

Foreword

Stand: März 2010

The Max Planck Institute for Molecular Biomedicine in Münster is a relatively new and fast growing, ambitious community of scientists, graduate and diploma students, fellows and scholarship holders, supported by a dedicated team of laboratory technicians, building technicians, administrative staff, computer experts, veterinary staff and animal keepers, responsible for the smooth functioning of all aspects of work.

On the following pages we would like to provide you with information about Münster and the environment in which we live and work.

One outstanding aspect of our Institute is its international flair. There are at present people from about 19 different nations working under one roof. Therefore, the working language is English.

This booklet cannot of course cover every aspect and answer the numerous questions you will have when you consider moving to Germany to work at the Max Planck Institute in Münster.

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1) Working in Germany

Registration in Germany

Every citizen of the EU and the European Economic Area must register at the **Immigration Office** ("Ausländeramt") of the city of Münster ("Stadtverwaltung") in order to obtain a residence permit ("Aufenthaltsgenehmigung"). This must be done within 10 days after arrival in Germany. The staff there speaks English.

Stadtverwaltung – Amt für Ausländerangelegenheiten
Stadthaus II, Ludgeriplatz 4 (entrance Südstraße)
48151 Münster
Monday – Friday, 8.00 am – 12.00 noon, 3.00 pm – 6.00 pm.
www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt
E-mail: auslaenderamt@stadt-muenster.de

Citizens of other countries may have to obtain a visa before they come to Germany. Please check with the authorities of your home country for your particular case. See also:

www.mpg.de/english/careerOpportunities/guidelinesForeignScientists

www.auswaertiges-amt.de (□information service, □frequently asked questions (FAQ)).

These pages are available in English, French and Spanish.

You will need the following documents for your visit to the Immigration Office:

- † Your passport or national identity card
- † 2 passport photos
- † Confirmation of employment i.e. work contract of the Max Planck Institute
- † Proof of health insurance

! There will be a fee to pay for these documents (approx. 60 €).

The Immigration Office will also register you as new citizen of Münster ("Meldebescheinigung"). Please note that the German regulations on registration stipulate that you are required to register at your new place of residence but also to cancel registration at the old address. This is important if you move from one flat to another while you are in Münster and also at the end of your stay.

Unless the Immigration Office has done this for you, you have to register as a new citizen at the following town office:

Amt für Bürgerangelegenheiten
Stadthaus I, Klemensstraße 10, 48143 Münster
Opening hours:
Monday – Thursday: 8 am – 6 pm
Friday and Saturday: 8 am – 12 noon

You can download most of the forms you will need: www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt (Formulare), E-mail: Buengerbuero-mitte@stadt-muenster.de.

Work permit

In general, foreigners from non-EU countries not affiliated with the European Economic Area require a work permit for Germany. However, there are exceptions. Scientists, PhD students and students working in research institutions such as the Max Planck Institutes do not require a work permit. Nevertheless, you may have to submit a copy of your contract, job description, proof of qualification in order to be exempt from applying for a work permit.

All other foreigners, including the spouses of scientists require a work permit for Germany if they want to take up paid employment. This can be obtained at the Employment Office for Foreigners ("Arbeitsamt für Ausländer"), www.arbeitsagentur.de/muenster.

Visa

Depending on your nationality you may need to apply for a visa before you can come to Germany. Please consult the authorities in your own country or check these internet pages: www.auswaertiges-amt.de

Income tax

If you earn a salary in Germany you will have to pay income tax. You will need a tax card ("Lohnsteuerkarte"), which is issued by the Citizens' Office:

Amt für Bürgerangelegenheiten
Stadthaus I, Klemensstraße 10, 48143 Münster
Opening hours:
Monday – Thursday: 8 am – 6 pm
Friday and Saturday: 8 am – 12 noon

www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt

Please hand this over to the personnel administration at the Institute. - The town administration is working on an electronic version so this system may change within the next couple of years. -

Other rules apply if you come to Germany as a student, post-doc student, scholarship holder or research fellow. Please check your working contract and the income tax rules of your home country.

Please note also that if you are taxed as an ordinary employee and you are a member of the Catholic or Protestant church you will have to pay church tax. This is linked to your salary and amounts to 9% of your income tax.

Health insurance

You are required to have health insurance cover for the duration of your stay in Germany. Please contact the administration office at the MPI Münster for help.

There are several statutory insurers in Münster.

The health insurance costs about 14.9 % of your gross income. Medical care includes:

- free choice of specified doctors and dentists
- treatment in specified hospitals
- support for recognized alternative healing methods
- professional preventive care and prophylactic check-ups
- vaccinations, etc.

As a rule, for people working in Germany, private medical insurance is only possible and recommendable if the income exceeds certain limits. However, other rules apply if you move to Germany from abroad: If you receive an income as scholarship holder or research fellow and are not registered as a student, you will have to take out a private medical insurance. Doctoral students are treated as employees, i.e. they have to be insured with one of the statutory health insurance companies.

The administration of the Institute can name several insurance companies the Max Planck Society has special agreements with.

Liability insurance

A Personal Liability Insurance is not statutory but highly recommended. Some health insurance companies offer a package in which this is included.

Social security plans

As a result of social security agreements with some countries, guest scientists can apply to be exempt from contributing to the German social security system. In this case, the payments are automatically transferred to the respective social security plan in the scientist's home country. Please check with the administration of the Max Planck Institute, Münster.

Fees for television and radio

You need to pay a fee to the GEZ ("Gebühreneinzugszentrale") for using television and radio in your home. Forms can be obtained at Post Offices, the Citizens' Office (see registration procedure above for address) or online (www.gez.de).

Driving licence

In general your current driving licence will be valid for six months after moving to Germany. Please consult the local authorities via the MPI Münster on how to proceed after this time.

Most driving licences can be substituted by a German licence within three years of living in Germany but please check the details for your own country. You will need to provide a translation of your driving licence (you may for instance contact the ADAC automobile club for this) and your visa or residence permit. This procedure will cost approx. 35 € in fees and takes about two weeks. Your original driving licence will be given back to you at the end of your stay in Germany.

www.fahrerlaubnisrecht.de

www.adac.de

2) Coming with your family?

Spouses and dependents

Spouses are granted a residence permit ("Aufenthaltsgenehmigung") provided they are financially secure and have accommodation and health insurance. If the parents of a child under 16 years of age have a residence authorisation for Germany, the child is eligible for a residence authorisation provided the parents can support it financially.

Child benefit

When you move to Germany with your family and work here you will in general be eligible for child benefit. At present this amounts to 184 € per month each for your first and second child. For the third child you will receive 190 € per month and 215 € for the fourth. Child allowance is paid up to a minimum age of 18 or, alternatively, up to the age of 25 if the dependent is undergoing schooling, job training or higher education. You will receive detailed information from the administration of the MPI Münster and also under:

www.familienkasse.de ⇒ "Kindergeld"

www.arbeitsagentur.de ⇒ "Für Bürgerinnen und Bürger" ⇒ "Familien/Kinder"

www.eracareers-germany.de/portal/child_allowance_in/html

Maternity allowance

If you are having a baby in Germany you may qualify for maternity allowance ("Mutterschaftsgeld"). Pregnant women qualify if they are "pflichtversichert", i.e. have a compulsory health insurance and are employed. Housewives and self-employed persons without entitlement to sick leave benefits ("Krankengeldanspruch") do not qualify.

Nurseries/day care centres/schools

German "Kindergärten" admit children from 3 – 6 years of age; nowadays quite a few extend their facilities to younger ones as well. Kindergärten are co-funded either by the churches (Roman Catholic or Protestant), by parents' initiatives or by the municipal authorities. Kindergärten usually close at lunchtime but more and more tend to cater for working mums and have extended their opening hours. The number of nurseries where lunch and an afternoon programme is provided has increased rapidly in recent years.

The monthly fee for nurseries and day care centres is based on the parents' annual income, the fees decreasing with every additional child in the family.

There are approx. 13 day care centres in Münster

They provide services for children from four months to six years of age and for school children up to the age of 14 years.

The Max Planck Society offers support in finding the most suitable service for your family via its "Familienservice". Please consult your MPI Münster or look at the internet pages:

www.familienservice.de (English pages)

www.familienwegweiser.de

The Max Planck Institute in Münster has its own very small nursery for under 3 year olds on the premises of the Institute. Please ask the administration if you need a place for your child. (Wenke Thielen or Martina Wieland)

Primary school

In Germany children are admitted to primary school (for four years) when they are 6 years of age. There is no international school in Münster but language lessons are available. Some secondary schools offer "bi-lingual" teaching (either English or French). The MPI Münster is in touch with the local authorities and can respond to your individual needs and requests.

Secondary schools

The secondary schools cater for different needs and interests (emphasis on either science or language or bilingual teaching). Most of them are in the city centre and easy to reach.

Full-day schooling is not standard in Germany but most schools offer some afternoon teaching or lunchtime supervision.

Language training for children

There are no international schools or nurseries in Münster but numerous options for individual solutions. Please ask your MPI Münster for help and advice to find the best possible teaching for your child / children.

3) Living in Münster

Accommodation

Münster is a lively students' town and hence has a variety of accommodation ranging from expensive to less expensive. Please ask the secretary of your department at the MPI Münster to assist and advise you.

Houses, flats and rooms to buy and to rent are advertised in the local newspapers, the main days for this being Wednesdays and Saturdays under "Immobilien". You will find a list of frequently used abbreviations at the end of this booklet.

Prices vary depending on whether you wish to live in the city centre or more in suburban Münster (Gievenbeck, Hiltrup etc.), the city centre obviously being the most expensive area.

There are two local newspapers for Münster and surrounding areas:

www.westfaelische-nachrichten.de

www.muensterschezeitung.de

And these are two internet addresses specialising in advertisements:

www.immobilienscout24.de

www.nadann.de

The usual way to describe the size of a flat is to state the number of rooms and total square metres. Kitchen, bathroom and hallway are not counted in the number of rooms, so a flat with 2 bedrooms, a living room and a dining room is called a 4-room flat.

In general flats are unfurnished. Built-in kitchens and carpets may be left by the previous tenant and the price for these will be negotiable. There are some furnished rooms to let, see separate column in the papers "Möblierte Zimmer", but rarely flats or houses. The best source for finding a room is a weekly students' booklet called "na dann" (www.nadann.de).

The net cost of an apartment or house depends on the locality, age of the building and standard of the rooms. In addition to this you will have to pay "Nebenkosten", which means the cost for heating, heating maintenance, fresh water, waste water, waste disposal, chimney sweeper, etc. These costs are paid monthly in an averaged lump sum and then balanced by the owner of the house at the end of each year.

! In houses without a caretaker there may be cleaning rota for the staircase and areas used by all tenants.

Also: official "quiet hours" are between 1 – 3 pm and after 10 pm.

You will be asked to sign a rental contract. If you wish to move from your flat to another. or you are leaving Germany, please bear in mind that you will have to give three months' notice.

See also appendix for vocabulary and abbreviations related to accommodation.

Electricity and telephone

These bills are not included in your rent. You pay the provider directly on a monthly basis. See for instance

www.stadtwerke-muenster.de

www.rwe.de (electricity, gas, water)

www.telekom.de (telephone, internet)

Electric current in Germany is 220-240 Volt.

Waste management

The increasing concern for environmental issues is reflected in Germany's waste collection system. Plastic, metal, paper, compost and hazardous waste are collected separately and the tenant or homeowner pays for each of the separate bags, bins or containers. The bins have different coloured lids, i.e. yellow for recyclable materials, blue for paper. Bottle banks are located at convenient spots all over the city. When you move into your new flat you will be given a schedule detailing, when the bins will be emptied, as well as information on how to dispose of what. There are strict laws for waste disposal and fines for violating them. See also www.awm.stadt-muenster.de ⇒ Abfalltrennung ⇒ English pages.

Cost of living

This obviously depends very much on your own taste and standard of living. Just to give you some idea: the average household would use 14% for food, 32% for accommodation, 17% for transportation and 37% for other expenses. For example, the ERASMUS Office states that students need approx. 600 € per month for living in Münster.

Eating and drinking

Bratwurst and Sauerkraut? This, of course, may not become your favourite food whilst in Germany, but certainly Bratwurst is something like the standard fast food and will be offered at all sorts of events and outdoor activities.

Münster has a number of Eastern and Asian food stores and a great number of international restaurants (see Yellow Pages and also www.muenster-geht-aus.de ⇒ "Essen A-Z", or "Trinken A-Z"). All larger supermarkets offer a range of international foods and ingredients.

Medical care

Once you have your medical insurance and have received your chip card you could look for a general practitioner - GP ("Hausarzt"). You should, perhaps, make this dependent on where you live for easy access in case of illness. If necessary, your GP can refer you to a specialist. Münster has several hospitals as well as a large university hospital with numerous specialist departments. There is also a wide variety of specialists running their own surgeries (see Yellow Pages under "Ärzte" for specialists and for doctors in your part of town).

Many doctors in Münster are foreign nationals or speak other languages. Please consult the web pages www.muenster.de/stadt/gesundheitsamt ⇒ "A-Z" ⇒ "Gesundheit in verschiedenen Sprachen", to look for doctors who speak your native language.

When you need to consult a GP for the first time you will be asked to present your chip card and also to pay a € 10 fee ("Praxisgebühr"). This fee is paid quarterly. If you need to see another doctor, e.g. you have seen your GP and also have an appointment at the dentist, or you are referred to a specialist by your GP, you will be given a referral form ("Überweisungsschein"). You do not need to pay again.

Pharmacies are easily recognised by a big red "A" ("Apotheke") sign. Opening hours are generally from 8.30 am to 6.30 pm. They close around lunchtime on Saturdays and those on the outskirts of Münster may only open half day on Wednesdays.

Pharmacies take turns in providing after-hour and emergency services. A list of the pharmacies on duty is posted at the entrance of each pharmacy and is published in the daily newspapers.

A good source of general information on the German health system is also:

www.medknowledge.de/germany (english pages)

Bank accounts

To open a current account (Girokonto) you must bring a valid passport or national identity card.

Some banks charge a fee for current accounts (approx. 6.50 € per month and sometimes a fee for each transaction).

Most banks offer online banking, which may reduce the cost of running your account.

You will be given an "EC" card, which you will need for withdrawing cash – in combination with your personal identification number (PIN) - and for collecting your account statements. A credit card is optional and in Germany this is not used for shopping as often as in other countries.

There are several banks to choose from in the centre of town, some of which are also represented in the suburbs:

Sparkasse Münsterland-Ost, Rothenburg

Sparda-Bank, Königsstraße

Volksbank Münster, Neubrückenstraße

Deutsche Bank, Alter Fischmarkt

Dresdner Bank, Königsstraße

! If you withdraw cash at a bank other than your own bank you may be charged a fee.

Religion

Around 60% of Münster's residents are Catholic, about 20% Protestant. For detailed information on churches in your vicinity and also on other religions / religious groups represented in Münster please consult the internet pages www.muenster.de ⇒ "Kultur" ⇒ "Kirche & Glaube".

4) How to get to Münster and how to get around

Arriving by aeroplane

There are plenty of direct flights from within Germany and from Europe to Münster/Osnabrück airport (FMO).

Amsterdam, Berlin, Frankfurt or Munich are only about an hour away. A bus or taxi will whisk you into the centre of Münster in about 30 minutes. More information on the airport can be found at www.fmo.de.

If you catch a bus to continue your journey you may also use this ticket for connecting busses. Up-to-date information about this, including schedules and prices is available under:

www.stadtwerke-muenster.de ⇒ "Fahrgäste", "Tickets".

You will find taxis at the main entrance of the airport building; a transfer to Münster costs approx. 40 €.

Alternative routes are Dortmund Airport, approx. 60 km south of Münster

www.dortmund-airport.de

and Düsseldorf International Airport (approx. 120 km south of Münster)

www.duesseldorf-international.de.

Arriving by train

Münster's central train station is close to the city centre. Its intercity services connect Münster with other main cities in Germany and Europe. For instance, the journey from Hamburg or Cologne takes 2 hours, from Berlin about 3.5 hours. Enschede in The Netherlands is about 1 hour's train ride away.

For people with disabilities, the railway mission offers help in getting on and off trains or in changing trains. To contact the mission, please phone +49 (0)251 45802, e-mail: bahnhofsmission@caritas-ms.de.

More information on train connections can be found under www.bahn.de (in 9 languages).

At the main exit of the station you will find a variety of local and regional busses. Information regarding routes and tickets can be obtained at the Service Centre "mobile", Stadtwerke Münster, Berliner Platz 22 (in front of the central station), or under

www.stadtwerke-muenster.de ⇒ "Fahrgäste".

If you intend to travel by train regularly while you are in Germany it might be worthwhile to enquire about obtaining a "BahnCard". You would then get the benefit of reduced fares and special offers.

Arriving by car

You can reach Münster directly on the A1 and A43 motorways. Driving from Frankfurt/Main, Hamburg or Amsterdam to Münster you will need about 3 hours, from Berlin to Münster about 5 hours.

Getting around in Münster: Local transport

There is a close network of bus services to all parts of town. The "mobile service centre" opposite the main station provides up-to-date information on public transport and is open Monday – Friday from 7 am – 7 pm, and on Saturdays from 9 am – 2 pm. You can get tickets on the bus (please have small change ready) or at ticket machines which you will find at some of the larger bus stops. Should you use the bus regularly you can get tickets for four journeys, or a month.

A complete list of bus and train connections – "Fahrplan der Stadt Münster" is available as a booklet (new each year). Alternatively, you will find all the information on the internet – www.stadtwerke-muenster.de ⇒ "Fahrgäste".

If you intend to use the bus regularly, please ask the MPI administration about the "regular user" subscription.

Getting around in Münster: Bicycles

Münster is a cyclists' paradise! You will immediately notice that there are thousands of bicycles dashing about everywhere – so be very careful when crossing the roads! Usually there are special cycling paths and even special traffic lights for bicycles. Obviously this is the most inexpensive and quickest way of getting around.

5) Information on the city of Münster

Introduction

Münster is a city full of history and full of stories; it is a city that has remained young at heart for more than 1200 years.

In the city centre you will see magnificent rows of historic buildings interspersed with modern architecture and contemporary works of sculptured art. You will also find a unique selection of museums, exciting events, and exclusive shopping facilities. As a lively university town, Münster is a perfect place to explore restaurants, pubs and the cultural scene in the city centre including the historic "Kuhviertel" and the modern "Kreativkai" in the harbour area.

Münster is included in the list of "Historic Highlights of Germany" and is a member of the modern International Hanseatic League, which has 167 member towns and cities in 15 European countries (www.hanse.org).

In 2004 Münster received the Livcom Award presented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), so we can proudly claim: "Münster is one of the most liveable cities worldwide".

www.muenster.de/stadt/livcom (English pages)

www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus (English pages)

www.muenster.de/stadt/partnerstaedte (English information on Münster and its twin towns)

Facts and figures about Münster

Total area:

117,000 sq. miles, including 62 sq. miles of agricultural and green areas, 2,100 acres of water (Lake Aa: 99 acres), 11,322 acres of woodland. Distance between northern and southern city boundaries 15.2 miles (24.4 km), perimeter of city 66.5 miles (107 km), altitude 141-318 ft above sea level (44-97 m).

Population:

Approx. 280,000

About 48,600 students (university and other institutions of higher education).

Social structure: Civil servants and employees 64%, labourers 29%, business owners and employed family members 7%. Unemployment rate 8.4% (2006).

Economic structure:

Public and private services: 42%, wholesale/retail: 15%, goods processing, energy: 18%, transport, media: 4%, banking and insurances: 10%, building construction: 5%, agriculture, forestry: 1%.

Education:

47 primary schools, 17 secondary school, 14 grammar schools, 1 comprehensive school, 1 Waldorf school, 12 schools for children with special needs.

Day care centres: 466 places for under 3 year olds; 7753 places for 3-6 year olds and 484 places for 6-10 year old children.

Politics:

The following political parties are represented in Münster's City Council:

CDU (Christian Democrats) 31 seats, SPD (Socialists) 19 seats, GAL (Green Alternative) 14 seats, FDP (Liberals) 6 seats, other parties 4 seats.

Economy:

Administrative budget: € 620 million; financial assets: € 180 million (2004).

Religion:

Around 60% of Münster's residents are Catholic, 20% Protestant.

Medical services:

9 hospitals

91 pharmacies

Twin towns:

York, GB, since 1957

Orléans, France, since 1960

Kristiansand, Norway, since 1967

Monastir, Tunisia, since 1969

Rishon Le-Zion, Israel, since 1981

Fresno, USA, since 1986

Rjasan, Russia, since 1989

Mühlhausen, Germany, since 1990

Lublin, Poland, since 1991

History

793	Official year of Münster's foundation. Liudger, a Frisian sent by the Emperor Charlemagne as a missionary, founds a monastery – to which Münster today owes its name. The monastery stands on the Hörsteberg, where, since around 700 AD, the Saxon settlement of Mimigernaford already existed before Charlemagne's campaigns.
805	Liudger is ordained as bishop. The settlement is granted the status of "civitas" (city).
12th century	After the construction of six parish churches and the city walls Münster expands in the Middle Ages. The former city wall, now "Promenade" is still clearly visible today.
14th - 16th century	Münster achieves great significance as a Hanseatic city and from 1494 as part of the Westphalian Hanseatic League.
From 1532	The introduction of the Reformation in Münster is followed by the rule of the Anabaptists, which comes to a bloody end. In the wake of the Counter-Reformation most of Münster becomes Catholic again. In 1628 the last Protestants are expelled from Münster.
1643 - 1648	The Peace Treaty of Westphalia is negotiated in Münster and Osnabrück, bringing the Thirty Years War to an end. Also, the sovereignty of The

	Netherlands is recognised with the signing of the Spanish-Dutch Peace Treaty.
1806 - 1815	Münster is under Napoleonic rule and is returned to Prussia by the Congress of Vienna in 1815. With 18,000 inhabitants Münster is the largest city in the province of Westphalia and is made its capital.
From 1870	Münster continues to grow to a major city, a process furthered by the incorporation of out-lying townships in 1875 and 1903. In 1899 the city's harbour starts operations when it is linked to the Dortmund-Ems-Canal. In 1903 Münster already has 77,000 inhabitants.
1907	Kaiser Wilhelm visits Münster and gives the university the name "Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität."
1914 - 1918	During the First World War the so-called "butter war" breaks out in which people of Münster rebel against profiteering by local wholesalers and farmers.
1924	The radio and television organisation "Westdeutscher Rundfunk" (WDR) is set up in Münster's harbour area.
1939 - 1945	The city is almost completely destroyed in the Second World War – more than 90% of buildings within the former city walls are affected.
From 1945	The city is reconstructed largely on the basis of historical layouts and buildings.
1955 - 1971	In the mid-50s the city already has more homes than before the war. In 1956 the new city theatre is opened. In subsequent years a large number of buildings, institutions and infrastructure facilities are opened. In 1971 there are already 19,000 students in Münster.
1975	In the wake of municipal restructuring there is the biggest incorporation of surrounding villages into Münster in the city's history.
1993	The future has a past: a year of celebrations in Münster – with more than 900 events – to mark the city's 1200th anniversary.
2004	Münster receives the LivCom Award (presented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for being one of the best cities in the world to live in.
2005	1200th anniversary of the Diocese of Münster.
Today:	Today Münster has around 280,000 inhabitants and is the regional centre for around 1.5 million people from the Münsterland area. It is one of the five seats of government in North-Rhine Westphalia.

Münster – a brief A-Z guide

Aasee

Man-made lake near the city centre, used for surfing, small sailing boats and fishing. It is surrounded by expansive green areas which are frequented by people walking, jogging, skating, kite-flying and even barbequeing. The open air museum "Mühlenhof", the Westphalian Museum of Natural History, the planetarium and the zoo are located on the banks of the lake.

Art

About 30 museums and art galleries, ranging from modern art, cultural and natural history to geology and paleontology.

Astronomical clock in the cathedral

Procession of the three Holy Kings and carillon.

Bicycles

Münster is known as the "bicycle capital" of Germany because bikes are the most common means of transportation in the city. In 2004 and 2005 Münster was chosen as the most comfortable German bicycle city by the German Bicycle Association (ADFC) and the General German Automobile Association (ADAC).

Botanical garden

This is situated within the boundaries of the Residence garden and is maintained by the university. 11 acres of open area and 21,500 sq. ft. of greenhouses.

Buddenturm

Part of the city fortifications dating back to before the late 12th century, later reconstructed as a water tower. Restored after 1945 with the original cone-shaped roof.

Carillon performances

World time clock, Rothenburg
WMF building, Alter Steinweg
Münster Residence, Schloßplatz
Stadthausturm, Prinzipalmarkt

Cinemas

Cineplex, Schloßtheater, Cinema, with a total of more than a dozen screens.

Erbdrostenhof

Masterwork of baroque architect Johann Conrad Schlaun.

Friedenssaal

Original council chambers with intricately carved wooden panelling in the Gothic style. The main salon is where the Peace of Westphalia was signed between Spain and The Netherlands in 1648 bringing an end to the Thirty Years War.

Kiepenkerl

Münster as it once was: the statue in front of the two traditional pubs of the same name shows a Kiepenkerl, an itinerant trader of this area, with his short linen smock and a

red scarf, cap, gnarled walking stick and pipe, who was responsible not only for goods but also for news being exchanged between town and country.

Krameramtshaus

Built in 1589, this is one of Münster's oldest guild houses. Since 1995 it has served as the "House of The Netherlands", an academic sciences and cultural centre unique in Germany.

Outdoor activities

Throughout the summer there are numerous public events such as the international kite festival, the hot-air ballooning event and of course the very popular "flea-markets" along the promenade. Three times a year there is a large fair (the local expression for this is "Send") in front of the Residence (Schloß).

Prinzipalmarkt

Münster's „living room“. This unique street lined with arcades and gabled houses is the city's main shopping centre.

Promenade

This area is where Münster's city walls once stood. Today it forms a green belt around the old town area. The Zwinger and Buddenturm are part of the former ramparts.

Public libraries

The main library (Stadtbücherei) is in the city centre next to the Krameramtshaus. There are also 38 Catholic libraries, 5 Protestant libraries, 1 library for the blind.

Pubs and restaurants

From rustic fare to refined dining – more than 800 restaurants in Münster offer something for every appetite and taste. Two popular areas offering interesting food and drink in a unique atmosphere are the "Kuhviertel" in the centre of town and the "Kreativkai" in the harbour area.

Rathaus (Town Hall)

Unique in Germany, this Gothic building with its high gabled roof originates from the mid 14th century. It was reconstructed according to original plans in the 1950s.

Rieselfelder

A large nature reserve to the north of the city. This European reserve for mudflat and waterbirds provides a habitat for many rare species of plants and animals and is the temporary home for thousands of migrating birds. The biological station offers guided tours of the bird sanctuary.

Schloß ("The Residence")

Former residence of the prince-bishop, built in 1767-1787 by architect J.C. Schlaun as a three-winged ensemble. Destroyed in World War II, the Residence façade was rebuilt to original plans. Today it serves as the main administrative building of the university.

St. Lambert's spire guard

Horns sound from the spire every half-hour from 9 pm to midnight (every day except Tuesday).

St. Paul's Cathedral

In its current appearance the cathedral

is essentially a work of the 13th century.

Sports

9 indoor swimming centres
6 outdoor swimming centres
190 different sports are on offer

Stadtweinhaus

Late renaissance building located next to the Town Hall, built in 1615 by Johann von Bocholt.

Theatres

City theatre (Städtische Bühnen), Boulevard Münster, GOP-Varieté, Wolfgang Borchert Theater.

Warder

Together with only two other European cities, Münster hosts a warder (spire keeper), who blows his horn from St. Lambert's church every evening (except Tuesdays) from 9 pm to midnight every half hour.

Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität

With almost 50,000 students enrolled at the university and other institutions of higher education, Münster is one of Germany's leading educational centres.

All-Seasons Zoo

More than 3,000 animals and 300 different species. Special attractions include the Westphalian Hippomax Equestrian Museum, the tropics hall with elephants and the jungle area for orang-utans as well as the dolphinarium, five large playgrounds and the beautifully landscaped park area.

Zwinger

Built in 1535 as part of the city's fortifications, later used as prison. Today it is a memorial to the victims of violence. Since the "Sculpture Projects Münster" in 1997 it houses a permanent installation by the artist Rebecca Horn.

Contacts for new citizens in Münster

Although Münster is a historical town, it is very much shaped and enhanced by its almost 50,000 students. Their presence and that of a good number of international scientists and academics ensure that there are contacts, support, and entertainment for people from all over the world.

For instance:

Die Brücke – Internationales Zentrum der Universität Münster

www.uni-muenster.de/DieBruecke

www.uni-muenster.de/auslandsamt

WWU Hospitality Programme:

www.innerwehlmuenster.de

Booklet: UniKunstKultur ⇒ International contacts
Booklet: Hochschulsport

Useful (internet) addresses

Addresses for registering in Münster (town hall):

Stadtverwaltung – Amt für Ausländerangelegenheiten
Stadthaus II, Ludgeristraße 4 (entrance: "Eingang Süd"), 48151 Münster
www.auslaenderamt@stadt-muenster.de

Stadtverwaltung – Amt für Bürgerangelegenheiten
Stadthaus I, Klemensstraße 10,
48143 Münster
www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt
buergerbuero-mitte@stadt-muenster.de

Useful addresses related to Münster:

Tourist Office / Bürgerberatung: Klemensstraße 10, 48143 Münster
www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus
www.tourismus.muenster.de (English pages)
"Welcome to Münster" brochure, also online: www.muenster.de/en

www.muenster.de/stadt/gesundheits A-Z ⇒ "Gesundheit in verschiedenen Sprachen"
(addresses of doctors in Münster who speak other languages)

University of Münster
www.uni-muenster.de

University Hospital of Münster
www.klinikum.uni-muenster.de

Useful addresses related to immigration:

www.justlanded.de
<http://www.justlanded.com/english/Germany> Information on living abroad in different
languages and for different countries

How to Germany magazine (for expatriates)
www.howtogermany.com

Humboldt Stiftung
www.humboldt-foundation.de
www.welcome-centres.de

Researcher's mobility portal Germany
www.eracareers-germany.de (English pages)

Useful addresses related to Germany:

German foreign office

www.auswaertiges-amt.de

Federal government

www.bund.de

Deutschland.de (commented links in several languages)

www.deutschland.de

The Press and Information Office of the Federal Government

www.bundesregierung.de

International dialing codes

www.auslandsvorwahlen.de

Public holidays

- January 1: New Years Day
- March April: Good Friday and Easter Monday
- May 1: Public holiday
- May: Whitsun Monday
- May/June: Ascension day and Corpus Christi (both are always on a Thursday)
- October 3: German reunification
- December 24: Christmas eve (half-day)
- December 25/26: Christmas day and Boxing Day
- December 31: New Years Eve (half-day)

Some of the information for this Brochure was taken from:

The city net for Münster:

www.muenster.de

and Münster Marketing:

www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus/en/

The website of the Max Planck Society:

www.mpg.de

The website of the

Westphalian Wilhelms University:

www.uni-muenster.de