



Your Stay Abroad

This handout is primarily for students of English who want to spend a (part of a) year abroad. There is

- (1) information on the options open to you
- (2) information on English language tests
- (3) further information on staying abroad, with websites, book titles

(1) Your options

There are two really good ways of spending a (part of a) year in an English-speaking country:

- As an **Assistant Teacher**, in a school or in some cases a college, teaching your mother tongue, German. There are places in the UK and Ireland, as well as places overseas. The organisation in charge of this is the Pädagogischer Austauschdienst (PAD). You can get all the information from them, as well as the application forms. www.kmk-pad.org

This year abroad can replace the “Praxissemester” teaching English at a German school!!! And you are “paid“ „einen monatlichen Unterhaltszuschuss von Behörden in Gastland“ (cf. PAD).

For further detailed information, practical tips and students’ reports please see the separate handout for Assistant Teachers available from the Handouts section of FindYourFeet.

- As a **Student**. You can apply independently to any university (but you may have to pay fees) or you can apply through Konstanz University Auslandsreferat (International Office) for a place on an exchange programme, which means you do not have to pay fees, and you may get some financial assistance. Some places are for 6 months, others 9 months or a whole year. You can get information on all the university options from the Auslandsreferat (The International Office), which is on the 8th floor of the Rektorat, the “V“ building of the university. As far as I know the Auslandsreferat still has two separate handouts with lists of university places. One handout has DAAD programmes (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) and “Direktverbindungen”,

the other has the Erasmus/Sokrates (European) programmes, so make sure you get both handouts and all the information. See also the Study Reports in the Handouts section of FindYourFeet.

- There is also the option of **working** abroad. On this you will find information and help in (3) below.

(2) English Language Tests

No matter which option you decide on, make sure you read all the information carefully, especially the application forms.

For some study programmes you will need to do the TOEFL Test (Test of English as a Foreign Language). From www.de.toefl.eu you can find out what this test is like, where you can take it (not in Konstanz) and on what dates, and you can practise online.

For all other students an informal test in the SLI is all that is required, and it is called simply the SLI English Language Test. As most students have had at least nine years of English and are certainly not beginners or intermediates, it is an uncomplicated and quick evaluation of your speaking, listening and writing skills.

All the members of the English Section do this test, in our office hours or by appointment. You can find us in Rooms D 703 (Panesar, Payne), D 704 (Ross, Spurway), D 705 (Williams) and D 706 (McClelland). We all have regular office hours. Please make the effort to come to the SLI to check when these office hours are.

When you come for the test bring with you a sample of your writing. This should be a page, in English, about yourself, your course of studies in Konstanz, where you want to go abroad and why. It can be handwritten or typed. If handwritten then two pages are needed.

Come prepared to talk about the same things in English.

Which form to bring with you? If you are applying to the DAAD, AIESEC etc. you need to bring along the forms provided by these organisations for their language test. Otherwise, just print out the form for the SLI Language Test, available in the Handouts section of FindYourFeet, and bring it with you.

(3) Further information on staying abroad

Websites:

- For the whole of the **UK** an excellent website is the *British Council in Berlin*
www.britishcouncil.de

It has information, in English and in German, on English language courses / Studying in the UK / Work experience / and lots of very useful links

Looking here first will save you a lot of time. For example:

„Leben und Arbeiten in Großbritannien
Informationen zu Jobs und Praktika

(...) Das Problem ist natürlich: Wie finde ich einen Job? Das hängt selbstverständlich davon ab, was Sie vorhaben. Aber egal ob es um eine zeitlich unbegrenzte Vollzeitstelle geht, um ein Praktikum im Rahmen des Studiums oder der Ausbildung oder einfach um ein bisschen Arbeitserfahrung und Spaß im Sommer: Wir bieten viele Informationen und Tips dazu, wie man diesen Job finden kann.“

For **Scotland** in particular see the website of the Scottish Executive
www.Scotlandistheplace.com

For **Europe in general** an excellent website is *EUROPA Das Portal der Europaeischen Union*,
www.europa.eu.int

It has sections, in German, English or any of the other EU languages, on:

„Die EU entdecken:

Europa spielend kennen lernen / Europa fuer die Jugend/ Sprachen, der Reichtum Europas / Eine neue Sprache lernen

Leben in der EU :

Ihre Rechte / Reisen / Studieren /Arbeiten“

From here you can go to

PLOTEUS, „das europaeische Portal fuer Lernangebote. Hier finden Sie informationen ueber Aus- und Weiterbildungsmoeglichkeiten in ganz Europa. PLOTEUS ist ein Service der Europaeischen Kommission“.

„Das Ziel von PLOTEUS ist es, Schulern und Studierenden, Jobsuchenden, Arbeitern- und Angestellten, Eltern, Berufsberatern und Lehrern bei der Suche nach Aus- und Weiterbildungsmoeglichkeiten in Europa zu helfen.

PLOTEUS stellt alle relevanten Informationen zum Lebensbegleitenden Lernen in Europa zur Verfuegung.“ It has information on:

„Lernangebote/Bildungssysteme/Austauschmoeglichkeiten/Laenderinformation“

- For **Europe and overseas**

www.jobline.lmu.de

“Jobline LMU is the English-language job application training programme of Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany.

Jobline LMU is for students and school-leavers who would like to do an internship abroad and for graduates who have just finished their studies and want to find a job or a graduate trainee programme in the English-speaking world – or at a company in Germany with an English-language corporate culture.“

- For **overseas**

www.Amerikahaus.de

Here you will find .pdf files of „Merkblaetter USA und Kanada“ (Arbeiten, Sprachkurse, Work and Travel etc.)

www.councilexchanges.de

The CIEE, Council on International Educational Exchange, runs programmes to help people get abroad. „CIEE ermoglicht Ihnen das Arbeiten, Studieren, Reisen, Sprachenlernen oder Unterrichten im Ausland.“

You can also try www.AIFS.de (It used to be called GIJK, Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Jugendkontakte).

For lots of information on Australia and New Zealand, including visa requirements, see

www.australien-info.de and www.neuseeland.de

Books:

Different cultures, culture shock:

English: One language, different cultures. Ronowicz. London, 1999
eng 62/r66
(information on the different cultures of the main English-speaking countries)

Studying and living in the United Kingdom: a guide for international students and visitors. British Council. 1999
inf 298:fd/w66
(deals also with culture shock, and reverse culture shock!)

The websites given above are really excellent. The rest of this book section is for people who like to lay their hands on something printed when they are tired of sitting at the computer! For some people it is easier to get a quick overview of a topic if they see it in book form.

There are lots of books related to studying and working abroad in various sections of the library (*inf*, *eng*, *ame*, *fse* etc) and in the Auslandsreferat. In general, in the „*inf*“ section of the library

inf 298 has the more academic information
inf 445 has more on jobs and practicals

Some of the *inf* books are more than a bit out-of-date. New editions are not always ordered for the library simply because so much information is now available on the Internet. However, books, whether right up-to-date or a little out-of-date, can be a good quick introduction, both to the topic and to the vocabulary you need.

Studying in an English speaking country in general:

(Studieren mit Stipendien – USA, Kanada, Weltweit. 1997

Inf 298.50/s26a

Studieren Weltweit. USA und Kanada. Mit Tips fuer Praktika und

Arbeitsaufenthalte. 1999

Inf 298:fi/f24)

The following brochures are available from the "Auslandsreferat", new editions every year:

Studienführer Vereinigte Staaten von Amerika/ Studium in Grossbritannien/
Studium in Irland/ Studium in Kanada/ etc. DAAD.

Studium im Ausland. Informationen für Abiturienten und Studenten aus
Baden-Württemberg. Ed.: Ministerium für Wissenschaft und Kunst, Stuttgart.

Auslandsstipendienführer, DAAD.

Kurzstudium an Universitäten und Colleges. Fachstudium-Sprachstudium.
(USA,GB,France) Council on International Educational Exchange.

Studying in the UK:

(Please remember that there are differences between the education systems
of Scotland and England)

Studieren in Europa: Grossbritannien und Nordirland: das Nachschlagewerk
mit Uebersetzungshilfe; von A bis Z. 1999

inf 298:fd/t41

(The students' guide to graduate studies in the UK. 1994

Inf 298:fd/s94m

Postgraduate study in Britain 1993 – 1994

Inf 298:fd/p68)

British Qualifications: a comprehensive guide to educational, technical,
professional and academic qualifications in Britain. 1999

inf 298:fd/b74

(Which degree in Britain. A comprehensive guide to full-time degree courses
and institutions in Britain. 1994

inf 182:fd/w44)

Learning English in the UK:

Sommer-Sprachkurse an Hochschulen in Großbritannien. DAAD. (Copies
available in Auslandsreferat) This brochure also has "Fachkurse" i.e. English
for Lawyers, Business etc.

Information on Britain in general:

Britain 200..., The official Yearbook of the UK.
(appears annually, most can be found at gsx 603.10)

You can find good "Landeskunde" books in the Semesterapparate: Ross/Area Studies Scotland and Spurway/Area Studies England.

Studying and working in the USA and Canada:

Lernen, Studieren, Arbeiten in USA/Kanada. Ein Wegweiser für Schüler, Studenten, junge Leute. Gesellschaft für Internationale Jugendkontakte (GIJK) 1995
inf 445.70/045(6)

Guide to American Graduate Schools. The first comprehensive guide to graduate and professional study in the United States. 1990
inf 182:fi/d69

Working:

Working Holidays 1998. The complete Guide to Seasonal Jobs. (worldwide)
Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges, London
Inf 445.70/w67-46

The next two are clearly very out of date but could be useful for vocabulary:
(Finding a Job in the United States, Friedenber, Joan, National Textbook Co., Lincolnwood, 1986
fse540/f74

What you need to know about getting a job and filling out forms. Starkey, C.
NTC, Lincolnwood, 1987
fse 490/s911)

PS:

When you are thoroughly tired of everything to do with planning a stay abroad, sit down and enjoy the film "l'auberge espagnole", and when you are tired of studying try "Starter for 10".

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