Studier' Mal Marburg

An Honors Creative Project (Honors 499)

By

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April 28, 1999

Expected Date of Graduation: May 8, 1999
Statement of Purpose for my Creative Project

My creative project stems from my yearlong experience during my junior year at Philipps-Universität in Marburg, Germany. I want to bring my acquired knowledge to Ball State University and share it with others who are interested in studying abroad. A way in which I would like to do this is to create a booklet outlining and detailing the subject of study abroad in Germany, more specifically, in Marburg. Topics covered in the booklet include preparation for traveling to Germany, extensive details all about Marburg, academics and returning to the States.

This source of information would be valuable to prospective study abroad students for many reasons. First, it would provide facts and first-hand experience which would aid in the initial researching of study abroad. Second, it would paint a clear picture for students who have already chosen to go and wish to have more information before departure. Third, having details about the situation beforehand, can make the transition from home to Germany much smoother and less stressful for the student studying abroad. Lastly, this booklet acts as a personal contribution that I would like to give to Ball State University and the Center for International Programs. My main goal is to encourage others to study abroad, thus allowing them to have the opportunity in which to experience more of the world.

Margaret Boynton
Honors 499 Creative Project
May 4, 1999
Studier' Mal Marburg!

A booklet containing information about study abroad at Philips-Universität in Marburg, Germany

By Margaret Boynton
This project is dedicated to:

Anne Woern, my dearest friend in Marburg,

all of the great people that I met in Germany,

who made my experience unbelievable,

Dr. Ron Warner, Professor of German, for being there

and answering all of my many questions, and

Adam M. Hott, the greatest editor, computer help, and

friend that a person could ever have, without whose
help and support this project would not have happened.
Table of Contents

I. Things to know before you go to Deutschland
   A. Background Knowledge
   B. History of Marburg
   C. Money Matters
   D. Packing

II. Now that you are in Marburg, what next?
   A. The Journey Begins
   B. Die Orientierungswoche
   C. Accommodation
   D. Official Business
   E. Other Resources
   F. Everyday Living
   G. E-mail/Computer Availability
   H. What Marburg Has to Offer
   I. Das Semesterticket
   J. Semesterferien/Travel

III. Academics
   A. Der Sprachkurs
   B. Preparing Your Class Schedule
   C. The German Classroom
   D. Die Bibliotheken

IV. There's no place like home...
V. Survey Results
VI. Comprehensive Web Site Listing
VII. Glossary
**Preface**

Deciding to study abroad is one of the best things that a college student studying a foreign language can do in his/her career. It will not only bring one's ability in their respective language to a whole new level, but it will also open the door to a whole other world. Once you have determined that study abroad is your goal, choosing your destination and university becomes the next step. Philips-Universität Marburg is one of the best choices for an exchange through ISEP. It is a large university situated in a medium-sized city. Positioned in central Germany, Marburg's location allows easy access to anywhere else in Germany. (See map following Preface.)

Marburg is also unique in its history and landscape and provides many opportunities in which to enrich your study of the German language and its culture. Marburg is well known as a *Universitätsstadt*, which means that the town is centered on the university and catered toward the student. Affordability, leisure opportunities, entertainment, and strong academics are all things that one can find in Marburg.

The purpose of this booklet is to expose the potential exchange student to information dealing with an exchange in Marburg, Germany. There are several benefits to having some knowledge dealing with this specific exchange option. Firstly, the data can be used when selecting potential universities during the application process. Second, when going into an interview during applicant selection, it is essential that the student be knowledgeable about the university they would like to attend. Lastly and most importantly, having such background information is provided with the hope that it will save the student from confusion later on.
This booklet is divided into four main segments: pre-departure preparation, arrival and duration, academics and returning home. Each of the segments includes topics ranging from money matters to the German classroom. I have attempted to outline as much of the necessary information as possible, but of course things are always changing, so nothing in this booklet is absolute. In addition, I have attempted to utilize as much German vocabulary as possible, so that the reader can become more familiar with the terms that will be used on an everyday basis. The knowledge given in this booklet is based on my experience at the Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany from September 1997-July 1998.

-Peggy Boynton  Muncie, IN  April 1999
Map of Marburg in Relation to other Major Cities in Germany
Things to know

Before you go to

DEUTSCHLAND
Background Knowledge

Before you leave for Germany it is important to know some basic facts about Germany. Most of the time these sorts of things are only touched on in class and then easily forgotten. So to avoid embarrassment, just simply find out about where you are going. Geography, politics, history, economics and even sports are all areas that will be involved during your exchange. To the majority of Germans, these topics are very important and play a large role in their everyday lives. Students, especially, are very interested in politics and often times truly want to do something to improve their situation (i.e. the 1997 University strikes all across Germany, which effected Marburg.) One saying that I heard while I was in Germany helps give some insight into the viewpoint of the university students in Germany.

Ein Bild von Studenten, „Rot denken, Grün wählen, Schwarz fahren.“

The best way to know if you are prepared in the basics of German background is to try to answer the following questions: 1. Do you know the names of the 16 Bundesländer in Germany? Do you know their capitals? 2. Do you know the names of people in Germany who hold important offices: the Bundeskanzler, the Bundespräsident? 3. Do you know how the election process in Germany functions? 4. Are you familiar with the different political parties in Germany and their basic platforms? 5. What do you know about the coming of the single currency in Europe? 6. Can you list some famous and influential figures (artists, authors, scientists, political leaders etc.) from Germany and what they did?

If the answers to some of these questions elude you, fear not. There are many different methods to obtain the information that you would like to know before you leave for your exchange. First, you could talk with your professors ask them questions. Second, you can get some books about German history and culture and browse them looking for information. Lastly, you could search the Internet for information. There is a plethora of information floating around out there, you just have to go and find it. Some excellent sites to check out are

- [www.princeton.edu/~german/PGWP/Index.htm](http://www.princeton.edu/~german/PGWP/Index.htm) (has many, many links)
- [www.marburg.de](http://www.marburg.de) (very good site for lots of info on Marburg)
- [www.bsu.edu/classes/warner/GER363](http://www.bsu.edu/classes/warner/GER363) (click on “Die Germanen in der Geschichte”)
- [www.uni-marburg.de](http://www.uni-marburg.de) (University home page)
- [www.web.de](http://www.web.de) (a German language search engine)

Also, provided in this booklet is a brief history of Marburg that will serve as a starting point in your research. From its churches to its cobblestone streets, Marburg's history lives on and is waiting for you to come and experience it firsthand.
History of Marburg

The first documentation of people living in the pre-Marburg era dates to about the 9th or 10th century. The area was probably the location of the home of a local noble. His home was situated in the spot where the castle of Marburg sits today. The first documented mention of Marburg (known then as "Marcburg") was in 1138/39 as the property of Lord from Thüringen. Almost a hundred years later, in 1222, Marburg became recognized as a town.

One of Marburg's most famous people is Elisabeth, daughter of the king of Hungary. She came to Marburg as the wife of Ludwig the IV of Thüringen. She then founded a Franciscan hospital, where she cared for many orphans, the hungry and the sick. In 1227, while on one of the Crusades, her husband died, leaving Elisabeth as a very young widow. She continued her services for the less fortunate until her death in 1231, at the age of 24. After her death, many pilgrims came to Marburg to mourn her passing. In 1235, she became sanctified and in that same year they began construction of the Elisabethskirche which functioned as the location of Elisabeth's grave. It wasn't completed until 1283, while construction on the two towers continued until 1340. The church is world-famous as the earliest, purely gothic-style church in all of Germany.

In 1260, the city of Marburg continued to grow and include the Festung, a larger population and an expansion of the city walls. In 1319, the entire city was almost burnt to the ground. Another tragedy struck, when in 1348, the Black Plague came to Marburg. Despite the many obstacles, Marburg was still able to flourish.

One of its greatest characteristics would be, of course, the founding of the Philipps-Universität in 1527 by Philip der Großmütige as the first protestant university. It began with only 11 professors and 84 students, but grew into a prospering university with a current population of almost 18,000 students. The university itself consists of 21 departments, several lecture halls, a liberal arts institute, a large university library, a central meeting place for students that includes cafeterias, offices and meeting rooms, a large dormitory complex which houses up to 3000 students and the Konrad-Biesalski-Haus, which was the first housing
available for handicapped students in Germany. Many famous and influential people also came out of *Philips-Universität* as either students or professors. Some of them were important scientists like Denis Papin, Robert Bunsen, Karl-Ferdinand Braun, and Emil von Behring who also was the first person to win the Nobel prize for Medicine in 1901. Other well-known figures include the Brothers' Grimm, Boris Pasternak, Clemens Brentano, Gottfried Benn, and even T.S. Eliot.

In 1529, one of the more important events dealing with the Reformation occurred in the Marburg castle. Martin Luther met with Zwingli and had their famous religious debate.

In 1850, industrial progress began to affect Marburg. The first railroad was finished and connected Marburg to Kassel and then later to Frankfurt which provided economic growth for the city. Economically, Marburg boomed again in 1991 with many new businesses founding their roots in the town.

The tide of the Nazi regime swept over Marburg in 1938 with the burning of the city's synagogue. In 1942, the remaining Jewish people were transported out of Marburg to the various extermination sites. Thankfully, in 1979 some descendants of former Jewish people from Marburg where invited back to the city for a cooperative effort between them and the *Gesellschaft für Christliches-Jüdische Zusammenarbeit Marburg* (Society of Christians and Jewish People Cooperative Action in Marburg).

Marburg has been involved in many important events in the past and continues to create a name for itself with its strong academic reputation. Therefore, it earns the name as a *Universitätsstadt* and signifies excellence in education.
Money Matters
GETTING THERE & BACK

One of the very first things that you will need to take care of before you leave for Germany is the securing of your plane ticket. It is very important to buy or at least reserve your ticket 4-5 months in advance because of price inflation, ticket availability and the fact that you will be traveling at the end of high season (Aug.-Oct.). There are many different ways to go about getting a good plane ticket for an affordable price.

1. Go to your local travel agent and see how they can help you. It is always a good place to start and then you have a base rate with which you can compare other ticket prices that you might find. Also, they can watch for incentive deals and lowered rates.

2. Check the newspaper for special advertisements, deals and packages.

3. Become a member of CIEE (Council on International Educational Exchange). They offer cheaper plane tickets for students and teachers wanting to travel, study or work abroad. The forms are available at CIP. Their membership includes an internationally recognized student ID card and eligibility for many student discounts. For more information, check out their web page at www.ciee.org

4. Consider buying a one-way ticket, if you are planning to stay for an entire year. Then around March or April make a trip to the student travel agency in Marburg called HOPPERS. They can assist you in finding an affordable rate on a return ticket. I chose this option and ended up paying roughly $400 dollars for my return ticket. Not only do they deal with plane fares, but also they offer many other services. One particularly useful service that they provide is the sale of bus tickets to major cities almost anywhere in Europe including Great Britain. Traveling by bus is practical and affordable method of travel. The people there are very helpful and are able to answer any questions that you might have about traveling around Europe and returning to the States.

HOPPERS
Flugreise

Erlenring 4, 35037 (across from the Mensa)
Telephone: 06421/17310
Fax: 06421/173137
Web page: www.hoppers.de

Nothing is worse than waiting until the last minute to get your plane ticket. Be sure to shop around to ensure the best ticket price. It is a major expenditure, so do your best to get the best deal available.
EXPENSES DURING THE FIRST MONTH

Another aspect of finances that is important to prepare for is the money you will need once you arrive in Marburg in order to get things rolling. Normally, because you are with ISEP, you will receive a monthly stipend once the school year begins, which will cover the majority of these expenses. However, it is important to know beforehand what you will need money for. Hopefully, the university will send you information with details about what you will need to expect during those first few weeks, but in case that they do not, here is a fairly accurate list. It might seem a bit overwhelming, but it is not as bad as it looks. (The numbers listed below were current for the year 1998, so adjustments will have to be made for following years.)

- Room Deposit (Kaution) 250 DM
- First month’s rent (Miete) 272 DM
- Semester ticket (Semesterbeitrag) 177.50 DM
- Health insurance (Krankenversicherung) 91.30 DM
- Visa (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) 60 DM
- Food 80-100 DM/week; varies
- Month pass for the bus (Monatskarte) 35 DM (only if coming in September)
- University e-mail account 10 DM/semester (optional)

Another thing that is good to prepare for during those first few days is having enough money with which you can participate in Orientation. They also ask that you give a little money to help pay for the party at the end of the week. It is always good to have extra money for emergencies and of course for going out with friends.

Becoming familiar with the exchange rates is also important when planning your finances. It is continually fluctuating and especially with the coming of the Euro, it is important to keep it in mind. Generally, you will get more for your dollar, if you exchange your money after you arrive in Germany. It is free to exchange cash in banks, but with traveler’s cheques there is a small charge.

PLANNING FOR TRAVEL IN AND AROUND EUROPE

The next important area of finance preparation, which you will want to consider before you leave for Germany, is travel in Europe. For those people who are going for the whole year, the majority of serious traveling will be done during the Semesterferien. The semester break runs from approximately the middle of February until the middle of April. Aside from the semester break, traveling on the weekends and during holidays is also possible. Here are three different ways to affordably travel in Europe.

1. The first one deals with travel just within the Germany. If you plan on doing any travel at all in Germany, then the best option for saving the most amount of money is buying a BahnCard. The cost for a BahnCard is 120DM and is valid for a year from the date of purchase. The BahnCard entitles the owner to 50% off of all train tickets anywhere within Germany. For example, if you made one trip to Berlin, it would cost 318DM round-trip.
With the BahnCard it would only cost 159DM. That plus the cost of the BahnCard is actually 40DM cheaper than going without the BahnCard.

Buying the BahnCard as soon as possible is also important because the longer you wait to buy it, the less money you can save. The best thing to do would be after you get settled into Marburg and find out your address, go to the Marburg Hauptbahnhof. All you need is a passport-sized ID picture, the money, and the form to fill out which you can pick up there. Just ask someone at the Reisezentrum for what you need and they will be glad to help you. Getting the BahnCard is well worth the money. Not only did it save me money, but it also gave me great freedom in traveling around Germany.

Another tip for planning your trips while you are in Marburg is checking out the home page for the Deutsche Bahn: www.bahn.de. Simply type in your place of origin, destination, approximate time of departure, and date. Then click on the symbol "Verbindung suchen". You will receive a schedule for where you want to go and an approximate price of the ticket. It can be very helpful for planning your trips around Germany. Of course, you can get the same information at the train station by just asking.

2. The second area of travel entails the entire continent. Traveling in Europe is a good experience and well worth the investment. As Non-Europeans, we are eligible to purchase a Eurail Pass. You can only buy this ticket outside of Europe, so either purchase one before you leave from a travel agent or direct from Council Travel, or arrange for someone to purchase one while you are gone and then mail it to you. There are many different options for types of passes that you can buy. Processing of the ticket takes about ten days. Details on the passes are available at www.counciltravel.com/railpass.htm (This page is actually just an extension of the CIEE page.)

3. A third option for traveling in Europe is the Interrail Pass. After having taken residence in Germany for six months, you are qualified for the purchase of this pass. It allows you unlimited travel for either 22 days or an entire month. The prices range from 378DM-650DM depending upon how many zones in which you wish to travel. The most expensive is the Global Ticket, which allows you to travel in 30 different countries in Europe. In the country in which you purchased the ticket, however, you are only allowed a 50% discount on your tickets. Also, any additional costs for Zuschläge or sleeping car are extra to the traveler. They are generally minimal and exist only on certain trains. For more detailed information on the different zones and prices, check out www.interrail.net

So now that you know the three major expenses that you will need to save money for (the plane ticket, monthly expenditures and rail passes for extended periods of travel), some relief can be had. Now you will just need to count down the days until you have to start packing.
Packing

TO BRING OR NOT TO BRING?

So, finally the last days before you go are here. Your parents are frantically telephoning the airlines to find out the maximum amount of luggage that you can bring, for fear of you not being able to take enough clean socks, but don't be lured in by that maximum. Just remember that after you get off of that plane, YOU will have to carry BY YOURSELF all that you have packed. So take my advice and only pack what you will need and remember that "Less is more." So lug out the suitcases, backpacks and carry-ons and stuff away. It might seem like a trivial thing, but packing your stuff can later lead to either nightmares or smooth sailing. The hardest part of packing is dealing with that formidable question "What am I going to need for a whole year?" Of course, everyone has their own preferences as to what is important to have, but I just have a few tips that will hopefully save you from some hassle later on.

1. If you plan on doing any serious traveling in Europe during your exchange, a well supported, internal frame backpack is essential. It is really the best way to travel with all of your stuff, and buying one once you are in Germany can cause you to spend more money. The best place to look for a backpack is a sporting goods store.

2. Clothes...I have found that the best way to plan your wardrobe is to bring clothes that are easy to layer. In Marburg, the winters are fairly mild due to its location in a valley. It generally does not snow too much and with a good jacket the cold isn't too bad either. Another tip with clothing is to bring older clothing that you can get rid of at the end of the year. Undoubtedly, you will have things that you bought in Germany to bring home, so getting rid of some older clothes to make room helps for re-packing purposes.

3. Lastly, a good, extensive German-English dictionary is a must. Don't think that you can just get by with a pocket edition. Your mastery of the language while you are there will reach past what a small dictionary can offer. Plus, when you have to write essays and read difficult texts, you will be glad that you have a good dictionary to help with your understanding. It is also a good idea while you are there to buy a German-German dictionary. Using it increases your comprehension and vocabulary ten-fold. Recommended dictionary: Duden Deutsches Universal Wörterbuch. Cost: 59.90 DM
Now that
You are in
Munich!

What next?
The Journey Begins...

PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPTIONS

Before outlining the exact details on the directions to where you will be heading, an introduction to the workings of the German public transportation service is in order. Their system is much more complex than the average American town. So, a brief listing of the different types of transport follow.

Der Zug (die Deutsche Bahn): This, of course, is the national train system. It is affordable, reliable and incredibly convenient. Every city down to the smaller Dörfer has its own Hauptbahnhof. Undoubtedly, through your stay you will become very familiar with this type of transportation.

Der Schnellzug: This is an extension of the regular train system. It serves the outlying areas of very big cities. For example, Frankfurt a.M. has this system. It can take you to the airport, Wiesbaden (the capital of Hessen) or anywhere within an approximate 60-mile radius of the city.

Die U-Bahn: This is the subway system. Not every town has them, but in the larger cities they are very useful. You can buy tickets from vending machines and then have them validated when the conductor comes by or sometimes there are machines at the entrances of the different lines where you can validate your own ticket.

Die Strassenbahn: This is streetcar-type of system and is another convenient way by which to move around a city. Tickets are bought from machines at the stops. You can tell whether or not you are on the right streetcar based on what it says on the front of the car. It will always state the direction in which it is going, so make sure that you are boarding the correct train on the correct side of the street.

Der Bus: This type of transportation system is one that is an integral part of a student's life. On average, I rode the bus 4 times a day. Most students don't own cars, so they are dependent upon the bus. With your Studienausweis, you will be able to ride the busses within Marburg as much as you want. Or if needed, you can buy a ticket from the bus driver by stating where you are going and then putting the money on the small tray next to the driver. He/she will print out a small receipt, which is your ticket, and then give you any change. Another good thing about the buses is that many of the newer ones come equipped with a service for the impaired. At every stop the name of the stop is said over the speaker and even sometimes there is a digital sign that flashes the name of the upcoming stop. It is helpful for when you feel unsure about when to exit the bus.

Das Taxi: If you needed to get a cab, there are plenty of them in Marburg. They generally congregate around the Hauptbahnhof, but you can call one anytime in case you need a ride home. They are kind of expensive, so make sure that you have enough money or even split a cab with some of your friends.
GETTING FROM THE AIRPORT TO MARBURG

Having landed in Germany, you will need to make your way to Marburg. First, follow the many signs pointing towards the Hauptbahnhof. Buy yourself a ticket from the ticket dispensers or at the Reisezentrum. Because Frankfurt is a crossing point for many travelers, there are plenty of people around who can help you when you get lost, so don't be afraid to ask and they will most likely be able to speak English in case any panic has set in. When you finally make it from Frankfurt into Marburg, the next thing that you are probably going to wonder is "Now what?" The best thing to do is to lock the majority of your luggage in a locker or turn it into left luggage at the train station. Then make your way to the Mensa where Orientation will probably be taking place. You have two options: a taxi or the bus. A taxi is much more expensive while being extremely simple. On the other hand, the bus is much cheaper. You will be riding the bus everyday for your time in Marburg so why not start right away? The Busbahnhof is located directly across from the train station on the other side of the street. You can take Bus #1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 to Rudolfplatz. The bus ride will cost around 2.20DM and takes about 8 minutes. A little bit of walking is necessary, but simply follow the signs to the Mensa or ask for directions because everyone will be able to tell you where it is.

Die Orientierungswoche

Orientation will consist of about a week of activities planned by the department in charge of the exchange students. The majority of your time will be spent filling out the forms for insurance, getting a month-pass for the bus, opening a bank account in Marburg, registering for the university, getting your room, and meeting lots of other exchange students from all over the world. They will also give you a tour of Marburg and help you to answer any questions that you might have. Dr. Bunke is the man in charge. He is very helpful and sympathetic. If ever you have any problems just go and talk to him, and he will help you out. You can find him at:

Referat für Ausländische Studierende
Biegenstraße 12, 2. Stock
Sprechstunden am Montag, Dienstag, Donnerstag und Freitag von 9.00-12.00 Uhr
Telefon: 28 6129  Fax: 28 8998
Email: auslbera@verwaltung.uni-marburg.de

They also will probably be planning a short weekend trip for everyone, so if you want to go, plan on having a bit of extra cash to pay for it. It is definitely worth going, not only to start seeing the country, but to get to know other people from all over the world. There will also probably be a party at the end of the week to help everyone get to know each other better.
Accommodation

There are several possibilities of where you will end up living. Most likely they will end up being either in Studentendorf or Christian-Wolff-Haus. Both of these places vary from one another, but there are some basic things that you can expect. First of all, you will have your own room. In the room are a bed, a large desk, two chairs, a small table, a closet and a sink with a mirror. You will have to share a kitchen and a bath. In the kitchen, you will have a small cupboard in which you can lock up your food. Also, located in the building will be laundry facilities of some sort. Studentendorf is a large complex of buildings that houses around 3000 students. Christian-Wolff-Haus, on the other hand, houses only 200. The Studentenheime are all accessible by bus, and on the first day the Orientation leaders will probably take you there with all of your stuff. You will sign a contract with the Hauswirtschaftler/in, receive your keys and then it will be time to settle in. Your rent will be withdrawn monthly from your bank account in Marburg.

Telephone access is rather limited for most students. Having a private phone line is very expensive, therefore the majority of students share phones with the people who live on their floors. This means that everyone shares the basic cost of the telephone and then pays singularly for the amount of time that they spend on the phone. So, if you see that there is a phone on your floor where you live, just go and talk with whoever is in charge of it and let them know that you would like to take part, too. It is very expensive to call home to the States, so BEWARE. The best way to control how much you spend when you make calls home is to buy pre-paid telephone cards and call from a nearby telephone booth. Then you can just use the community phone in order to receive calls from home and your friends.

Recycling is also something that you are responsible for while living in the dorm. Germany is one of the leading countries in the world in recycling programs. One web site discusses extensively the different issues revolving around recycling programs. It also outlines the system that exists in Germany:

"Germany has one of the most ambitious such programmes in the world and one that has become a model for other countries. The Grune Punkt or Green Dot scheme, passed in 1991, went into effect in 1993. The legislation, which included strict timetables to increase the amount of solid waste recycled, was based on the 'polluter pays' principle, whereby industry is held responsible for the costs associated with safe and efficient disposal of any waste generated by its activities."
(Source: http://193.128.6.150/consumers/rightsday97/chapter6/puttinga.htm sponsored by: Consumers International, title: "Putting a Lid on Wastefulness")

Even though Germany is making a concerted effort to protect their environment, many problems still arise with costs, management and space. Regardless, people still make the effort to recycle. Most living areas have separated cartons for glass, paper, tin, plastics and/or compost. The people living in the halls take turns taking it out, so that it is fair for everyone. Germans are proud to care for their country, so make sure that you contribute to its care as well.
**Official Business**

YOUR BANK ACCOUNT AND HEALTH INSURANCE

During Orientation your group leaders will be helping you fill out important forms, showing your around Marburg and helping you get everything done before you start your studies. One of the things they will help you with is opening your Konto. They will take you to the Sparkasse, which is one of the major banks in Germany. It is best to have some money to deposit when you go. With your account you will be able to pay for your rent, your health insurance and your Semesterbeitrag. At the Sparkasse, there exist several services that are available to you as a member. Receiving money from home can sometimes be a problem. There are a couple of options. You can always exchange American dollars for no charge at the bank, but receiving cash via mail is very unreliable. Another option is having traveler’s cheques sent to you, which are also made out to you. You then can endorse on them back like a personal check. There is a small charge depending upon how much you cash at one time. Or you can cash personal checks from the United States, but of course there is a 15DM charge.

Many ATM machines are located around Marburg that will except Visa or MasterCard depending on the bank. On Bahnhofsstraße there is a Citibank that can also be very useful. The easiest way for you to take out money will be with your Sparkasse card, which is generally available anywhere in Germany.

In order to attend a German university you have to be insured with one of their companies. With this Krankenversicherung, however, you can go to the doctor’s office whenever you want and not have to pay. For details about your health insurance, just go and talk to one of their representatives. The amount for your insurance will also be withdrawn on the first of the month. (Don’t be surprised if the first time they charge you it is for two months because they will want to cover you for September, too, if you came early.)

**AUFENTHALTSERLAUBNIS or VISUM**

The next important thing that you will need once you are settled is your visa, which allows you stay in Germany for a year. As an American you are entitled to 3 months of stay in Germany without a visa. With your visa, you are also eligible to work under certain limitations. It is important to get it taken care of as soon as possible. This is something that you have to do on your own without the help of the orientation people. The Ausländeramt is located on Frauenbergstraße. It is a very simple process, which requires you going to the office with the appropriate materials. You will need to take with you:

1. Letter proving that you are allowed to study at the university (**Studienbescheinigung**)
2. Your passport (**Reisepaß**)
3. Proof of residence in Marburg (**Bestätigung der polizeilichen Anmeldung**)
4. 60 DM
5. A passport-sized photo (**Paßbild**)
When you are in Marburg with the ISEP program, you will receive an allowance monthly for 10 months that will cover the costs of your rent, your insurance and your food. It totals 800DM. They won’t just automatically start giving you money, you have to get it going yourself. The best place to start is to ask Dr. Bunke. You will probably have two options as to how you can receive your stipend every month. You can either a) have the money fixed so that it will be directly deposited into your bank account every month or b) make it so that you can pick it up personally from the Studentensekretariat on the first of every month. If you choose to pick it up in person, then just be sure to have your passport with you every time.

Other Resources

There are many good resources in Marburg, if the occasion arose and you needed some guidance with your studies, some advice on money, or just someone to talk to if you felt unsure about your stay. A good person, who is very willing to help you out, is Frau Ursula Kreuder. She is one of the teachers for some of the classes available to the exchange students. Generally, she sets up an appointed time once a week where you can meet with her or you could always call her if you had any problems or questions. Many of the students did not take advantage of her services, but I can attest to the fact that she can be very helpful.

Another person that you can turn to if needed is Dr. Kurt Bunke. He is head of the office for people on exchange programs. When you are able to get a hold of him, he is also very helpful and friendly. He generally keeps daily Sprechstunden. Don’t worry if a problem arises, there is always someone there to help you and of course there are plenty of other exchange students around who can pass on any knowledge they might have.

In addition, before you leave for Germany, the university will send you a packet of information that will most likely include a small book with plenty of information in it as well. It is good to bring along with you because it has many addresses and phone numbers that can be helpful if you have any questions.

Once you have shaken the jetlag and finally taken care of all the official stuff, the next step is to begin exploring the culture around you and all it has to offer.
Everyday Living

Starting off

After you arrive in Marburg, get your room, and unpack a few things, the real living begins. Of course, your main concerns at the time will be making friends and exploring the town. However, while you are exploring Marburg, some things that you might want to start looking for are places that will take care of your everyday needs. Your money will run away from you very quickly if you eat out for every meal, so it might be a good idea to consider cooking in the dorm kitchen. Some kitchens come equipped with community kitchenware, while others have only a pot or two. Everyone else has their own private stock. It all depends on the other people on your floor. Sometimes there can even be a combination of attitudes, where a couple of people don't share anything, while others are very generous.

So, in the case that you would need a few supplies, there are a couple of good, cheap stores in Marburg where you will be able to get anything you might need (plates, silverware, a pot etc.) for a very low price. Some of the stores where you can get cheap stuff include Woolworth's and TEKA. TEKA is the best because they have Wal-mart quality with Big Lots prices. It might sound cheesy, but every Pfennig counts.

Shopping

Since we are on the topic of buying some basics for everyday living, the next natural topic would be grocery shopping. There are several places where you can get reasonably priced groceries. The largest chain in Marburg is Ha We Ge. They have really good quality and also a good variety of international foods: Heinz ketchup, Ragu spaghetti sauce and even Old El Paso products. Their price range is in the middle for most items. On the high end, is another grocery store located in the basement of Ahrens. They have an extensive seafood and fine wine selection, but it is definitely not a student-priced store. Thankfully, there are also some very cheap stores where the majority of students love to shop. They are Aldi, Spar, and Lidl. Generally, the stores are open from 8-6 during the week, 8-12 on Saturday, and then they are closed on Sunday. They accept cash and credit cards. My favorite store was Ha We Ge, but I often went to some of the other cheaper ones for variety.

Der Postamt

Another place that you will visit often is the post office. They offer many good services beyond the usual stamp. They sell some office supplies, boxes for mailing packages and pre-paid phone cards. The main post office is located on Bahnhoftsstraße.
Getting sick while you are abroad is probably something that you aren't thinking about, but it probably will happen at least once. The excitement of the first few weeks can truly run you down. Thankfully, the pharmacies in Marburg are a good place to go. The pharmacists there are extremely helpful. By describing your symptoms, they should be able to help you find the correct over the counter medication. If you were seriously ill, they could also probably recommend a doctor.

Some helpful vocabulary for the Apotheke:
1. **die Grippe**: flu
2. **die Erkaltung**: cold
3. **das Schleim**: phlegm
4. **das Husten**: cough
5. **der Fieber**: fever
6. **das Durchfall**: diarrhoea
7. **das Medicament**: medicine
8. **die Übelkeit**: nausea
9. **das Kopfschmerzen**: headache
E-mail/Computer availability

The next thing that will be on list of things to do is being in touch with your friends and family back home. Using e-mail is the easiest, quickest, and cheapest way. Having E-mail while in Marburg is not a problem. The university offers E-mail accounts to their students, which is similar to our VAX system. The only draw back is that you have to pay a small amount every semester in order to be registered for an account. To do that just simply pay the 10DM or so at your bank and then show the receipt at the Studentssekretariat. They will set you up with your user name and password.

However, you need not do this if you have email through the Internet (e.g. Hotmail, Yahoo) because Internet access is free to all students. Netscape is available, so that these E-mail accounts can be easily accessed. The computers also have word-processing programs like Microsoft Word, so writing your papers won't be a problem either.

In Marburg there are a limited number of computers for the masses of students who live there. There exist only a couple of computer labs and the hours are also short. Most of the computer labs also function as classrooms for the computer classes, which reduces the availability even more. One of the labs, which has about 30-35 computers, is located on Universitätsstraße across from Ahrens and behind the business building. It can get very crowded, so the best times to go are either early in the morning or in the evening around dinnertime. Another lab is on the fourth floor of the Savigny-Haus, which is down the street, and on the other side of the McDonald's. Also, there is a lab on the ground floor of the Phil-Fak. So, you should be able to find one that is most convenient for you.

***Beware however as the end of the semester approaches because the number of students using computers will greatly increase due to final papers and such, so prepare to fight the masses.***
What Marburg has to offer

KULTURANGEBOTE

Some people feel that Marburg is too small of a town to have any worthwhile events, but with 20,000 students and a total population of 85,000 citizens, there is always something going on. Many cultural events are available to those seeking entertainment, enrichment or even education. (Hint: If you attend enough cultural events so that you could write a paper on it for your professor here at Ball State University, possible credit could be earned towards your other German credits.) Located in Marburg there is a stage theatre, an art museum, KFZ, the Marburg castle and museum, the church of St. Elisabeth, and various places where concerts are performed. The theatre offers discount prices for students and the art museum is free to the public. Visiting the castle grounds is free and in order to visit the museum a small fee of only 2-3DM is required. To view the church is free and the many concerts vary in price range. Don't let money prevent you from experiencing the myriad of opportunities awaiting you. A much more detailed listing of the different events occurring in Marburg can be found on the city's web-site. Be sure to check it out.

DAS STUDENTENLEBEN

After you get settled into Marburg, you will discover that the city is full of easily accessible opportunities in which you can relax, have a great time, and get to know other students and the people of Marburg. The center of nightlife in Marburg is the Oberstadt. It is located on the hill below the castle and is the oldest part of town. During the day it is a great place for strolling and window-shopping in the various shops. At night, however, it stays alive with restaurants, a disco, various cafes and bars.

The Oberstadt isn't the only spot in Marburg where one can socialize. Located within the Studentendorf there is students' bar called Schwarz/Weis. Many people enjoy going there because of the convenient location and the good prices. Another popular disco, Kult, is located on the southern end of town at the bus #1 stop, Frauenbergstraße. It has three different dance floors, lots of wild people, and free cover until 10:00. If you like live bands and are willing to pay the cover, Molly Malone's is the place for you. It is an Irish pub that feels like a cave, but has a great atmosphere and a really fun Halloween party. Playing billiards is also available at the Billiards Café located on Universitätsstraße. It fills up quickly on the weekends, so go early if you want a table. The list of places to go in Marburg goes on and on. The real adventure is find them all yourself. This is only a listing of the most popular ones to give you an idea of what it is like.

Of course, there are things to do other than visit cafes. For example, there are a number of movie theatres in Marburg. In the Oberstadt there is a theatre that features more independent films as opposed to the Hollywood variety. Also, in the summer they play movies in an outdoor setting up in the castle gardens. Another option is outdoor and sport activities. In Marburg some of the outdoor choices include boating on the Lahn, hiking in the surrounding area (especially on the trails behind Christian-Wolff-Haus or the ones leading up
to the Spiegelslust behind Studentendorf), or swimming at the different Badhalle in Marburg. The university also offers many different recreational activities including workout facilities, aerobics classes, social dance classes and even yoga. Essentially, no one should ever complain that there was nothing to do in Marburg because it simply is not true. Of course, sometimes you will need a breather from the Marburg valley. To do so, get on a train and start traveling!

**Das Semesterticket**

An essential part of your traveling experience will be the usage of your Semesterticket/Studienausweis. This little slip of paper allows you to travel for free on almost any train in the whole of Hessen. The only train that is restricted is the IC/ICE, which are the super fast trains. It is valid for one semester at a time, but you will receive a new one when you pay your student fees for the spring. You must also carry another form of picture ID in order to verify that the pass is yours. It is also what allows you to ride the bus in Marburg for free.

There are many interesting places within Hessen that are worth the trip. On those free days just start exploring. The Semesterticket is so helpful because with almost any connection that you will need to make when traveling to other countries, or even within Germany, it will save you money time and time again. When buying a ticket to anywhere in Germany, just let the teller know that you have a Semesterticket so that they can adjust your price.

**Semesterferien/Travel**

When you go to Germany for an entire year, you will have the opportunity to do a lot of traveling. From the beginning of February until the middle of April is the winter break in between semesters. It is a good time to travel because there are fewer tourists around, so it makes places less crowded than they would normally be during high season. Traveling around Europe during this time is probably one of the best parts of your whole exchange. With a rail ticket you are essentially free to tour around Europe and see whatever you desire until you basically run out of money. There are a few things that you should keep in mind when planning for your travel. One of them is where you want to go. You should have a general idea in your mind of which places you would most like to hit and the path that you will follow. Another thing to keep in mind is where you will sleep at night. Hostels are your best bet. In Prague, many people offer spare rooms for rent at very reasonable prices, which is also a good option. Another tip is pack light. The less you have to carry the happier you will be. Basically, just enjoy your time, see the sights, eat the food and enjoy the nightlife. Other good suggestions for travel can be found in various travel guides. Some of them include Let's Go Europe, Fodor's Travel Guides, and Lonely Planet. Just simply start browsing the bookstores to find the book for you.
While I was in Marburg, I made a small survey for the other exchange students that were studying there and asked them about their experiences with traveling Europe, so that it might lend some clues as to where to begin your travel in Germany. They named some of their favorite cities or regions in Germany, and I have listed them in order of popularity:

- Berlin
- München/Süddeutschland
- Freiburg/Schwarzwald
- Köln
- Heidelberg
- Dresden
- Tübingen
- Nürnberg
- Dusseldorf
- Überall in Hessen
- Weimar
- Stuttgart
Academics

(the seal of Philips-Universität Marburg)
Sprachkurs

When you decide to go to Marburg, you have the option of participating in a month-long language course before the semester begins. Taking part in the course is free, but you have to pay for your living expenses out of your own funds, because your stipend won't officially begin until October. The class begins the first week of September. You will take a test that will place you into a particular skill level. The class meets daily, but isn't too structured. You will mainly be doing exercises and practicing your German in a classroom setting. The teachers can also answer any questions you might have. They often plan a couple of small trips which can assist in familiarizing you with travel in Germany.

After the course is over, you will take another test to rate your performance. Based on your scores they will advise as to what sort of classes you should take during the semester. However, you are free to take whichever classes you want regardless of the test scores. They also offer a language course during the school year for students who need it, but it is optional. The purpose of the language course is to simply strengthen your speaking ability as much as possible before the start of the semester, so that you will feel as comfortable as possible.

Preparing Your Class Schedule

So, now it is time to start thinking about preparing for the start of the new semester. The winter semester begins around middle to late October and lasts until the first week or so of February, while the summer semester runs from the middle of April until the end of July. For some, you will have spent a month participating in the offered Sprachkurs and others will have just arrived only a week or so before the start of the semester, but regardless the same applies.

Step 1
The first thing that you will want to do is pick up a Vorlesungsverzeichnis from the Universitäts-Buchladen located in the Oberstadt. It costs around 5DM and comes with a map of Marburg. The book is divided into sections by department. Within each department the different subject areas are listed with their corresponding classes. In using this book, you will be able to begin looking for the classes that you will possibly want to attend in order to fulfill your requirements for Ball State University.

Step 2
The second packet of information that will give you more specifics about your proposed classes is the Kommentiertes Verzeichnis der Lehrveranstaltungen, which you can pick up from the needed Fachbereich office. Usually it costs 1 DM. This packet of papers outlines each course in greater detail offered by that department. It lists the course number, the professor, the room and building where the class is held, the times of the class, the date when the class begins and any other necessary details. This booklet is a good source of specific information when deciding upon your schedule for the semester.

Step 3
In Germany there is now official registration like here in the States. Students attend classes, take tests or prepare Semesterarbeiten and then receive credit for the class. Therefore, you
are on your own when it comes to the selection of your classes and making sure that they fit with your home requirements.

Once you have obtained the *Vorlesungsverzeichnis* and the *Kommentiertes*, the next step is to pick your classes. It is important to keep in mind that not everything that you choose in the beginning will end up working out. It is in your best interests, in order to secure your transferring of grades with Ball State University, that you choose more than the required number of classes. That way you will have "back up" credits in the event that the primary classes that you had chosen fall through. For example, a literature class may be too advanced for where you are or you might not be able to understand a particular professor well enough to continue with the class, or for some *Proseminaren* the class fills up before you get the chance to join the class. Also, sometimes professors prefer not to have exchange students in their classes. It is essential for smooth success to be thoroughly prepared with your classes since your academics are solely your responsibility while abroad.

**Step 4**
The next essential part of preparing your schedule is speaking with the professor for each of your classes. Now obviously for classes designed specifically for *ausländische Studenten* this wouldn't be necessary. However, for other classes, special arrangements need to be made with the professor at the beginning of the semester, so that you can get his or her permission to participate in their class. In addition, you will need to find out exactly what is required of you in order to receive a *Schein* at the end of the semester. The *Schein* is a certificate proving that you took the course and the grade you received. That piece of paper that you will receive at the end of the semester is the only proof that you will have saying that you participated in the course.

**Step 5**
So, after you have affirmed your place in the class, the next step is to contact your advisor at Ball State to let him or her know what classes you are taking. It is important to keep in contact with your advisor so that less confusion occurs later. Just simply describe your proposed courses for him or her. E-mail is the simplest way to keep in contact, but of course, you should speak with your advisor before leaving to find out the best way to communicate while you are abroad.

After having completed all of those steps, you can concentrate on studying your German, literature, history or even economics. Don't just stick with the language courses. Try some other areas like linguistics or art. Marburg has a lot to offer and if you are worried about not being able to do well, just simply make them "extra" courses. That way the pressure can be somewhat alleviated.
The German Classroom

Once you are settled into your classes, there are some important things to keep in your mind about how things are run. The setup of their academic system is different. Several different types of classes exist. Also attendance policies, materials needed, and final testing procedures also differ.

There are four basic types of classes at the German university:

Die Vorlesung: This class is a lecture only class. They serve as background information sources for students starting out in a particular field. The professor literally reads a lecture for an extended period of time that is based on his/her research on a specific topic such as Goethe or a particular film genre. German students don't receive credit for these classes, which means that they attend simply for their own educational benefit. If you want to receive a Schein for one of these classes, you must speak with the professor at the start of the semester in order to work something out if possible.

Die Übung: This class literally means practice. For subjects such as a foreign language or composition this type of class is needed. Most of the German language classes are this type of class since the focus of the class is application of the topic in different situations.

Das Proseminar: This level of study is more advanced than the aforementioned. The focus of the class tends to be literature research, analysis and interpretation. There is usually a Klausur at the end of the class and other required assignments during the course of the semester.

Das Hauptseminar: This class is not one that you would be joining. It is generally set up with very specific topics intended for graduate study or very advanced students. It is very rigorous and difficult.

Now we will look at some of major differences between American and German university policies.

1. ATTENDANCE: In most of the German language study classes, attendance is taken, but it really is not as essential for your grade or even mandatory like here at Ball State. It is simply to let the teacher know who is serious about attending the class and learning the language. On the other hand, for the large lecture classes, attendance it is never taken. Occasionally some materials may be passed out for the lecture (i.e. the poem or selection about which the professor will be speaking) and collecting these will also support your proof that you attended the lectures. But if you attend a Proseminar, which usually requires that you sign up prior to the start of the semester, attendance is taken and required.

2. MATERIALS: As far as materials for the class are concerned, the majority of your work will be based on handouts. The teacher may recommend a book to buy, but it is not required. If you attend a Proseminar that, for example, deals with a particular novel or play, then you can purchase a Reclam copy at the bookstore for anywhere between 3-8 DM depending upon the length of the book. It is very affordable and can easily be brought home because they are pocket-book size. Make sure to bring home all of the handouts.
exercises that you receive, papers you write, and Scheine you earn, because complete documentation is necessary in order to receive your grades and credits from Ball State.

3. TESTING: Lastly, in regards to your final grade at the end of the semester, you will either take an Abschlußklausur, write a Semesterarbeit or give a Referat. These are very important for your final grade.

### Bibliotheken

In Marburg there are many libraries. Generally, each department has their own small library in addition to the much larger main library. The Universitätsbibliothek (UB) is located next to Phil-Fak. It contains many reference books and computers, which link you up to the database catalog. If you need to check out a book, you must first get a library card. It can be obtained at the library itself. Just ask someone to help you get one.

Along with the main library, there are many other smaller libraries for each department, which are scattered throughout Marburg. There is also an online catalog for the library that gives you all of the needed information. The university has an excellent, very extensive web page that can connect you to the library catalog [www.ub.uni-marburg.de](http://www.ub.uni-marburg.de)

Another opportunity for access to a library stands on Ketzerbach at the edge of the Altstadt. It is the Stadtbücherei. Marburg's city library, although not huge, is also a good place to find things to read. It is a newly remodeled building with many nice features. The people there are also very helpful and it is definitely worth checking out while you are in Marburg. As long as you live in Marburg, you can get a library card that allows you to check out books, CDs and cassettes. For more detailed information, you can check out their web site at [www.ifs.tu-darmstadt.de/stbmr](http://www.ifs.tu-darmstadt.de/stbmr)
There's no place like home...
Preparing to Return Home

This part of your journey is by far the simplest and most difficult at the same time. If you thought that leaving your family and friends in the States was arduous, try leaving your new friends and your new home that you established entirely on your own. Being abroad will change you completely and a part of you won't want to leave regardless of how much you miss your loved ones at home. It is time to simply pack up your things and say your goodbyes. There are a few areas that need to be taken care of before you go to the Frankfurter Lufthafen for the last time.

1. Make sure that you have all of your Scheine and important academic support.
2. Be sure to close your bank account before leaving.
3. Stop your insurance plan by going to the office and letting them know that you are leaving.
4. During that last week you will have to abmelden, which means unregistrating yourself from the town.
5. Definitely be sure to confirm your plane ticket either through the travel agency or directly through the airline itself.
6. Move out of your room and pick up the remainder of your deposit.
7. Lastly, say goodbye and start dreaming of and planning when you will be able to come back.
Survey Results

During my stay in Marburg in preparation for this handbook, I gave out a survey to as many of the exchange students as I could reach through my classes and my housing. I wanted to get their point-of-view on Marburg in order to better present the town and its university. There were seven questions dealing with Marburg and their experience with Germany as a whole. Here are the questions and some of the answers.

1. Was hättten Sie wissen wollen, bevor Sie nach Marburg gekommen sind?
   - Die Arten von den Lehrveranstaltungen
   - Kulturelle Angebote
   - Der Sprachkurs
   - Die Stadt, Marburg
   - Das Semesterticket und andere Reisenmöglichkeiten

2. Was gefällt Ihnen am besten in Marburg?
   - Die Oberstadt/Altstadt
   - Die Natur in Marburg
   - Die Universität und viele Studenten
   - Die Sehenswürdigkeiten (das Schloß, die Architektur, usw.)
   - Die deutsche Leute und viele Freunde, die sie gemacht hatten.

3. Wo ist ein guter Ort in Marburg, um Leute kennenzulernen?
   - Die Wohnheime, z.B. Studentendorf
   - Die Kneipen
   - An der Uni/ in Klassen
   - Der Mensa

4. Was hat Ihnen in Marburg nicht gefallen?
   - Das Wetter (Ein bisschen regnerisch.)
   - Die Buszeiten (Sie fahren nur bis 12:00)
   - Wenig Arbeitsmöglichkeiten
   - Es gibt kein Geld für die Uni (Das ist ein Problem für das ganze Deutschland.)

5. Würden Sie die Uni Marburg weiter empfehlen?
   - Ja  81%
   - Nein  16%
   - Vielleicht  3%

6. Sind Sie in Deutschland gereist? Wenn ja, wohin? Was haben Sie am besten gefunden?
   - Berlin
   - München/Süddeutschland
   - Freiburg/Schwarzwald
   - Köln
   - Heidelberg
   - Dresden
   - Tübingen
   - Nürnberg
   - Düsseldorf
   - Hessen
   - Weimar
   - Stuttgart
7. Gibt es noch etwas, das Sie über Marburg sagen möchten?
   - "Schöne kleine Stadt, sehr gut für ausländische Studenten, die nur für ein Jahr in Deutschland bleiben."
   - "Ja!! Studier mal Marburg!"
   - "Die Lage ist sehr gut. Nicht weit von Frankfurt und in mittel Hessen. Die Uni ist auch toll."
   - "Wunderschöne Stadt."
Comprehensive Web Site Listing

- www.bahn.de
- www.bsu.edu/classes/warner/GER363
- www.ciee.org
- www.counciltravel.com/railpass.htm
- www.hoppers.de
- www.ifsttu-darmstadt/stbmr
- www.interrail.net
- www.marburg.de
- www.princeton.edu/~german/PGWP/Index.htm
- www.ub.uni-marburg.de
- www.uni-marburg.de
- www.uni-marburg.de
- www.web.de
abmelden: to de-register
Abschlussklausur, die: final exam
Altstadt, die: old part of town
Apotheke, die: pharmacy
Aufenthaltserlaubnis, der: visa; permission for extended stay in the country
Ausländeramt, der: office for foreigners
ausländische: foreign

Badhalle, die (pl.): swimming pools
Bibliothek, die: library
Bundeskanzler, der: the head of the German government
Bundesländer, die (pl.): the 16 political divisions of Germany
Bundespräsident, der: leader of Germany
Bushaltestelle, die: bus stop

Dorf, der: village, small town

Fachbereich, der: department
Festung, die: large fortress, designed for military activities

Hauptbahnhof, der: main train station
Hauptseminar, das: advanced level class
Hauswirtschaftler/in, der/die: person in charge of each of the dorm buildings

Kaution, die: security deposit
Konto, das: bank account
Krankenversicherung, die: health insurance
Kulturangebote, die (pl.): culture offerings (opportunities)

Lehrveranstaltungen, die (pl.): class times
Lufthafen, der: airport

Mensa, das: cafeteria
Miete, die: rent
Monatskarte, die: month-long pass for the bus

Oberstadt, die: oldest area of Marburg located higher up on the hillside
Orientierungswoche, die: orientation week

Passbild, das: passport-sized photo
Pfennig, das: penny, smallest coin in Germany
Postamt, der: post office
Proseminar, das: discussion class
Referat, das: 1.) office  2.) in-class report/presentation
Reisepaß, der: passport
Reisezentrum, das: office for planning travel and purchasing tickets

Schein, der: certificate proving class completion and grade received
Schnellzug, der: urban trains
Semesterarbeit, der: essay due at the end of the semester
Semesterbeitrag, der: fees paid every semester to the university
Semesterferien, das: vacation time between semesters
Semesterticket, das: pass for free train travel throughout Hessen
Sprachkurs, der: language class
Sprechstunden, die: office hours
Stadtbücherei, die: city library
Stipendium, das: scholarship or in this context, monthly allowance
Strassenbahn, die: streetcar
Studentendorf, der: (lit. the students' village) collection of many dorms all in one area
Studentenheime, die (pl.): dormitories
Studentenleben, das: the life of students
Studentensekretariat, das: student registry
Studienausweis, der: student identification card
Studienbescheinigung, die: certificate for permission to study
Studierende, die (pl.): those who are studying, students
suchen: to look for

U-Bahn, die: subway
Übung, die: practice
Universitätsbibliothek, die: university library
Universitäts-Buchladen, der: university bookstore
Universitätsstadt, die: city that has a large university

Verbindung, die: connection
Visum, das: visa for stay in the country
Vorlesung, die: lecture
Vorlesungsverzeichnis, der: listing of the classes offered at the university

Zug, der: train
Zuschläge, die (pl.): additional charges in the context of train travel, mandatory for some trains