



Your Stay Abroad

This handout is primarily for students of English at Konstanz University 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

If you are studying English, whether as your major or your minor, there are some really good ways of spending an academic year, or a part of one, in an English-speaking country:

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 tuition 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, which is on the 8th floor of the Rektorat, the “V” building of the university.

There are many different programmes e.g.DAAD(Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst);“Direktverbindungen”; the Erasmus/Sokrates (European) programmes, so make sure you get all the information.

See also the Study Reports, personal reports written by students from Konstanz who studied abroad, in the Handouts section of FindYourFeet.

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

For future teachers of English this year abroad can replace the “Praxissemester” teaching English at a German school. An added bonus is

that you are 'paid' as you receive "einen monatlichen Unterhaltszuschuss von Behörden im Gastland" (cf. PAD).

For further detailed information, practical tips and students' reports on their experience as assistant teachers, please see the separate handout for Assistant Teachers available from the Handouts section of FindYourFeet: FyF_ha_assistantteacher.pdf

There is also the option of **an internship** abroad. Both the Auslandsreferat and each individual Faculty or Department may have internship options. See also (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 and internships you will need to do a test such as TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System). On the Internet you can find out what these tests are like, where you can take them (not in Konstanz) and on what dates, and where you can practise.

www.de.toefl.eu

www.britishcouncil.de

For some applications a test in the Sprachlehrinstitut (Language Institute of the University) is sufficient. For information on this test see the notice boards of the Sprachlehrinstitut on D7.

(3) Further information on staying abroad

Websites:

The following are good examples of websites which offer reliable information (as of March 2014):

For the whole of the **UK** an excellent website is the British Council in Berlin. It has information, in English and in German, on studying in the UK, learning English in the UK, English language courses and tests in Germany, and lots of very useful links:

www.britishcouncil.de

For **Scotland** in particular see the website of the Scottish Executive for anyone wishing to work, study, visit, live in Scotland. Please note that the Scottish education system is different from that of England:

www.talentscotland.com

For **Europe in general** an interesting website is Ploteus, "das europäische Portal für Lernangebote. Hier finden Sie Informationen ueber Aus- und Weiter-

bildungsmoeglichkeiten in ganz Europa. Lernangebote, Bildungssysteme, Austauschmoeglichkeiten, Laenderinformation.”
www.eceuropa.eu/ploteus/home.de

Worldwide

Lots of information on working holidays:
www.auslandsjob.de

For information on internships, work and travel, au pair, language tests etc. in both the USA and Canada:
www.Amerikahaus.de

For various programmes including work and travel in the USA see CIEE, Council on International Educational Exchange:
www.councilexchanges.de

You can also try AIFS, which used to be called GIJK, Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Jugendkontakte, for work and travel international including Australia, Canada, New Zealand:
www.aifs.de

For lots of information on Australia and New Zealand, including visa requirements, working holidays see:
www.australien-info.de
www.newzealand.govt.nz

For advice when applying for an internship in an English-speaking country e.g. understanding the work environment in English-speaking countries:
www.jobline.lmu.de

Books and brochures:

This 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 print, whether as a book or a brochure.

Brochures on studying abroad, 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.

Books in the library:

There are lots of books related to studying and working abroad in various sections of the library (*inf, eng, ame, fse, even soz, wra, erz*).

Under “*inf*” you will find that

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.

Different cultures, culture shock:

English: One language, different cultures. Ronowicz. London, 1999, 2011
(information on the different cultures of the main English-speaking countries)
eng 62/r66

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

Understanding Australia: a guide for international students. 2003
erz 774/w44

Studying / working in an English-speaking country in general:

Studieren mit Stipendien – Deutschland-Weltweit. 1997, 2007
Inf 298.50/s42

Studieren in Europa: Grossbritannien und Nordirland: das Nachschlagewerk mit Uebersetzungshilfe; von A bis Z. 1999
inf 298:fd/t41

British Qualifications 2013: a complete guide to professional, vocational and academic qualifications in the UK. 1999
inf 298:fd/b74

Europa ab 16: Arbeiten und Studieren in Europa. 1999
edz 905/e97a

Karriere-Atlas Europa: 2001. Top Informationen zu Studieren und Arbeiten in 46 Ländern
wra 10:wk/m18

Alltag in Amerika – Leben und Arbeiten in den USA. 2009
soz 478:s/b59

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

There are many books on Scotland on reserve in the library (Semesterapparat
Scott/ Area Studies Scotland).

The next two are clearly very out of date but could still 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"
(6tff 710:k634/a91 and 6tff 710:v369/s91)

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August 2004, updated March 2008, completely revised March 2014