



Internship at the Internationale Winteruniversität Kassel

Better prepared for life in Germany

Scott Galliard

While studying Germanistics at the University of Oklahoma since August 2016 **Scott Galliard** suddenly decided to pursue a master's degree in Germany only a few months before it would begin. Due to desynchronization, as Galliard says, between the American and German school years he had extra time between semesters, and hoped to find an internship to occupy it. Despite the short notice and problems with his application, an internship was quickly found by the SSG-Interns Program at Kassel's university.

I was an assistant for the **Internationale Winteruniversität** (IWU), which was a short program meant to attract international students to Kassel. My tasks were highly varied; some days I filed papers and made copies, and other days I accompanied the students to events or hiked through a national park to make photographs. Some of my more interesting tasks were shopping for napkins and bananas, making coffee, and describing how to navigate the university. Sometimes I spent only an hour or two at the university, and sometimes most of a day.



My daily workplace at the Winteruniversität

My coworkers were helpful, accomodating, and friendly. When I expressed interest in particular tasks, they gave me more of those tasks instead of ones I didn't like. I was allowed to come and go as I wished, so long as there were not important tasks or events. By far my favorite task was translation, and as I am a native

English-speaker, I was frequently utilized. I even translated the Oberbürgermeister's speech for the IWU's closing ceremony (which he recited verbatim).

I was assigned a host family, and they were indispensable in helping me acclimate to my unfamiliar surroundings. They helped me open a bank account, buy bus tickets, navigate the city, and answer my many questions about the things I needed to do in preparation for my master's studies. My coworkers at the IWU were also very helpful in a similar fashion.



Winter time at the Bergpark Wilhelmshöhe: "Do not step on the ice!"

After the internship I was much better prepared for life in Germany. Not only had I learned various processes of banking, mail, public transportation, etc., I also did this in German, and this language practice was extremely helpful in my later activities in Germany.

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