

Frequently Asked Questions

What should I bring?

Here is a list of some important things that you shouldn't forget. This is not a list of EVERYTHING you should bring, the obvious stuff like underwear, toothbrush, or camera is up to you to remember 😊

- ~ Credit card or ATM card (you should contact your credit card company or bank company to see what rules there are about using your card in Europe)
 - ~ Enough cash for the first couple of days and for emergencies
 - ~Photocopies of all important documents (Passport)
 - ~A phone card, but you can buy this in Germany as well
 - ~Student ID for discounts into museums and various locations
 - ~Any medication you may need (allergies or asthma)
 - ~Comfortable and sturdy shoes for lots of walking (sneakers or light hiking shoes)
 - ~Swim wear
 - ~Clothing for warm and sunny days
 - ~Coat, Sweatshirts and long pants for cooler days. We recommend the "clothes layering method." Don't bring a winter and summer wardrobe. Just clothes that you can put on when it is cool and take off when it's warm.
 - ~Raincoat or umbrella (rain is likely at some point)
 - ~Dress clothes for the opening and closing ceremony and certificate presentation
 - ~Adaptor for any electronic devices
 - ~Sports clothes and shoes (For those who are going to play soccer)
 - ~Excitement...and lots of it!
- So, get packing! 😊

Does my host family speak English?

Yes, your host family can speak English. But it is best to try to communicate as much as you can with them in German. The best way to learn or improve your German skills is to immerse yourself in the language.

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University of Kassel, Germany**

What can I bring for my host family?

Your host family is really interested in where you come from. A good idea is to put together a small collection of photos of you, your home, and the area you live in. This makes for a great ice-breaker as you go through the album together.

If you want to bring your host family something, think about something that represents the country or area where you live. Perhaps there is something that is special or unique to that area?

You might want to give a book, or a collection of postcards from your area or a small knickknack. For kids you can get a stuffed animal or maybe a puzzle of your country.

Do I have to stay with a host family?

Staying with a host family is what makes this program unique. Even though you might encounter a little culture shock at the beginning it is worth it to stay. Students who came to Kassel before loved to stay at the families and recommended it to future students.

Nevertheless, if you insist of staying in a hostel or hotel, we can arrange that for you. Please contact the ISU office in that case (until May 1st at the latest). Please note: It might affect the program fee.

Where can I get information about the city of Kassel?

The city of Kassel has an excellent site in English that gives a lot of information on the city.

Please check out the following links:

<http://www.kassel.de/cms02/englisch/art/impression/life/>

<http://www.kassel-tourist.de/cms03/startseite.en/uebersicht/index.php>

<http://www.kassel.de/cms02/englisch/>

Do I need health insurance?

ISU Kassel will cover your health, liability and accident insurance for the duration of the ISU. The health insurance won't apply to any chronic illness, allergies or pregnancy. For further information please contact the ISU office.

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How much free time will I have?

Depending on how you schedule your courses, you should have a couple of free hours in the afternoon to spend with other students or to look at the city. During the day, classes are regularly scheduled. In the evening there are often workshops and activities scheduled, or simply time to be with your host family. We have planned some excellent excursions on the weekends. These are optional.

What happens if I am ill?

Should you become ill and need to see a doctor then someone from your host family or the ISU will go with you to see the doctor. The same is true for any emergency (injury or sudden illness). If you don't feel well and miss class, you just have to provide a note either from the doctor or from your host family.

Am I obliged to take part in the entire program?

You are not obligated to take part in the entire program. Workshops and excursions have been planned extra for your enjoyment and benefit, but are not mandatory. However, you must participate in all of the classes for which you have registered. If you do not attend regularly you will not receive the credits.

Can I access the Internet during the ISU?

Yes, you will have a user account at the computer lab center on campus where you will be able to go online. Some host families also have internet access. Please ask your family about using the internet.

Should I bring my laptop?

You are welcome to bring your computer if you wish. We can assist you using the wireless lan on campus. There is also a computer lab on campus with internet access. It all comes down to your personal preference.

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Where can I telephone during the ISU?

If you need to make a call there are places on campus that you can use. There are also many calling centers near the university in the city. Purchasing a calling card is one of the best ways to call. You can also ask your host parents about using their telephone.

What is the postal address?

The postal address for the ISU is as follows:

University of Kassel
International Summer University (ISU)
Moenchebergstr. 7
34109 Kassel
Germany

How many Credit points can I earn at the ISU?

You can earn up to 9 ECTS points. You will receive 3.0 points for the language course, and 3.0 points for each seminar. Please be aware that your home university likely reserves the right to determine the transferability of credit points.

Can I use the phone at the host family to make private calls?

This is a good question to ask your host family upon arrival. There are often times or special dialling codes that can reduce the price that your family may know about. The best way to call another country is by buying a calling card. These you can get at various calling centers throughout the city and are generally cheap (esp. calling America).

Do I need to contact my host family?

Once we have received final confirmation of your application, we will give you a host family along with their address, email and telephone number. You are, of course, free to contact them.

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What do I do if I have to arrive before the course starts or after it ends?

Your host family will not expect you to arrive before the first day of the program, or leave after the last day. Whether or not you can stay longer with the host family, is something that you will have to talk to your host family about. If you arrive earlier, you will have to arrange a stay in a Youth Hostel or a hotel. You can check out the following links.

http://old.web02.djh.de/international/html/index_map.jsp?ID=5

<http://deutsch.hotels.com/>