

Brother and Sister Program

This program is jointly run by the International Office of Hochschule Ravensburg-Weingarten – University of Applied Sciences and the Ravensburg citizens' office (*Freiwilligenagentur*) and brings together international degree-seeking students of our university and citizens of this region.

The program aims to

- Help you become integrated in the local community
- Give you the opportunity to get insights into the way German people (who are not students) live: what our houses look like, how we celebrate our holidays, how we cook and eat etc.
- Offer you further contact points, in addition to the IO, for situations in which you might need support or advice
- Give you reasons to communicate in German
- Offer our citizens the chance of participating in the high level of internationalisation reached at our university

In their registration form, citizens – younger and older ones, families or singles – have informed us about their hobbies and interests, if they prefer students from a specific country and similar things. On the basis of the application forms filled in by the students, we will match the brothers and sisters in the best possible way and then inform both sides about their partners. Therefore, it is important that you state personal information about you as detailed and honestly as possible in your application form and keep us updated about any changes.

The German partners then will contact and invite you for a get-together, in most cases in their homes. How often the partners will be meeting afterwards and what they are going to do together depend entirely on how much time both sides have, what their needs and interests are etc. However, we would like you to meet at least once a month. Note, please, that the program requires proactivity from both sides, so do not hesitate to take the initiative yourself from time to time to ask your brother and sister how they are and propose activities. In addition, there is one common excursion per year in summer time for all students and citizens taking part in the program as well as a Christmas Get-Together.

In general, the program was received very positively. IF for whatever reason you do not want to accept an invitation or even want to stop the contact, PLEASE let your partner know. If you don't feel able to say this personally, you can also ask the IO to talk to the brother/sister. What you definitely should NOT do, is not react to the partners' calls and end the relationship without a word. This would be considered terribly impolite and offend the Germans. It would damage the program and maybe even the image of your country.

Application forms are available on our website and in the IO. The registration deadline for each semester is the day lectures start.

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