

A WARM WELCOME TO TH WILDAU!

New in Germany? This is a guide that can help you to better understand your first experiences with German ways.



TIME AND PUNCTUALITY: GERMANS GO BY THE CLOCK

In Germany, punctuality is very important. For both official and private meetings people make appointments in advance and they arrive punctually at the agreed time. Punctuality is a sign of reliability. Spontaneity is less common, unless people know each other well. If people cannot keep to an appointment they will inform the others. It is considered impolite at the university to come late to lectures and other appointments, and if you do not hand in your homework on time then it may well have been done in vain.

SOCIAL CONTACTS AT THE UNIVERSITY: STAY ON THE BALL

Nothing cures homesickness and missing your family better than spending time with friends. But in Germany it is not always easy to make new friendships. When you first get to know someone, then the tone is friendly but neutral and distanced, and it can take some time before people get closer to each other. Do not be frustrated by this, it is quite normal. You can get involved in project and study groups or take part in university sports. This can help you to meet people and make friends. One thing is for sure – when you have found friends you can rely on them.



RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOURSELF: IT IS UP TO YOU

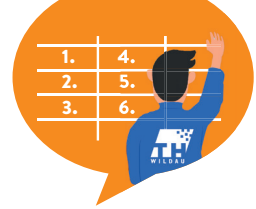
In Germany responsibility and autonomy are very important. Individuals are responsible for their own actions and they bear the consequences. Responsibility and independence are expected in all fields of life, including studies. If you have difficulties, then get in touch with Carolina Winkler and Simon Devos-Chernova in our TH Wildau International Office. They will be happy to help you: en.th-wildau.de/university/central-facilities/centre-for-international-affairs/international-office/



TIP: The YouTube channel “Easy German” offers lots of insight into the world of German manners.

THE VALUE OF NORMS AND STRUCTURES: ORDER MATTERS

In Germany there are written rules for many things, and this is the case at our university too. We have Study and Examination Regulations, House Rules, Hygiene Rules, and many more. Rules, laws and regulations help the community to create structures and they simplify living together, with the aim of treating everyone equally. At the university everyday life is easier if you follow the rules, stick to agreements, and respect deadlines.



A DIRECT STYLE OF COMMUNICATION: DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY

Maybe you will find the German way of communicating impolite at first. People here are used to direct talk – with praise, criticism, wishes and other themes in the open. Questions are answered directly. People in Germany say what they mean and they mean what they say. This is not meant personally and it is not intended to be hurtful.

FACTS: GETTING TO THE POINT



Work and private life are kept separate in Germany. At work people concentrate on the “facts.” This means that the focus is on the issue or the task at hand. Often plans are made, and then worked through point by point. In student projects the focus is also on the content and the facts. Social communication is often separate from this, on the private level. This is why you might get to know your fellow students in a completely different light outside of work for the university.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH GERMAN WAYS? – TELL US YOUR STORY AND SEND IT TO US UNDER THE CATEGORY OF “TYPICALLY GERMAN” TO: INCOMING@TH-WILDAU.DE

WE WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS FOR YOUR STUDIES IN GERMANY!

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