

STUDYING IN WUPPERTAL / GERMANY – SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

GENERAL SAFETY INFORMATION

The decision to travel is your responsibility. You are also responsible for your personal safety abroad. With these safety tips, we would like to provide you with up-to-date information so that you can make your decisions in full knowledge of the facts.

Germany is a safe country by international standards. There is no reason to be concerned unduly about crime in Germany. You can move freely in German villages or large cities day and night without having to take special security precautions. Most visits are trouble-free. Of course, there is a share of crime in Germany as well. Therefore, do not take unnecessary risks - such as walking alone at night through dark streets or forests. Take the usual safety precautions. Make sure that your personal belongings, including passports and other travel documents, are safe at all times.

Avoid changing money outside banks or reputable exchange offices. Take out comprehensive travel and medical insurance before you travel. You are not required to carry your passport, but police are currently conducting more frequent ID checks. If you are asked to show your passport and you do not have it with you, the police can escort you to where your passport is kept so you can show it. German police are trustworthy and provide reliable assistance. Police patrol German cities on foot, by bicycle, motorcycle, and car (or "patrol car" as they are called in Germany). You can call the police for free from any phone in Germany by dialing 110. You can dial this number whenever you need help - not just in emergencies. The police themselves recommend that you don't hesitate and call, because it's better to be safe than sorry. Whether you find yourself in a dangerous or scary situation, have lost your wallet, or discover that someone has stolen your bicycle, calling the police is always the right thing to do!

CRIMINALITY

Violent crime in Germany is low, but can occur in larger cities or in high-risk areas such as subway and train stations, especially in the late evening or early morning hours. Most cases of street crime involve theft of unattended items and pickpocketing. Always be aware of your valuables. Be careful and aware of your surroundings.

Petty crime (pickpocketing and purse snatching) occurs in larger cities and at train stations, airports, and Christmas markets. Pickpockets often work in teams and target people on trains, in train stations and airports. Their methods include distracting the victim while boarding or exiting the train, or surrounding the victim in queues or at check-in counters.

Do not buy counterfeit or pirated goods, even if they are widely available. It is illegal to bring them into the United States, and you may also be in violation of local laws.

TERRORISM

In Germany, as everywhere else, there is a risk of terrorist attacks. Terrorist attacks can occur at any time and can target areas frequented by foreigners and foreign travelers, such as tourist attractions, restaurants, bars, cafes, shopping malls, markets, hotels, schools, places of worship, and airports and other transportation hubs. Use caution when attending sporting events, religious holidays, and other public festivities. Remain alert at all times, follow the local media, and follow the advice of local authorities. The German government maintains a public terrorism alert system. Changes in the alert level are announced through local media.

DEMONSTRATIONS

Demonstrations occur and can suddenly turn violent. Large, public demonstrations take place on a variety of political and economic issues. Avoid all demonstrations and large gatherings, follow the instructions of local authorities, and follow the local media.

ROADS / PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Roads and public transportation are excellent. Bicycles are numerous throughout the country and often have their own paths between sidewalks and streets. Care should be taken when crossing these paths as bicycles have the right of way. The public transport and rail network is highly developed, reliable and safe.

SAFETY ON CAMPUS

Everyone contributes to making the University of Wuppertal campuses a safe and welcoming place. Respect is fundamental to the way we learn, work and live. We value civility, diversity, opportunity and inclusion and do not tolerate disrespect, mobbing, harassment or violence.

University life is exciting and challenging. Sometimes it's possible to manage challenges on your own, while other times you may need support. It's OK to reach out and ask for help if you need it. There are many people at Wuppertal University who can help you feel safe and supported. If you need assistance for yourself or for others, the most important thing you can do is to reach out. Trust your instincts: If you need help, feel threatened, or notice suspicious activity, in case of accident or fire on the Wuppertal University campus, always call the internal university-emergency number **+49 (0)202 439 2121**. The emergency call will immediately be passed on by the safety department ("Sicherheitszentrale") to the fire department, the university paramedics and the caretakers, who will oversee the orientation and briefing.

Don't leave valuables like your phone or computer unattended. It can only take a few seconds for them to disappear. Password protect your mobile devices to keep them secure. Keep personal data safe. Don't share credit card numbers, your student-ID, passwords, phone numbers or addresses on social media or non-secure websites.

EMERGENCY CALL INSTRUCTIONS:

WHO is calling? (name – location – phone number) - **WHERE** did it happen? (building – level – room) - **WHAT** has happened? (short description of situation) **HOW MANY** injured people? **WHAT** kind of injury? (bleeding; unconsciousness...) - **WAIT for further questions and instructions!!!**

COUNSELING

If you are a victim of sexual harassment, bullying or stalking, feel threatened or are in a personal crisis, our professional counselors ("[Zentrale Studienberatung - ZSB](#)") can help. They will advise and attend to you when further steps are necessary. Open consultation hours for psychological counselling:

Every Wednesday, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., Main Campus Griffenberg, house B, floor 05, room 02/03

Termination arrangements are possible under E-Mail: zsb@uni-wuppertal.de

OTHER CONTACT PARTNERS

The police are not the only ones who can assist foreign students in emergencies. Almost every country in the world maintains an embassy or consulate in Germany. If you run into problems, you can contact Embassy or Consulate of your home country.

Naturally, you may also contact the International Office staff if you have any questions regarding personal safety or other problems (contact: E-Mail: icenter@uni-wuppertal.de; Phone: +49 202 439 2181).