

**Campus- Domus- Tutoring program  
for the dormitories of Studierendenwerk Trier**

Due to the internationalisation of universities, the proportion of international students in residential complexes is growing. The Studiwerk recognizes a challenge in the integration of foreign students.

After the successful funding programme of the Robert Bosch- Foundation ended in summer 2005, the Studiwerk decided to create its own tutoring programme, the Campus- Domus Tutorial. Since then the financing has been carried out via rental income.

**Objectives**

Through the introduction of the tutoring programme, students from abroad should:

- ✓ have a reference person for the fears and worries that can easily arise when changing cultural backgrounds,
- ✓ be supported with necessary bureaucratic procedures such as registration at the place of study, opening an account, etc.
- ✓ be introduced into the immediate and near surroundings (residential complex with common rooms, university, the immediate vicinity with shopping facilities, nearest doctor and pharmacy,
- ✓ find a permanent, reliable contact person who will respond understandingly to their problems,
- ✓ are supported in establishing contact with German flatmates,
- ✓ be able to experience partnership in a dormitory,
- ✓ feel comfortable in Germany in order to be able to successfully complete their studies.

**Tasks of future tutors**

In the initial phase (the first weeks in the new environment), the tutors should be particularly intensive since the foreign students are not only confronted with studying, but also have to face completely new living conditions.

In addition to physical help, experience and empathy are required. For this reason we believe that students who are already in their second or higher semester are predestined for the task. They are familiar with the local situation and know the initial difficulties from their own experience.

After an orientation phase, the focus should be on initiate contact with other students. Particularly suitable are joint activities (cinema, cooking or game evenings, excursions), organisation of language tandems, etc.

## **Requirements profile**

- personal requirements such as reliability, self-employment, openness, tolerance, creativity and organizational skills, patience, assertiveness, social and intercultural competence.
- formal requirements such as tenant in the same dormitory complex, at least in the second semester, multilingualism and good German language skills, available time budget for 2 semesters (minimum duration of a tutorial), knowledge of the tasks of the Studiwerk and the Home Council (helpful for cooperation), teamwork skills since activities have to be discussed with the respective home council and the student union must be informed, obligation to submit a report on activities and experiences at the end of each semester.

## **Addresses**

The tutoring program is primarily aimed at students in the same dormitory complex. This has the advantage that the respective tutors can act as personal contact for a manageable group of foreign students.

This restriction does not preclude larger events involving foreign roommates of the other dormitories of Studiwerk and the assistance of the tutor there.

## **Duration of a tutorial**

Since more degree programs start in winter semester the time required at the beginning is greater than in the summer semester. That is why we want a minimum duration of two semesters.

The agreement on the tutorial may be terminated by both parties with 14 days notice before the end of the month without giving any reason.

## **Framework conditions**

The tutorial is an honorary activity, for which the Studiwerk pays 150 Euro expense allowance (tax and social insurance free).

The Studiwerk expects the tutors to fulfil the above objectives as far as possible. It is up to the tutors themselves to decide in what form and at what times they perform their tasks. The Studiwerk is happy to provide assistance and establish the necessary contacts.

The tutors are not on their own when looking after foreign students. In case of difficulties the supervisor of the Campus- Domus- project, Mrs. Gisela Keil, will be happy to advise you.