

Institut für Migrationsforschung
und Interkulturelle Studien

IMIS

Institute for Migration Research
and Intercultural Studies

MA International Migration and Intercultural Relations

A Manual



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1. Welcome

Dear IMIB-students,

We are more than happy to welcome you to our MA 'International Migration and Intercultural Relations'! The MA is usually just called IMIB (speak: liiMiBbb). This manual shall facilitate the start of your studies and help you orientate yourself in your new (academic) home Osnabrück.

The 'IMIB' is the oldest MA program at a German university that is specialized in migration. The first cohort started in 2004. Since then every year about 30 students are selected from a huge pool of highly qualified and motivated applicants. We are very much looking forward to getting to know you and your professional and personal experiences. The diverse backgrounds of the students usually amount to a very special 'IMIB culture'.

The MA program IMIB is an interdisciplinary program, consisting of the disciplines Sociology, History, Linguistics, Geography, Educational Studies, Psychology, Political Science, Law, and Religion. The full-time MA program is particularly designed for students of the mentioned disciplines with a distinct interest in issues of international migration and intercultural relations. As part of the offered courses, basics and specializations of interdisciplinary research on international migration, methodological approaches, and connected topics are taught. These encompass among others 'Migration and Social Structures', 'Migration and Interethnic Conflicts,' and 'Migration and Interculturalism.'

Alumni of the IMIB can be found in almost all German migration-related organizations, city administrations, NGOs, foundations, media, research, and elsewhere. All our international alumni continued either their careers in Germany, 'back home' or in international organizations.

If there are any further questions, please feel free to contact us. We wish you a great start into our program and a wonderful time in Osnabrück!

All the best,

Helen Schwenken
Anne Lisa Carstensen

2. The Institute of Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS)

The IMIB MA program is an integral part of the academic activities of the Institute of Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS) at the University of Osnabrück.

Society has always been faced with and will continue to be challenged by migration issues. In the past, the world was shaped by mobility over centuries: countless examples point to the significant impact of labour and colonial migration, nomadism, educational and vocational movement, slavery and human trafficking, flight, forced displacement, and deportation on labour market development, political systems, cultural identities, as well as religious orientations. And, no doubt, migration will remain a pivotal concern of societal and political interest as current debates prove: discussed issues range from the outcomes of the continuous (and regionally extremely disparate) growth of the world population, the aging societies in the rich 'North,' building new border fences and dismantling others, climate change, social-political challenges of migration, the fate of refugees and migrants in transit, protracted refugee migrations, to the race for talent and skilled labour for increasingly complex and internationally highly networked 'knowledge societies'.

From the early 1990s on, the IMIS at the University of Osnabrück has explored spatial mobility and intercultural experience from both historical and contemporary angles. Through basic research, publications, public events, and the provision of academic consultation to its members, IMIS seeks to strengthen existing and encourage further interdisciplinary research networks and to hence contribute to the dialogue between science and professional practice. Owing to its long-standing research expertise and in Germany unique interdisciplinary broadness, IMIS today is a nationally and internationally renowned research institute with members from a variety of disciplines: Art History, Educational Studies, Ethnology, Gender Studies, Geography, History, Language Studies, Law, Political Science, Psychology, Religious Studies, and Sociology. IMIS is a founding member of the German Center for Integration and Migration (DeZIM).

Board of Directors of the Institute

Prof. Dr. Andreas Pott (Director)

Prof. Dr. Thomas Groß

Apl. Prof. Dr. Jochen Oltmer

Prof. Dr. Helen Schwenken

Dr. Frank Wolff

Jutta Tiemeyer

Institut für Migrationsforschung
und Interkulturelle Studien

IMIS

Institute for Migration Research
and Intercultural Studies

Address:
Universität Osnabrück
Neuer Graben 19/21
49069 Osnabrück
imis@uni-osnabrueck.de
www.imis.uni-osnabrueck.de
Tel. +49 541 969 4384

3. Your Arrival in Germany

Registration

Students need to register with the Foreigners' Office (*Ausländerbehörde*) within one week of having arrived in Germany. If you will be residing in the city of Osnabrück itself, registration with the Foreigners' Office takes place together with your application for a residence permit during the Welcome Week with the International Office.

For the registration you will need:

<u>EU-citizens:</u>	<u>Non-EU-citizens:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ copies of your passport or identity card○ enrollment certificate (Immatrikulationsbescheinigung)○ copy of health insurance policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ copies of your passport○ copy of admission letter○ enrollment certificate (Immatrikulationsbescheinigung)○ copy of health insurance policy○ scholarship certificate (if applicable)○ copy of visa (if applicable)○ one passport-sized biometric photo○ confirmation of sufficient funds (form)

If you do not attend the Welcome-Week, non-EU citizens have to go to the **Foreigners' Office (*Ausländerbehörde*)** individually. Please take note that you need an appointment. To arrange an appointment for the registration use this link:

<http://buenger.osnabrueck.de/public/index.php?l=172&mr=20&o=377> (→“Terminvergabe”)

For telephone appointment: +49 0541 3230 , Office hours: Mon 08:00 – 12:00, Tue 08:00 – 16:00, Thu 08:00 – 17:30, Fri 08.00-12.00.

Address: Natruper-Tor-Wall 5 (Stadthaus 2), 49076 Osnabrück
auslaenderbehoerde@osnabrueck.de

EU citizens contact the Registration Office (Bürgeramt):

Address: Natruper-Tor-Wall 5 (Stadthaus 2), 49076 Osnabrück
buengeramt@osnabrueck.de

<http://buenger.osnabrueck.de/public/index.php?l=172&mr=20&o=376>

Office hours: Mon, Tue 08.00-16.00, Thu 08.00-17.30, Wed, Fri 08.00-12.00

Residence permit

After registration with the Foreigners' Office non-EU students will receive a residence permit, which gives them the right to reside and study in Germany for two years at the most. The residence permit is issued as a credit card-sized card with a supplementary sheet, your fingerprints, photo and personal details will be saved on a chip inside the card. When the permit needs to be extended, the Foreigners' Office will check if the purpose of residence in Germany is still valid.

A change of degree program, for example, changes your purpose of residence. Extensions are usually made for up to two years.

After having finished your studies, you can apply for a residence permit in order to search for a job. This residence permit will be valid for one and a half year (18 months) at the most.

Please be sure to update yourself about potential changes in the regulations.

4. Academic Requirements and Grades

The MA program is divided into modules, each module consists of a number of seminars and a final exam (one oral exam, the rest are written take-home exams called 'Modularbeiten'). A 'seminar' is a course that runs throughout the semester (approx. 14 weeks), usually once per week for two hours. The workload of the MA program is calculated by assigning credit points to the seminars and other elements of the program. One 'credit point' equals 30 hours of time invested by the student (physical contact hours during lectures and seminars, preparation, writing assignments etc.). As the MA is a research MA, the workload for the MA thesis is significant.

How to reach 120 credit points - at a glance

2 Master introductory courses: module 1 (14 CP) + module 2 (16 CP)	
3 Master electives: module 4, 5, 6 (each 16 CP)	
Methods (module 3)	
Excursion – at least one one-day excursion	
Internship – 4 weeks minimum full-time	
Research Colloquium (participation, plus one presentation)	
Master Thesis	
120	Total credit points

You can find a detailed handbook here: https://www.imis.uni-osnabrueck.de/fileadmin/5_Studium/PR%C3%9CFUNGSAMT/Modulhandbuch_f%C3%BCr_den_Masterstudiengang_ab_WS_18-19.pdf

Recommended Study Plan

The table below represents a possible distribution of the modules throughout the two year degree program. Do not 'overload' your timetable, every course needs time to prepare and to fulfill the requirements and assignments.

	1 st semester	2 nd semester	3 rd semester	4 th semester
Entry Level Courses	2	-	-	-
Electives	-	1	2	-
Methods	-	1	-	-
Internship / Excursion	During the semester or semester break (internship)			
Research Colloquium				X
Master Thesis				X
Required Assignments	Paper module 1 + 2	Oral Exam module 4	Paper module 5 + 6	
Credits	30	24	32	26

For more information see: https://www.imis.uni-osnabrueck.de/fileadmin/5_Studium/Studienverlaufsplan_f%C3%BCr_Studierende_mit_Beginn_des_Studiums_ab_WS_2018-19.pdf

A list of courses for your first semester: https://www.imis.uni-osnabrueck.de/fileadmin/5_Studium/IMIB/Stundenplan/Stundenplan_WiSe_2019-20_IMIB_1_Semester_05_09_19.pdf

And for the third semester: https://www.imis.uni-osnabrueck.de/fileadmin/5_Studium/IMIB/Stundenplan/Stundenplan_WiSe_2019-20_IMIB_3_Semester-09.10_2019_2.pdf

Registration for Courses

During the first week you can 'shop around', but then you need to take a decision and register for the courses. You do this through the platform 'Stud.IP' (in order to get access to readings etc.) and by attending the chosen seminars. Stud.IP is Osnabrück University's internet learning platform. Each course has its own section in Stud.IP, in which lecturers store announcements and documents, such as presentations, texts to be read, and exercise sheets. You will frequently download texts and hand in exercises, group works as well as homework via Stud.IP. You can access the system from any computer with internet access, either from home, the library or at the departmental computer centres (CIP pools).

Academic Culture and Requirements

There are seminars (*Seminar*) and lectures (*Vorlesung*) as teaching formats within the program. Whereas the first describes a session with a smaller group of students, constantly active participation and group work, the second is more teacher-focused, but that does not mean that questions cannot be asked. Most IMIB courses are seminars, with a size between approx. 8 and 35, in extreme cases up to 80 students. In some courses you will be just amongst other IMIB students, whereas in others IMIB students are outnumbered by students from other programs. The course-specific examinations vary from course to course. Thus, the lecturer will announce the requirements at the beginning of the respective course. Most courses will have weekly reading assignments which are mandatory. Mostly, this does not mean to scan over entire books every week, but rather to read chosen sections or single articles carefully and to prepare them in detail (argumentative structure etc.). There is no compulsory attendance at the University of Osnabrück, nevertheless you are expected to attend all classes and to participate actively.

Beside that and in order to receive credit points, there are certain course requirements (*Studienleistungen*) you have to fulfill. These can be an essay, a presentation, a poster, or a written exam for example. These are not graded but have to be handed in to the lecturer (who will inform you about the modes – via e-mail or as a hard-copy – and the deadlines).

In addition to this, you will write four research papers and take one oral exam as graded module examinations. In Module 4, you choose one seminar as the basis for the 30 minute-oral exam. For all other modules, the research paper (*Modularbeit*, but often called just *Hausarbeit*) is expected to explore a topic that fits to the module's content. Please be sure to discuss your planned topic and research question early enough with one of the lecturers that teaches in the respective module. A research paper is anticipated to be academically consistent and not in the style of an essay unless particularly communicated. Academic work implies not only a reproduction of facts, but moreover an analytical and problem-oriented examination of your research question. As we need to archive your graded papers, please

hand them in as a hard-copy version (some lecturers indeed request in addition a digital version, please inform yourself what is expected).

You are expected to write your own papers, therefore: Do not engage in copy and paste with downloaded internet or other material. Plagiarism is not tolerated and will be marked with 'failed' when detected. In serious cases, the board of examiners can ban you from future examinations. Thus, please cite correctly. If there are any questions concerning the formal requirements, please consult manuals, such as the York tutorial¹ and ask your lecturer (s*he will know best what s*he expects). If your doubts are related to your status as an international student, please mention this, because lecturers will then know where your insecurities come from.

There is no particular examination period. Written exams (*Klausuren*) are mostly during the last weeks of the semester or the first week of the lecture-free time. Deadlines for papers and course achievements are set individually by the lecturer and are expected to be followed. Deadlines for research papers are usually towards the end of the semester (so end of March or end of September), whereas the oral exam in Module 4 will be usually around the end of June.

If you would like to take a course outside of your program requirements, feel free to do so. You can then also have it recorded on your transcript as 'voluntary additional achievement' (*Freiwillige Zusatzleistung*).

You are very welcome to contribute your ideas for the degree program and future seminar topics and thus actively participate in shaping your studies at the University of Osnabrück (for this, contact the student advisor Anne Lisa Carstensen).

You can find more detailed information on academic writing in social sciences on:

<https://www.sowi.hu-berlin.de/de/studium/downloads/how-to-write-a-scientific-paper.pdf>

Grades

German grades are numbers (not letters). The best grade is a 1,0 (very good), next is 1,3 (very good minus); 1,7 (2+); 2; 2,3 ... until 4. A '5' is failed. There is no grade inflation, a grade 3 is not unusual.

¹<https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity/>

5. IMIB Student Representative Committee ('Fachschaft')

We are students of the IMIB master degree program. Our mission is to represent the students interests, so YOUR interests, towards the institute as well as on a university level. Because of this, we are not only occupied with committees, finances, and organisation but also have the possibility to realize events such as workshops, film series, barbeques, and bar nights for the students.

In order to reach decisions, the student representative committee invites all enrolled IMIB-students to vote for their representatives for a year. Besides these elected student representatives, you as a IMIB-student are also more than welcome to participate. The work in the committee is voluntary and all members have equal rights.

We are always happy to see new faces, fresh ideas, and in general people who are willing to shape our student life together!

We meet regularly in our committee-room (*Fachschaftsraum*), which is in 03/321 and can also be used to read, have coffee or tea or meet up with a working group. It is always open!

Contact: fs-imib@list.serv.uni-osnabrueck.de
or on facebook: "Fachschaft IMIB"



6. Libraries

Central Library "Alte Münze"

The University of Osnabrück has one main library (called "Alte Münze"), three school libraries and several institute libraries. The libraries are equipped with more than 1.5 million books, a wide selection of newspapers, journals and magazines, as well as online access to more than 50.000 electronic journals and more than 2.000 online-databases. The IMIS books are to be found in the basement of the Central Library.

Literature from the reading rooms, textbook collections and open stacks can be borrowed by using the self-service issue machines during opening hours. Reservations, orders from stacks, and inter-library loans are provided at the lending counters during their service hours.

Address: Alte Münze 16/Kamp, D-49074 Osnabrück

phone: +49 541 969-4488; Fax: -4482

Lending: +49 541 969 4316

E-mail: info@ub.uni-osnabrueck.de

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 09:00-22:00, Sat 11:00-18:00

Lending hours: Mon-Thu 09:00-18:00, Fri 09:00-16:00

Lending information for central and other departmental libraries:

https://www.ub.uni-osnabrueck.de/service_nutzung/ausleihe/lending_information.html

Departmental Library of Social Sciences

Here you can find social science related books on topics such as gender, work, organizations, social theories, methods etc.

Address: Seminarstraße 33 (behind the social science building) - Building 05

(also access via Große Rosenstraße, second floor), D-49074 Osnabrück

Tel: +49 541 969-4578; Fax: -4482

Lending: +49 541 969 4577

E-mail: info@ub.uni-osnabrueck.de

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 09:00-21:00, Sat 11-16

Lending hours: Mon-Thu 09:00-18:00, Fri 09:00-16:00

Departmental Library of Law and Economics

Address: Heger-Tor-Wall 14 - Building 21/22

49078 Osnabrück

Tel: +49 541 969 6209; Fax: -6186

Lending: +49 541 969 6100

E-mail: infojw@ub.uni-osnabrueck.de

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 08:00-00:00

Sat 08:00-00:00

Sun 10:00-00:00

Lending hours: Mon-Thu 09:00-18:00, Fri 09:00-16:00

7. Services

Student card - “Campuscard”

In order to receive your personalized Campuscard, you must upload a passport-type photo to <https://myrz.uos.de/>, where you will also find information about photo specifications and how to upload it. You will be sent an e-mail telling you that your card is ready for collection at the Student Service Center Info Point (Neuer Graben 27). It can be charged with money for paying at different university institutions such as the Alte Münze (Library) and the Mensa (Cafeteria). Please bring proof of your identity or authorization in order to collect the card. The first issue of the card is free of charge.

The Campuscard can be used as follows:

- Student ID card
- Semester ticket (see for the rail network map: https://www.asta.uni-osnabrueck.de/sites/asta.uni-osnabrueck.de/files/common/front_1-page-001.jpg, and for general information: <https://www.asta.uni-osnabrueck.de/service/semesterticket>)
- Library card
- For paying at libraries and canteens
- For printing and copying
- For operating library lockers

(For more information see: <https://www.uni-osnabrueck.de/en/studies/campuscard.html>)

Studentenwerk (Student Services)

The *Studentenwerk* (Student Services) offers full assistance concerning your studies. They provide wide-ranging services, such as supporting you in economic, social and cultural issues to ensure that you can focus on your studies in the best possible way.

Address: Ritterstraße 10, 49074 Osnabrück

Tel.: +49 541 33107-26, -28, -29, -30

Office hours: Mon until Thu: 08:00 – 18:00, Fri: 08:00 – 14:00

and by telephone appointment

<https://www.studentenwerk-osnabrueck.de/en/homepage-news.html>

University canteens and cafés

The canteens (called “Mensa”) and cafés offer inexpensive dishes for students. There is usually a choice of two main courses (one of which is normally vegetarian) and a stew, as well as a salad bar. Meals cost between € 1.50 and € 2.50. Breakfast and snacks are obtainable from the cafés of the Studentenwerk Osnabrück.

The weekly menus are also available online: <https://www.studentenwerk-osnabrueck.de/en/university-catering/speiseplaene.html>

University canteens and cafés	opening hours
Canteen, cafeteria and café lounge "Schlossgarten" (= main campus for IMIB) Address: Ritterstraße 10 49074 Osnabrück	Canteen: Mon - Fri 11:45 -14:15, Sat 12:00-13:30 Cafeteria : Mon - Thu 09:00-15:00 Fri 09:00-14:15 Café lounge: Mon-Fr 11:00-18:30

Psychosocial Counseling Center

Studying abroad is an exciting adventure and a major life transition. For many of you, this is the first time away from home. While you are looking forward to all the opportunities that come with living in a foreign country, you may also feel apprehensive of the many things that are unfamiliar to you.

Here are some of the problems that students have talked about with counselors: experiencing culture shock, feeling homesick, feeling sad or alone, worrying about disappointing your parents, problems with your parents, difficulties with a friend or your boy/girl friend, self-doubt or anxiety, psychosomatic problems, being afraid of an oral or written exam, problems related to studying, writer's block.

Address: Sedanstraße 1, 49076 Osnabrück

Phone: +49 541 969 2580

E-mail: psb@studentenwerk-osnabrueck.de

Office hours: Mon–Thu 9:00-12:00 and 13:00-16:00, Fri 9:00-13:00

<https://www.studentenwerk-osnabrueck.de/en/counseling/psychological-counseling.html>

Equal Opportunities Office (Gleichstellungsbüro)

The Equal Opportunities Office provides specific offers and advice along diversity, studying with children, mentoring programs or sexualized harassment.

For more information:

https://www.uni-osnabrueck.de/universitaet/organisation/zentrale_verwaltung/gleichstellungsbuero/studierende.html

Language proficiency

The Language Center (*Sprachenzentrum*) offers several language courses during the semester. You can attend free German language courses, both general and subject-related courses. You can also attend courses on academic research and writing in Germany (in German and English). Moreover, the Language Center offers a wide range of foreign language courses on different levels. For speaking and writing workshops (*Sprechwerkstatt und Schreibwerkstatt*) see:

https://www.uni-osnabrueck.de/universitaet/organisation/zentrale_einrichtungen/sprachenzentrum/schreibwerkstatt.html

Address: Neuer Graben 7/9

Phone: +49 541 969 4886; Fax:-14886

E-mail: sprachenzentrum@uni-osnabrueck.de

www.uni-osnabrueck.de/sprachenzentrum

Please check early enough the website, due to deadlines for registration and language determination tests to find the appropriate level.

Sports

Every semester the University's Center for Sports (*Zentrum für Hochschulsport der Universität*) promotes an extensive program of competitive and recreational sporting activities. The program containing further details can be obtained from: https://buchung.zfh.uni-osnabrueck.de/angebote/aktueller_zeitraum/index.html

Address: Zentrum für Hochschulsport der Universität und Hochschule Osnabrück (ZfH)

Jahnstr. 77, 49080 Osnabrück

Phonel: +49 541 969 4048, -4800

Fax: +49 541 969 4862

E-mail: zfh@uni-osnabrueck.de

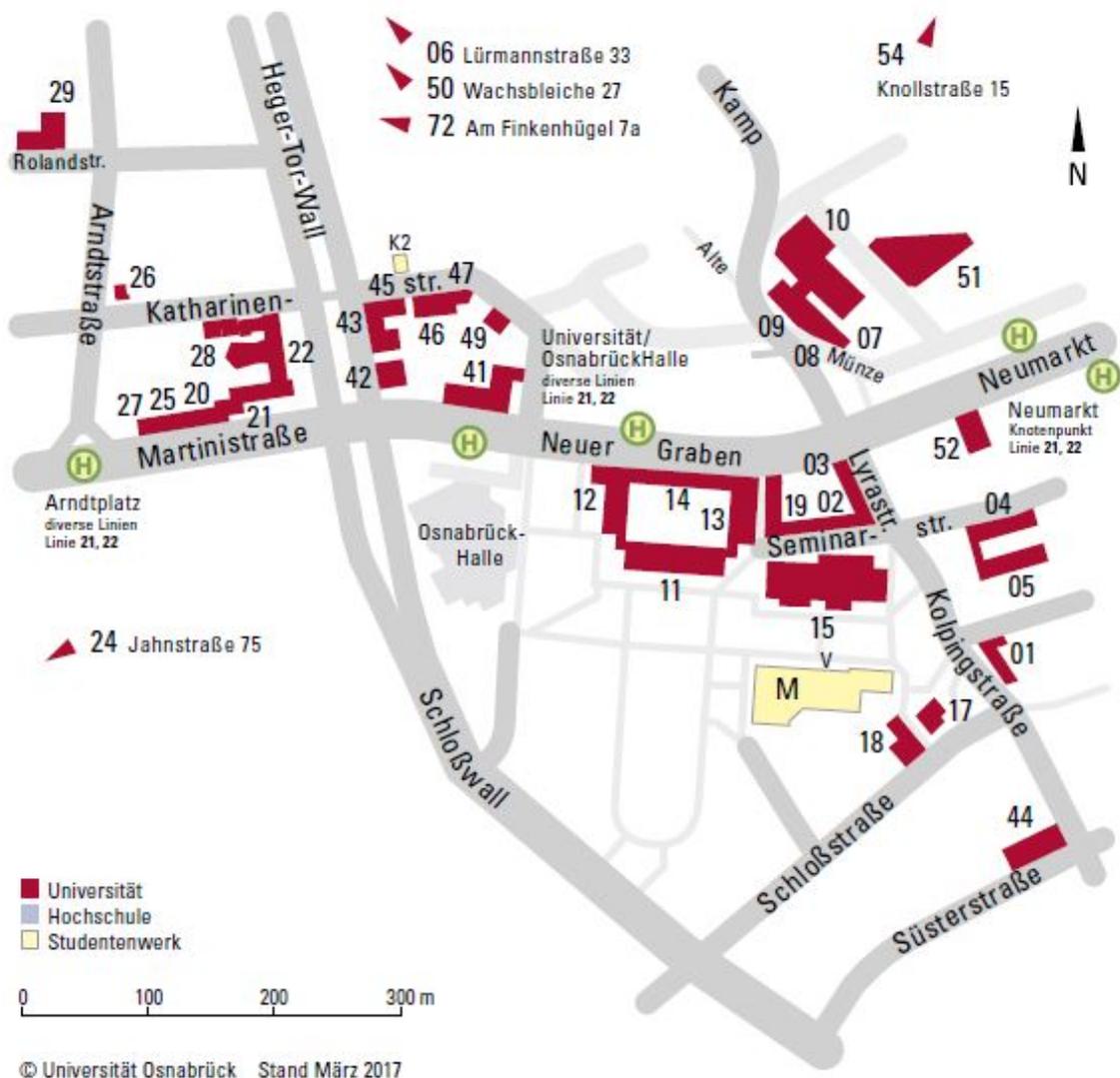
www.zfh.uni-osnabrueck.de

Office hours: Tue, Thu 09:30-12:30, 14:00-16:00, Wed 09:30-12:00

8. Finding your way around Campus

You need to know that the university buildings are numbered, as you can see in the map beneath. Room numbers have the following format: (for example) “03/119” → 03 is the number of the building and 119 the number of the room. The first digit of the room number shows the floor.

Map of the City Centre Campus



9. The City of Osnabrück: Where to go

Bars and Clubs

Balou: A popular meeting point for students just around the corner of the IMIS. While the interior is a good mixture of a kindergarten and a ski hut, it can be great to sit outside with a beer watching the hard working students run by. Football matches are also shown often.

Countdown: Great place for shy singles and other lonely souls: the Countdown Bar has telephones set up on the tables, so you can get in contact with your neighbors or other people in the bar.

Confusion: A popular place for gays in Osnabrück with a changing program including karaoke, games, and theme nights.

Grand Hotel: A hip bar with indie-music and regular happenings. On the weekends, you can watch Bundesliga and the Tatort (a german MUST-SEE criminal series on Sunday nights) as much as you want.

Grüner Jäger: Whether in summer or winter, there is always beer-garden-atmosphere at this place. For athletes, there is tabletop soccer (*Kicker*) and a semi-acceptable pool table. Also good to just watch soccer!

Heimlich Bar: Hidden right at the shore of the Hase river, Heimlich Bar offers a small and stylish place for a cocktail night.

Kleine Freiheit: Great on Thursday nights when 'Kleiner Freitag' opens its gates for students and Indie-music. From time to time, there are also Funk- and Electro-Parties. During the summer, the Freiheit also offers you a decent open-air-beach to hang out.

Substanz: It is the autonomous center in Osnabrück, where concerts, bar nights and parties take place regularly. For example the No-Lager group (they meet to organize support for refugees in the case of deportation) meets here every Thursday night.

Tiefenrausch: It is more of a lounge than a bar since there is always dusky light to dive in together with a very familiar atmosphere. At nights, there are always professionals at the turntables who serve music with the broad range of drinks and endless talks. Not to forget: the Tiefenrausch is empirically the last bar to close its doors in Osnabrück. So a great place for night owls!

Trash: Feels just like its name. On the first sight, it hits you with a mixture of grandma's living room, a hint of 70's chic and a good amount of trash material. But then, only shortly after, the place's comfortable atmosphere reveals that you don't ever want to miss out on again.

Unikeller: The Unikeller is another classic of Osnabrück's bar-scene. Behind the walls of the university's castle, you can spend a great evening eating and drinking together with friends and mostly other students. During the summer, the terrace in front of it opens and invites you to its idyllic surrounding. There are many different events taking place every week, such as two dates for live-music a month. And of course, beer.

Neo: Those who are up for R'n'B, Hiphop, Dancehall and Reggeaton are just right at this place. People say, they would decide whether to let you in or not according to your outfit, but it's most probably simply the mood of the doorman. Good to know: they take photos of you at the entrance in order to identify your card to buy drinks with.

Cafes, places to eat & other useful info

Barösta: The barösta is present with no less than two locations in Redlinger Straße. The street itself is known for its small shops and great places to go for a coffee or food. In barösta you can taste their self-roasted coffee - of course fairtrade and bio - and the homemade cake.

Café International: The 'solicafe' is a great way to end your uni-day during the winter-months. Organized by the Exil, it offers a nice possibility to get to know new and old inhabitants of the city, to chat, or to simply be around people. It takes place every two weeks, Wednesdays 5-7pm in Planeta Sol (in the house of the Volkshochschule).

Café Mandela: A beautifully set up place, organized by the Diakonisches Werk Osnabrück for intercultural come-together and advisory in the Rosenplatzquartier. There are social workers who are open for all different kinds of questions and support. Besides that, everyone who wants to spend a nice afternoon with friends and coffee, tea and more is welcome!

Exil Verein: The Exil – Refugee Centre Osnabrück e.V. is a registered non-profit association based in Osnabrück that supports refugees and people with a migration history in many wide-ranging ways to enable them to live a decent and dignified life free from fear. They offer advise on different topics, German courses and a variety of projects bringing refugees and other people from Osnabrück together.

Herr von Butterkeks: The cookie to the coffee is never missing. During the summer you can enjoy your cup and a piece of cake in a particular great atmosphere on the terrace that is full with flowers and in the middle of the Katharinviertel. They value fairtrade and organic products.

Schlecks: This place is only open during the warmer part of the year, but then many students cannot live without it. You can have a great portion of ice-cream JUST as you want: together with many, many things to choose from, the people at Schlecks create a sweet sensation.

Lagerhalle: The Lagerhalle is THE social-cultural center in Osnabrück. They organize all different kinds of events, from concerts, theater plays, and films to parties and lectures. It is host of the 'Unabhängige Filmfest Osnabrück' (independent film festival) with international and alternative films on political and social topics as well as to 'Morgenland Festival Osnabrück' which takes place during the summer.

Mellows: You're up for soup? Go to Mellows! Here, you find a great alternative if the food in Mensa doesn't convince you. Nevertheless, you have to grab deeper into your pocket. Besides the soup, there is also quiche and salad to try out!

PollyEster's: This place is a great mixture of a lounge, cocktail-bar, and cafe! And during the summer, also to be enjoyed outside. There is Burger Monday, breakfast, and good cocktails.

Movie Theaters: Cinema Arthouse and Hasetorkino: These two not only show blockbusters, but also less known but yet particularly good movies. For jazz-lovers, there is the Blue Note bar as part of the Cinema Arthouse building, with live-gigs and different other events. For a cold beer or wine, you can also visit the Kinocafé 8 ½, as part of the Hasetorkino. They also have a beautiful terrace right at the Hase shore during the summer!

Rosenhof: The Rosenhof is a former cinema from the 50's and location for different events such as cabaret, comedy, lectures, parties, and concerts.

Theater Osnabrück: All students below the age of 30 can get tickets for half the price and – if there are tickets left over – can get in for free two days before the show. You can look at the program online or get more information on Thursday's at the entrance of the Mensa.

Zauber von OS: Up for a burger at Zauber? For some students a MUST. Just around the corner from the main train station, the cafe and bar offers a great place to hang out or to let the night begin.

10. Experiences of international IMIBs

What were your biggest surprises when starting to study IMIB?

“The IMIB’s introductions ‘day: I still have an admiration for the organizing team of that memorable event. Before I left the University, my wish is to take part in the next organizing committee. We were welcomed and my first impression was wonderful - safe arrival. I decided that IMIB will be my master and Osnabrück my University.”

“The biggest surprise was to be at the introductions day and to realize, how small the number of students in my class was.”

What is different from your previous university/context which you like/enjoy?

“The difference from my previous university is that there (in Oldenburg) students are more politicized and the university is bigger in number of students and buildings than in Osnabrück. I enjoyed having interaction with former IMIB students and receiving from IMIB secretary job or internship announcement, this is a blessing we have.”

“It was totally different to start the IMIB. Everybody introduced him or herself personally and spoke about their former studies. We played games to get to know ourselves. It was just very nice and familiar. From this moment on, I knew my decision to start this master degree program was the right one.”

What were or are the major challenges for you?

“The major challenges for me were/are the time management, private and family life, distance from my home to University, and taking part into the whole University’s activities and life.”

“When I speak of challenges during the studies, it is mostly about language. Especially when it came to write papers, it took more time for me than for the German native speakers. But so I began to start the work and research a lot earlier than others. Thanks to this forward-looking skill and despite the language, I was able to finish my masters as one of the first ones of my class.”

...please let us know your experiences, which we will then add to further editions of the manual.

11. Glossary: useful vocabulary

AStA

All students enrolled at the university make up the student body, which is a legally responsible body of the university. The purpose of the AStA is to look after the university-related political, specialist, economic, social and cultural interests of the students. The organs of the student body are the student parliament and the General Students Committee (Allgemeiner Studentenausschuss = AStA). The AStA represents the student body, implements the resolutions of the student parliament and carries out the transactions of the administration of the student body. The AStA has an advisory function in social, study-related and legal issues and is also responsible for the semester ticket.

BAföG

The aim of the BAföG (*Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz*) is to financially support students. It is a combination of an interest-free loan and a non-repayable grant. The amount is dependent upon the financial situation and income of the students and those obliged to pay for them. Further information can be obtained from the Studentenwerk Osnabrück, Department of Grants.

c.t. or 'Akademisches Viertel' – cum tempore or 'Academic 15 minutes'

This means that academics (also prospective academics) commence a quarter of an hour later than stated, unless otherwise given (see below): e.g. 11 c.t. = 11.15 am; e.g. 11 s.t. = 11.00 am.

Coordination refugees@uos

The University of Osnabrück has set up an office that supports refugees and researchers at risk (information sessions on guest student status and regular study programs, facilitation of specific language courses, mentoring, and tandem, facilitating exchange between other students and the newcomers, cultural events etc.). The office (03/324) is situated in the IMIS and volunteers are always welcome (contact: coord-refugees@uni-osnabrueck.de).

Dekanin or Dekan

The dean represents the school and is elected by the School Council. The Study Dean is responsible for any study-related issues.

Dekanat

Dean's office, office of the Faculty (Fachbereich 1, Seminarstraße 33).

Fachbereich (School)

The university is subdivided into schools, which are responsible for academic research and teaching. The IMIB is located at the School for Cultural and Social Sciences, in particular at the social science department/institute.

Fachschaft (Student Representative Committee)

The organised representation of students' interests at the departmental level; all students at the respective school are members of the departmental student organisation. The members of the departmental student organisation elect the departmental student council (*Fachschaftsrat*) once a year, which looks after the specialist interests of the departmental student organisation.

Gasthörerinnen/Gasthörer - Occasional students

Non-enrolled persons, including refugees, can be accepted to certain classes as occasional students without having to prove their eligibility to access to higher education.

Hochschulrahmengesetz - Higher Education Framework Act

The Higher Education Framework Act (HRG) contains the stipulations for university legislation in the counties (*Bundesländer*). It defines the responsibilities and the legal position of the institutions of higher education, and also regulates the structure and organisation, e.g. of the central and departmental bodies and the rights and obligations of university members (staff and students). Regularly student generations protest against 'HRG reforms'.

Institut (Institute)

The smallest academic organisational unit within a school in the field of research and teaching is an institute. Institutes can either be mono-disciplinary (such as the Institute of Geography) or interdisciplinary (such as the IMIS) where academics from a number of schools cooperate.

Kolloquium

Elsewhere this might be called a 'seminar'. There are two types: (a) Students present research designs or chapter drafts of their BA, MA, or PhD theses. Usually organized by a professor or an institute. There is a *Forschungskolloquium* for IMIB students. Mostly students start attending when they plan their MA theses, but are welcome also much earlier. It takes place once a month on Wednesdays 10am-1pm. (b) Researchers or invited speakers present their on-going research.

Kommilitonin/Kommilitone – (Fellow student)

The term is still used as a form of address amongst fellow students.

N.N.

Abbreviation for: nomen nominandum. This means that the name of the person giving a class is not yet known.

Promotion (PhD)

If research is your thing and having finished your MA degree with an excellent MA thesis, you might think about doing a PhD. If interested, talk early enough with professors your plans and queries. There are several ways to do a PhD in Germany: in a PhD/graduate school program (there are currently two at IMIS, but no new PhD students are accepted, but just ask lecturers), as an individual PhD student funded by a foundation or yourself, or through a job

in a research project or as lecturer. Compared to other academic systems, the admission and supervision works a bit different as it is the first supervisor who 'accepts' you as a PhD student (within PhD programmes it again works differently and you react upon a Call for Applications). A PhD officially takes three years, but in the social sciences often longer. It consists of a written thesis (dissertation) and an oral defense.

Prüfungsordnung (Examination regulations)

The examination regulations form the legal basis for the sitting of examinations; they regulate the composition of the examination board and the taking of the examination. For this reason, the examination regulations stipulate which requirements need to be fulfilled before being able to enrol for the examination (scope of study, type and number of proofs of academic achievement), the form of examination (essay, written or oral examination), the extent to which the individual subjects are to be examined and how the examination results are to be graded; they also regulate how the enrolment to the examination can be revoked, and how the examination can be suspended or retaken. The examination regulations for university examinations (Bachelor, Master, PhD) are drawn up by the respective institution of higher education and are approved by the responsible state ministry. Examination regulations can be get at the examination offices (*Prüfungsamt*) or the examination board (*Prüfungsausschuss*) and are also available online (you should look into it from time to time!): www.uni-osnabrueck.de/studium/im_studium/pruefungen.html#c8016

Rückmeldung (Re-registration)

If a student is registered on a degree program at Osnabrück University and would like to continue studying in the following semester, s*he must re-register for the following semester within a defined period of time by paying the fees to the university. The necessary information is enclosed with the student card for the current semester.

Semesterwochenstunden, or: SWS

The amount of time spent in class in one week (during the semester). For example: a regular seminar that takes place once a week from 2-4 pm has two SWS (this is calculated in full hours, even if the course lasts only 90 minutes). Adding the credit hours of all the courses a student takes gives the number of credit hours for that particular semester. If the examination and study regulations stipulate a total of credit hours that have to be proven, you divide the total by the minimum amount of semesters for the program to obtain the number of credit hours per semester. This is an average amount, i.e. you can take more or fewer credit hours, depending on your respective timetable.

Seminar

A seminar is a class for a smaller number of participants (circa 8-35), in which academic problems are portrayed and elaborated in detail. The seminars are usually subdivided into Bachelor or Master seminars. Students are expected to actively participate in seminars. Proof of academic achievement is usually given after successful completion of a presentation or essay.

Stipendium (Scholarship)

A scholarship is a financial contribution given to students by a number of institutions. It is usually coupled to certain requirements and is granted in accordance with financial or performance-related factors. You find information on the various foundations here: <https://www.stipendienlotse.de/>

Studienordnung (Study regulations)

Based on the demands stipulated by the examination regulations, the study regulations regulate the course of a degree program or a subject within a certain degree program. The study aim, contents, and scope are defined in the study regulations. They contain all requirements pertaining to the structure and organisation of the program. Information is provided regarding, e.g. admission requirements (e.g. placements), additional qualifications (e.g. linguistic proficiency), which courses are obligatory in which study phase and which are optional. Information is also given regarding the admission requirements for attending courses. Study regulations usually contain curricula, which can help students in their individual planning. You can find them online:

www.uni-osnabrueck.de/studium/im_studium/pruefungen.html#c8016

Tutorium (Tutorial)

A working group related to a lecture or seminar in which the contents of the classes are prepared or worked over. Tutorials are held by tutors (generally advanced students).

Vorlesung (Lecture)

In a lecture the subject is conveyed to the students by the lecturer in the form of a presentation. Students are usually only required to listen and make notes, but can also ask questions. The contents of the lecture must then be worked over at home by the students (or in a special tutorial).

Vorlesungsverzeichnis (Course Catalogue)

The course catalogue contains all of the classes offered by the university in that respective semester. It also contains a list and the addresses of all lecturers and organisations (institutes, examination offices, etc.) at the university. The course catalogue for the current semester is available online:

https://www.imis.uni-osnabrueck.de/fileadmin/5_Studium/IMIB/Kommentierte_Veranstaltungsverzeichnisse/Kommentiertes_VLV_IMIB_WS_2019_14102019_fertig1.pdf

12. Contacts MA IMIB

Prof. Dr. Helen Schwenken

Head of the IMIB examination committee (Prüfungsausschuss) and director of the IMIB study program

Office hours: Wed 9-10, or upon appointment (please see announcements for changes)

Office: 03/118

Phone: +49 541 969-4748

hschwenken@uos.de

Dr. phil. Anne Lisa Carstensen

Academic advisor for IMIB

Internship, transfer of credits, semester abroad and course content of the master program

Office: 03/121

Phone: +49 541 969-4989

fachstudienberatung-imib@uni-osnabrueck.de

Sigrid Pusch

Administrative and Examination Office IMIB

Course assessment, certificates, transcript of records

office hours: Tue 10-12, , Thu 10-12

Office: 03/119

Phone: 49 541 969 4916

soz-imis@uni-osnabrueck.de

Petra Lehmeyer

Administrative Office IMIB

Curriculum, exchange semesters

Office: 03/223

Phone: 49 541 969 4377

masterimib@uni-osnabrueck.de

Sophie Hinger, MA

EuMigs Coordination

Office: 02/310

Phone: 49 541 969 4049

shinger@uni-osnabrueck.de

Daniela Spies

supporting the coordination of the MA program

Office: 03/120

dspies@uni-osnabrueck.de

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Prof. Dr. Helen Schwenken, Studiengangsverantwortliche
Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Relations (IMIS)

Fachschaft IMIB

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