedicated to the research and im-

provement of health provision. The research association "Community Medicine" has a strong emphasis on practical applications and, due to its participation in the Telemedical Euroregion Pomerania, it can be considered one of Greifswald's unique selling points as a centre of science. The secrets of plasma are being revealed thanks to research at the Institute of Physics in close cooperation with two prestigious local research bodies. In this way, the last two decades have seen Greifswald develop into an international centre for pure and applied research in the fields of plasma physics and nuclear fusion. Further showcases include the focus areas of life sciences, physical and earth sciences, and northern and eastern Europe, as well as the closely linked law and economics departments.

Young people like studying on the banks of the Ryck: the river is one factor contributing to the endearing environment and appealing quality of life to be found in the "University and Hanseatic City of Greifswald" – that is the city's full official name. Here at the heart of Europe a fresh wind is blowing and innovative minds are hard at work, fostered by young professors who enjoy a close collaboration with their students. Greifswald is clearly enjoying an upswing. It also offers a dynamic downtown, an informal atmosphere and a diverse cultural life. Thanks to its location near the charming Baltic coast and the proximity to Germany's largest islands and holiday resorts Rügen and Usedom, a stay in this university city will be an unforgettable experience.



GRANDFATHER'S FAULT

Geology is the science of the structure and development of the earth. It investigates processes that happen in its interior and on the surface, the chemistry and the conditions for the formation of minerals and rocks, along with their structures and ages. In addition, it is concerned with the questions of the development of life and the formation of and search for raw materials. Geology – this is also a course of study at the Ernst Moritz Arndt University of Greifswald. Johannes Kalbe can tell us more.

Johannes Kalbe, 26

"My grandfather told me about the excellent conditions at the University of Greifswald."

How did you get the idea of studying such an unusual subject as geology?

J.K.: For me this idea wasn't so unusual at all. After all, I've been a member of the Society for Historical Studies for seventeen years.

Why did you join that society?

J.K.: It's my grandfather's "fault". He always took us grandchildren everywhere: to exhibitions, museums, and lectures on all kinds of subject areas. One day we visited an exhibition about rocks that were millions of years old. I've been obsessed with it ever since. I wanted to find out more and so I became a member. Yet I didn't take a direct route to studying geology. First I trained to become a dental technician in my hometown, Rostock. But they fit together well: dental technicians use small drills and geologists big ones.

What is it that fascinates you so much about studying geology?

J.K.: That it's so diverse. We don't just have rocks on our minds; we come in contact with all other natural sciences. For example, everything in nature has to do with geology: the seasons, the weather. Which plants grow where also depends on the composition of the soil. This is where geologists are consulted. Not to mention the subjects of raw materials and resources.

Why did Greifswald become the location for your studies?

J.K.: Because the education here is very good. Because of my interest in the subject, I had already met lecturers from Greifswald, and knew what I could expect. And – I had to stay near the sea: I need the wind in my face and water nearby.

What is it that makes the education at Greifswald so good?

J.K.: For one thing, of course, the academic portfolio. Secondly, students have the opportunity to collaborate on projects even at an early stage. For example, I'm active in the department for palaeontology and historical geology. It's my dream to work as a geologist, outside. Preferably for collections or museums. Always looking for new pieces and exhibits that provide at least a small explanation of how the earth is made.

Professor Dr. Uwe Bornscheuer, 45

"The geographical location of Greifswald – it doesn't make cooperation with industry or other research institutions difficult. What counts are the results."





THE „LORD OF THE LABS“

University of Greifswald – Professor Dr Uwe Bornscheuer

>___ Professor Uwe Bornscheuer is a much sought-after specialist. The 45-year-old occupies himself with “white biotechnology”. This term stands for the manufacture of fine chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and products from renewable raw materials with the aid of microorganisms. His field of activity is therefore an excellent match for the core subjects of bio and life sciences at the University of Greifswald. Bornscheuer is among the most important researchers in Germany in this new branch of science.

Born in Hessen in 1964, Bornscheuer studied chemistry in Hannover and got his doctorate there as well. The manager of the Institute for Biochemistry received his postdoctoral qualifications in Stuttgart in 1999, and in the same year he came to Greifswald as a C3 professor.

Why did the “Lord of the Rings” fan, who is also called “Lord of the Labs” by his staff, stay at Greifswald even after many attempts to get him to transfer to another institution? Despite its difficult financial situation, the university accommodated him significantly. Bornscheuer was also particularly attracted by the new building for the Institute for Biochemistry, which opened in mid-2006. “No other chemical institute at a German university is better equipped,” Bornscheuer raves, he also won the Biocut-Award 2008.



Wismar University of Applied Science is a strong, innovative and recognised centre of research and teaching with a long academic tradition. Students learn entrepreneurial ways of thinking alongside their theoretical studies.



> www.hs-wismar.de

ENTREPRENEURIAL & FUTURE-ORIENTED

The roots of the Wismar University of Technology, Business and Design go back to 1908. A century's experience and tradition, coupled with an orientation towards the demands of the future, shape the contribution that the university makes to the scientific development of the region. This is also why it is regularly highly placed in nationwide academic comparisons.

The primary reasons for this are the short study duration, individual support, modern labs and spatial concentration of the academic and student facilities at each of the university's sites: Wismar, the neighbouring island Poel, and Rostock-Warnemünde.

>___ Practical experience rates highly at Wismar University of Applied Science. Students receive insights into their future work environment at an early stage. Both the residential and distance courses of study are also very forward-looking.

At present, electrical engineering and multimedia technology, design and architecture, civil engineering and seafaring, and mechanical engineering and business economics can all be studied at Wismar. Even more disciplines will be on offer in the coming years.

Aside from the seafaring training, all courses of study take place in Wismar. Here it's just a short distance from the auditorium to the library or canteen, the "Lübsche Torweide" near the campus offers a beautiful park setting and

opportunities for sport, as well as a fun-pool, and the beach in the Vor Wendorf neighbourhood is only ten minutes away by bicycle. Speaking of water – the former fishing village Warnemünde is now the teaching site for future navy officers studying at Wismar University. The lively coastal resort has always been the entry point for Rostock's harbour. That way, prospective marine engineers and engineers for ship operation, installations and maintenance can get used to the far reaches of the high sea right away – even if it's only the Baltic Sea. In contrast, the young designers and architects have little time for seafarer's yarns. Their education at Wismar is compact and full of highlights. No wonder, considering that renowned advertising pros such as Holger Jung and Jean-Remy von Matt are professors here. Getting people from outside

regions excited about the town has developed into a passion for the college and it now has excellent international connections across the globe. This allows even the many foreign students to quickly feel at home in Wismar – not only because barbeque nights, sailing trips and tours of the surroundings chase away any thoughts of being homesick.

Wismar University of Technology, Business and Design considers itself an "entrepreneurial" higher education institute. Its graduates acquire skills not only for life as an employee but also for setting up their own businesses. The educational site itself is developing in a promising way with its concept "Hochschule 2020".

MS. CAPTAIN

The Wismar University of Technology, Business and Design is the only institution in the seafaring state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern that educates prospective ship's officers. One of these is Simone Detzen. She has no contact anxieties – not with the water, nor with the technical subjects. And one thing is clear even to her primarily male fellow students: captain is captain, even if she's "Ms. Captain".

Simone Detzen, 26

"Wismar University has a good reputation. The course here is secure and short."



Wismar

You're familiar with terms such as "keelson" and "striking the bell"?

S.D.: Of course! But I knew these long before my studies.

How come?

S.D.: I was in the German military for four years – the navy, of course. During that time I already made connections to the Wismar University of Technology, Business and Design.

Why?

S.D.: Because all my life I had no other wish than to go to sea. My parents instilled this in me even in the cradle. Although I'm from the area around Kaiserslautern, they always took me along onto all sorts of ships.

Wismar has a good reputation. The university is not too overrun. And the education here is reliable, unlike at other colleges. In addition, it has the unique "Maritime Simulation Centre Warnemünde". So I began my nautical studies here.

Did any of the lecturers or fellow students look at you strangely?

S.D.: No. They immediately realized that this was my field. But I also think that it can only be a benefit if there's a woman on board. Then the men behave themselves much more pleasantly and the crew members also approach you with their family problems now and then. Everyone who does his work is accepted onboard. I have found that out for myself. My goal, incidentally, is to become captain. A nautical education is the prerequisite for this. After three years of seafaring you can obtain your captain's license. My boyfriend has no objections. Not yet.

A word about the "Maritime Simulation Centre Warnemünde"?

S.D.: Here you can get to grips with seafaring without having to be on a ship. You learn how to handle and manoeuvre different kinds of ships and how to operate them. You also learn how to react in emergency situations. There are different scenarios during which you collaborate with other students. Because there are certain procedures, commands, and languages which have to be used on a ship, and which have to be practiced on a regular basis.

The simulation centre is a ship?

S.D.: No. The simulations are replicated on a real bridge, which has been built inside the simulation centre. From there, certain bodies of water are represented by video projectors in such a way that it looks like reality. Even the technical equipment reacts as it would during a real voyage on the ocean. In addition, there is also a machine simulator and the possibility to simulate communication with the command centre on shore. The combination of these three is unique in Europe.

Is there a particular vessel that you are dreaming of?

S.D.: No. What I would like the most is a freight or passenger ship. But I don't have a specific type of ship or particular cruise ship that I absolutely have to operate someday. As long as I'm out there on the high seas.



Wismar

Mika Koppelman, 3

"It's nice that my mom is working close to me."

PITTER-PATTERS ON CAMPUS



Wismar University – “Wellenreiter”

>___ 7:30 a.m. on campus at the Wismar University of Technology, Business and Design. Pitter-pattering and babbling is coming from all directions. Children at a college? Something that might still cause bewilderment in many places is just the usual early-morning hustle and bustle in Wismar. The colourful doors of the on-site kindergarten “Wellenreiter” open in time for the beginning of the first lectures. The facility is also open to the university’s employees, so the children, already full of life at this early hour, take the same way to “work” as their moms and dads, which makes the little ones happy and saves time and stress for the parents.

In 2004, Wismar University became one of the first academic educational institution in Germany to receive the certificate “Family- Oriented Education Institute”. As well as the “Wellenreiter” there are also many changing rooms and nursing places for young mothers, along with special study and exam plans for all parents – as a living proof of the school’s friendliness towards children and families. More than 50 tots at kindergarten and nursery ages may be checking on their moms and dads.



The park-like campus as well as the proximity to the Baltic Sea mean that the students here can easily forget any stresses during their studies at the Stralsund University of Applied Sciences.



> www.fh-stralsund.de

SMALL BUT EXCELLENT

The Hanseatic city of Stralsund, which is more than 770 years old, has been a university city since September 1991. At that point, the doors of the Stralsund University of Applied Sciences opened for the first time. It's not a college like any other: with about 3,000 students, it's rather small – but quite excellent. This is demonstrated not only by its pleasant size and the new buildings with their modern furnishings, but also by the concepts it represents. With its mission statement “understanding reality – facing challenges – shaping the future” it offers education and research based on practical experience and focused on interdisciplinary study, social relevance, and professional application.

> ___ Stralsund University of Applied Sciences is also a campus-based institution. All of the auditoriums, classrooms and labs, the library, canteen, sports facilities and the largest part of the student dorms are located on the park-like premises. This is all in direct proximity to the Strelasund straits and with a magnificent view of the neighbouring island Rügen.

All of the buildings and facilities have been renovated or newly constructed. The nationwide rankings show that many of the courses of study at the Stralsund University of Applied Sciences occupy top positions. The study programs have been converted to the bachelor and masters degree systems according to the European standard. They have been accredited by independent agencies that are active throughout Germany.

In 2006, the Stralsund University of Applied Sciences was recognized with a distinction as “a family-oriented higher education institution” because of its exemplary commitment to promoting a family-conscious work environment and child-friendly study conditions. It received the “barrierfree” mark of quality from the city of Stralsund in 2004, which certifies exceptional study conditions for students with disabilities.

The city itself is a showpiece as well. Stralsund's architecture is characterized by the Hanseatic period: the spirit of the Hanseatic League – an alliance of coastal cities in the Baltic region – can be felt everywhere. More than 800 listed buildings from different stylistic eras bear witness to the old Hanseatic times. Anyone strolling through the narrow streets of the old town will find the surrounding waters to be a con-

stant companion – because it is positioned on the bank of the Strelasund strait, appearing to be an island. In 2002, the historic old town was listed as a World Heritage site by UNESCO, together with Wismar. A remarkable spot to visit is the Ozeaneum.



Stralsund

FOCUSING ON THE BALTIC SEA

Samuel Müller is fascinated by the Baltic Sea. No wonder, since it's the reason he moved from placid Brandenburg to the coast of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. It was for the surfing, the 22-year-old's athletic passion. Yet even his education is centred on the Baltic Sea: "Samy", as he is called by his friends, is concentrating on "Baltic Management Studies". Where? In direct proximity to the Baltic Sea, of course, at the Stralsund University of Applied Sciences.

Samuel Müller, 22

"After my studies I want to do my own thing. The best thing would be to open my own bar, or run a hotel. That's why I need the know-how we get here in this course."

Samuel, how did you choose this lifestyle?

S.M.: I always wanted to surf. I've done that since my childhood. That's why I went to Berlin, because there were better training conditions there. Then at the age of 16, I transferred to the CJD Christophorusschule in Rostock, which is very open to young athletes. At some point the Müggelsee lake in Berlin, where I always trained, was no longer exciting enough. The Baltic Sea was much better. That way I could surf regularly during my years at secondary school, and even participated in the German Windsurfing Cup.

What motivated you to study in Stralsund?

S.M.: At one point I realized that I wasn't going to be a professional surfer, especially not from a financial perspective. But I still surf and kite-surf during every spare moment; the Baltic Sea is ideal for this. So it had to be a college near the water. But Stralsund has more to offer than its perfect location: they have the "Baltic Management Studies" course here, which I have been attending since September 2006

What do you learn there?

S.M.: Firstly, you learn everything about the states that border the Baltic Sea along with international economics as a whole. In addition – and this is what I personally find very interesting – there is the topic of intercultural management: here you learn about the customs and traditions in other countries. For instance, you should always keep a distance of two metres to your business partner when you're in China, since you need that space to bow. Then there is a lot of mathematics, economics, business studies, computer science, and the subject "Baltic Affairs". Here we learn facts about the economic and political connections in the region around the Baltic Sea.

Why did you decide on this course of study in particular?

S.M.: I did a lot of research on the internet and looked at what was offered by all the colleges in the region. The "Baltic Management Studies" course has the advantage that I'm learning exactly what I will need in the future. The program concludes with a bachelor's degree in business administration, after which I can take my master's degree. Additionally, all of the courses are held in English, and even the students have to speak English to each other. I think that this is important for the future. We also learn another foreign language prevalent in the Baltic region – I decided on Swedish.

The Student Village "Holzhausen"

A place to relax, but also to study, for the students at Stralsund University of Applied Sciences.





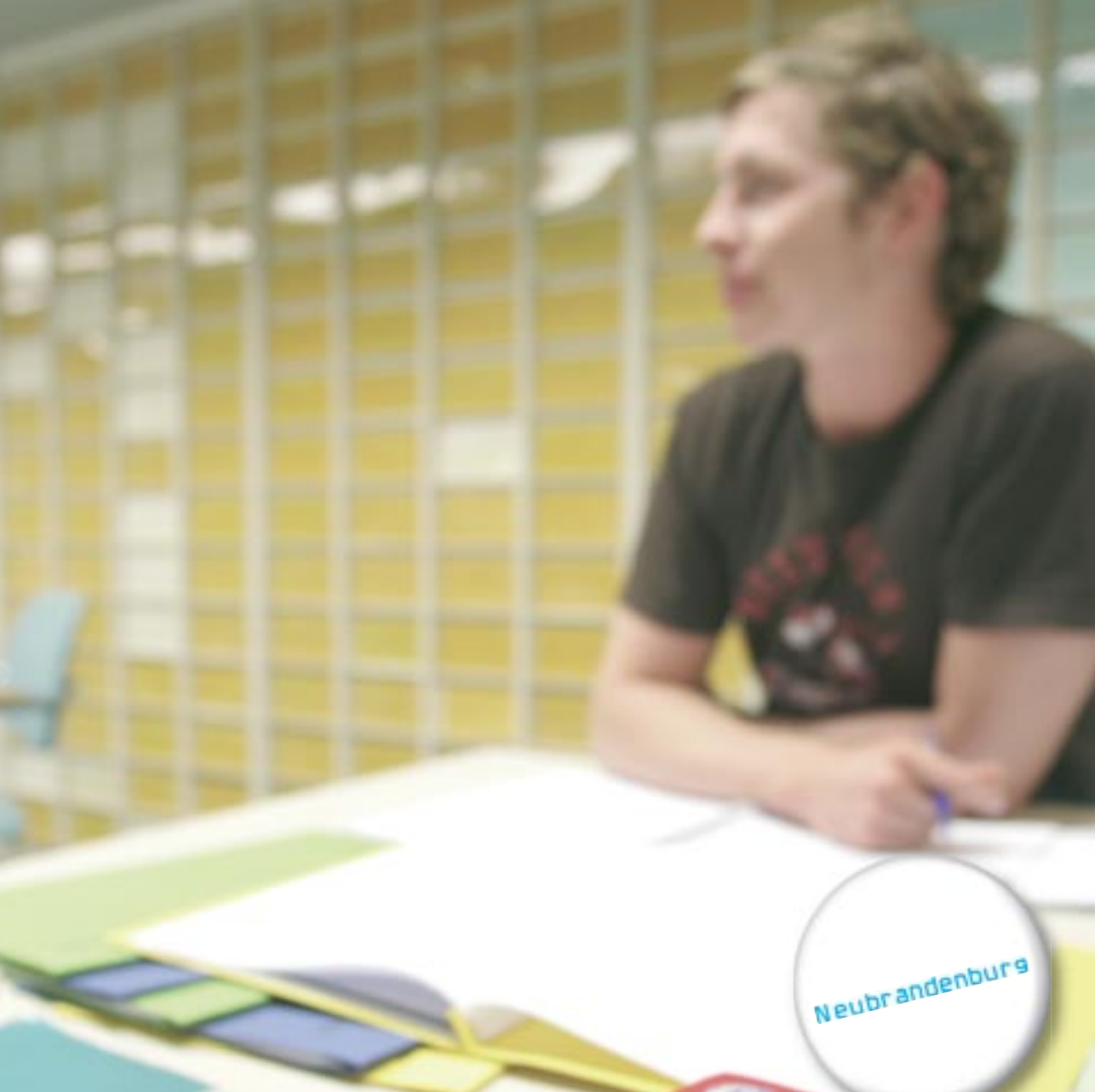
THE STUDENT VILLAGE

Stralsund University of Applied Sciences – Holzhausen

>___ They even have their own village. It's called "Holzhausen" and it's right next to the campus. For the students that live here, "Holzhausen" is more than a collection of two-story wooden houses in the typical Scandinavian style. "Holzhausen" is also the way in which Stralsund's students live, learn, and celebrate. The attractive and desirable apartments, each occupied by two or five students, come from Norway.

Living here is like residing among kindred spirits. Everyone knows and appreciates each other. The paths are short – especially those to the fellow students. When you meet each other by chance in front of the charming houses or on the surrounding lawns, it's easy to strike up a conversation. And next thing you know, you're sitting in the other person's kitchen, other students are joining in, and music drifts in from somewhere. Left alone in "Holzhausen"? That's impossible!

Having opened in 1995, the village provides 308 students ideal living conditions in single- or double- occupancy rooms with modern furnishings on the park-like site.



Everything close together - that's the image at Neubrandenburg University of Applied Sciences. And it's also true for the relationship between the lecturers and students. It's quite likely that you will be greeted with your full name very soon.



> www.hs-nb.de



AN EASILY ACCESSIBLE UNIVERSITY

The Neubrandenburg University of Applied Sciences was founded in 1991. Today, more than 2,200 young people are studying towards their bachelor and master degrees in fifteen subjects. Everything can be found in one place in Neubrandenburg. The well-laid out campus facilitates meeting fellow students regardless of their academic disciplines. These students might be studying “Early Education – education and upbringing during childhood”, a model course that is unique in Germany. It offers a scientifically based education in the area of preschool pedagogy. The course “Bioproduct Technology” is just as unique. Here you can learn how non-food products are manufactured from sustainable resources as well as recycled and waste materials.

>___ The good relationship of the lecturers to the students is also unique. Anonymous mass universities are unheard of in Neubrandenburg. It's much more likely that you'll be greeted by name after just one week – by the professor.

Closeness is valued highly at Neubrandenburg: the University of Applied Sciences collaborates directly with companies and institutions nearby. The study programs profit from this since the courses and research can be designed with a particular view towards practical application. Additionally, each course of study includes at least one internship semester or several internship periods. This way, the students at Neubrandenburg are able to familiarize themselves with those areas in which they will come to work

in the future, even while completing their basic education. Working in research projects also allows students to acquire skills for managerial or scientific activities in their future professional field.

The classroom and lab facilities, canteen and library, and four blocks of student accommodation, as well as many other service facilities are directly on the campus. The city centre and Lake Tollensesee are also nearby.

Neubrandenburg was founded at the shores of this lake in 1248. The third-largest city in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, it is also known as "the city of four gates". This description comes from the four late Gothic city gates that originate from the 13th to 15th centuries as part of a medieval de-

fence system and city wall that have been preserved relatively intact. Also worth seeing are the “Marienkirche” church, renovated in 2001, whose new interior architecture now lets it function as a concert church, and the many “Wiek” (timber-framed) houses that give the city its unmistakable character.

The roughly 68,000 Neubrandenburg residents have sports in their genes: numerous top athletes grew up here. The best-known of these at the moment are the shot-putters Astrid Kumbermuss and Ralf Bartels, the discus thrower Franka Dietzsch, the canoeist Andreas Dittmer, and his sister, the triathlete Anja Dittmer. The national soccer player Tim Borowski was also born in Neubrandenburg.



BEFORE IT FLARES UP

Social workers require a qualified education. Future experts on society's lashpoints can receive this in the course "Social Work" at the Neubrandenburg University of Applied Sciences. Claudia Ehlert is one of the future graduates. Here she tells us how she is learning to prevent crisis situations in someone's life from flaring up into an inferno.

Claudia Ehlert, 26

"The best thing about studying in Neubrandenburg is the commitment of the lecturers. It is really amazing."

Neubrandenburg

What does the course “Social Work” involve?

C.E.: The goal of the studies is to be able to carry out social work or social pedagogy independently in the future. To this end, we’re studying all of the scientific foundations. It takes eight semesters in all and ends in a bachelor’s or master’s.

The studies are varied and put together well. The learning groups are well-organized and the lecturers very committed. There are a number of different areas: you can specialize in working with children and young adults, for instance, or in schooling and family support. There are also options to work with patients with mental or somatic illnesses or with people with disabilities. We can study according to our interests. That means we can follow a predominantly scientific orientation or one that is based more on practical applications.

What are you going to specialize in?

C.E.: I’ve always been interested in mental illnesses. I’m not really sure why. I already came in contact with this subject during my previous training as a nurse. Since then, I have been concentrating on it, and I would like to find out as much about it as I can.

How did you hear about the study program at Neubrandenburg?

C.E.: I’m from Greifswald, where I also trained as a nurse. Since I didn’t want to move away from the coast, I checked around. Because of the higher admission requirements for full universities, in the end the University of Applied Sciences here in Neubrandenburg was the only institution that I could consider.

What will happen after your education at the University?

C.E.: I would like to either work at a psychiatric facility, or get additional qualifications, which the Neubrandenburg University of Applied Sciences offers plenty of. After all, I would really prefer to remain in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.



Neubrandenburg

Dipl.-Ing.(FH) Claudia Borries

"Thanks to good a fundamental education as a geoinformatian, it is easy for me to persue my ambitions in research working within a strong team"

TO RIDE PLANETARY WAVES

We have continental divides such as mountain ranges and oceans, but what do they have to do with planetary waves? In fact a whole lot, Claudia Borries knew this as she worked at the Air and Space Research Center in Neustrelitz. She has also worked with Prof. Teschke in a mathematical research group in Neubrandenburg solving inverse problems

As a graduate at the University of Neubrandenburg in the subject of geoinformatics she not only had an interesting field of study but a bright future as well.

> ___ The ionosphere is part of our atmosphere at a height between 60 and 1000 km. The ever present electrons, are, with the help of global satellite navigation systems such as GPS, GLONASS and in the near future Galileo measured and logged. This among other things takes place at DLR in Neustrelitz. Claudia Borries' fascination for this phenomenon guided her to a great overall average in her studies. She directly started working in her field of expertise in ionospheric research.

"I investigate the effects of large scale atmospheric waves – so called planetary waves – for electron content." Tells us Borries: "These planetary waves are caused by continental divides like mountains and oceans. When they increase they have profound effects on the weather in the middle of the stratosphere at an altitude of 30 to 50 km." At 100 km there have only been local observations made. "The goal of my work is to get a better understanding of the weather in the higher atmosphere", the 26 year old adds. Coinciding with her work as a scientific researcher there is a vast world of theoretics to „explore“. "I am in a mathematical work group under Prof. Teschke and investigate inverse problems. In-

verse problems find uses in computer tomography, rotodynamic and measurements of the atmosphere." The problem is in many cases that small errors in data collection lead to big difficulties in object reconstruction. The fundament of this work is spectral dissection and above all wave transformation. This is where Borries work begins, the solution of inverse problems.

Both her tasks are useful in communication with young upcoming international researchers in association with spectral analysis. Outside her work she loves the very green surroundings of Neustrelitz. On weekends she goes to her home city of Berlin. "Thanks to the good highway and train connections I am home really fast"



The oldest university building in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is host to the newest academic teaching centre in the state. And another surprising fact: the smallest college regularly brings home the largest prizes.



> www.hmt-rostock.de



THE ART OF EXCELLENCE

They are certainly the envy of their colleagues: the teaching and general staff at the Academy of Music and Theatre in Rostock. For they have the chance to work in what is without doubt the most beautiful university building in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and also one of the most attractive university for music and theatre in Europe.



>___ It was only a few years ago that the Academy moved into its new quarters – the lavishly restored and architecturally enchanting Katharinens-tift in the eastern part of Rostock's historic old town. The ensemble of buildings, which was built as a monastery in the thirteenth century, are now fully equipped with a concert and theatre hall with full stage, an organ hall, a chamber music hall, digital recording studios, a multimedia studio and an extensive library.

With these ideal surroundings for studying and the creative atmosphere, the training delivered here simply has to be first-class. And the national and international awards that the students and graduates collect year after year are the living proof of this. The Academy has earned a worldwide reputation

that is reflected in the international makeup of its students: some 500 young artists from 39 countries are training here.

The range of courses covers all orchestra instruments, piano, piano chamber music, guitar and song, as well as conducting, répétiteur, composition and theory. The artistic education ends with a degree or an internationally recognised master's degree.

The Drama Department at the Academy of Music and Theatre offers a four-year standard course resulting in a degree in acting. Graduate actors from Rostock are not only to be found on stage in prominent German theatres: they are also in demand in TV and films. This is not really a surprise: there

hasn't been an annual meeting of German acting schools where the Rostock students didn't win a prize. The degree program for Musical Education – Vocal or Instrumental – qualifies its graduates to teach at music schools or relevant private institutions. For ongoing state school music teachers there is an officially recognised course suitable for all of the types of school found in the German education system. And further innovative courses to be found at the Academy include the course Pop/World Music, and the program Drama Education.



ROUND THE WORLD FOR ART

The German Academic Exchange offers a prize every year to international students with outstanding academic performances and remarkable social and intercultural commitment. One of the prize winners in 2006 was Rong Hua A, a young Chinese woman studying at the Academy for Music and Theatre in Rostock.

Rong Hua A, 26

"In Rostock there are talented, well-known musicians who also have a good reputation as teachers."



Rostock

For European ears your name sounds a little unusual. What does it mean?

R.H.: Translated into English, Rong Hua A would mean something like "pure flower". My mother is Chinese, my father Mongolian – they met each other during the Cultural Revolution.

How did you come to study classical music?

R.H.: My father had always played the morin khuur, a traditional Mongolian instrument, whose name roughly translates as "horse-head fiddle". One day, as I was about six years old, he travelled to Beijing to a major concert from a European symphony orchestra. He liked it so much that he decided to have his only child learn to play the violin. In the Western way. That was the motivation that led me to pass my first admission test – for the Central Music School for Minorities in Beijing. From that point on I lived there, and later my parents moved there, too.

But soon after that you moved on again – even further afield – to Europe?

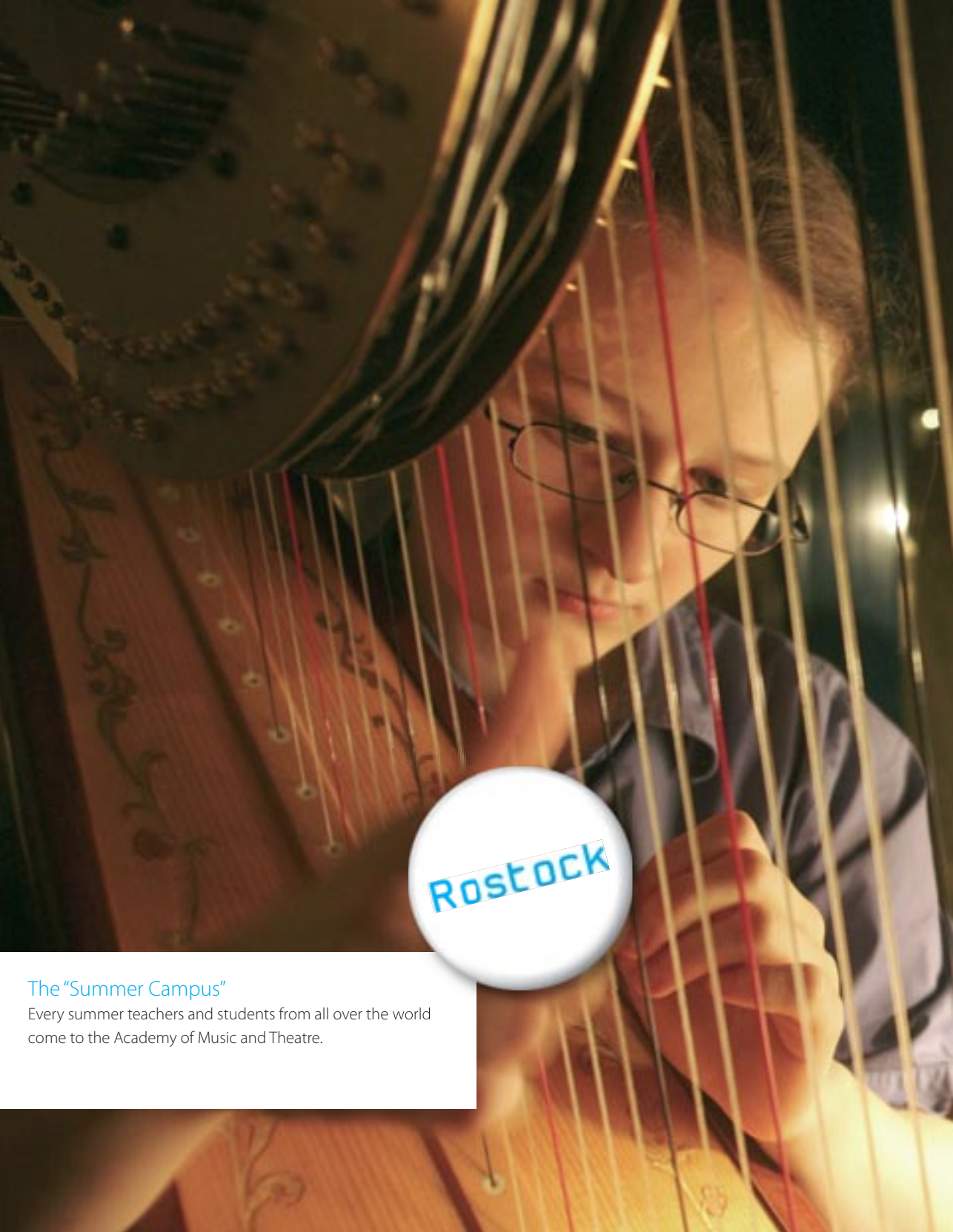
R.H.: Yes, since you can only really truly learn to play an instrument where that instrument has its cultural roots. In 2002, I had finished my bachelor's degree in Beijing and it was clear to me that I wanted to continue studying, but in Europe.

Why did you choose the Rostock Academy for Music and Theatre?

R.H.: They chose me! The German state colleges for music and theatre have a very good reputation, so in 2003 I applied to and had admissions tests at several of them, including the HMT in Rostock. I had heard of Rostock because there is a very famous professor for violin here, Petru Munteanu. Now I am one of his students.

From Beijing to Rostock – was that a step into a different world?

R.H.: At the beginning it was very strange. I couldn't recognise anybody who I met more than once, since everyone looked the same to me. But I like it here very much. People in Rostock are more direct, they like to discuss things. Chinese people are always so withdrawn. And the thing I like the most here is the fact that you have to organise a lot of things yourself, to get involved in things.



Rostock

The "Summer Campus"

Every summer teachers and students from all over the world come to the Academy of Music and Theatre.



MASTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

Academy of Music and Theatre – Summer Campus

>___ At the HMT in Rostock the students can take advantage of a very special partnership: the "Association of Baltic Academies of Music". This organisation, which has existed since 1995, is a grouping of 17 leading music colleges from the Baltic region, Scandinavia and Eastern Europe.

This collaboration enables many possibilities for HMT students to take part in a diverse range of exchanges. A special highlight of this lively cooperation is the organisation of the "Summer Campus" on the Rostock site. Every year students from all over the world come here to take part in nine-day master classes. The tutors are renowned musicians and seasoned teachers, who also come from all over the globe to teach in Rostock. This is further proof that culture can bring people together regardless of political boundaries.

In recent years the "Summer Campus" has been working together with the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Festspiele (one of the biggest classical music festivals in Germany). This means that the final concerts of the master classes can play to large and very appreciative audiences.

ACCOMODATION



If you are moving to Mecklenburg-Vorpommern from another part of the world, you need to start looking for a flat or a room before you leave home. And, of course, you won't be able to bring all your furniture and possessions with you.

> ___ To find a room or a flat in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, it's best to look in the internet. Your best starting point is the "Studentenwerk". This is a non-profit, public institution in each university town managing establishments that provide room and board for students. Contact people there also have the best tips for finding other accommodation and furniture. For those studying in Rostock or Wismar, go to www.studentenwerkrostock.de, and for future students in Greifswald, Stralsund or Neubrandenburg, check out www.studentenwerk-greifswald.de. You will find telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of the contacts there, who will be pleased to tell you about the student accommodation with its large, welldecorated individual rooms, organised into shared flats (in German a "WG" – Wohngemeinschaft) for three

or four students. Each WG has a kitchen and bathroom, and an internet connection! There's a good feeling in the accommodation with fellow students right next door! If this type of accommodation isn't for you, then the contacts at the Studentenwerk have tips on finding other accommodation in town.

If they don't have anything suitable, there are websites where German students advertise available rooms in WGs and other apartments. The most popular sites are www.wg-klick.de, www.wg-gesucht.de and www.mitwohnzentrale.de. On these sites there are also adverts for flats and for student accommodation that is not run by a Studentenwerk. If nothing suitable can be found there, then there are further possibilities once you are in

town. Every higher education institute has a "Schwarze Brett" . a "black board" that is really the whole wall, full of adverts for almost anything. The "Schwarze Brett" is most often to be found in the entrance area of the main building, and there is often one in the "Mensa" as well (the canteens).

Clever accommodation seekers will turn the newspapers, which all have many property ads in every issue. The Kurier comes out on Wednesday and Sunday, and the Blitz only on Sunday. These are free newspapers and are published in all the major cities in Mecklenburg- Vorpommern. The regional daily papers also have property ads: they are the Ostsee-Zeitung, Schweriner Volkszeitung and Nordkurier.

After your arrival



>___ The first place to visit after arriving in the town or city where you will study should be the University International Office. Here you can get a time and effort saving checklist, which itemizes the administrative and other official authorities you have to see, and tells you where and when the preparatory events and the various items on the orientation programme will take place. You will also be given an update on the latest and most important news.

Before each semester starts the International Offices organizes an "orientation week". One very important part of this is the practical help they offer to smooth your way through the official formalities: this is done mostly in cooperation with other local initiatives. Nobody will be left alone!



Furniture

>___ Of course, international students cannot bring everything they need with them. In general, student rooms are often pretty small, and these two facts together, often combined with a limited budget, mean that creativity is called for. German students often opt to save money and space by building a loft bed themselves. Some boards from the DIY store (in German, "Baumarkt"), cut to length, something for the corners and a few screws - voila! For students with less practical skills, there are often very good value offers in furniture stores, or you can try your luck at flea markets, which can be found in every university town.

Flea markets

>___ Rostock
Messehalle an der Hansemesse

>___ Stralsund
Strelapark & Ostsee-Center

>___ Neubrandenburg
Boulevard & Bethanien-Center

>___ Greifswald
Elisenpark

>___ Wismar
Seehafen (Port)

LIVING



Before you set out

The Latin roots of the word "study" are connected with the concept of "pushing oneself", "making an effort" - that doesn't sound like it will be the best time of your life. There is indeed some "effort" to be made - for one thing, there is a certain amount of paperwork and bureaucracy that has to be overcome. But once made, the effort reaps its rewards with the excellent conditions for studying that await you in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. This creates a pleasant "study life balance".

>___ The German Academic Exchange Service has provided the following authoritative advice regarding entry and residence regulations. International students need a visa for study purposes (residence permit in the form of a visa). The visa must be issued by the German embassy or a German consulate in your home country. An up-to-date list of countries from which you need or do not need a visa can be found at: www.auswaertiges-amt.de.

Please note: whatever you do, do not enter as a tourist! A tourist visa cannot be converted into a visa or residence permit for further education purposes, not even at German foreign missions near the border.

Please ensure that your identity card or passport is valid for the entire duration of your stay in Germany.



Health insurance

>___ In Germany, all students must have health insurance. Foreign students without their own health insurance can be insured through to the end of their 14th semester, or at the latest up until their 30th birthday, through a national health insurance agency or a statutory substitute health insurance agency in Germany. Students from EU or EFTA countries require their European Health Insurance Card or an E111 form, those from other countries should check their (private) insurance covers their stay in Germany. Otherwise, they have to take out a policy in Germany, which costs approx EUR 55 per month.

Please note that proof of health insurance for the duration of your studies must be presented to all the appropriate authorities in German. We urgently recommend also taking out insurance cover against the risk of medical evacuation, and repatriation of remains in case of death.



"Sport frei"

>___ A healthy mind requires a healthy body - we recommend taking part in one of the many university sport offers. Especially in Rostock and Greifswald, you'll find everything you could dream of, from water sports as sailing or surfing to help deal with the stress of exams through rowing to let off steam or even salsa dance courses. At the other higher education institutes there is also a wide range of courses and sport clubs to choose from - look at their homepage to find out more. An alternative to the student sport clubs could be a regular workout at a fitness centre. Most of them have special student offers. On cold days we recommend going to an indoor pool. There is at least one in every university city, and in Germany they mostly have a sauna area. Treating yourself to a day in a "Wellness" centre will not only serve to help you relax, but also leave you with more energy for your studies - the English word is used in Germany to encompass health, spa and beauty treatments.

PARTYING



Living the student life? In Germany that also means: having a lot of parties! There's no other time in your life when you can finish your evenings by letting your hair down on such a regular basis! And it's not a surprise that the students do just this, since there are parties lurking around every corner in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern: the start-of-semester parties, the campus parties, the Christmas celebrations and the summer festivities, not to mention all the clubs and discos that are prevalent in any town in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

> ___ It's not just the first-year students, endearingly called "Ersti" in Germany, who make the most of the numerous "Ersti parties". The old hands need no better excuse to have a dance, flirt a little, and drink a little more! In the summer, there is no better entertainment than a seaside party at sunset: say "adieu" to the exam stress and seminar group - at least



until the next morning! One example of the favourite meeting places for students in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is the semester party in Rostock, which has reached cult status. It always takes place at the beginning of the semester on the club ship MS Stubnitz, moored in the city's port. Live music and DJs have something to offer for every taste. And in Wismar, every year at the beginning of the semester they hold the traditional "Campus Open Air". This includes two days filled with music by numerous live bands, and this directly on the campus of the Wismar University of Technology, Business and Design.

In Greifswald, the semesters are ushered in with the "Clubs UNight." festival. All of the student clubs in the

University and Hanseatic city participate in this. And the partying keeps going for an entire week.

But the summit of all student parties in the North-east is the "Uni-Beach" party. Every year, on the last day of classes in the summer semester, 2,500 Rostock students gather at the beach in Warnemünde. The party, which by now has become a popular tradition, begins long before sunset with live music and DJs - and doesn't end until long after sunrise. That can also be one of the reasons for a study in northern Germany.



Bars, cafés, clubs

>___ In all college cities there is an extensive selection of bars, cafés, and clubs. The student club "club-nb" in Neubrandenburg features weekly theme nights, such as the Cuba night or karaoke party. The same is true in Rostock at the ST-Club, Studentenkiller, and LT Club. The party scene in Stralsund is also characterized by the student clubs. This includes the basement bar "8cht VORNE" and the "Haus8" directly on the campus. The club "Block 17" in Wismar is also located on-campus. Yet Greifswald has the most and most original student clubs. Here the Geographenkeller, Mensaklub, Geologenkeller, "Club 9" and "Kiste" invite students to come and party after their lectures have finished.

Festivals

>___ Devotees of the festival scene have good chances in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. The "Prora 09" on the isle of Rugia, the "immergut Festival" in Neustrelitz at the end of May, "Fusion" in Mirow at the end of June, and "Force Attack" in Behnkenhagen at the end of July all present bands which you normally have to trek around the globe to see.

Now if that isn't another good reason to party...



Fitness drink

>___

Ingredients:

0.33 l kombucha

1 banana

1 tsp grated ginger

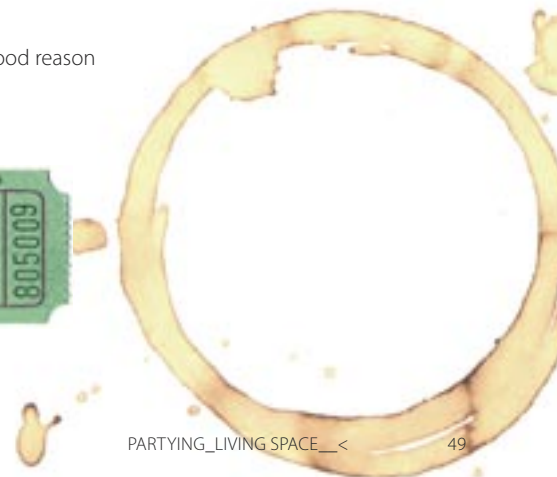
0.2 l coconut milk (unsweetened)

2 tsp honey

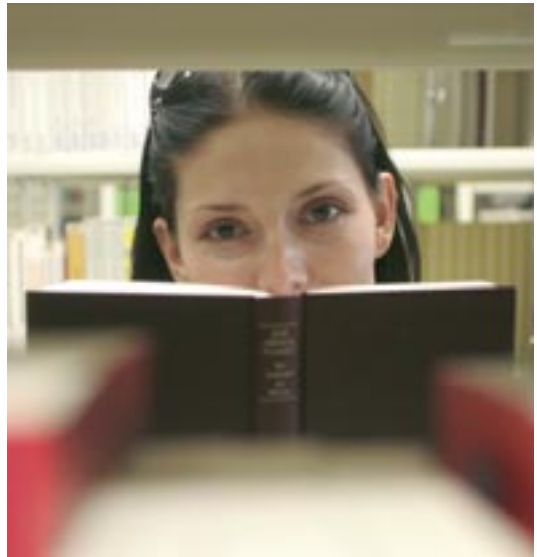
1 lime and mint

And this is how it's made:

Put banana, ginger, coconut milk, honey and juice from the lime into a mixer, mix well. Fill a glass half-full with the mixture and pour in the kombucha carefully over the back of a spoon. Garnish with the mint and a slice of lime.



DISCOVERING



Something for the eyes



There is much to discover in beautiful Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Not only the universities, nature and sight-seeing places are worth exploring: art and culture are attractions here as well. The many different recreational options for students are listed in these pages.

>___ Bookworms can find ample reading material in the numerous libraries of this state. There are university and city libraries at every academic site. Anyone who really wants to delve into the dusty past of the historic universities will find veritable treasures in the university archives. Now and then there are informative tours or open door events.

Movie fans among the students and employees will also find Mecklenburg-Vorpommern a worthwhile place to live. The cinema Lichtspieltheater Wundervoll ("LiWu") in Rostock offers sophisticated art-house films every month. In Wismar, the "Filmbüro MV" and cultural centre "Tikozigalpa" welcome movie buffs. Each Wednesday, Neubrandenburg's students can even cast their votes on which film will run in the university's own movie theater, which the university's largest auditorium is converted into.



For the soul

>___ And in the summer? That's when theatre performances take place in the open air and with special backdrops: in Stralsund and Greifswald at the "Ostseefestspielen", in Rostock's city port, and on the former premises of the IGA international garden show. Every year on the isle of Rugia, thousands of visitors are lured to the unique ocean stage in Ralswiek by the adventures of the infamous pirate Klaus Störtebecker.

The musical choices in Rostock and Greifswald are enhanced by the university orchestras and choirs. In addition to the Volkstheater and Bühne 602, the Jewish theatre "Mechaje" and many independent groups give theatre fans something to rave about. The Theater Vorpommern enchants audiences in Stralsund and Greifswald, in Wismar it's the Stadttheater. And to top all that, there are the many local museums, galleries and art exhibitions.



Something for the ears

>___ In Rostock, the local radio LOHRO is not only the students' favourite choice of radio station? the many features and great subject variety wouldn't even exist without the active contributions of the students. There is also a participatory radio station in Neubrandenburg. Even TV can be made independently here. In Rostock at rok-tv, and in Greifswald at Moritz-TV; this is run by the student media, who also publish a monthly magazine, the popular "Moritz".

The students in Rostock and Neubrandenburg also have their hand in newspaper publishing. Their magazines are called "heuler" and "Freie Hochschulzeitung". A local amateur broadcast association at the Stralsund University of Applied Sciences regularly sends out signals into the entire world.

MONEY ISSUES

Studying costs money. This is also true in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, although students in north-eastern Germany do have a decisive advantage: there are no tuition fees here. Nevertheless, money is always in short supply, so this section offers some financial advice.



Time to eat? Or to get up?



Don't get in a pickle when you study!



Is your piggy bank your lucky mascot?



Part-Time Work

>___ EU and German students are allowed to have part-time jobs without restriction. Other international students with a residence permit for education purposes are allowed to work for up to a total of three months during the periods when there are no lectures. With the appropriate application to the Immigration Office, you can work for up to 19 hours per week during the semester, although the three-month limit must not be exceeded. For any longer period you have to apply for a work permit, which is only granted to foreigners in certain cases.

ERASMUS-Grants

>___ Students who come to Mecklenburg-Vorpommern from one of the partner universities within the framework of the ERASMUS programme will receive an ERASMUS grant from their home university for the duration of their approved study period. Please inquire at your home university about application procedures for an ERASMUS grant and the amount you might expect.

Please note that documentary evidence of an ERASMUS grant must be presented to the German authorities in the German language. You must also provide proof of private resources to cover the difference between the ERASMUS grant and the anticipated living costs.

Financing

>___ There are some special conditions and regulations for foreign students in Germany as far as money is concerned. The immigration offices and German consulates will check whether you have at least EUR 7.200 per year at your disposal, since you have to budget for monthly costs of around EUR 600. Rent, food and clothes cost about EUR 500 per month; health insurance, social contributions and similar costs amount to an extra EUR 100.

In Germany it is common to pay a deposit of 2-3 months' rent for accommodation. This means that you will need about EUR 1.000-1.500 during your first month in Germany. You should have this in cash or in travellers' cheques.

Academic employment, as a student or research assistant, does not generally require a work permit. Notice boards in the Study Guidance and Careers Service, the Student Welfare office and the individual faculties give details of job opportunities. In addition to this, the Employment Office (Agentur für Arbeit) has a special job exchange for students: the Jobvermittlung, found in every university city. However, be warned: the employment situation in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is not very good, and it is really very difficult to find paid work. You can't rely on financing your living costs in this way.

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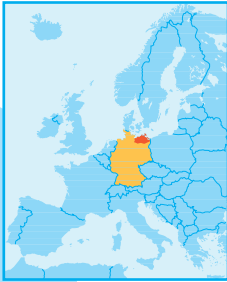
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Baltic Sea



GETTING HERE

By Car

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern offers drivers a good infrastructure which is closely linked to Germany's Autobahn (motorway) network. This includes well-developed highways like the just-finished Baltic Sea A20 motorway, which connects Hamburg and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern even better.

By Train

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is well served by the national railways, with direct connections to a wide range of cities. To arrive in Rostock, Stralsund or Binz on the Isle of Rugia refreshed after a good night's sleep, you can take the night train from Switzerland or south Germany. Once you have reached Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, you can continue your journey with the state's public transport system.

By Plane

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern lies in the heart of the high-growth region around the Baltic. If you are coming from abroad, it is best to come via the international airports in Hamburg or Berlin. But Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is also well served by domestic flights – the regional airport at Rostock Laage takes flights from Munich, Nuremberg and Cologne, whilst regional airports like Neubrandenburg and Heringsdorf also offer flights to other German cities.

IMPRINT

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