

## STUDY IN WUPPERTAL / GERMANY – SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

### SAFETY ON CAMPUS

Everyone plays a role in making Wuppertal University campus a safe and welcoming place. Respect is fundamental to the way we learn, work, and live. We value civility, diversity, opportunity, and inclusion, and we won't tolerate disrespect, bullying, harassment, or violence.

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 number, passwords, phone number, or address on social networks or on sites that aren't secure.

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.

### 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** injuries? **WHAT** kind of injury? (bleeding – conscious) - **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 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, house B, floor 05, room 02/03

### GENERAL SAFETY INFORMATION

The decision to travel is your responsibility. You are also responsible for your personal safety abroad. The purpose of this safety advice is to provide up-to-date information to enable you to make well-informed decisions.

Germany is a safe country for international standards. There is no reason to be overly worried about criminality in Germany. You can move about freely through German villages or large cities, day or night, without taking special safety precautions. However, most visits are trouble-free. Of course, Germany does have its share of crime. Therefore, you shouldn't take any unnecessary risks – like walking alone through dark streets or in the woods at night time. Exercise normal security precautions. Ensure that personal belongings, including passports and other travel documents, are secure at all times.

There has been a significant increase in the number of migrants and refugees entering Europe. Some countries have already experienced disruptions to transportation services, including at ferry ports and railway stations, and have seen major delays at border crossings. The situation also heightens the potential for demonstrations that could turn violent without warning, particularly at railway stations and other transportation hubs. If you are travelling in the region, monitor local news and follow the advice of local authorities, and contact your transport carrier to determine whether the situation could disrupt your travel.

Avoid changing money anywhere other than banks or legitimate bureau de change. Take out comprehensive travel and medical insurance before you travel. There's no requirement to carry your passport with you, but the police are currently carrying out more frequent ID checks. If you're asked to show your passport and you don't have it with you, the police may escort you to wherever your passport is being kept so that you can show it to them. German police are trustworthy and provide reliable assistance. The police patrol German cities on foot, by bike, motorcycle and car (or "Streifenwagen" as they're called in Germany). You can call the police free of charge from any telephone in Germany by dialing 110. You can dial this number whenever you need help – not only in emergencies. The police themselves recommend that people don't hesitate to call, because it's better to be safe than sorry. Whether you're facing a dangerous or frightening situation, or you've lost your wallet, or you discover that someone has stolen your bicycle – calling the police is always the right thing to do!

### **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. And don't hesitate to contact the staff at the International Office if you have any questions regarding personal safety or other problems.

### **CRIME**

Violent crime in Germany is low, but can occur, especially in larger cities or high-risk areas such as on large metropolitan subway systems and in train stations, primarily during late night or early morning hours. Most incidents of street crime involve the theft of unattended items and pick-pocketing. Pay close attention to your valuables at all times. Be cautious and aware of your surroundings.

Petty crime (pickpocketing and purse snatching) occurs in major cities and train stations, airports and Christmas markets. Pickpockets often work in teams and target people on trains and at railway stations and airports. Their methods include distracting a victim who is boarding or exiting a train or surrounding a victim in line-ups or at check-in counters.

There have been reports of individuals being harassed or attacked for reasons of race or foreign-looking appearance.

Don't buy counterfeit and pirated goods, even if they are widely available. They are illegal to bring back into the United States, and you could also be breaking local law.

### **TERRORISM**

There is a threat of terrorism in Europe. Terrorist attacks could occur at any time and could target areas frequented by expatriates and foreign travelers, such as tourist attractions, restaurants, bars, coffee shops, shopping centers, markets, hotels, schools, places of worship and airports and other transportation hubs. Exercise caution if attending sporting events, religious holiday celebrations and other public festivities. Remain vigilant at all times, monitor local media and follow the advice of local authorities. The Government of Germany maintains a public alert system on terrorism. Alert level changes are communicated through local media.

### **DEMONSTRATIONS**

Demonstrations occur and have the potential to suddenly turn violent. Large, public demonstrations take place for a variety of political and economic issues. Demonstrations tend to take place on politically significant holidays like German Labor Day (May 1) and during international summits hosted in Germany. Avoid all demonstrations and large gatherings, follow the instructions of local authorities and monitor local media.

### **ROAD TRAVELLING / PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

Roads and public transportation are excellent. Bicycles are numerous throughout the country and often have dedicated pathways between sidewalks and roadways. You should exercise caution when crossing these paths, as bicycles have right of way. Local public transport and rail service are widely available and reliable.