

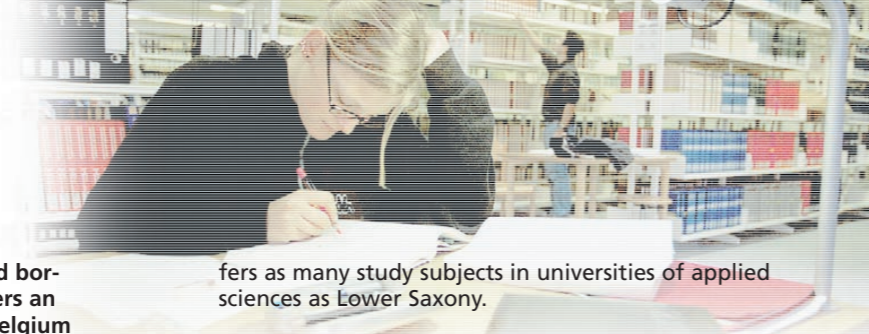
# Studying in Lower Saxony

Lower Saxony is in the north-west of Germany and borders on the North Sea and the Netherlands. It covers an area of 48,000 km<sup>2</sup> and is about the same size as Belgium or the Netherlands, making it the second largest German Land. It has 7.9 m inhabitants, as many as Austria or Sweden. In addition to its excellent study and research opportunities, Lower Saxony offers a wide range of cultural opportunities and natural landscapes.

**The College Scene** There are a total of about 142,000 students studying at a total of 19 state colleges. The University of Hanover alone, the largest university in Lower Saxony, has more than 26,000 students.

**Universities** The University of Göttingen was founded as early as 1737 and gave the world over 40 Nobel prizewinners. Together with the technical universities in Brunswick and Clausthal (one of those doing the most research work in Germany), it has made an essential contribution to the technical and academic focus within the college profile of Lower Saxony. The Medizinische Hochschule Hannover (MHH) keeps on making spectacular innovations in the field of medical science and is one of the leading transplant clinics in the world as well as the largest educational institution of its kind in Germany. However, the smaller and younger universities also make their contribution to the varied academic scene of Lower Saxony with individual profiles and differing focuses.

**Universities of applied sciences** The universities of applied sciences lay particular emphasis on practically oriented research and teaching and in particular train engineers, computer and management experts, architects and designers. In the last few years, Lower Saxony has systematically expanded its training capacities at the universities of applied sciences and considerably extended the range of subjects offered – for example commercial law, public relations / journalism, economic psychology etc. At the present time, no other German Land of-



fers as many study subjects in universities of applied sciences as Lower Saxony.

**Innovative Range of Courses Offered** In Lower Saxony, you will encounter a wide range of study opportunities which are innovative and oriented towards the requirements of the labour market. Besides the German Diplom (comparable to a degree) or Magister (comparable to M.A.), an increasing number of colleges now offers graduates B.A. and M.A., and it is also possible to attend seminars held in English. In intensive courses of studies, a study form with model character for the whole of Germany, you are given a more rapid and at the same time highly qualified training. But you also have good chances on the labour market if you choose a dual course of studies. This combination of studies and practical training in a company meets the increased demand for graduates trained to meet the requirements of practical work.



For an overview of all courses of study with an international orientation in Lower Saxony please see [www.niedersachsen.de/mwk1.htm](http://www.niedersachsen.de/mwk1.htm)

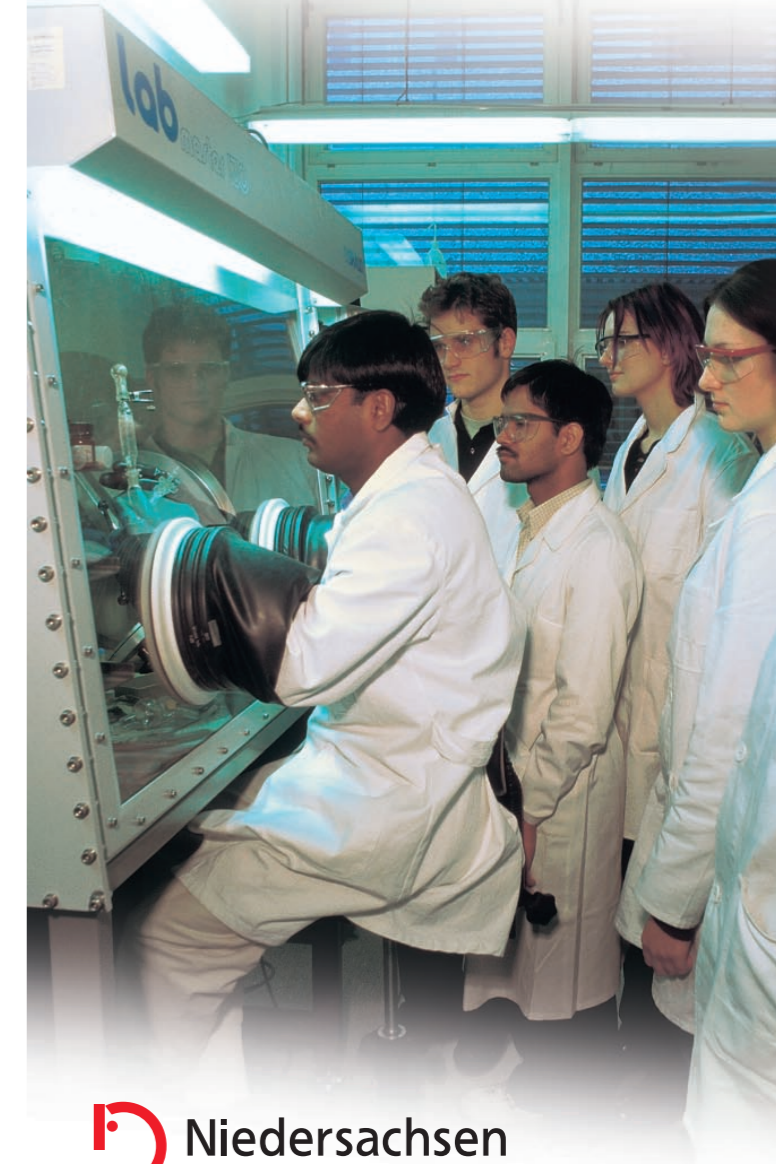
For the complete range of courses offered at colleges in Lower Saxony please see the website [www.kfsn.uni-hannover.de](http://www.kfsn.uni-hannover.de)

**Infrastructure** The highly qualified educational opportunities offered in Lower Saxony require a modern infrastructure. You will find these at the colleges and research institutions. Numerous innovative projects concerned with improving multimedia applications in teaching are also located there. An example is the Learning Lab Lower Saxony, a research institute encompassing colleges in Lower Saxony and partners from Sweden and the USA such as Stanford University on the EXPO Plaza.



# Studying in Lower Saxony

Ministry for Science and Culture of Lower Saxony



## Getting in touch:

Niedersächsisches Ministerium für Wissenschaft und Kultur (Ministry for Science and Culture of Lower Saxony)

Leibnizufer 9  
D-30169 Hannover  
Tel.: +49 (511) 120-2599  
Fax: +49 (511) 120-2601  
E-Mail: [pressestelle@mwk.niedersachsen.de](mailto:pressestelle@mwk.niedersachsen.de)  
Internet: [www.niedersachsen.de/mwk1.htm](http://www.niedersachsen.de/mwk1.htm)

# The University System

Lower Saxony has universities and colleges of art offering courses with a strong academic orientation and universities of applied sciences which offer a range of courses of a more practical nature. The academic year is divided into two semesters. The winter semester begins in October (in September at universities of applied sciences) and the summer semester begins in April (in March at universities of applied sciences). A semester lasts six months; the academic classes are concentrated in a period of usually three to four months. Depending on the type of college attended, the whole course takes three to five years. After a two-year basic course, students can specialise in the main course. Besides various different German qualifications such as Magister (comparable to M.A.) or Diplom (comparable to a four-year degree), the international B.A. and M.A. qualifications are increasingly being awarded to graduates.



**Admission Requirements** Universities: Allgemeine Hochschulreife, also known as Abitur (comparable to A-level), or a similar qualification giving university access.

Universities of applied sciences: Allgemeine Fachhochschulreife (a restricted version of the above) – you usually have this if you have been awarded a certificate giving unrestricted university access in your own country.

Colleges of music and art: Candidates are admitted to the courses of study without the abovementioned qualifications if they have special artistic talent.

Certain prior professional training (master builder etc.) can also give access to a course of studies at colleges in Lower Saxony.

## Knowledge of Languages

Before commencing your studies in Germany, you must pass the "Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang ausländischer Studienbewerber (DSH)", the German language



test for foreign applicants. You can be freed from this if you have for example

- acquired the large or small language diploma awarded by the Goethe-Institut,
- passed the Zentrale Oberstufenprüfung (central advanced level examination) of the Goethe-Institut,
- acquired the certificate of the Feststellungsprüfung (test to determine the aptitude of foreign applicants for commencing a course of studies at colleges in the Federal Republic of Germany),
- have acquired the language diploma awarded by the Konferenz der Kultusminister Stufe II (conference of ministers for cultural affairs, level II),
- have passed the test Deutsch als Fremdsprache für ausländische Studienbewerber or TestDaF (German as a foreign language for foreign applicants ([www.testdaf.de](http://www.testdaf.de))),
- have acquired the Abitur at a German school in a foreign country or
- have passed the US-advanced test of German.

For more details on the DSH and the linguistic admission requirements please contact the office for foreign programmes (Akademisches Auslandsamt) / students' office (Studentensekretariat) of the university in Lower Saxony in which you are interested.

High German is spoken in Lower Saxony. This makes it easier for you to learn German.

**Application Procedure** It usually takes approximately six months from the first inquiry at the university to the beginning of the course, so ask for the application papers (in German or English) in good time at the office for foreign programmes / students' office of the university involved and send back the papers as quickly as possible. For the addresses please see for example the above Internet pages of the university in question. Do not forget to accompany the application papers with proof of sufficient knowledge of German (see above).

**Visa** EU citizens and citizens of some other countries (Australia, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Canada, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and the USA) do not require a visa. All others must apply to the German embassy of their home country for a visa for study purposes. For this it is necessary to present an admittance certificate for a German university or a Studienkolleg (preparatory college). On no account enter the country on a tourist visa.



**Costs** There are no study fees at state universities. The students only pay a low semester contribution (this differs from university to university), for example for administrative costs and the services offered by the students' administrative and support organisation (Studentenwerk). For living costs, you at present require approximately 500-600 Euros per month (including a rented room in a hall of residence).

If you would like to apply for a grant: whereas German universities usually do not give grants of their own, the German academic exchange service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst DAAD) and a number of other institutions offer funding if you intend to study. Please contact the office of the DAAD or the Goethe-Institut in your country or look in the Internet under [www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de).

**Service** The office for foreign exchange programmes / students' office of the university in Lower Saxony in which you are interested will help in all matters concerning your stay: from the range of courses offered to application formalities, health insurance and looking for accommodation, not only at the beginning, but during the whole of your stay in Germany. The employees will also give helpful tips on the cultural scene and leisure opportunities in Lower Saxony.

For more tips and information on studying in Germany please also see [www.campus-germany.de](http://www.campus-germany.de)

# Overview of Universities

The 13 **universities** offer courses of study with an academic orientation and excellent research opportunities:

**Technische Universität Carolo-Wilhelmina zu Braunschweig**  
[www.tu-bs.de](http://www.tu-bs.de)

**Technische Universität Clausthal**  
[www.tu-clausthal.de](http://www.tu-clausthal.de)

**Georg-August-Universität Göttingen**  
[www.uni-goettingen.de](http://www.uni-goettingen.de)

**Universität Hannover**  
[www.uni-hannover.de](http://www.uni-hannover.de)

**Medizinische Hochschule Hannover**  
[www.mh-hannover.de](http://www.mh-hannover.de)

**Tierärztliche Hochschule Hannover**  
[www.tiho-hannover.de](http://www.tiho-hannover.de)

**Universität Hildesheim**  
[www.uni-hildesheim.de](http://www.uni-hildesheim.de)

**Universität Lüneburg**  
[www.uni-lueneburg.de](http://www.uni-lueneburg.de)

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

**Universität Osnabrück**  
[www.uni-osnabrueck.de](http://www.uni-osnabrueck.de)

**Hochschule Vechta**  
[www.uni-vechta.de](http://www.uni-vechta.de)

**Hochschule für Bildende Künste Braunschweig**  
[www.hbk-bs.de](http://www.hbk-bs.de)

**Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hannover**  
[www.hmt-hannover.de](http://www.hmt-hannover.de)

The six **universities of applied sciences** are characterised by courses of study and research opportunities with a practical orientation:

**Fachhochschule Braunschweig / Wolfenbüttel**  
[www.fh-wolfenbuettel.de](http://www.fh-wolfenbuettel.de)

**Fachhochschule Hannover**  
[www.fh-hannover.de](http://www.fh-hannover.de)

**Fachhochschule Hildesheim / Holzminden / Göttingen**  
[www.fh-hildesheim.de](http://www.fh-hildesheim.de)

**Fachhochschule Nordostniedersachsen**  
[www.fh-nordostniedersachsen.de](http://www.fh-nordostniedersachsen.de)

**Fachhochschule Oldenburg / Ostfriesland / Wilhelmshaven**  
[www.fh-wilhelmshaven.de](http://www.fh-wilhelmshaven.de)

**Fachhochschule Osnabrück**  
[www.fh-osnabrueck.de](http://www.fh-osnabrueck.de)

