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1. Brandenburg University of Applied Sciences

Facts and figures

<i>Legal name of the institution:</i>	<i>Fachhochschule Brandenburg</i>
<i>Visitors address:</i>	<i>Magdeburger Str. 50</i>
<i>Postal address:</i>	<i>Postfach 2132 14737 Brandenburg an der Havel</i>
<i>University switchboard:</i>	<i>+49 (0)3381/355-0</i>
<i>Fax:</i>	<i>+49 (0)3381/355-199</i>
<i>E-mail:</i>	<i>info@fh-brandenburg.de</i>
<i>Head of the University:</i>	<i>Prof. Dr. rer. pol. Rainer Janisch</i>
<i>Title:</i>	<i>Präsident</i>
<i>Socrates Institutional Coordinator:</i>	<i>Heike Wolff</i>
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<i>Internet:</i>	<i>www.fh-brandenburg.de/auslandsamt</i>

About the university

The Brandenburg University of Applied Sciences (in German: Fachhochschule Brandenburg or FHB for short) is one of 9 higher education institutions (universities and universities of applied sciences) in the state of Brandenburg with 2,500 full-time students at the Business School, the Department of Computer Science and Media and the Department of Engineering.

With the founding of the university, just an hour's drive from Berlin, in April 1992, the city of Brandenburg on the river Havel became a university town for the first time in its history of over a thousand years. The main building of the former cuirassier barracks houses today the university administration as well as the Business School. Where the cavalry once practiced military drills, students now cram for exams. The former brick barracks have been renovated and the white rooms and hallways are

pleasantly cool in the summer. An excellent library has been set up in the former stables and what was once the officers' mess has been rebuilt into a building housing modern lecture halls. The campus has been expanded with various new buildings. These military grounds were once walled in, but today the campus is an open space, easily accessible to the public. The two old red-brick buildings together with the three new buildings with a yellow clinker exterior form a harmonious ensemble which makes the university campus one of the most attractive in Germany.



This young, newly founded university is a practically-based higher education institution that has an international flavour, and emphasises applied learning aimed at equipping students with the knowledge and skills required to follow professional careers. The university also prides itself on the close contact between teachers and students.

The excellent environment in this small but expanding university offers exceptional opportunities; close personal contact with professors, uncrowded laboratories, workshops and computer facilities and small study groups all contribute to rapid and effective results.

The practically oriented interdisciplinary courses offered emphasise the application of knowledge and prepare students for professional careers in forward-looking and progressive organisations in both the public and private sector.

The professors at Brandenburg University work closely with both public and private sector companies and institutions in the Brandenburg region carrying

out research and development projects. Students are involved hands-on and thus benefit in a practical way, adding value to their studies.

Study projects, thesis and one practical phase (obligatory for most courses of study) establish contact with practical learning opportunities including contacts with possible future employers.

Brandenburg University maintains a constantly growing number of **partnerships** with other universities and institutions both in Europe and overseas with the opportunity for international studies including practical study periods abroad.

Departments and degree courses

The Business School

Large and small enterprises, private and public sectors, local and global players - the business world needs people who generate bright ideas and have the knowledge and skills to turn them into economically-viable products and services. Our aim is to give students the skills required to be successful in every sector of business. The Business Information Systems degree focuses on the implementation of cutting-edge information and communication technologies with business applications. Graduates of the Technology and Innovation Management programme are equipped with the business skills required by engineers and scientists.

Business Administration	Diplom (FH)
areas of specialisation	SME (small and media enterprises) business administration
	International management
	Controlling
	Taxation
	Marketing
	Innovation management

<i>Business Informatics</i>	<i>Bachelor of Arts</i>
<i>areas of specialisation</i>	<i>Information management for cooperative systems</i>
	<i>Integrated business applications systems</i>
	<i>Marketing and managing digital media</i>
<i>Technology and Innovation Management</i>	<i>Master of Arts</i>
<i>Security Management</i>	<i>Master of Arts</i>

Department of Engineering

The engineering industry is experiencing a rapidly growing demand for graduates with specialist skills. We offer practically-oriented degree programmes, taught in state-of-the-art laboratories, which will enable you to gain the skills valued by prospective employers and to develop the ability to work effectively and professionally in project teams. A broadly-based curriculum provides the interdisciplinary foundation for successful teamwork.

<i>Engineering</i>	<i>Diplom (FH)</i>
<i>Mechanical Engineering</i>	<i>Mechatronics</i>
	<i>Energy and environmental technology</i>
	<i>Production technology</i>
<i>Electrical Engineering and Information Technology</i>	<i>Automation</i>
	<i>Telecommunications systems</i>
<i>Applied and Technical Physics</i>	<i>Applied optics</i>
	<i>Microsystems technology</i>
<i>Mechatronics</i>	<i>Bachelor of Science</i>

Photonics	<i>Master of Engineering in Photonics</i>
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Department of Computer Science and Media

Information and Communication Technologies are moving society forward at an ever increasing pace and touching more areas of life than ever before. Input from industrial partners has led to the development of innovative degree programmes with relevance to the real world. Our career-focused courses ensure excellent employment prospects for graduates.

Informatics	<i>Bachelor and Master degrees</i>
<i>areas of specialisation</i>	<i>Intelligent systems</i>
	<i>Network computing</i>
	<i>Digital media</i>
Computing and Media	<i>Bachelor of Science</i>
Media Informatics (online)	<i>Bachelor and Master degrees</i>

Special courses

German language course

Brandenburg University offers courses in German as a foreign language aimed at improving the language skills of not only Erasmus students but of all international students. You will have the chance to get acquainted with German grammar and its specific rules as well as to improve your communications skills and to enrich your vocabulary. Last but not least, the course will give you the chance to meet new people from other fields of study at the university, so don't hesitate to take part in it 😊

General lecture series (Studium Generale): The history of the town Brandenburg/Havel

Learning about Brandenburg's history is something you will be sure to enjoy. It is usually organized in the summer term and offers you a chance to get to know the history of the town, its traditions and culture better by visiting some of the town's museums and places of interest.

And that is not all!!! One of the most exciting parts of the course are the meetings with famous and important citizens of Brandenburg/Havel.

What about visiting the oldest church in the state of Brandenburg? Or having a small talk with the mayor of Brandenburg/Havel? Or just enjoying the atmosphere of a cosy restaurant in the company of a Olympic champion in canoeing? I think the answer is more than clear!

How to apply for a Socrates exchange

Students from our partner institutions may study in Brandenburg as Socrates/Erasmus students for one semester or one full academic year. Applications should be made no later than June 30th for the autumn semester and December 15th for the summer semester. You will find the necessary documents, an application form and an accommodation form on our webpage www.fh-brandenburg.de/312.html or you may ask your Socrates coordinator at your home university for them.

It is possible to send the learning agreement later or bring it along when you arrive here. Information on timetables can be found under <http://zeus.fh-brandenburg.de/Stundenplan/Plan.htm>.

Please note that you are obliged to provide yourself with the necessary medical insurance.

European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)

ECTS credits offer a quantitative description of the study achievements. In all Europe, normally 30 credits are awarded for one semester and 60 credits for a whole year. ECTS credits are value allocated to course units to describe the student workload required to complete them. They reflect the quantity of work each course requires in relation to the total amount of work required to complete a full year of academic study at the institution, including lectures, practical work, seminars, private study -in the library or at home- and

examinations or other assessment activities. Credits are awarded only when the course has been completed and all stipulated examinations have been successfully taken.

You can access the ECTS information package for the department of economics under www.fh-brandenburg.de/vorlesung/.

Apart from ECTS grades local grades will be given. These are based on the results of exams or coursework. Some modules however are only assessed by “pass” or “fail”.

After the end of the semester, when the exam results are available, the International Office issues the transcripts of records for all exchange students and sends them to the given home address.

How to obtain a student visa

Students from non-EU-member countries

The visa you have already received from the German embassy in your native country has to be changed into a student visa. The International office will support you in organizing the necessary documents for your visa application. First of all, you should know that as a foreign student in Germany you will need to have about € 600 per month during your period of study. That means that after subtracting your scholarship, you will have to show the difference as a bank reference. You can obtain such a bank reference at the bank in your native country.

With this bank reference, your student identification card, a letter from the International office confirming you are registered as an Erasmus student, the same confirmation letter from your sending institution, your contract for accommodation at the hall of residence along with your address registration in Germany, passport, medical insurance valid for the country for the period of your studies and...of course a lot of optimism, you can go to Foreigners' Office (Ausländerbehörde) in Brandenburg and apply for visa renewal.

In about two weeks you will be the proud owner of a student visa 😊

How to get to Brandenburg University

“What do I do after my airplane has landed?”

As you may already know, there are three airports in Berlin. We would like to give you some advice on how to get to the university if arriving by plane.

Berlin - Schönefeld Airport

Go to the bus stop directly in front of the airport's main exit and board the shuttle bus to the train station (departs about every 10 mins.). At the train station board the Airport Express train towards the center of Berlin. After about 20 mins. change trains at any of the following stations: Berlin-Ostbahnhof, Berlin-Alexanderplatz, Berlin-Friedrichstrasse, Berlin Zoologischer Garten to regional train (RE) 1 which takes you directly to Brandenburg in about 40 mins.

Berlin - Tegel Airport

When you exit the airport, take shuttle bus No X9. It goes directly to Berlin-Zoologischer Garten, the train station where you can take the RE 1 to Brandenburg.

Berlin - Tempelhof Airport

You can either take shuttle bus or bus No 104 from the airport, transfer to the underground (U6) at the Platz der Luftbrücke station and get off at Berlin-Friedrichstrasse. Then go to platform 3 and take RE 1 to Brandenburg.

“I am at Brandenburg train station, now what?”

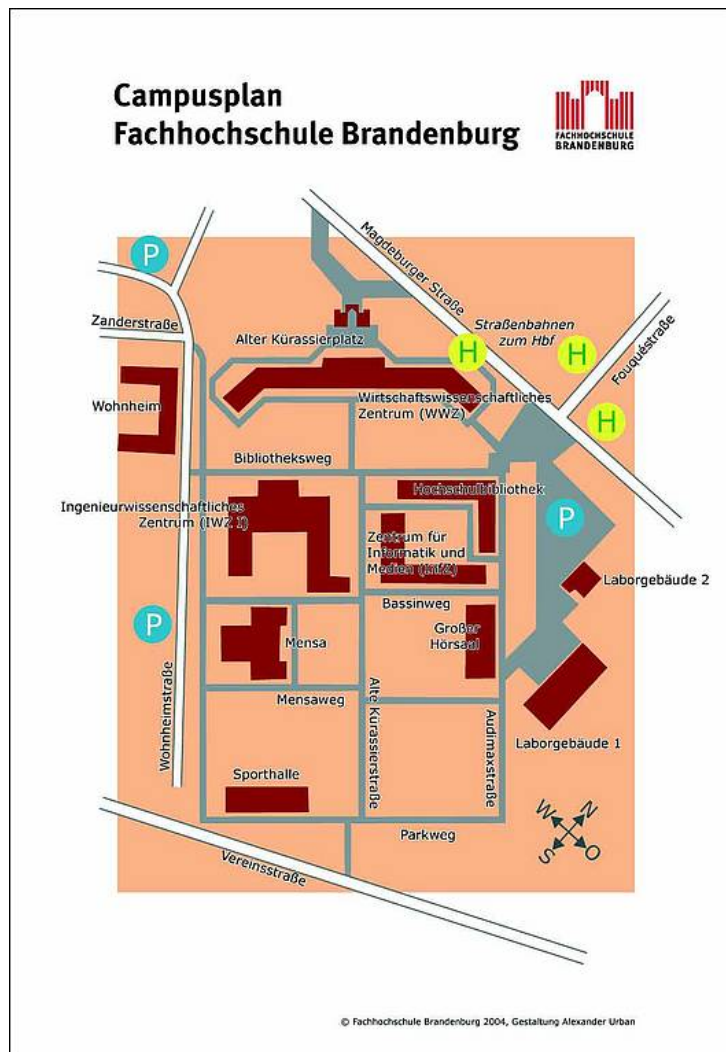
Arriving by train

Brandenburg an der Havel lies on the Berlin to Magdeburg train line. From Brandenburg's main train station (Brandenburger Hauptbahnhof) all trams go in the direction of the university. Get off at the Haltestelle Fouquestraße / Fachhochschule stop.

Arriving by car

Brandenburg can be easily reached by motorway A 2. Take the Brandenburg exit and drive about 8 km. until you reach town and remain on the main road. After having passed the bridge, turn right at the third street (turn right in direction of the halls of residence and straight ahead towards the campus).

Map of the campus



2. Facilities

Personal e-mail and Internet access

Perhaps one of the most valuable services Brandenburg University offers its students is the personal e-mail address which they receive shortly after enrolment at the University. The Erasmus supervisor can help you get such an e-mail address after your arrival in Brandenburg/Havel. This means you

will always be informed about the different events organized by the university. The other advantage is the €5 credit on your printing account (for about 100 pages) which you can use throughout the term. Of course, there is a computer lab at the university which you can use whenever you want to check your mails or surf the Internet.

Accommodation

Studentenwerk Potsdam is the institution responsible for student lodging in the university's hall of residence. A room in a hall is reserved for each Socrates student. Just send the accommodation form to the International office.

Most Erasmus students like staying in halls because they offer many advantages such as:

- 1. A single room between € 165 and € 220*
- 2. A large party room which can be used at any time for celebrating different events like birthday parties or traditional dinners.*
- 3. Nearby supermarkets including Netto (5-min. walk) and Mini mal (10-min. walk)...*

...and of course the most important fact that the halls of residence are next to the university, meaning you practically step out of the main entrance and into the university 😊

University library

*Opening hours during term: Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m*

Opening hours out of term: Monday - Friday 9 a.m to 5 p.m

Collection: 82,776 volumes of which 5,000 are on open shelves, 123 subscription periodicals, 11 daily and weekly subscription newspapers

Catalogue: OPAC (computer catalogue), also available online!

The university library will soon become a key partner for accessing information necessary to complete your studies successfully.

Information on the literature available can be found using the terminals at the front of the library. Some textbooks come with floppy disks. These can be used on the PCs found only in the library. If you are interested in watching

any of the many films lying on the library's shelves, just switch on the TV supplied with a video recorder on offer at the library!

There is an introductory training session for new library users every Tuesday which aims to show you how to make the most of the information resources found in the library.

The librarians are always at your disposal and helpful in answering all of your questions.

University canteen

The Studentenwerk Potsdam not only takes care of the halls of residence, but also provides wholesome good food. You can have lunch in the university canteen every day from Monday to Friday between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. There are four different set menus offered each mealtime. "Essen 1" costs € 1.20, "Essen 2" costs € 2, "Essen 3" costs € 2.50 and the alternative vegetarian meal costs € 2.30.

The university cafeteria is located in the same building. It offers about 50 seats for students who would like to enjoy a delicious breakfast, tasty sandwiches and hot coffee or who just decide to spend their break in the sun enjoying a glass of fresh orange juice☺

You can take advantage of the university cafeteria Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Enjoy your meal!!!

Student union services

Semesterticket

The Brandenburg University Semesterticket is a cost-effective travelcard valid throughout the entire semester. It costs € 87,60 and is valid for the whole public transport network in Berlin and Brandenburg (VBB) as well as regional trains to Magdeburg. You can use all VBB means of transport and in case you are unable to drive because you enjoyed too much alcohol at a party, you can just take public transport for free 😊 The ticket helps you enjoy the comfortable means of transport about town. What about a trip to Berlin or Potsdam? The journey will take you only 40 min. to Berlin ZOO. Isn't that great?! Find out more about train and bus connections under www.bahn.de or www.vbb-online.de.

University sports

The student union at the university, ASTA, offers a wide-ranging programme to all students interested in sport. The sports activities on offer will help you ease the psychological stress of your everyday studies by actively taking part in sport. Furthermore, they will improve your health and physical abilities. Last but not least, taking part in organised sport activities also means meeting interesting people ... and new friends 😊

At present you can choose from among sport courses as follows:

- 1. Basketball*
- 2. Volleyball*
- 3. Football*
- 4. Table tennis*
- 5. Golf*
- 6. Shaolin kung fu*
- 7. Karate*
- 8. Chess*
- 9. Water sports*

If you have any other particular sport interests, don't hesitate to share them with the ASTA sport rep.

We welcome your suggestions!!!

For more information, contact: astasport@fh-brandenburg.de

STUPA and ASTA

If you need assistance or just good advice, you can always contact representatives of the STUPA (the student parliament) and ASTA (the student union).

In fact STUPA is the most important board which takes decisions connected with students' interests. It not only represents students but also administers funding which is part of the university students' budget. The STUPA is elected once a year by the University's students. If we compare Brandenburg University with Germany, the STUPA would be the University's federal diet.



ASTA is the executive committee of STUPA. Among its tasks are:

- 1. to provide financial controlling support*
- 2. to improve the transparency of university policies for the students and to ensure responsibility is taken for them*
- 3. to address students' social concerns*
- 4. to inform the students about different events organised by the university*
- 5. to arrange parties and concerts*
- 6. to organise the Wednesday parties in IQ*
- 7. to co-ordinate the relationship between the university and the different sport institutions*
- 8. to organise sporting events*
- 9. to support student exchange programmes and approach foreign students and universities abroad*
- 10. to give students seeking a job support and advice*
- 11. to aid students searching for a new flat*

*The ASTA office is located at the bottom of the canteen building.
For more information, contact: asta@fh-brandenburg.de*

Searching for a job

For those of you financing your studies at Brandenburg University by working part-time, we recommend having a look at this section. The job centre in Brandenburg and the job exchange at Studentenwerk Potsdam offer jobs for students.

In case you are unsuccessful at finding a proper job with the help of these two institutions, you could always ask the responsible ASTA representatives or just have a look at the job offers often placed on the walls of the University's main building.

You can also buy some local newspapers or take advantage of the Preußenspiegel and BRAVO newspapers distributed every Wednesday and Sunday for free. The "Berliner Morgenpost" newspaper is more useful for those who prefer to work in Berlin.

In any case the chances of finding a part-time job are good and it will only be a matter of time. Good luck!!

Studentenwerk Potsdam open for consultation:

Monday 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.

IQ - the university pub

IQ is located in the basement of the Business School building and is open every Wednesday from 9 p.m. until about 4 or 5 a.m. Here you can hear music rich in styles and rhythms and have a drink or two. Special events such as Latino parties, concerts, Goth nights, karaoke and more are held at IQ, including private parties organised by students themselves.

If you want to celebrate with us, don't hesitate to contact us at: www.iq-studentenkeller.de or info@iq-studentenkeller.de

3. The City of Brandenburg

A local legend

Which is worse? Sporting a beard or being shaved by a Brandenburg barber?

Fritze Bollmann, as the story goes, was a barber from Brandenburg with serious financial problems. Taunted by local children, he took to the bottle and fell off his fishing boat into Lake Beetzsee. He promptly drowned and went straight to heaven. He wasn't allowed to stay for long, though. After Bollmann began shaving St Peter, the saint decided he would rather keep his full beard than sustain further injuries from the barber. So Bollmann was sent back to earth to shave the faces of others.

Unlike the legendary Bollmann, the vast majority of Brandenburg residents are not barbers, and many of them love swimming. There are several lakes and rivers around Brandenburg, set in idyllic surroundings and perfect for water sports. The first settlers arrived a thousand years ago. In the Middle Ages, towns sprung up around the lakes and rivers, including a village called Berlin.

A city in three parts

Strictly speaking, Brandenburg is a conglomeration of three cities divided by waterways: the Altstadt (old city), the Neustadt (new city) and the Dominsel (cathedral island). Stroll through the quiet alleys in the centre of town and you will find traces of history everywhere.

You'll gain an impression of the city walking past the small public garden plots in the town centre. In the summertime, when people tend to their flowers and relax in the sun, it's hard to believe that Brandenburg is in fact surrounded by industrial parks where steel, cars, baby prams, bicycles and toys were once manufactured. An industrial museum depicts the importance of the large-scale steel production of the past. And visitors will still find Fritz Bollmann fishing, immortalized in stone in a fountain in the centre of town.

(Source: www.campus-germany.de)

Living in Brandenburg/Havel

Comparing Brandenburg to Venice might be stretching things a bit, but there is at least as much water here as there is in Venice, and the water in Brandenburg is relatively clean in comparison.

The surrounding areas are perfect for sailing, rowing, swimming, fishing, picnicking and hiking. When the lakes freeze over in a really cold winter, the city residents simply put on their ice skates.

You can also take to the skies any time of the year for a bird's-eye view. The airport for glider planes is right next door.

Fans of the arts will find a few cabarets and a theatre. In the summer, actors perform on stage in the cathedral, Pauli cloister, museum garden, engine shed and theatre park.

Once a year Brandenburg succumbs to jazz fever and thousands of fans groove to the music in Steinstraße.

Things are peaceful in the sprawling park and castle grounds in Potsdam, 40 kilometres away. Visitors can spend days strolling through the gardens, admiring the castles of Frederick the Great and his family. And if you're still yearning for yet more culture, Berlin is just 70 kilometres away.

During the week life in Brandenburg is quite sedate. Students can get together on the lawns near the faculty buildings, grab a coffee in the student café or just stretch out in the sunshine.

There are various beer gardens, pubs and restaurants. However, on the whole things are fairly quiet and the best bet for nightlife remains Berlin.

(Source: www.campus-germany.de)

More information at www.fvv-brandenburg.de and www.stadt-brb.de

Leisure activities

Do you want to relax, spend unforgettable moments with your new friends or just to have a lot of fun?! If so, don't worry!

Although it's a small town, Brandenburg offers a large variety of activities and attractions.

First of all the town is situated on the river Untere Havel and it has also numerous stretches of water. A third of its territory consists of forests and twenty percent is made up of lakes, rivers and canals. Some of the best and most interesting lakes are Beetzsee, Plauer See and Breitlingsee, offering relaxation and variety to nature-lovers and anyone looking to recharge their batteries. Walking along the river Havel in the town, will lead you to many a park and leafy spaces.

It is of course not only the local scenery but also the buildings full of history that make visiting the town worth your while.

Apart from the numerous parks in town, there are cultural institutions such as the Brandenburg theatre, the Sonnensegel children's and youth art gallery, the Wredow Painting School, the Fontane club, the Frey house Museum, the

Cathedral Museum, the Industrial Museum, the Studio für Angewandte Kunst”, the music school and churches which contribute to the daily cultural life in Brandenburg.

Brandenburg’s calendar of events is filled with highlights, festivals and parties such as the Dominselvest (a festival held on Cathedral Island), the Roland festival held in May, the Havel party in June, Fischerjacobi in July, the Swingin’ Brandenburg jazz and big band festival, the historical port festival held in summer and the Christmas Market with the Santa Claus parade in December.

Brandenburg through the Eyes of an Erasmus Student

I am sure many of you are curious to know what Brandenburg has to offer you in your free time.

While some of you may well already have an impression from friends or other students who have studied in Brandenburg, I would like to share some of my experiences as an Erasmus scholar at Brandenburg University with you.

The town is small and quiet. You’ll see plenty of couples walking around hand in hand, enjoying the nice weather and the tranquility of the town.

Although most of the Brandenburgians of our age study or work in Berlin☺ or in other German cities, there is still plenty to do in Brandenburg and there are many young people left!

The university campus is always lively and you meet many students taking a stroll, drinking coffee in the university cafeteria or lying in the sun on the wonderful green lawns of the campus.

Most students of course either come from other towns and rent rooms in the halls of residence or they move to “big, bad” Berlin☺

They usually travel home for the weekend, so most IQ (the university pub) parties take place on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.

IQ

Every Wednesday the doors of IQ are open to those who enjoy listening to music hits from the 70s to today. Plenty of cool beer at € 1 to 2, an exciting atmosphere, new friends all await you there. And, of course, there’s no cover charge!!



IQ also has lots to offer you at the weekend: enjoy many different live DJs and unforgettable concerts. I went to a rock concert there and found it really difficult to go to lectures the next day 😊 You may have to pay an entry fee of € 2 or € 3 for concerts, but in my opinion it is really worth it. Tuesdays could also be exciting, as well as IQ's free-entry karaoke party.



HDO

In case IQ isn't your thing, you can follow the Spanish students on their pub crawls and disco-hopping the whole night or you can just cross the main street from the university and try out the atmosphere in HDO. HDO also offers free entry every Wednesday evening. At the end of the week you can enjoy live music at the pub and see popular young German bands. On Fridays and Saturdays the cover charge varies from € 2 to 5 for special DJ parties and live concerts. Moreover, HDO organizes also salsa dance courses and shows films once or twice a week. How about an interesting European film for just € 2?!

More information about HDO's monthly programme is available online (www.jukyfa.de), posters around the university and at the entrance to HDO. Other venues towards the town centre are about a 20-minute walk and include the Fontane club, Manhattan and Ferum. The atmosphere at Ferum is fascinating, the prices are moderate and entry is about € 5. Become part of the unforgettable atmosphere at the Fontane club's theme nights; for € 2 to € 5 find yourself at an African, Hawaii, Oriental or rock party or in the company of famous international and German bands.

Parties in Berlin

On Fridays and Saturdays the regional trains between Berlin and Brandenburg run hourly throughout the night with a small break between 3 and 5 a.m. it's the perfect opportunity to enjoy the atmosphere of the big city's night life; don't forget to take along your Semesterticket!

We often ate traditional dinners together. I enjoyed immensely the evenings spent with my friends from Mexico, China, Spain, Poland, Hungary and Turkey. Folk music, delicious exotic meals and, of course, a lot of fun were all par for the course on such evenings! You'll be sure to experience all this, too!

Brandenburg University also organises welcome and farewell parties for the Erasmus scholars at the beginning and end of each semester along with several activities, including canoeing and sailing on the Havel river, usually organised at the beginning of the semester. It's great, believe me!!!

University campus festivities

The University Campus Summer Festival is held in June. It starts around 3 p.m. and continues until midnight. The atmosphere is unbelievable: many young people laughing, wonderful live music, different sport activities and of course plenty of German beer and delicious food. It's a great opportunity for Socrates students to show off their culinary skills by preparing traditional meals; you'll also be able to sell traditional food from your native country at the informal "national dish market" organized by the international students and the university 😊



In June we also took a trip to the southern Germany, namely to Lake Constance, arranged for us by the International Office. We spent three unforgettable days in Bavaria: unbelievably beautiful nature, fantastic weather and breath-taking moments.

Culture and art

The university organizes cultural events for the Socrates students such as evenings at the cinema and theatre as well as visits to museums and

exhibitions. Normal cinema tickets in Brandenburg cost about € 6. On Tuesdays tickets are reduced to € 4 ("Kinotag"). In the summer there is an open-air cinema outside the town museum with tickets at about € 5. Theatre tickets are between € 5 and 8; student discounts are available.

There are more than enough museums in Brandenburg: all you need is time and good company. You will be able to visit almost all of them if you take part in the History of Brandenburg course ("Geschichte der Stadt Brandenburg") and, of course, it's for free 😊

If you prefer sports, nature and fresh air, the town offers several small, inviting lakes which are perfect in summer for swimming, picnics and sunbathing on the beach. You can also rent a motorboat or go sailing.



You may also want to go to the sauna or go swimming at the Marienbad aquatic centre, which has several swimming pools as well as a fun pool in the summer. It's open from 7 a.m. until late for € 1.20.

As you can see there is so much to do in Brandenburg that it sometimes becomes difficult to combine it with your studies 😊 So be careful and don't forget that you are studying at a German university and have a lot to learn 😊!!!

The weather in Germany

First of all I would like to give some advice to students arriving for the winter semester.

I arrived in Brandenburg in October and was pleased to find a sunny and warm autumn. In November it started raining. The weather turned grey and windy and stayed that way for another three months. January, February and March were snowy and freezing. The locals said that they hadn't seen a winter as cold and snowy as that for many years. But that's the weather: always unpredictable somehow 😊 Normally in winter it hardly snows and you may even experience sunny and hot days. So be prepared for all types of surprises.

To those spending the summer semester in Brandenburg, all I can say is not to expect hot, sweaty days typical of southern countries. After all, this is northern Germany 😊 However, the summer can be really wonderful. During my studies I enjoyed a lot of hot, sunny days and spent them sunbathing on the small lakeside beaches, bicycle riding and taking part in the innumerable outdoor activities organised by the university. So, don't forget your swimming gear and lots of good cheer!

Business hours

Many of you may be taken aback by the opening hours in Germany, especially those of you from east European countries where you can go shopping 7 days a week. You'd better forget about that in Germany! Why? According to German law all shops have to close on Sundays. But you'll be surprised how fast you'll adapt. The shops and supermarkets are open 10 a.m. to 7/8 p.m. Monday to Friday. On Saturday small shops generally close by 3 p.m. at the latest, but large ones are open until 8 p.m. On Saturday supermarkets such as Aldi are open until 1 p.m., Netto until 3 p.m. and Lidl and Mini Mal are open until 8 p.m. Don't forget to buy extra provisions for Sundays! But in case you do forget, you'll still "survive" on a big, delicious doner kebab for € 2.50 at any Turkish take-away open almost 24/7.

4. Impressions

Lukasz from Poland

Hi! I am Lukasz from Poland. I would like to tell you something about the exciting adventure of a semester I had in Brandenburg/Havel.

First of all, I want to emphasize that I had the enormous pleasure of meeting lots of great people here, striking up many international friendships - some of them, I hope for life, and feeling what German culture is really like.

Secondly, it's important for you to know that this was made possible by the great care taken by the people here: I mean the International Office, the professors at the university and also our German friends. We were given the opportunity to visit many beautiful places in Germany, for example Lake Constance, as well as to learn the most obscure and interesting secrets of Brandenburg/Havel during the "History of the town Brandenburg" course.

Thirdly, my studies at Brandenburg University were a great chance for me to improve my German skills. We also had the option of taking foreign language classes at the University of Potsdam, so we had also the pleasure to study in this beautiful, historical city and to meet lots of international students there, too.

After my semester here I am sure that it was one of the most wonderful and enjoyable experiences in my life and it will stay with me forever!

Betty from Hungary

My first day here I felt as if I were on a different planet: new flat, new people and everyone spoke German! After a few days I began understanding what people were saying and felt more comfortable. I met great people from many different countries who have become very important to me. They symbolise how small (or big, for example, China) the world is. We did many things together: together we cooked, studied, celebrated and travelled. My studies in Brandenburg were really a lot of fun and I can honestly say I had the time of my life. I wish you all a great stay, too!

Olga from Latvia

When I first thought about writing about Brandenburg University, I wondered what to write about. What can I say about the main building on campus? ...very beautiful, comfortable, very different to my university of applied sciences in Latvia, it looks like an old university: so proud, so serious, so respectable. What can I say about the learning process? Well organised, very interesting, one of the advantages I found that foreign students studied together with German students. We were not taught separately, yet there were small groups and everyone was able to take an active part in lessons. The equipment and facilities were also modern ...

The professors always made sure we were well prepared for classes and felt integrated. "If I speak too fast, say so. If you don't understand something, please ask me!" were things we heard from practically every teacher. The project groups were divided so that foreign students had to work together with others; this helped us make contact, get to know others and integrate.

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