The exchange program in Hohenheim, Germany is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in conjunction with the University of Hohenheim (UHOH). This IAP Program Handbook supplements handbook(s) or materials you receive from the University of Hohenheim as well as the IAP Study Abroad Handbook and provides you with the most up-to-date information and advice available at the time of printing. Changes may occur before your departure or while you are abroad.

Questions about your program abroad (housing options, facilities abroad, etc.) as well as questions relating to your relationship with your host university or academics (e.g. course credit and equivalents, registration deadlines, etc.) should be directed to International Academic Programs at UW-Madison.

This program handbook contains the following information:

- Contact Information ........................................................................................................................................1
- Program Dates................................................................................................................................................2
- Preparation Before Leaving ............................................................................................................................3
- Travel and Arrival Information .......................................................................................................................4
- The Academic Program ..................................................................................................................................5
- Living Abroad...................................................................................................................................................9

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**UW-Madison Information**

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**Emergency Contact Information**
In case of an emergency, call the main IAP number (608) 265-6329 between 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; after-hours or on weekends call the IAP staff on call at (608) 516-9440.

**Embassy Registration**
All program participants who are U.S. citizens must register at the U.S. Embassy before departure as this will help in case of a lost passport or other mishap. You can register on-line at [https://travelregistration.state.gov](https://travelregistration.state.gov). If you are not a U.S. citizen, register at your home country’s embassy or consulate.

**U.S. Embassy**
**Consulate General in Frankfurt**
Gießener Str. 30
60435 Frankfurt am Main
Federal Republic of Germany
Tel: (069) 7535-2518
American Citizen Services Emergency Tel: (069) 7535-0
Fax: (069) 7535-2252
Email: GermanyACS@state.gov

**Program Dates**
The University of Hohenheim’s academic year consists of two semesters, which do not coincide directly with UW-Madison’s semesters:

**Winter: Beginning of October through February**
**Sommer: Beginning of April to early August**

The academic calendar may differ slightly depending on the faculty your courses are offered in and whether or not your courses are taught in a blocked module structure (see Class Schedule section below).

Dates given above are a general timeframe. Since the semesters at UHOH and UW overlap, specifically UHOH’s winter semester runs during parts of UW’s fall and spring semesters, it is most convenient for UW students to study abroad at UHOH during the UHOH’s summer semester or for the academic year.

**Winter Semester 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application deadline intensive language course</td>
<td>June 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation of residence rooms</td>
<td>mid-August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrival for students taking Intensive German Course</td>
<td>September 1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intensive German Course</td>
<td>September 2-26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrival and registration for students not taking part in the language course</td>
<td>October 1-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lectures begin</td>
<td>October 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOTE SUMMER SOMESTER DATES ARE NOT YET POSTED
University of Hohenheim will provide more details with dates as they are set. You may view the online calendar here: https://exchange.uni-hohenheim.de/important-dates?&L=1#jfmulticontent_c145997-2
Students must check with their Professors about exam dates, as these may be after the class end dates. Most exams will be complete by August 9. Please do not book your return prior to August 9.

Preparation Before Leaving
Refer to the Pre-Departure Checklist on pages of the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for essential information.

Immigration Documents
Passport
A passport is needed to travel to Germany and to obtain your student visa (IF APPLICABLE). Apply immediately for a passport if you do not already have one. Passport information and application forms can be found on the U.S. State Department website (http://travel.state.gov/passport). If you already have your passport, make sure it will be valid for at least 6 months beyond the length of your stay abroad.

Visa
U.S. citizens do not need a visa to enter Germany. Non-U.S. citizens should consult with the German consulate for visa requirements.

Residence Permit:
After entering Germany you will need to apply for a residence permit at the local Auslaenderamt (Immigration Office. During your orientation in Stuttgart, the staff of the International Office will explain the application process to you and assist you with obtaining the necessary documents.

You will need to bring the following documents with you in order to apply for the residence permit:

- Valid passport
- Hohenheim student identification
- Passport-size photograph (this should be taken in Germany)
- Health insurance confirmation
- Registration confirmation from Residents’ Registration Office
- Confirmation of enrollment at Hohenheim
- Application fee (approximately 100 Euro)

In order for immigration authorities to process your application for an Aufenthaltsgenehmigung, you will need to submit your passport for about seven to ten days, within the first three months after your arrival. Do not plan on traveling outside Germany during this period.

If you are planning to travel in Europe after the end of the program, please make sure to check current visa regulations. An extension of your residence permit will be granted up to four weeks if you have proof of health insurance and sufficient funds for this period of time.
Handling Money Abroad
As of April 2014, the exchange rate was €0.72 per U.S. dollar. You should bring some money with you in cash for incidental purchases as well as for bus and train fares. It is possible to convert almost any currency into Euro at the airport when you arrive. Be sure to ask for small bills so you can pay for transportation to your accommodations without needing too much change.

ATM/Debit Cards
Probably the simplest way to access funds from the U.S. is to obtain an ATM debit card for your U.S. checking account. With the card, you will be able to withdraw cash (in Euros) from a Geldautomat (money machine) and have it debited (in U.S. dollars) to your U.S. account at a fairly favorable exchange rate (a transaction fee may apply). Past participants with ATM cards from Citibank and Bank of America have withdrawn from the ATMs of Citibank and Deutsche Bank, respectively, without incurring transaction fees.

Throughout Western Europe, CIRRUS and PLUS are the most widely available ATM systems. Be sure to ask your U.S. bank or credit union for an internationally accepted ATM card and PIN number. The upper limit on the amount that can be withdrawn at any one time or on a single day is established by your U.S. bank. Thus, it is important to consult with your bank on these matters prior to leaving for Germany. Past participants recommend increasing your ATM withdrawal limit so that you may withdraw enough funds for program expenses.

Credit Cards: Both Visa and MasterCard may be used to obtain cash advances at most banks and many ATMs (fees apply). Prior to departure, ask your credit card company for an international four-digit PIN if you do not already have one. Also, find out what your credit card company charges for cash advances.

Packing
Germany has a moderate climate in comparison with Wisconsin, but the weather is cold and nasty during the late winter and early spring. Be prepared for overcast skies and nonstop drizzle. Be sure to bring an umbrella, or plan on buying one shortly after you arrive. Most things you will want will be available once you there, so avoid over packing. Be aware that certain items, such as jeans and shoes, are more expensive in Germany than in the U.S.

Other items to remember include: documentation for the residence permit, alarm clock, journal and your letter of admission to Hohenheim.

Electronics
Germany runs on 220V (volts), 50Hz (cycles) AC and uses the “europlug” with two round pins. If you plan on bringing any appliances from the United States, keep in mind that they will require adapters/converters which you should purchase before departure. It may be more convenient and less expensive to purchase appliances in Germany rather than purchasing the necessary converter/adapters in the United States.

Travel and Arrival Information
Orientation takes place the week before classes begin. The orientation is organized to help you get to know the University, course structure, and the city. In cooperation with the International Student Organization, guided tours of the campus and the Hohenheim Palace, a pub crawl through Stuttgart, and a trip outside the city can be arranged during the orientation. Upon your arrival, you will register as a student at the University of Hohenheim and receive a student card. In order to register, you must bring the following documents with you:
• Letter of admission  
• At least 3 passport photographs  
• Certificate of your CISI health insurance

You will receive additional information from the University. Please read it carefully.

The Academic Program

University of Hohenheim

The origins of the university date back to 1818, when King William I of Wurtemberg founded an agricultural institution for teaching, experimentation and demonstration. It was inaugurated on November 20, 1818 by its first director, Johann Nepomuk Schwerz, in the castle that Duke Carl Eugen of Württemberg had built in the years 1771–1793. Throughout the 19th century, the number of international students enrolled at the university was around one-third of the total, giving the university an international reputation at a very early age. In 1847 the institution was raised to the rank of an “Academy of Agriculture and Forestry” and in 1904 the name was changed to “Agricultural College”. In the early 1920s the number of enrolled students rose over 1,000 for the first time. Shortly thereafter, new fields of study and research in the natural sciences as well as in economics and the social sciences developed in accordance with its original agronomical orientation. Currently, around 6,300 students enroll at UHOH each year and around 15% of these students are international students. The university offers 28 degree programs, among which are two postgraduate courses as well as two German and two English Master’s programs.

Location

The University of Hohenheim is situated in the south of Stuttgart, the state capital of Baden-Württemberg, and is the oldest - and most beautiful - university in Stuttgart. Surrounded by botanical gardens and experimental farming grounds, the University provides a pleasant study and working atmosphere. Hohenheim is one of the few campus universities in Germany; all facilities like lecture rooms, institutes, Language Centre, library, computer rooms, refectory as well as the Office for International Affairs are within walking distance of each other. The city centre of Stuttgart can be reached within only half an hour by public transport.

Course Information

The University of Hohenheim offers Master’s Degree programs taught entirely in English (see section on classes available below).

Please note that the semester number associated with the class tells the regular degree students which semester of their studies they should take that class. So, semester 1 refers to the winter semester of the student’s first year at the university, while semester 3 refers to the winter semester of the student’s second year at the university. Odd-numbered semesters always refer to the winter semesters and even-numbered semesters always refer to the summer semesters. You will have to register for all classes you take within any of the English Master’s programs. If your language skills allow and you choose to take classes offered in German, you generally do not have to enroll for those classes because the number of participants is not limited.

Class Schedules

Classes for all the English Master’s programs are taught in a block modular structure. This means that students take one class, which meets for four hours every day for three and a half weeks. Students take five blocked modules each semester and take only one class at a time. As an exchange student, however, you are free to take less than five modules. You can also take courses from different semesters as well as from different study programs. All blocked module courses are taught in the afternoon. Classes offered in the mornings generally meet fewer hours per week and throughout the
entire semester. The courses offered in the mornings are only available in German. If you feel comfortable with your German language skills, you can take the classes offered in the morning as well. Most courses at UHOH use a variety of teaching methods, including lectures, seminars and practical training.

Classes Available
Classes are available in English in the following International Master programs:
• Agricultural Economics
• Agricultural Sciences in the Tropics and Subtropics
• Crop Sciences
• Environmental Protection and Agricultural Food Production
• Environmental Sciences – Soil, Water & Biodiversity
• Organic Agriculture and Food Systems
• Economics
If your German language skills are advanced, you can also choose to take courses taught in German. Programs at UHOH offering courses in German include:
• Agribusiness
• Agrobiology
• Agricultural Sciences
• Biology
• Food Chemistry
• Food Technology
• Nutritional Science
• and more!

Equivalents and Course Equivalent Request Form (CERF)
Each course you take abroad must be assigned a UW-Madison “equivalent” course in order for your grades and credits to be recorded on your UW-Madison transcript. In order to establish UW-Madison course equivalents for your study abroad courses, you will submit a Course Equivalent Request Form (CERF). Detailed information on the UW course equivalent process is available in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook.

Credits
Conversions: In the Germany, an academic year consists of 60 ECTS credits. ECTS (European Credits Transfer System) credits are a numerical value (between 1 and 60) allocated to course units to describe the student workload required to complete them. They reflect the quantity of work each course unit requires in relation to the total quality of work necessary to complete a full year of academic study, that is, lectures, practical work, seminars, tutorials, field work, private study (in the library or at home) and examinations or other assessment activities. ECTS is thus based on a full student workload and not limited to contact hours only.

1 full academic year  = 60 ECTS credit
1 semester          = 30 ECTS credit

An average course consists of 200 study hours (classes, preparation, and exams are included), and thus equals 7.5 ECTS credit-points. In general, students at the university take 4 courses each semester.

Please be very careful when selecting module courses. If you choose to take module course (those that meet for part of the term), note that many courses are offered that carry fewer than the 5 ECTS (equivalent to 3 UW credits). Courses must be worth at least 2.5 ECTS to be approved at UW.
Courses under 2.5 ECTS should be combined with other courses of similar content to create a UW course equivalent. The combined courses should be at least 5 ECTS to provide meaningful credit.

For example: Systematic Botany (2 ECTS) and Practical course with Field Exercise in Systematic Botany (3 ECTS) = UW’s Botany 400 (3 UW credits).

It is possible to have courses approved as 2 UW credits instead of 3 UW credits. However, if you are taking courses to apply to major, certificate or college requirements, the ECTS must be equivalent to the UW courses credits. For example, Botany 130 is 5 credits at UW. If this course is needed for your major, certificate, or college requirement, you need to combine UHOH courses to equal at least 9 ECTS. If you have any questions on course credit, please contact your IAP Study Abroad Advisor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECTS Credits</th>
<th>UW Madison Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 or 4,5</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>5 or 5,5</td>
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<td>6 or 6,5</td>
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<td>7 or 7,5</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>12,5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Limits and Load**: A typical tentative schedule comprises 12 to 18 credit hours per semester (including the 4 credits earned during orientation), and you must have the permission from IAP to register for fewer than 12 or more than 18 credits.

**Pass/Fail/Drop/Audit**
Please refer to the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for academic policies.

**Transcripts**
Please note that German universities do not create transcripts instantly at the end of the term. As many universities collect the individual Schein (certificate) from each professor, it may take several months until your transcript is received at IAP. For Sommer (spring) semester, students can anticipate a Hohenheim transcript by November.
Grades and Grade Conversions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UHOH Grade</th>
<th>UW grade</th>
<th>German number with decimals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>1,0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>1,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>1,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>AB</td>
<td>2,0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>2,3</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>2,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>3,3</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>3,7</td>
</tr>
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<td>D</td>
<td>4,7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>5,0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note the UHOH Grade and German Number are set by UHOH. Grades D-F at UW have been assigned based on the German Numeric grade.

Language Pre-Course

Even though you can choose to take all your classes at the University in English, other students who have studied in Germany highly recommend you study German before you leave or while abroad. The Germans greatly appreciate when you try to speak their language, even if you only have minimal skills.

The intensive German course in September or March offers a diverse program which aims to systematically improve the four skills listening, speaking, reading and writing, as well as to increase grammar and vocabulary proficiency. The course is supplemented by seminars on regional, cultural and economic topics as well as a varied supporting program comprising excursions, movie nights, an international evening and much more. Additionally, participants can use, either independently or with guidance, all self-study language learning materials in the Language Centre’s modern-equipped Mediatheque. For exchange students of all degree program, the course offers specialized preparation for their studies at the Universität Hohenheim.

Students apply to participate in the pre-course by application provided by UHOH. Students need to complete the Course Equivalent Request through MyStudyAbroad if wishing to earn credit. Students
pay UHOH directly for the course cost. You must request UHOH send the language grade to IAP or have it recorded on your UHOH transcript.

**University Facilities:**

**Libraries**
The UHOH library is divided into a Central Library with a main focus on Agricultural Sciences, Biology and General Natural Sciences, and a Faculty Library (*Bereichsbibliothek*) for the Economic and Social Sciences. The library stocks approximately 460,000 books and 2,400 periodicals. The library is open seven days a week - which is quite exceptional for a German university library! The Hohenheim Electronic Library System provides access to the catalogues of other libraries and external databases.  

_Central Library hours:_
Monday-Friday 8:00 am - 9:00 pm  
Saturday & Sunday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

**Computer Centre**
The University of Hohenheim has four computer rooms, which are open partly into the evenings. The computers are equipped with current software, including Microsoft Office, SPSS, Netscape, Lotus, SAS, and more. In addition, the Computer Centre offers various computer courses. All students can participate free of charge! A sample of courses offered through the Centre include: Beginner and advanced courses in Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access, Introduction to the statistic programs SAS and SPSS, Web design, HTML, and more. Further information on the Computer Centre is available online at [www.rz.uni-hohenheim.de](http://www.rz.uni-hohenheim.de) (in German).

**Language Centre**
The Language Centre offers advanced German courses each semester for foreign students who are registered at UHOH. Some of the courses you can take through the Language Centre include: German Grammar I and II, Business German, Regional Studies/Germany Today, German for Agricultural and Natural Sciences and more. Generally, students have to pay a fee of €5 for each semester course.

**Living Abroad**

**Germany**
Germany is situated in Central Europe, bordering the Baltic Sea, the North Sea and Denmark in the north; Poland and the Czech Republic in the east; Austria and Switzerland in the south; and France, Luxemburg, Belgium and the Netherlands in the west. Three of Europe’s major rivers pass through Germany, including the Danube in the south, the Rhine in the west, and the Elbe in the northeast. Northern Germany is relatively flat lowlands and the central region is uplands. The Bavarian Alps create alternating peaks and valleys in the south. Germany’s climate is typically temperate but varies with the different regions in country. The weather also changes frequently, making daily predictions difficult. Generally, winters and summers are cool, cloudy and wet. Winters vary greatly from west to east. Winter temperatures in western Germany fall around freezing but are well below freezing in the east. Summer temperatures are typically between 20 and 30 degrees Celsius (68 and 86 degrees Fahrenheit).

The Federal Republic of Germany is divided into 16 states, which all have their own constitutions, parliaments and governments. The state governments are responsible for police regulation, education and implementing federal policies. On a national level, the President serves as Chief of State and the Chancellor as Head of Government. The President is elected every five years by a Federal Convention. The Federal Convention consists of the Federal Assembly, which is elected by popular vote and represents part of Germany’s bicameral Parliament, and an equal number of delegates elected by the
state parliaments. The Chancellor is elected by an absolute majority of the Federal Assembly for a four year term. Berlin is the nation’s capital.

Germany’s technically-powerful “social market” economy is the largest in Europe and the fifth largest in the world. With an average annual growth rate less than 1%, Germany’s economy has become one of the slowest growing economies in the European Union. Unemployment is consistently high and the government’s fall in revenues and rise in expenditures have caused the country’s deficit to rise above the EU’s 3% debt limit.

Germany’s population is just under 82.5 million, almost 80% of whom live in urban areas. Germany has the largest population of all European Union member countries and is also one of the most densely populated countries in Europe. With a 2005 growth rate of 0%, the population is stagnant. The population is predominantly Caucasian with a significant Turkish minority. German is the national language although local dialects can be strong in certain areas.

German food is more than what may first come to mind - beer, sausages and sauerkraut. Much of what may be considered American foods actually came from Germany: hot dogs, hamburgers, deviled eggs, meatloaf and more. Germans typically eat three meals a day, with lunch as the main meal. Breakfast typically consists of bread, meat and a soft-boiled egg. Traditionally Germans like hearty foods. Meat, often in the form of sausages, and potatoes are very common and beer is a very common beverage. German cuisine is evolving, however, to a more health-conscious, lighter diet.

Several different religions are represented in Germany. Roughly one-third of the population are Protestant, one-third are Roman Catholic and almost 4% are Muslim. The remaining 28% are either unaffiliated with a church or practice a different, more uncommon religion.

**Stuttgart**

Stuttgart-Hohenheim (also known simply as *Hohenheim*) is an area of Plieningen, one of 18 outer districts in the German city of Stuttgart in the state of Baden-Württemberg.

Baden-Württemberg is among the most prosperous states in Germany and is one of the wealthiest regions in Europe with a traditionally low unemployment rate. A number of well-known enterprises are headquartered in the state, for example Daimler AG, Porsche, Robert Bosch GmbH (automobile industry), Carl Zeiss AG (optics), and SAP AG (largest software enterprise in Europe). In spite of this, Baden-Württemberg’s economy is dominated by small and medium-sized enterprises.

Hohenheim is famous for Castle Hohenheim (which was built in 1782 by Karl Eugen) and Stuttgart’s oldest University, the University of Hohenheim, which was established in 1818.

**Housing**

**University Housing**

Rooms in residence halls are very limited at UHOH. UHOH’s residence halls are located very close to the university and can accommodate approximately 700 students. If you would like to stay in the dorms while studying in Germany, apply early to increase your chances of securing a room. Contact the Office of International Affairs to arrange housing in one of UHOH’s residence halls. Rent prices for university housing differs depending on which residence you live in. You will also be required to pay a deposit which you will get back six weeks after your rental agreement expires. Heat and electricity are included
in the rent and washing machines are available for an additional fee. Some residences have an additional cost if you want a private telephone line. To pay for your room, you must open a German bank account. Once your bank details are given to the housing department, your rent is deducted directly from your account. When your deposit is returned it will be credited to this account. You will have a private room with a shared kitchen and shared bath. Furniture in your room includes a bed with pillow and bedspread, closet, table, chair, etc. You will have to provide your own towels, sheets and kitchen supplies. In some of the residences there is also internet access available.

https://www.uni-hohenheim.de/1626.html?&L=1

Private Housing
You can also choose to stay in private accommodation but will have to arrange it on your own. The Office of the Students' Union (ASTA) on campus (Address: Kirchnerstrasse 5, in the building ‘Alte Botanik”) provides information on privately offered rooms and flats. If you choose to arrange private housing, be sure to visit the accommodations before agreeing to live there. Know what is included in the rent (which utilities, internet etc) and if you have to sign a lease written in German, be sure to have it translated by someone you trust if your own German language skills are not sufficient. Rent for a single room in private housing is generally between €212 and €300 per month. Along with ASTA, you can also use the following resources to assist you in your search for private housing:
• Daily newspapers - many rooms and flats are advertised in local newspapers, particularly on Saturdays
• Notice boards throughout the University
• Internet:
  www.fh-stuzi.de
  www.studenten-wg.de
  www.studentenwohnungsmarkt.de
  www.studenten-wohnung.de
  www.wg-zimmer.de
  www.wg-welt.de
  www.casaswap.com

For the first few days, while you are looking for permanent housing, you can arrange temporary accommodations at any of the following:

• Youth Hostel
  Address: HaussmannstraBe 27, entrance at the corner
  Werastrasse/Kernerstrasse, 70188 Stuttgart
  Tel: +49-711-24-15-83
  Fax: +49-711-2-36-10-41
  *Telephone reservations are not possible
  *Located approximately 8 km from UOH

Hotels and guest houses close to the university:
  Tagungsheim Christkonigsheim
  Address: Paracelsusstr. 89, 70599 Stuttgart
  Tel: +49-711-458-28-23
  Pension und Gaststatte Franziska
  Address: WelfenstraBe 75, 70599 Stuttgart
  Tel: +49-711-45-48-25
  Hotel Garbe
  Address: FilderhauptstraBe 136, 70599 Stuttgart
  Tel: +49-711-458-70-68
  Hotel Birke
Student Life
Sports & Music
UHOH offers a wide range of sports for you to participate in while you study there. Sports offered include the traditional variety: basketball, soccer, volleyball, tennis; and also more exotic varieties, such as acrobatics and Qi-Gong.
As a student at UHOH, you have the option to join one of many different music ensembles, including choir, chamber choir, symphonic orchestra, concert band, guitar group, Irish Folk group as well as a theater group.

Transportation
Your registration fee includes a StudiTicket, which allows you to ride any form of public transportation within Stuttgart at certain times of the day for free.

Trains
For national train transportation, any student under 26 years of age can buy a BahnCard, which entitles you to a 25% or 50% discount on all regular fares. However, no further discounts are granted on special offers such as the “Schönes Wochenende Ticket.” The BahnCard is valid for one year and is automatically renewed for a second year unless cancelled in time. You may want to visit the Internet homepage of the Deutsche Bahn (German Rail) for conditions, routes, times, connections, and special offers: www.bahn.de. You can purchase the BahnCard online and print out a temporary BahnCard before setting foot on German soil. As with all online purchases from the DB, however, it is important to make sure to bring the exact same credit card along that was used to pay for it. The DB will ask you to present the card as a form of ID for added security.

Bicycles
Traveling by bike is quick and easy and is often the most practical means of transportation. Keep in mind, though, that bicycles sometimes need repairs and are also prone to theft. Used bikes (Gebrauchträder) are best bought from other students (see notices hung on bulletin boards or the classifieds) There are also a number of used bike stores, and some will actually make an agreement with you to buy your bike back at a set price when you leave. You should check the bikes’ condition carefully before buying. With some luck, you may be able to bargain down the price a bit. Make sure that you get a receipt and a Fahrradpass for any bike you buy. This bike pass is proof that the bike was not stolen. If you do not have a bike pass, you may have problems when you try to sell your bike. Bike helmets are highly recommended, but they are quite expensive in Germany, so if you plan to bike, bring your helmet from home.

It is German law that all bikes have working front and back lights. Also, bicyclists are held responsible for obeying the same traffic laws as motorists. You may be ticketed for running red lights, not stopping at stop signs, going the wrong way on one-way streets, riding without lights at night, etc., or taken to court in case of an accident. Get acquainted with German traffic laws before riding your bike on public streets. Right-of-way and passing, for example, are handled differently than in the U.S.! Check out these websites to learn more about traffic rules in Germany: www.adfc.de

Health and Safety
Emergency information
Here are some important phone numbers and other contact information should an emergency arise during your stay in Germany. All numbers are written as they should be dialed from Germany.

**Ambulance:** 112

**Fire:** 112

**Police:** 110

**Bethesda Hospital:** 0711-21561
   Hohenheimer Str. 21 70184 Stuttgart

**Burgerhospital:** 0711-25990
   Tunzhoferstr. 14-16 70191 Stuttgart

**Katharinenhospital:** 0711-2780
   Kriegsbergstr. 60 70174 Stuttgart

**Communication**

When making calls, keep in mind time zone differences ([www.timeanddate.com/worldclock](http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock)). To make an international call to the United States, dial the access code for the country from which you are calling plus the United States country code (always “1”) followed by the appropriate U.S. area code and local number. To call internationally from the United States, dial “011”, the country code, city access code (if necessary) and the phone number. Country and city codes can be found online ([www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/dialing.html](http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/dialing.html)). Some of above steps can vary if you are using a calling card.

**Calling to Germany**

- **International access code:** 011
- **Country code:** 49
- **Stuttgart city code:** (0)711

To call Germany from the United States, your family and friends must dial the international access code, followed by Germany’s country code and Stuttgart’s city code, and finally your phone number: 011 + 49 + 711 + telephone number.

**Calling from Germany**

- **International access code:** 00
- **Country code:** 1

To call the United States from Germany, you will need to dial the international access code, the United States’ country code, the area code and phone number: 00 + 1 + area code + telephone number.

**Calling within Germany**

Please note that when you make calls within Germany you must include a 0 before the city code: 0711 + telephone number. However, the 0 is dropped when friends and family make international calls to Germany, as shown in B above.

**Student Testimonials**

What I liked most about my program was that there were a lot of exchange students from all over the world and not so many American students. This was nice for me to meet all kinds of new and different people from different countries all over, both in Europe and outside of it. I also liked the simplicity of the campus as being an exchange student it can be difficult to find everything at first. Also it is only a 30 minute metro ride into the city so it’s still somewhat close.
An advisor was there for all of the exchange students but her hours were limited (as that is a common thing in Germany). The dorms provided were very nice and a lot of events and parties were set up for the exchange students at the beginning so that we could get to know one another very easily.

**ADDITIONAL RELEVANT INFORMATION/WEBSITES OF INTEREST**

U.S. State Department Students Abroad site:  
[http://www.studentsabroad.state.gov/](http://www.studentsabroad.state.gov/)

UW-Madison International Academic Programs  
[http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu](http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu)

U.S. State Department:  
[http://travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov)

Center for Disease Control  

Current exchange rates  
[http://www.oanda.com](http://www.oanda.com)

Lonely Planet  
[http://www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com)