

Welcome to Münster

Everything you need to know if you want to settle down in Münster:
Living, working, studying, education, transport, authorities, leisure

"Welcome to Münster" online: www.muenster.de/en

It is difficult to set up a life in a foreign country. This compilation of useful information is primarily designed for anyone who comes to Münster on an independent, self-organised basis - people who need to find their feet as a student, apprentice, academic or professional of any sort, with or without their families.

We sincerely hope that it will be a means of orientation for everyone - taking into consideration that the great numbers of refugees coming into Münster are being taken care of in a different way. They undergo a highly structured procedure upon completion of arriving formalities at the reception camps, and are accompanied by help organisations and volunteers.

By accumulating this sort of information in a brochure, we want to provide a soft and useful landing base for all those who come from abroad and who we regard as a great enrichment for our city.

About this brochure:

Publisher: Stadt Münster, press office

Editors: Joachim Schiek, Dr. Wiebke Borgers

Text: Berthold Stein, Tobias Hertel, Dr. Wiebke Borgers

Photos: Press office (J. Busch (8), A. Klauser (4), B. Fischer, T. Roßmüller)

Translation: Übersetzungsbüro Terber & Partner

4th, revised and supplemented edition, current as of 11/2015

Contents

I Ten times Münster - in brief Page 5

1. Münster in figures
2. Young old city
3. City of Peace
4. The World's Most Liveable City
5. City of culture
6. Cycling Capital
7. University town and science city
8. Economic location
9. Municipal authorities and politics
10. International Münster

II Living in Münster Page 17

1. Housing market
 - Flat-hunting, accommodation costs
2. Residence permit
 - Non-EU citizens
 - Residence permits for students and language course participants
 - Certificates of residential status for visiting academics
3. Registration formalities
 - Registration in Münster
 - Car registration, driving licence
 - Residents' parking permit
4. Electricity and water
5. Waste management
 - Waste separation, recycling centres, bulky goods
6. Pets
 - Importation, dog licence fee, living with pets

III Transport Page 27

1. Münster/Osnabrück Airport (FMO)
2. Rail
3. Buses
4. Taxis
5. Bicycles
 - Parking, purchasing, renting bicycles
 - Cycling code
6. Cars
 - Arrival, Parking
 - Vehicle registration office, driving licence
 - Car-Sharing

IV Education, school, training, studying, work Page 33

1. Day care for children
 - Services for pre-school children and school children
 - Children with special needs
2. Schools

- School system and schools in Münster
- Support and assistance for parents and children
- 3. Learning German – without forgetting your native language
 - German as a foreign language, native language teaching
- 4. Additional further education establishments, seminars and courses
- 5. Job market
 - Working in Münster as a EU and non-EU citizen
 - Applying for a tax card
 - Foreign qualifications and certificates
- 6. Studying in Münster
 - International Offices
 - Study fees, semester fees and semester ticket
 - Living costs
 - Health insurance
 - Accommodation
 - Bank account
 - University Sports Service

V Leisure Page 43

- 1. Getting to know Münster
 - Guided tours, city tours
- 2. “On the trail of the Peace of Westphalia”
 - Peace Hall, House of The Netherlands
- 3. Literary Münster: Annette von Droste-Hülshoff
 - Burg Hülshoff, Haus Rüschaus
- 4. Discovering moated palaces and castles
 - 100-Schlösser-Route (100 castles route)
- 5. Around Lake Aa
 - Zoo, Horse Museum, Natural History Museum, Planetarium, Open-Air Museum
- 6. Horse Riding
- 7. Sport
 - Popular sports, competitive sports
 - Cycling, golf, ballooning
- 8. Theatre, cinema, music, museums, event highlights
- 9. For children and families
 - Holiday clubs, “Maxi-Turm” and “Maxi-Sand”

VI Good to know Page 58

- 1. City map
- 2. Amt für Bürgerangelegenheiten (Citizens’ Affairs Office – Central & District Offices)
 - Lost property offices
- 3. Offices, institutions and contact partners
- 4. Emergency medical services
- 5. Emergency numbers for fire brigade, rescue service and police
- 6. Media in Münster
 - Newspapers, online-media, radio and TV

VII More information about Münster published in English..... Page 63

VIII Useful apps for mobile phones..... Page 64

I. Ten times Münster - in brief

Münster is a multi-faceted city. It is a city of science and learning, the City of the Westphalian Peace, a green city, the capital city of bicycles, and Germany's Climate Protection Capital. Westphalia's longstanding regional capital is young: not least thanks to around 58,000 students. It is an outstanding place to live, work, learn and research. It is a place where urban culture, municipal diversity and first-class rural recreation intersect and have a mutually enhancing effect.

I.1. Münster in figures

Geography

- City surface area: 303 square kilometres, 11,000 hectares conservation and bird protection areas
- Highest point: Vorbergshügel, 99 metres above sea level
- Lowest point: on the river Ems, 39 metres above sea level
- Neighbouring cities: Bielefeld (62 kilometres to the East), Dortmund (61 kilometres to the South), Enschede (the Netherlands; 65 kilometres to the North-West), Osnabrück (44 kilometres to the North-East).

Climate

- Average annual temperature: 9.2 degrees Celsius
- Average precipitation: 744 millimetres
- Hours of sunshine in 2014: 1531
- Highest and lowest temperatures in 2014: 34.3 degrees Celsius and -5.6 degrees Celsius

People

- Population: 300,267 inhabitants (Dec. 2014: 156,988 female, 143,279 male)
- Population density: 163,752 households
- Employed individuals: 156,217
- Unemployment (average 2014): 6 per cent
- Students (winter semester 2013/2014): 58,146
- Pupils (school year 2014/15): 31,611 at general-education schools, 18,962 at vocational colleges
- Foreign inhabitants: 25,831 (Dec. 2014)

Municipal districts

- Central – 123,178 inhabitants
- North – 29,168
- East – 22,026
- West – 60,131
- South-East – 28,365
- Hilstrup – 37,399

And some more statistics

- 9 hospitals, 94 chemists', 34 nursing homes, 29 nursing services
- 96 general-education schools, 12 vocational colleges, 8 universities
- 34,190 places in 223 nursery schools, crèches and after-school care clubs
- 313 playgrounds, more than 519 sports complexes
- 4 theatres with independent theatre companies, 27 museums and exhibition halls, 2 large event and concert halls, 1 trade fair centre
- 892,000 visitors to public library, 127,700 participants in Adult Learning Centre courses

I.2. Young old city

History was made in Münster, and it continues to have an effect to this day. Here is a condensed historical retrospect:

Münster's roots can be traced back to the 6th century AD. However, the city officially came into existence in 793, when Frisian missionary Liudger founded the "Monasterium" cloister. Münster became a cathedral city as early as 805, and the city remains an active centre of the Roman-Catholic church.

Münster's development into a religious Christian centre in Westphalia went hand in hand with its increased significance as a commercial and political hub. Münster received its town charter in 1170. The city enjoyed its economic heyday in the 14th and 15th centuries as an outpost of the Hanseatic League, Europe's most influential trade network at the beginning of the modern age. The Prinzipalmarkt with the historic Town Hall, which was completed around 1350, continues to testify to the success and self-assurance of the merchant community.

Two events which took place in Münster are destined to remain forever etched on the world's historic memory. John of Leiden founded the Anabaptist theocracy in Münster in 1534, and declared himself king. The reign of the Anabaptists, a radical Christian reform movement, met a bloody end when soldiers in the employ of Prince-Bishop Franz von Waldeck suppressed the faction's adherents. Three wrought-iron cages, in which the bodies of the publicly executed Anabaptists were displayed as a warning to the crowds, hang in the tower of St. Lambert's Church to this day. In 1648, Münster (and its neighbouring city Osnabrück) was the site of the Peace of Westphalia. This effectively ended the Thirty Years' War and resulted in state sovereignty for the Netherlands and Switzerland.

In 1773, the foundation stone of one of Germany's most significant university cities was laid with the establishment of the Regional University. Today, the city is home to around 55,000 students who study at its eight universities.

In 1816, Münster was declared the capital of the new province of Westphalia in the kingdom of Prussia. The provincial capital became the "desk of Westphalia" and with it the seat of many authorities and institutions. After the Second World War, the Prussian provinces of Westphalia and Rhineland were included in the new Federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia. However, the Regional Association of Westphalia-Lippe, with headquarters in Münster, continues to be responsible for many cultural and social duties in the Westphalian province. Münster is also the seat of a regional district authority.

The Old Town, which was destroyed by bombing during the Second World War, was the subject of an extensive historical reconstruction after 1945. It was enhanced by new buildings which made international headlines: the municipal theatre (1956), the municipal library (1993), the diocesan library (2005) and the Stubengasse shopping mall (adorned with the German Urban Development Award 2010 and the National Award for Integrated Urban Development 2012). Münster has developed from an administrative city to the economic, scientific and service industry hub of a region with 1.5 million inhabitants.

I.3. City of Peace

The Peace of Westphalia treaties were signed and sealed in Münster and Osnabrück on 24th October 1648. They ended a battle for political and religious supremacy in Central Europe, which had lasted for thirty years and resulted in unimaginable suffering, particularly for the

German population. The Peace of Westphalia imposed international law. It was the first time in European history that a war had been ended via diplomatic channels at the negotiation table, as opposed to military actions on the battlefield.

Münster's identity has been influenced by the Peace of Westphalia and the accompanying culture of tolerance. "Tolerance through dialogue" is the city's motto which has been acknowledged by the European Commission, too: In April 2015, the European Heritage Label was bestowed on the historic Town Hall, marking the site a milestone in the genesis of today's Europe, a symbol for European integration, its ideals, values and history.

ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/actions/heritage-label/discover_en.htm

The city also constituted a stage on the journey towards Cold War conciliation: on 18th June 1990, Foreign Ministers Shevardnadze (Soviet Union) and Genscher (Germany) met in the Town Hall of Westphalian Peace in order to prepare the "Two-Plus-Four Accord", which paved the way for the peaceful reunification of Germany. Peace as a mission:

- Münster underscores its historical responsibility for peaceful co-existence and non-violent conflict resolutions during the annual event series entitled "Westphalian Peace – Yesterday. Today. Tomorrow."

- The Westphalian Peace Prize is awarded bi-annually by the Economic Association of Westphalia and Lippe. One outstanding individual, who is committed to unity and peace in a Federal Europe, and a youth organisation which works in an exemplary manner towards these aims are honoured. The International Space Station was honoured in 2014. Other personalities being awarded were Ex-chancellor Helmut Schmidt, along with the Children for a Better World (2012), Daniel Barenboim and the young musicians of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra (2010) or the former UN General Secretary Kofi Annan (2008).

www.westfaelischer-friedenspreis.de

- The message of the Peace of Westphalia endures in the historic Town Hall on the Prinzipalmarkt. The Town Hall is considered one of the Gothic period's most beautiful secular buildings. The council chamber is the oldest part of the building, and is famous as the "Peace Hall". Although the actual peace treaties were not signed here, peace was invoked in advance of the Spanish-Dutch pact, which resulted in the King of Spain's recognition of sovereignty for the Netherlands. Portraits of the envoys to the complex peace negotiations, which lasted for five years, hang on the walls of the "Peace Hall" in testimony to those times.

- A memorial slab in the fireplace in the Peace Hall bears the inscription: "Anno 1648: 'Pax optima rerum, 24. Oct'. Peace is the greatest good. On 24th October 1998, 20 European heads of state gathered in the Peace Hall to mark the 350th anniversary of Westphalian Peace and rekindle this important message. "

www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus/westfaelischer-frieden.html

I.4. The World's Most Liveable City

Münster in the limelight: The city has been awarded a great number of titles and prizes that reflect an outstanding quality of life.

<http://www.muenster.de/auszeichnungen.html>

Münster is Germany's cycling capital (for the 6th time 2015), number two of the most sustainable - at the same time the most prosperous - cities in Germany (2012), the one with the highest feel-good factor (2012). It has achieved the European Energy Award in gold (2012), has the coolest night club (2013), has the most efficient city administration, and excellent scientists - to name but a few examples.

The city attains best marks for its systematic development of city and region, the careful assimilation of historical heritage into city culture, and its effective promotion of environmental protection and environmental awareness. And it was repeatedly able to make a lasting impression because of its citizens, who actively participate in the city's development

(European Green Capital Award: shortlisted 2009, Entente florale Europe: gold medal 2007). Münster is authorised to call itself "The World's Most Liveable City". In 2004, it was the first German city to take first place at the International Awards for Liveable Communities (LivCom-Awards), organised by UNEP, the United Nations Environment Programme, and IFPPA, the International Federation of Parks and Recreation Administration.

www.muenster.de/stadt/livcom/index218.htm

www.muenster.de/stadt/entente-florale/index_en.html

www.muenster.de/stadt/greencapital/index_en.html

I.5. City of culture

Münster takes centre stage in the international art scene over a period of 100 days each decade. The city plays host to the "Sculpture Projects", which number among the most important international exhibitions of contemporary art displayed in the public sphere. The first Sculpture Projects took place in 1977. The next will be from June to October 2017, addressing topics of relevance to the global present. At the event's fourth anniversary in 2007, the 34 art works by 36 artists from 14 countries attracted around 550,000 visitors from all over the world. The city places several sculptures on permanent display after each exhibition. Münster's squares and parks have therefore become the largest open-air museum for contemporary sculpture in recent decades.

www.skulptur-projekte.de

The Sculpture Projects are the jewel in Münster's cultural crown. However, day to day cultural life in the city is also extremely diverse and attractive.

Theatres

Münster is home to over 40 theatres and theatre groups, which perform on a regular basis www.muenster.de/theater.html.

The municipal theatre unites five disciplines under one roof from drama to dance and youth theatre. The Wolfgang Borchert Theater is one of the oldest free theatres in Germany. Theater im Pumpenhaus stages excellent modern dance theatre, and the GOP has variety theatre - to name but a few.

Cinemas

Münster is a city of cinemas. Here, blockbuster films are viewed by up to 80,000 spectators. The smaller cinemas are regularly singled out for their courageous choice of art house movies away from the mainstream. Münster's inhabitants go to the cinema up to six times more frequently than the populations of other German cities.

www.muenster.de/medien_film

In 1981, the "Cinema" hosted the first ever Münster film festival, which quickly gained a national following and is organised by the Filmwerkstatt Münster on a bi-annual basis.

www.filmwerkstatt.muenster.de

Münster has witnessed major film and television productions in recent years. Two of Germany's most popular thriller series are located here: "Münster-Tatort" and "Wilsberg".

www.stadt-muenster.de/filmservice

Museums

Pablo Picasso and August Macke, two of the 20th century's most important painters, occupy a permanent place in Münster's museumscape. Their works are leading exponents within a rich selection of exhibits in Münster's 27 museums and exhibition halls for art, art history, science and technology.

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

Exhibition density is at its peak along the "Museum Mile", on the Pferdegasse/Domplatz (Cathedral Square). This is the site of the LWL State Museum of Art and Culture, the Westphalian Art Association, the Bible Museum, the Archaeological Museum, the Diocesan

Museum of Christian Art and the Cathedral Treasury in St. Paul's Cathedral. The Geomuseum is currently undergoing reconstruction.

Music

Münster's music scene is composed of an immense number of orchestras, groups, choirs and bands. The city's press office provides an initial overview of Münster's musical spectrum, including performance locations and music lessons online at www.muenster.de/kultur_musik.html

Literature

Münster's literary landscape is diverse and vivid. The "Literaturline" on the internet provides interested parties with an overview of the various famous and undiscovered authors living and working in Münster. The site features both a literary events calendar and lists of links to literary event organisers and patrons.

www.stadt-muenster.de/kulturamt/literaturline.html
www.muenster.de/literatur.html

Event and concert locations

The city's club scene offers a selection of pop, rock and jazz events which delight musical enthusiasts as much as the major classical concerts at the Münster Theatre or the shows featuring international stars, which are held at the Halle Münsterland. Consumer fairs take place in the region's major event centre on a regular basis, such as the Garden and Wellness Fair "Spring – Flowers – Leisure" or the "Fine Arts and Antiques Fair". The Stadthalle Hilstrup offers visitors a diverse programme featuring craft events, concerts and cabaret. With its concerts and parties, the "Gleis 22" club on the Hafenstraße has been crowned "club of the year" on the German club scene several times to date.

www.muenster.de/kultur_buehnen.html

I.6. Germany's cycling capital

Münster without bicycles? Unthinkable! Over 100,000 citizens use the "Leeze" - the translation of the word "bicycle" in Münster dialect - on a daily basis in order to get to work, school, sport or lectures or to discover the city. Münster is home to an estimated 500,000 bicycles. This means that, from a statistical perspective, each inhabitant owns almost two bikes.

www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus/fahrradhauptstadt.html

Cyclists have access to an extremely well developed, 450 kilometre network of cycle paths designed for bicycle traffic, in addition to 255 kilometres of cycle paths located off the main roads on access routes. There are even special bicycle roads, on which the cyclists set the pace and take precedence over cars. The infrastructure is rounded off by a selection of bicycle parks, rental points and a dense dealer network.

It's no wonder that Münster has been voted "Germany's most bicycle-friendly city" several times, both by the ADAC (German Automobile Association) and the ADFC (German Cyclists' Federation). Germany's leading consumer safety group, the "Stiftung Warentest", came to the same conclusion.

Münster is located at the heart of the Münsterland Cycling Region. Cycling is the perfect way to explore the flat parkland, which is dotted with old moated castles. The Münsterland cycling network covers 4,500 kilometres. It offers a wide selection of themed routes and circuits. The excellent infrastructure, which includes bed & bike accommodation, service and bike rental points and bicycle navigation systems, make the Münsterland a cycling paradise for leisure, sport and relaxation.

www.muensterland-tourismus.de/4495/radfahren-muensterland

I.7. University town and science city

Münster is a city of science and learning. Its eight universities offer a broad range of subjects. The city is home to the University of Münster (WWU), one of Germany's largest universities. The two clusters of excellence "Politics and Religion" and "Cells in Motion" are examples of the outstanding research going on at this university. The University of Applied Sciences in Münster is one of the most dedicated of its kind in terms of research. Münster's universities and scientific institutions, such as the Max-Planck Institute (MPI) for Molecular Biomedicine, the battery research centre Münster Electrochemical Energy Technology (MEET), two Fraunhofer Institute branches, the Center for NanoTechnology (CeNTec) and the coming Center for Soft Nanoscience (SoN), form a scientific network which carries out teaching and research in over 500 fields.

With its over 300,000 strong population including around 58,000 students, Münster boasts one of the highest "student densities" in Germany. The arts and sciences constitute the city's largest employer. Almost every fourth individual living in Münster either studies, teaches, researches or works at or for one of the eight universities.

- Westphalian Wilhelms University – www.uni-muenster.de/en/
- Münster University of Applied Sciences– <https://en.fh-muenster.de/index.php>
- Catholic University of Applied Sciences North Rhine-Westphalia – www.katho-nrw.de/?L=1
- Philosophical-Theological University of Münster – www.pth-muenster.de
- Academy of Fine Arts Münster - www.kunstakademie-muenster.de
- Federal University of Applied Administrative Sciences NRW, Faculty of Finance – www.fhbund.de/EN/00_Home/homepage_node.html?nnn=true
- Federal University of Applied Public Administrative Sciences – www.fhoev.nrw.de/ms+M52087573ab0.html
- German Police University – www.dhpol.de/en/index.php

The growing significance of science is becoming increasingly evident in the "innovation quarter" in the west of the city. The Science Park with Technologiehof (Technology Centre Münster), CeNTec, MPI, the Nanobioanalytics Center and a series of technology-oriented companies is located in the direct vicinity of the University's Scientific Centre, the University Clinics and the University of Applied Sciences. The second element of the "innovation quarter" is the Technology Park, which includes companies from the fields of life science and information and communication technology. The "innovation quarter" is rounded off by the Leonardo campus with the college of art and other institutions affiliated to the University of Applied Sciences and the University.

www.allianz-fuer-wissenschaft.de

A selection of important research addresses:

- Münster University Clinics – www.ukmuenster.de
- Max Planck Institute of Molecular Biomedicine – www.mpi-muenster.mpg.de/2377/en
- Center for Nanotechnology GmbH - www.centech.de
- Nanobioanalytics Center – www.nano-bioanalytik-zentrum.de/index10.htm

Contact partners at the municipal authorities: Dr. Matthias Schmidt and Dr. Ulrike Blanc, Academic Office

ph. 02 51 / 4 92-27 55, E-Mail SchmidtMatthias@stadt-muenster.de

ph. 02 51 / 4 92-27 58, E-Mail Blanc@stadt-muenster.de

I.8. Economic location

Münster is the creative “desk of Westphalia”. Greater Münster is peppered with public authorities, consulting companies, insurance companies, banks, computer centres, publishing houses and advertising and design agencies. Nano-biotechnology, health care and life sciences as well as geodata services are only a few examples of the competences that Münster can offer within the service sector.

The city is a consumer magnet for the entire Münsterland, southern Lower Saxony and the northern Ruhr, the retail trade therefore being an important economic factor. With its traditional merchants’ townhouses along Prinzipalmarkt and more modern outlets, such as the Münster arcades and the Stubengasse, the historic centre scores high in several recent consumer rankings.

Münster’s status as a significant industrial location is frequently overlooked, though. Yet BASF Coatings and Brillux have their headquarters here – two of the big three in the German paint and lacquer industry market. Hengst GmbH & Co. KG is another jewel in the industrial city’s crown. Virtually all the famous car manufacturers place their trust in the filters and filter systems manufactured by Hengst. Armacell International, still expanding manufacturer of engineered foams, is the world leader in the market for flexible technical insulation materials, and has its headquarters here, too. Münster is big in ICT: Fiducia & GAD IT with a yearly turnover of 1,26 billion euros serve the entire cooperative banking sector in Germany, looking after 100,000 million bank accounts. Its equivalent, the Finanz Informatik, is the prime IT service centre for savings banks and federal banks. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry has more information: www.ihk-nordwestfalen.com/.

In contrast to many other German medium sized cities, Münster is growing. The population is expected to hit 350,000 in 2040, according to a recent forecast by the North Rhine Westfalian government. The economic location is thriving on heavy investment in real estate: LVM Insurances is building a new 60 million euros office complex by the harbour. Söbbeke, a dairy company, the SuperBioMarkt and Cronos consulting have likewise chosen the harbour for their new headquarters, turning it into the core growth area. With the Hansa Business Park, the municipality has just developed a 54 hectares new industrial estate. Nine major properties have found a new owner, already. Not least due to the excellent traffic connection close to the motorway A1 and the Dortmund-Ems-Canal.

Münster is a powerful economic location with a high quality of life, an above-average income level and a significantly lower unemployment rate than the average currently prevailing in the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

Information:

Wirtschaftsförderung Münster GmbH
Steinfurter Straße 60a
ph. 02 51 / 6 86 42 70
info@wfm-muenster.de
www.wfm-muenster.de

I.9. Municipal authorities and politics in Münster

Local self-government is firmly anchored in Germany’s Basic Constitutional Law. Cities like Münster have the right to regulate and rule on all matters concerning the local community in an independent manner within the bounds of Federal legislation.

Every five years, German citizens and foreign citizens from the European Union living in the city elect the local parliament, or city council. This is the most important decision-making

committee for local authority matters. The next local government elections are due to take place in 2020.

At present, Münster's city council comprises 72 members, elected for the current legislative period. 25 members represent the CDU (German Christian Democratic Party), 19 the SPD (German Social-Democratic Party), 14 the Bündnis 90/die Grünen/GAL (Alliance 90/The Greens/GAL (Green Alternative List)), 4 the FDP (Free Democratic Party), 4 the Linke (Left List), 2 the ÖDP (Ecological-Democratic Party) and Piraten (Pirates Party), 1 the UWG (Independent Voting Alliance) and 1 the AfD (Alternative for Germany). 2 members do not belong to a political party. A proportion of the local self-government electees are responsible for the district councils in the city's six districts. For example, they take decisions regarding the maintenance and provision of schools, sports complexes and parks in their particular municipal districts.

In addition to the city council and district councils, the citizens also elect the lord mayor directly. He represents the city in his capacity as "first citizen", and is also in charge of the municipal authorities with around 4,000 employees. The mayor also chairs the city council. <https://www.stadt-muenster.de/sessionnet/sessionnetbi/infobi.php>

I.10. International Münster

Münster is home to more than 25,800 foreign citizens from 155 nations. They constitute 8,6 per cent of the population. The largest group, which comprises about 2,150 people, is from Poland. Around 1,790 inhabitants stem from Serbia and 1,780 from Turkey. Portugal and Italy are strong, too. Moreover, almost 20,000 Münster inhabitants have a dual nationality. Every fifth citizen has a migratory background.

Integration Council

Münster already had an elected advisory board for foreigners in 1984, a full decade before boards of this kind became a legal obligation, in order to provide foreign inhabitants with better access to political, social and cultural city life. Since 2010, it is the Integration Council that deals with all matters concerning municipal politics. It is the legal and political representation of all Münster citizens with a migration background. 18 of its 27 members are being elected by all foreign citizens living in Münster, including those who adopted German citizenship no more than five years before. The other 9 members are delegated by the City Council. The Council's initiatives have to be considered by the City Council and its political boards.

www.stadt-muenster.de/zuwanderung/wer-wir-sind/geschaeftsstelle-und-buero-des-integrationsrates.html

Coordination Office for Migration and Intercultural Affairs

The successful integration of foreigners who come to live in Münster is a core strategic task, as the city greatly benefits from cultural diversity. Founded in 1999, the Coordination Office primarily aims at effectively implementing the Migration Concept, which the City Council passed in 2008.

The Migration Concept wants to

- make Münster an open city
- increase diversity in everyday life
- maintain social peace
- build a city society committed to respect and tolerance
- create a self-determined togetherness

www.stadt-muenster.de/fileadmin//user_upload/stadt-muenster/v_zuwanderung/pdf/migrationsleitbild_englisch.pdf

Communal Integration Centre

The department is part of a country-wide network, which aims at guaranteeing integration and access to social partaking. It does so by qualifying organisations and professionals working in the field of migration and integration.

www.stadt-muenster.de/zuwanderung/wer-wir-sind/kommunales-integrationszentrum.html

Database of organisations for people with migratory background in Münster:

www.stadt-muenster.de/zuwanderung/migrantenselbstorganisationen/mso-datenbank/suche.html

Coordination Office for Migration and Intercultural Affairs

Stadthaus 2, Ludgeriplatz 4

48127 Münster

ph. 02 51/4 92-70 54

Reckfort@stadt-muenster.de

Refugees

Münster is an important place of refuge for people who have fled their home countries. Not only is the city providing former army facilities as reception camps to the North Rhine Westfalian authorities. Refugees who are allocated to Münster usually go to the Oxford barracks first, where the city's Social Office has established facilities for the initial reception of families and single refugees. All refugees are given a warm welcome and first orientation, so that they may have a good start in Münster. The Social Office finds them a new home and helps to develop a perspective for their new phase of life in Münster. The refugees receive medical attention. Children and youngsters get advice on schooling and an immediate two weeks German course. The Immigration Office and the help organisations offer consultation on all topics which may be of interest. Plus, there is an immense number of volunteers and citizens' groups who are ready to help with administrative paperwork, support language lessons, give moral support, and offer their help as first contacts and networking partners.

www.stadt-muenster.de/sozialamt/fluechtlinge.html

Twin cities

Münster has partner cities all over the world. The city has forged nine twinning relationships since 1957. York/England, Orléans/France, Kristiansand/Norway, Monastir/Tunisia, Rishon LeZion/Israel, Fresno/USA, Rjazan/Russia, Mühlhausen/Germany and Lublin/Poland. These connections are complemented by the city's amicable links with Braniewo/Poland and the twinning relationship between the Münster district of Hiltrup and Beaugency/France.

Münster's twinning relationships are "citizen partnerships". They create a context for encounters and understanding between thousands of people from schools and universities, sports, culture and partnership associations, year after year. They have also resulted in a multitude of personal friendships around the globe.

www.stadt-muenster.de/international/startseite.html

Information and contact:

International Relations Bureau

Klemensstraße 10

ph. 02 51 / 4 92-33 25, -33 26, -33 27, -33 28, -33 29

partnerstadt@stadt-muenster.de

International life

Münster is home to a thriving international scene. Cultural associations, clubs and public institutions all act as meeting points. Intercultural encounters and international understanding are a feature of everyday life in the city. Below is a selection of international associations:

- Afrika e.V. – association promoting the integration of Africans in Münster
www.muenster.org/afrika
- Africa in Münster – African events in Münster
www.muenster.org/afrika-in-muenster
- Amigos e.V. - Friendship with Somoto
- <https://amigossomoto.wordpress.com/>
- Checkpoint Afrika – intercultural life and learning
www.muenster.org/checkpointafrika
- Círculo Hispano-Alemán e.V. - meeting place for Spanish and Latin American enthusiasts
www.circulo-hispano-aleman.de
- Darfur-Hilfe – help for Darfur
- www.darfur-hilfe.org/
- Deutsch-Italienische Gesellschaft (German-Italian Society) – forum for Italians living in Münster, and “Münsterians” interested in Italy
www.muenster.org/diq
- Deutsch-Dänische Gesellschaft Münster e.V. (German-Danish Society in Münster) – for the promotion and preservation of German-Danish relations
www.ddg-ms.de
- Deutsch-finnische Gesellschaft Münster e.V. (German-Finnish Society in Münster) – for the promotion and preservation of German-Finnish relations
www.muenster.org/dfg
- Deutsch-Französische Gesellschaft Münster e.V. (German-French Society in Münster) - forum for German-Francophone exchange
www.muenster.org/dfgms
- Deutsch-Indische Gesellschaft (German/Indian Association)
- www.muenster.org/digmuenster
- Deutsch-Polnische Jugendakademie e.V. (German-Polish Youth Academy) – information about Münster’s twin city of Lublin
www.muenster.org/dpja
- Deutsch-Russische Gesellschaft (German-Russian Society) – for the promotion of German-Russian relations
www.muenster.org/drg
- ECI - English Club International (English International Club)
www.muenster.org/eci
- Eine Welt Forum Münster (One World Forum in Münster) – Union of One and Third World groups
www.eineweltforum-muenster.de
- Freunde für Rishon LeZion (Friends of Rishon LeZion)– for the promotion of the partnership between Münster and Rishon LeZion
www.muenster-rishon.de
- Gemeinschaft für deutsch-polnische Verständigung (Community of German-Polish Understanding) - information, Silesia forum
www.visitator-breslau.de
- German/Netherlands Corps
- www.1gnc.org/
- Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker, Regionalgruppe Münster (Society for Endangered Peoples, Münster regional group) – human rights organisation for the protection of ethnic and religious minorities, indigenous peoples and pursued refugee groups
www.gfbv.de/regionalgrp.php?id=15
- GGUA – Gemeinnützige Gesellschaft zur Unterstützung Asylsuchender e.V. (association for the support of asylum seekers)
www.gqua.de
- Kindergefängnishilfe Münster-Ecuador (Münster-Ecuador Aid Association for Children of Imprisoned Parents) – aid for children in Ecuador

- www.muenster.org/Kindergefaengnishilfe
- Ko'embota - Siedlungs- und Armenhilfe in Paraguay
- www.verein-koembota.com/
- Münster-York Partnerschaftsverein (Münster-York Partnership Association)
www.ms-york.de
- Ökumenischer Zusammenschluss der christlichen Eine-Welt- und Dritte-Welt-Gruppen Münster (Ecumenical Union of Christian One and Third World Groups in Münster)
www.muenster.org/einewelt
- Pan y arte – development aid for Nicaragua focussing on culture
- www.panyarte.org/
- Partnerschaft Hilstrup-Beaugency (Hilstrup-Beaugency Partnership)
www.pk-hilstrup.de/
- Projekt Freundschaft. Münsteraner Arbeitskreis für Frieden in Palästina und Israel e.V. (Project Friendship. Münster Study Group for Peace in Palestine and Israel) (formerly known as “Projekt Freundschaft Birzeit Münster e.V.“ / “Project Friendship Birzeit Münster e.V.”)
www.muenster.org/birzeit/projektfreundschaft
- Projet Maison Dogbo – aid project in Benin/West Africa
www.haus-dogbo.de
- Schritt-Weise - Weg des Friedens, von Münster nach Jerusalem (the path of peace from Münster to Jerusalem)
www.schritt-weise.net
- Step by Step e.V. – support for people in need in Germany and abroad
www.stepbystep-muenster.de
- terre des hommes - AG Münster, For a Humanitarian World
www.muenster.tdh.de
- Tibet Initiative Deutschland e.V. –Münster regional group, Tibet - the drama on the top of the world
- www.tibet-muenster.de/
- Unicef – Münster work group
www.muenster.org/unicef
- Vamos e.V. Münster – For human rights, solidarity, justice and tolerance in the globalised world
www.vamos-muenster.de
- VDIJB e.V. – association for the promotion of German-German and international encounters between young people
www.vdijb.de
- Verein zur Förderung der Städtepartnerschaft Münster-Lublin (Association for the Promotion of the Münster-Lublin Twinning Relationship)
www.muenster.org/muenster-lublin
- Verein zur Förderung der Städtepartnerschaft Münster-Rjazan (Association for the Promotion of the Münster-Rjazan Twinning Relationship)
www.muenster.org/msrjazan

International universities

Around 3,500 international students and over 200 visiting academics from all over the world at the University of Münster (WWU) alone underscore Münster's international reputation as an attractive university location. Universities and science also make a significant contribution to the city's international flair.

Both the major universities offer foreign students support to ensure they find their feet as quickly as possible.

- The university's international centre is called “Die Brücke” (“bridge”). It advises foreign

students and provides support in matters of accommodation, formalities and everyday issues.

www.uni-muenster.de/DieBruecke/en/

www.uni-muenster.de/InternationalOffice/en/index.html

- The International Office at the University of Applied Sciences also promotes the establishment's international orientation.

<https://en.fh-muenster.de/internationaloffice/index.php>

- The "Connecta International" trade fair takes place in Münster on a regular basis. The International Centre "Brücke" constitutes a collaboration between the University and the City of Münster, creating a forum for international students, academics and graduates which enables them to explore the various professional fields and companies the city and region have to offer. The Federal Foreign Ministry awarded "Connecta" the "Prize for Excellent Care of Foreign Students".

www.uni-muenster.de/connecta

II. Living in Münster

Starting life in a new city takes time and often courage. We would like to help you get a start with information and tips regarding the housing market, registration formalities and electricity and water supplies.

II.1. Housing market

Finding the perfect flat or dream house in a city requires patience and perseverance. Münster is no exception. The Municipal Housing Office is responsible for observing developments on the housing market. It provides citizens with information about rental prices and offers, promotes social residential projects and provides details of economic premises to let.

- Amt für Wohnungswesen/Municipal Housing Office, Stadthaus 3
Albersloher Weg 33
ph. 02 51 / 4 92 - 64 02
wohnungsamt@stadt-muenster.de
- opening hours: Monday to Wednesday and Friday from 8 am - 12 pm, Thursday from 3 pm – 6 pm; per phone: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8 am - 16 pm, Thursday from 8 am - 18 pm, Friday from 8 am - 13 pm.
- www.stadt-muenster.de/wohnungsamt

Flat-hunting

The local newspaper, the "Westfälische Nachrichten" (www.wn.de), advertises quite a selection of flats and houses for rent and for sale. The real estate sections in the Saturday and Wednesday editions are particularly comprehensive. The newspaper's housing advertisements are complemented by regional and national online accommodation portals. A selection: www.immonet.de, www.immowelt.de, www.immobilienscout24.de, www.studenten-wg.de, www.wg-gesucht.de.

The majority of flats and houses in Germany are sold or rented in a non-furnished condition. Fully- or partially-furnished flats are the exception. In Münster, furnished single rooms are usually offered in shared flats (WGs). As the name suggests, these are flats or houses shared by several tenants. Shared flats are an inexpensive accommodation option and extremely popular with students. Many rooms in shared flats are advertised in the free event magazine "na dann", which appears in print every Wednesday.
www.nadann.de/Kleinanzeigen/Rubrik/Biete+Wohnen#

The large number of students makes finding a suitable rented flat particularly difficult at the beginning of the winter semester in September and October. Estate agents help prospective tenants during their search for a flat. If successful, the estate agent charges commission. This commission is paid by the individual who hired the estate agent initially. By law, this amount may not exceed two months' rent plus VAT. The ancillary costs (heating, electricity, waste disposal etc.) are usually not taken into account in the calculation of the monthly rent – exceptions possible.

Accommodation costs

Offers and prices can differ greatly, depending on the flat's age, location and fittings. The rent index, which is reissued every two years, provides more precise information here. It can be checked online. A printed copy is also available at the Municipal Housing Office. The Municipal Housing Office is always disposed to help assessing accommodation costs.
<http://www.stadt-muenster.de/wohnungsamt/mietspiegel.html>

Tenants and buyers should on no account underestimate the additional costs charged for heating, electricity, waste disposal and possibly insurance. These ancillary costs have increased significantly in recent years as a result of increasing electricity prices, and are sometimes as high as a third of the basic rental price - and above. This is why the ancillary costs are now often referred to as the "second rent" in Germany.

Rental deposits or guarantee payments are both permitted and customary, and are independent of the rental commission charged by estate agents. The deposit may amount to up to three months' rent, and is returned to the tenant upon departure, provided that he or she returns the flat to the landlord in a flawless condition.

Anyone buying a flat or house should remember that the purchase price is inflated by an additional ten per cent in taxes, charges, legal and notarial costs.

Council flats

As is the case with the majority of cities and communities, Münster offers its citizens a number of inexpensive flats, so-called council flats. As this accommodation is subsidised with state funds, the rent is regulated by law and thus below market prices. Those wishing to apply for a council flat must be in possession of a certificate of eligibility for public housing (Wohnberechtigungsschein), which can be obtained from the Municipal Housing Office. In order to obtain a certificate of eligibility, citizens must prove that their earnings do not exceed a stipulated level. They must also fulfil other prerequisites. Foreign citizens also require a valid residence permit in order to apply for a council flat, for example.

It may take some time for the Municipal Housing Office to allocate applicants council flats. This is because an increasing number of people are dependent on flats of this nature, which results in long waiting lists for certain sizes of flat.

The brochure entitled "Flat-hunting tips for students" is a useful source during the search for a suitable flat.

www.stadt-muenster.de/wohnungsamt/wohnungsvermittlung/studierende.html

Housing benefit

Low-income households may be entitled to housing benefit, i.e. financial support with rental payments. The Municipal Housing Office is also responsible for granting benefits of this kind.

www.stadt-muenster.de/wohnungsamt/wohngeld.html

II.2. Residence permit

Nationals from EU member states can register directly with the Citizens' Office after moving to Münster. The Citizens' Office forwards the requisite data to the municipal Immigration Office (see chapter II.3.).

Other rules apply to citizens from non-EU countries. Entering Germany usually - with a number of exemptions - requires a valid visa. Whoever

- intends to work in Germany,
- wishes to remain in Germany for a period which exceeds the duration of his/ her visa
- was able to rightfully enter the country without a visa and would like to stay longer than 90 days,

will need a specific certificate of residential status. This may be a normal residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) or a second type of residence permit, a so-called "Niederlassungserlaubnis", which is generally issued in the wake of a longer stay. The electronic residence permit card contains information about the holder's biometric data (photograph and fingerprints).

www.stadt-muenster.de/en/auslaenderamt/residence-titles.html

The Residence Act stipulates precisely when a residence permit may be issued. This is the case in the event of the following:

- that the individual in question is offered a post of employment (see chapter IV.5. “Job market”),
- for training purposes,
- to unite a family or
- on humanitarian grounds.

The municipal Immigration Office is responsible for applications of this type, and provides assistance with all questions regarding the certificate of residential status.

- Amt für Ausländerangelegenheiten (Immigration Office), Stadthaus 2, Ludgeriplatz 4 (entrance via Südstraße)
ph. 02 51 / 4 92-36 36
auslaenderamt@stadt-muenster.de
- Monday to Friday from 8 am - 12 pm, Thursday afternoons from 3 pm – 6 pm
www.stadt-muenster.de/en/auslaenderamt/a-warm-welcome.html

Those applying for a certificate of residential status can save themselves a trip to the Citizens’ Office, as the Immigration Office takes delivery of the application for the new place of residence and forwards it.

A valid passport, a passport photograph, and a proof of employment or a financial guarantee must be submitted along with the application for a certificate of residential status. The Immigration Office may require additional documentation. This will be clarified during the application process.

It is important to apply for or extend a certificate of residential status in a prompt manner. In the event that a visa or existing residence permit expires, it may not be possible to obtain a new one.

Residence permit for students and language course participants

Students and language course participants who would like to apply for or extend an existing residence permit should also consult the Immigration Office. The following documentation is required:

- a valid passport,
 - a passport photo
- plus
- health insurance,
 - documentation confirming admission to a degree course or preparatory course or a valid certificate confirming participation in a language course and
 - a financial guarantee: A formal letter of intent from a “sponsor” is recognised, for example, in which the individual confirms that he or she will finance the applicant for the duration of the stay. Those without a declaration are obliged to submit a savings book for inspection, and must fulfil a range of special requirements. The Immigration Office will be pleased to provide applicants with more detailed information.

The residence duration is limited. This amounts to:

- a maximum of two years for study preparation with language course and preparatory course.
- in the case of a subject-based degree course, the issue of a residence permit depends on the average time taken to complete the course in question. This may amount to a maximum of the average length of studies, plus three semesters.
- a maximum of twelve months for a private language course with a minimum of 18

teaching hours per week;

In principle, it is not usually possible to change subjects by law. The Immigration Office determines whether exceptions are possible on a case-by-case basis.

Many students wish to earn money during their studies. Foreign students' employment eligibility and the extent to which such employment is permitted is recorded in the residence permit.

Residence permits for visiting academics, researchers and professional experts

Visiting academics require the following documentation in order to apply for a certificate of residential status:

- a valid passport,
- a passport photo and
- their contract of employment or grant confirmation.

Family members travelling to Münster also require their own residence permit. It is thus also necessary to bring the spouse's and children's passports and proof of financing (e.g. the contract of employment or grant confirmation). A marriage certificate may also be required.

Students or academics coming to do research in Münster have to present the relevant agreement with the researching institution, which has to be approved as such by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees. Further documentation might be necessary. The Migration Office offers help and counselling in any particular case.

The Migration Office will check the convenient residence status for any applicant individually. Bringing the job offer and some proof of the negotiated salary helps to find out the eligible residence permit for skilled workers and professionals.

II.3. Registration formalities

For new citizens from EU member states things are easier. They should not, however, forget to perform certain important formalities, which can be completed quickly and easily at the Citizen's Office.

Registration in Münster

- Amt für Bürger- und Ratsservice – Bürgerbüro Mitte (Citizens and Council Service Office - Central Office), Stadthaus 1, Klemensstraße 10
Monday to Thursday from 8 am - 6 pm, Friday and Saturday from 8 am - 12 pm
ph. 02 51 / 4 92-33 33
buengerbuero-mitte@stadt-muenster.de
www.stadt-muenster.de/en/citizens-office/citizens-office.html
- New citizens can also register in the district administration offices and citizens' advice offices in the Hiltrup, Kinderhaus, Wolbeck, Roxel, Handorf, Gievenbeck, Gremmendorf and Coerde districts. The addresses and opening hours can be viewed at www.stadt-muenster.de/en/citizens-office/citizens-office.html

Registration must take place one week at the latest after arrival in Münster. The following documentation is required:

- Identity card or passport
- Form entitled "Registering with the registration authorities". This form is available at the Citizens' Office and from the Münster Information point in Stadthaus 1. It can also be downloaded online at www.stadt-muenster.de/en/citizens-office/registration-formalities/change-of-address-in-muenster.html .

- Registration permits can only be issued personally for reasons of data protection. In the event that a third party performs the registration process, he or she must produce a genuine power of attorney signed by the applicant.

Those moving again within the city are obliged to report any change of address to the Citizens' Office: www.stadt-muenster.de/en/citizens-office/registration-formalities/change-of-address-in-muenster.html.

Those leaving both Münster and Germany and returning to their home countries must also report their departure: www.stadt-muenster.de/en/citizens-office/registration-formalities/deregistration.html.

Radio and television registration

Numerous public television and radio stations can be received in Münster, either via antenna, cable or satellite. These are predominantly financed via the obligatory radio and TV licence fees paid by viewers and listeners – according to the principle “one flat, one fee”. One adult person per flat has to register with the Radio and Television Toll Collecting Agency. It is possible to fill in applications at the Citizens' Office when completing the usual registration process. Online applications can be made at: www.rundfunkbeitrag.de. The monthly fees for television and radio are currently set at 17.50 euros. It is possible to obtain a fee exemption in certain cases. Applicants find further information by calling the “Rundfunkbeitrag” service telephone number (0 18 06 - 999 555 10 – 20 cents/ minute landline, 60 cents mobile). www.rundfunkbeitrag.de/e175/e198/Informationsflyer_Buergerinnen_und_Buerger_englisch.pdf

Car registration

Those bringing their cars to Münster are obliged to register it in the city and, in certain cases, to obtain MS car registration plates. The Vehicle Registration Office is responsible in these cases.

- Kfz-Zulassung (Vehicle Registration Office), Rudolf-Diesel-Straße 5-7
ph. 02 51 / 4 92 - 35 11
kfz-zulassung@stadt-muenster.de
www.stadt-muenster.de/kfz/startseite.html
- Monday to Wednesday and Friday from 7:30 am – 12 noon, Thursday from 7:30 am - 2 pm, plus (strictly on appointment): Monday to Wednesday from 12 noon to 4 pm, Thursday from 2 – 6 pm

The following documentation is required in order to officially register the vehicle's change of location:

In the case of vehicles registered in Germany / with German number plates

- Identity card or passport belonging to the registered keeper of the vehicle
- Non-EU citizens: residence permit
- Vehicle registration certificate, part I (and part II, if the holder wants MS number plates)
- New MS number plates, if desired (not obligatory)
- In the case of old vehicle registration documents: vehicle registration documents (“Fahrzeugbrief” and “Fahrzeugschein”) or document confirming that the previous vehicle registration has been cancelled
- Proof of third party insurance via the submission of the seven-figure electronic insurance confirmation number; this combination of numbers and letters (e.g.: H7FX5A3) allows the vehicle registration office to view an electronic insurance

confirmation document stored in a database

- Written proof that the vehicle has undergone an exhaust inspection
- Main inspection report (TÜV (Technical Inspection Authority), Dekra, GTÜ etc.)
- SEPA direct debit authorisation for vehicle tax
- In the case that the vehicle is registered by a third party: power attorney and identity card belonging to the authorised individual

In the case of vehicles registered abroad:

- Identity card or passport belonging to the registered keeper of the vehicle
- Non-EU citizens: residence permit
- Direct debit authorisation for vehicle tax
- Proof of third party insurance via the submission of the insurance confirmation number (IC number), which can be obtained from the vehicle insurance company
- MS number plates

The following documents are also required in the case of vehicles previously registered in EU countries:

- Foreign vehicle registration certificates - part I and possibly part II; COC (Certificate of Conformity). If there is no COC, the car holder needs a TÜV certificate and approval.
- For vehicles more than three years old: main inspection and exhaust inspection certificates (TÜV (TIA), Dekra or GTÜ)
- Contract of sale or invoice

The following documents are also required in the case of vehicles previously registered in non-EU countries:

- Original foreign vehicle registration documentation and number plates
- TÜV (TIA) certificate in accordance with paragraph 21 Road Traffic Licensing Regulations
- Contract of sale or invoice
- Customs clearance certificate

Driving licence

The vehicle registration office also provides assistance in the case of queries regarding driving licences.

- EU citizens: EU and EEA driving licences are also valid in Germany. However, the validity period has to be checked in any case. As a general rule, these driving licences can be exchanged for a German driving licence with no additional driving examination. Special regulations may apply for bus and lorry drivers, which can be inquired for at the Vehicle Registration Office.
- Non-EU citizens: Those taking up residence in Germany and in possession of a driving licence from a non-EU country may drive a vehicle for six months after their arrival. After this, the licence automatically expires. The Vehicle Registration Office is on hand to answer any questions regarding the subsequent issue of a German driving licence, which may be associated with a driving examination.

Applying for a residents' parking permit

Life in the city centre is attractive. And parking spaces are often in short supply. Residents' parking permits significantly improve chances of finding a parking space. This is why Münster is divided into parking zones: www.stadt-muenster.de/en/citizens-office/service/resident-parking-permit/parking-zone.html.

All those whose main place of residence lies within a city centre parking zone and who do not have a garage or permanent parking space are entitled to apply for a residents' parking permit from the Citizens' Office. Applicants must present their identity card or passport, and their vehicle registration documents.

Information and online service: www.stadt-muenster.de/en/citizens-office/service/resident-parking-permit.html

II.4. Residential electricity and water supplies

The "Stadtwerke Münster" is the all-round supplier of all types of energy (electricity, natural gas, district heating) and drinking water.

Stadtwerke Münster GmbH
Hafenplatz 1
ph. 02 51/6 94-12 34
info@stadtwerke-muenster.de
www.stadtwerke-muenster.de

All those moving into a flat or house should register their electricity and water requirement, which can easily be done online via www.stadtwerke-muenster.de/kundenportal.

The service centres are an alternative:

- Service centre CityShop, Salzstraße 21
Monday to Friday from 9 am - 7 pm, Saturday from 10 am – 6 pm
- Service centre Hafenplatz 1
Monday to Friday from 9 am - 6 pm
Telephone: 02 51-6 94-12 34
Monday to Friday from 8 am - 6 pm

Applicants should register not only name, address and moving date, but also the electricity, natural gas or district heating (if applicable), and water readings. This is important in order to ensure that new residents pay only for the electricity and drinking water which they have actually used. New residents are obliged to inform the "Stadtwerke" of the meter readings within three days of moving in.

Those moving out are also required to inform the "Stadtwerke" of the final meter readings. Anyone moving within the city must inform the "Stadtwerke" of their change of address plus meter readings.

II.5. Waste management

The Germans enjoy a reputation as World Champion waste separators. In addition to recyclable materials such as paper, metal and glass, organic waste and packaging is also collected separately from the remaining waste. This approach aims to minimise waste and conserve reserves of raw materials.

Waste separation

Münster's waste management services (AWM) perform the removal of residual and organic waste (grey and brown bins), yellow bag (packaging) and blue paper bins . Bottle banks and 11 recycling centres add to this convenient system. Residual waste, paper and yellow bags are removed every two weeks, and the organic waste bin is emptied on a weekly basis. Pick up times for household waste in the city's various districts can be found on the disposal calendar. You can have a reminder sent to your mobile phone.

abfuhrtermine.stadt-muenster.de/awm/abfallkalender/abfkalen_1.php

AWM
Rösnerstraße 10
ph. 02 51/60 52 53 (service desk)

awm@stadt-muenster.de
www.awm.muenster.de

Written information regarding waste disposal issued by the waste management services is available from the Münster Information Point (ground floor, Stadthaus 1, Heinrich-Brüning-Str. 9), the district Administration Offices and the district Citizens' Offices. It can also be ordered online.

awm.stadt-muenster.de/online-service/download-center.html

Information leaflets regarding waste separation are available in several foreign languages.

A brief guide to waste separation

- Grey residual waste bin: light bulbs, hygiene products, cat litter, refuse, sticking-plasters, china, vacuum cleaner bags, nappies, toothbrushes, cigarette ends and cigarette ash
- Brown organic waste bin: kitchen and food waste such as bread and cake leftovers, egg shells, coffee filter papers, fruit and vegetables (including citrus fruits), flowers, leaves, grass cuttings
- Blue paper bin: cardboard files, writing paper and envelopes, books, egg boxes, magazines, cardboard boxes, paper and cardboard packaging, newspapers
- Yellow bag: metal packaging (cans, crown caps), synthetic packaging (clingfilm, foam packaging, yoghurt pots, polystyrene) and composites (milk and fruit juice cartons or tetra packs, frozen food packaging)
- Recyclable glass: This should be separated by colour and placed in the bottle banks located all over the city.

Ordering waste containers

The waste management services provide all premises with the required containers upon request. Bins holding between 35 and 1,100 litres are available. Each household is obliged to use a residual waste bin. Those who prefer to compost their organic waste independently can apply for an organic waste bin exemption. The paper bin is free of charge for private households. Only house-owners, object managers or landlords, and not tenants, are able to order or de-register waste bins.

Recycling centres

Recyclable and bulky goods, smaller electronic devices and problem waste from private households are accepted at 11 recycling centres throughout Münster free of charge. A fee is charged, however, for the submission of residual waste.

awm.stadt-muenster.de/wohin-mit-dem-abfall/recyclinghoefe.html

Bulky goods

Once a month, bulky household objects such as furniture, carpets and garden waste (placed in a municipal garden waste bag or tied up) are collected by the bulky goods disposal service. Large electronic devices are collected upon request only. Bookings can be made online under awm.stadt-muenster.de/wohin-mit-dem-abfall/elektrogeraete.html. Both services are free of charge.

Avoiding waste

Münster's waste management services offer an online exchange and gift market. Besides, there are exchange boxes at each of the 11 recycling centres. Whatever clients consider too valuable to throw away, can be stowed in those former phone boxes or offered online. There'll surely be somebody who fancies it.

www.awm-tauschmarkt.de/list.asp

II.6. Pets

You want to bring your pets? Then have a look what there is to do in order to import, register and keep domestic animals in the city.

Importation

Bringing animals from non-EU countries into Germany requires official permission in many cases. In principle, European Community regulations apply to the importation of domestic animals (dogs, cats and ferrets). These regulations serve to prevent the introduction and spread of rabies. In order to avoid problems during the entry process, all pets from non-EU countries which are brought into the European Community must

- be clearly identified with a microchip
- be vaccinated against rabies in accordance with the regulations,
- be accompanied by an official veterinary certificate stating the microchip number; vaccination documents and the possible results of a blood test should also be submitted.

In the case of pets entering Germany from a non-EU country in which there are instances of rabies or whose epidemic status is unknown (e.g. Turkey, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Thailand or India), a blood test (rabies antibody test) should be carried out in an EU-authorized laboratory prior to departure. After the blood test is complete, pets must wait for a period of three months before being allowed into Germany.

Problems will arise at the first EU border in the event that these requirements are not fulfilled. In these cases, pets may be sent back to the country of origin by the government veterinary surgeon, or kept in quarantine for several months. They may even be put to sleep under certain circumstances. The following legal guidelines apply specifically to dogs: so-called "dangerous dogs", e.g. pitbull terriers, American Staffordshire terriers, Staffordshire bull terriers, bull terriers and all cross-breeds may not enter Germany.

The Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection offers valuable help on the subject:

www.bmel.de/EN/Animals/PetsAndZooAnimals/pets-zoo-animals_node.html

Information:

Amt für Gesundheit, Veterinär- und Lebensmittelangelegenheiten der Stadt Münster
(Münster Veterinary and Food Regulation Office), Nieberdingstraße 30 A

ph. 02 51 / 38 48 33 11

veterinaeramt@stadt-muenster.de

www.stadt-muenster.de/verbraucherschutz

Dog licence fee

All dog owners are obliged to pay a dog licence fee. This is one of the oldest types of tax in Germany, which can be traced back to the 15th century. This tax aims to control the number of dogs in cities. Dog registration and de-registration forms can be obtained from the Citizens' Affairs Office and the Finance and Investments Office.

www.stadt-muenster.de/finanzen/steuern-und-gebuehren/hundesteuer.html

Living with pets

All those living in rented accommodation are strongly advised to ask the landlord before purchasing a pet. This can save themselves considerable trouble, as not all landlords tolerate dogs or cats on their premises.

Dogs must be kept on leads in the city, in public parks and green spaces and in woods away from designated paths. In Münster, dogs may run free away from built-up areas. This also applies to the bank of the Dortmund-Ems canal, the western part of Lake Aa and the Wienburg Park.

Information for dog holders:

Ordnungsamt (Municipal Public Order Office), Stadthaus 1, Klemensstraße 10

Tel. 02 51/4 92-32 01

ordnungsamt@stadt-muenster.de

www.stadt-muenster.de/ordnungsamt/allgemeines-ordnungswesen/landeshundegesetz.html

III. Transport

There are many ways to reach Münster. Münster enjoys an efficient infrastructure. The bicycle is the most frequently used and quickest means of urban transport. The bus route network is well-connected, and all city districts have good transport links. Car drivers will find multi-storey and underground car parks in the city.

III.1. Münster/Osnabrück International Airport (FMO)

Münster/Osnabrück International Airport is conveniently located just off the A1 motorway (Hamburg - Cologne). A few kilometers away is the junction with the A30 motorway (Amsterdam-Berlin). The FMO is thus the central airport for western Lower Saxony, Westphalia and also for the eastern Netherlands.

Destinations

Passengers of the FMO have a large range of scheduled and charter flights as well as low-cost-flights. 25 nonstop connections throughout Europe are frequently served, some even several times a day. Via hub airports like Frankfurt and Munich (Lufthansa), passengers have excellent flight options to almost all destinations around the globe. With scheduled flights to Istanbul with Turkish Airlines, the FMO has received a further hub with connections to over 250 destinations in more than 100 countries.

Amenities

Passengers at FMO appreciate the stress-free atmosphere of the airport. It is well accessible by private car, public transport or taxis and rental cars. There are approximately 7,000 parking spaces available, all within a convenient distance from the terminal. 25 travel agencies as well as restaurants and shops are located inside the terminal.

Directions

Information on directions to the airport, parking or public transportation can be obtained online at:

www.fmo.de/en/service/arrival-departure/

Bookings

Flights from Münster/Osnabrück can be easily booked at your travel agency or online:

www.fmo.de/en

Check in

Passengers on scheduled flights should check in 30 minutes prior to departure at the latest, while those on holiday flights should arrive at the check-in counter 90 minutes before departure time. Information on checking in, baggage, security and duty free can be obtained online at:

www.fmo.de/en/service/

III.2. Rail

The main railway station is well-connected to the Deutsche Bahn (German Railways) rail network, with the result that travelling to important European urban centres and all major German cities is both quick and convenient. Regional rail transport companies supplement the range of services available in the Münsterland region.

Timetables and tickets

Service centre *mobilé* on Berliner Platz 22 (opposite the main railway station):

Timetables, tickets and information

Monday to Friday from 9 am - 7 pm, Saturday from 9 am – 2 pm

Telephone information regarding buses and trains: 018 03 / 50 40 30 (9 cents per minute/ max. 42 cents via mobile phone)

Deutsche Bahn AG

Service hotline: 0 18 06 / 99 66 33 (20 cents per minute/ 60 cents via mobile phone)

Free timetable information: Tel. 08 00 / 1 50 70 90

Timetables and reservations online: www.bahn.de

Tickets available via mobile app.

Westfalenbahn GmbH

Münster-Rheine and Münster-Osnabrück regional railways

Tel. 05 21 / 55 77 77 55

www.westfalenbahn.de/kontakt.php

www.westfalenbahn.de

Nordwestbahn GmbH

Niederrhein/ Ruhr/ Münsterland regional railway

Tel. 018 06 / 60 01 61 (20/ 60 cents per minute)

www.nordwestbahn.de

Tickets available via mobile app.

eurobahn

Regional trains between Münster-Dortmund, Münster-Hamm-Bielefeld and Münster-Hamm-Paderborn

ph. 01 80 6 / 9 27 37 27

info@eurobahn.de

www.eurobahn.de/en

General information on local public rail services:

www.muenster.de/stadt/stadtplanung/bus-bahn.html

Local and long-distance rail services

Passengers can use a variety of different types of railway service to reach their various destinations:

- Intercity (IC) and eurocity (EC) trains connect Münster directly with many other destinations in Germany and abroad. European capitals such as Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris, Copenhagen and Warsaw can be reached conveniently with just a single change.
- Regional express (RE) and regional railways (RB) offer an hourly service, linking Münster with destinations throughout North Rhine-Westphalia, Osnabrück and Emden in Lower Saxony and Enschede in the Netherlands. Many of these trains also stop at other stations in Münster, including the Zentrum Nord (North Centre), Hilstrup, Albachten, Amelsbüren, Sprakel and Häger.

III.3. City buses, ÖPNV (regional public transport)

The “Stadtwerke Münster“ and their partners provide transport for 120,000 passengers on a daily basis. About 20 city bus routes link the various districts with the inner city, while taxi bus and night buses supplement these services around the clock. Destinations within the Münsterland region are also easily accessible by bus.

Timetables, tickets and information

Service centres:

- *mobile* on Berliner Platz (opposite the main railway station):
Monday to Friday from 9 am - 7 pm, Saturday from 9 am – 2 pm
- CityShop, Salzstraße 21

Monday to Friday from 9 am - 7 pm, Saturday from 10 am – 6 pm
<https://www.stadtwerke-muenster.de/privatkunden/busverkehr.html>
Telephone information: 018 06 / 50 40 30 (20 / 60 cents per minute)

Tickets

A range of different tickets is available: single tickets, tickets valid for four or ten journeys, day tickets for individuals and groups (valid from 9 am onwards), weekly and monthly tickets. You can have the ticket sent to your mobile phone for journeys within Münster. The most comfortable option is the 90 minutes electronic ticket: no change necessary, always travelling on the cheapest fare.

Regular tickets can be purchased either on the bus, or at ticket machines and advance ticket offices, which is cheaper. Important: bus and rail tickets must be stamped at the ticket machines. Anyone travelling without a stamped ticket is deemed a fare-dodger and is fined 60 euros if caught.

Bus services

City bus

The "Stadtwerke" promise a bus every ten minutes at many bus stops. As several bus routes use the most important traffic arteries, passengers never have to wait long for buses on weekdays. Otherwise, city buses usually run every 20 minutes, with a half-hourly service on Sundays.

All buses stop at the main railway station. Other important stops on the city bus routes are Ludgeriplatz, Altstadt/Bült and Aegidiimarkt.

Night bus

Night buses run from about 8:30 pm to after 1 am, with an all-night service at weekends.

Taxi bus

Münster's outlying districts are also linked by taxi buses. These travel according to a fixed timetable and route, but run only in the event that a telephone reservation is made half an hour before the scheduled departure. Reservations under ph. 6 94 - 50 00. A valid bus ticket is sufficient for the journey.

Bus services in the Münsterland region

The entire Münsterland region is linked via regional and express buses and the regional night bus, with services usually running every 60 or 30 minutes.

Combining buses and taxis

First bus, then taxi: this is possible via the taxi-call service. Bus drivers can order taxis for passengers, which collect them at the bus stop and take them home. Those wishing to use this service should tell the bus driver their name and the bus stop from which they wish to be collected, when boarding the bus.

Ladies' night taxi

Bus drivers can order the ladies' night taxi for female passengers aged 14 years and above, who wish to travel home by taxi after completing their bus journeys. The "Stadtwerke" cover the costs of the taxi's outward journey, passengers have to pay the fare only. This service is available from April to September from 8 pm and from October to March from 6 pm.

III.4. Taxis

There are taxi ranks at the main railway station and at many other locations in Münster. Anyone wishing to order a taxi should call the

- Taxi-Zentrale Münster (Münster Taxi Exchange)
ph. 02 51 / 6 00 11

If calling from the Hilstrup and Amelsbüren districts please dial: Tel. 0 25 01 - 65 55

- Online reservations: www.taxizentrale-muenster.de (and mobile app)
- Taxiruf Münster (Münster Taxi Call)
ph. 02 51 / 2 55 00
Online reservations: www.taxi-muenster.de (and mobile app)

The fare level is set in advance. The drivers switch on the fare display indicator during journeys within the city. Taxi firms offer fixed prices for journeys outside the city, e.g. to the airport. Passengers have a free choice of taxi, e.g. it is not necessary to board the first vehicle waiting at the taxi rank.

The taxi firms also provide other services, including a courier service, invalid transport and even a shopping service. They are also happy to help in other cases. If your car breaks down, for example, taxi drivers will get it back on the road in no time with a jump lead.

III.5. Bicycles

Münster is a city of bicycles, and the “Leeze”, as it is known in Münster dialect, is the most frequently used means of transport. Bicycles constitute 39 per cent of traffic in Münster. In 2014, the amount of motorized vehicle traffic fell to 29 percent, making it lower than the bicycle traffic statistics. This is unique in Germany. The bicycle network is extremely well signposted with red and white signs.

- For an initial overview of the cycle path network and the traffic regulations for cyclists, please visit:
www.muenster.de/stadt/stadtplanung/radverkehr.html
- Bicycle maps are available in bookshops and from the Münster Information Point, which is located in Stadthaus 1, Heinrich-Brüning-Straße 9.

Bicycle parking options

Visitors and new citizens alike are often amazed at the endless rows of bicycles parked at the main railway station and in the Old Town. Those parking bicycles should ensure that pavements, escape routes and slip roads are not obstructed in the process. Cyclists can make use of three bicycle parks to ensure that their two-wheelers are stored safely during their absence.

Radstation Münster (Münster Bicycle Station), Berliner Platz 27a (in front of the main railway station)

Germany's largest underground bicycle park, with 3,300 parking spaces. Bike repair and rental service available.

ph. 02 51 / 4 84 01 70

www.radstation.de

Radstation Münster-Arkaden (Münster Arcades Bicycle Station), Königsstraße 7

Also with bike repair and rental service.

ph. 02 51 / 7 03 67 90.

Radlager (Bicycle Storage), Stubengasse

Parking only, automatic entrance.

www.radstation.de/de/stubengasse/zweigstelle-stubengasse/5_72.html

Parking a bike correctly includes securely locking it. Unfortunately, more bicycles are stolen in Münster than in other city. Moreover, those who inconsiderately leave their bicycles in inappropriate locations on pavements, streets or pedestrian zones, may have to collect them from central collection points later on. Bicycles which disrupt traffic or obstruct footpaths are removed by the municipal authorities.

Purchasing bicycles

Cycling is fun, comfortable and safe with the right bike. Tips on tailoring bicycle size to height and choosing the correct equipment can be obtained from: www.adfc.de

Specialist dealers in over 60 bicycle stores are on stand-by with moral and practical support. Second-hand bicycles are also auctioned on a regular basis at discounted prices.

Information and auction dates:

Citizens' Office

ph. 02 51 / 6 06 88 46

fundbuero@stadt-muenster.de

www.stadt-muenster.de/buergerservice/fundsachen.html

Bicycle rental

Bicycles can be rented from bicycle stations, many bicycle dealers and other suppliers. A list of rental points and prices is available at:

www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus/en/city-of-bikes.html

www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus/en/bike-rental.html

Cycling code

- Cycle paths or lanes are a staple feature of all main roads in and around Münster. These also link the city districts with the inner city.
- There are also special traffic light signals for cyclists at crossroads. Cyclists are frequently guided over main junctions with their own green light periods and "cycle bridges".
- The promenade is an attractive avenue for cyclists and pedestrians which encircles the Old Town.
- The general speed limit in residential areas is 30 km per hour. This promotes the orderly co-existence of all road users and increases quality of life in built-up areas.
- In contrast to car drivers, cyclists may ride in both directions on "artificial one-way streets" which are marked as such. However, those caught cycling in the wrong direction on genuine one-way streets are obliged to pay a 15 euro fine.
- Cyclists may use the bus lane on combined bus and cycle lanes, e.g. by the main railway station.
- As a rule, pedestrian zones are opened for cycle traffic at night. Signs inform cyclists of the precise access times. Bicycles should be pushed outside these times. Those who cycle in pedestrian zones during the daytime should reckon with a possible 10 euro fine.
- Cyclists have priority over car drivers on cycle routes. However, it is necessary to show consideration for others here, too.

In the case of traffic violations

Cyclists have no airbag and are vulnerable if involved in a collision. These facts alone constitute good reasons for cyclists to comply with traffic regulations - for their own safety. Traffic violations are punished by fines. Here is an excerpt from the "price list":

Cycling along cycle paths in the wrong direction: 20 euros

Using a mobile phone while cycling: 25 euros

Cycling "hands-free" or with headphones or ear plugs: 10 euros

Cycling at night without lights: 20 euros

Cycling through a red light: 125 euros and one month's driving ban

Cycling with a blood alcohol level of 1.6: disqualification from driving

III.6. Cars

Driving in Münster is not particularly stressful, despite the fact that the city attracts a lot of traffic. There is good road access to the city for visitors, parking is convenient and it is also easy to register your own vehicle. Car-sharing is a practical and inexpensive alternative to keeping your own car.

- Information about directions, street plan, multi-storey car parks, parking guidance system, vehicle registration: www.muenster.de/auto.html
- Information and street plans: The Münster Information Point in Stadthaus 1 and in the historic Town Hall on Prinzpalmarkt; ph. 0251 / 4 92-27 10
- The inner city is low emission zone (LEZ). Car drivers need a green or yellow badge to be allowed to drive within the LEZ. Badges can be purchased at the TÜV, Dekra or GTÜ offices, as well as at over 30,000 garages in all Germany. In Münster, the Citizens' Offices and the Vehicle Registration Office sell them for five euros. Car holders need to present their vehicle registration certificate.
www.stadt-muenster.de/umwelt/immissionsschutz/luft/umweltzone.html

Arrival

Münster can be reached conveniently by car: those travelling from the Ruhr district and the Rhineland should take the motorways A1 and A43 to the Münster-Süd junction (Münster-South), while those approaching from Bremen and Hamburg should take the A1 to the Münster-Nord junction (Münster-North). A and B roads also lead into and through the city from all directions.

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

Parking

A parking guidance system is available, which helps visitors to find parking spaces.

www.stadt-muenster.de/tiefbauamt/parkleitsystem/

There are seven multi-storey and underground car parks in the Old Town and near the main railway station, and another two at the Cineplex cinema and Stadthaus 3, near the Halle Münsterland. A selection of parking spaces is also available for long-stay visitors. The main inner city car park, with space for over 900 cars, is located on the Schlossplatz, in front of the baroque castle.

- Information on multi-storey car parks, opening hours, parking charges and long-stay visitors is available from:
Westfälische Bauindustrie, ph. 02 51 / 97 23 20
info@wbi-muenster.de
www.wbi-muenster.de

Car registration and driving licences

The Vehicle Registration Office is on hand to answer questions regarding vehicle registration and driving licences.

- Kfz-Zulassungsstelle (Vehicle Registration Office), Rudolf-Diesel-Straße 5-7
Monday to Wednesday and Friday from 7:30 am – 12 noon, Thursday from 7:30 am - 2 pm, plus (on appointment): Monday to Wednesday from 12 noon to 4 pm, Thursday from 2 – 6 pm
ph. 02 51 / 4 92-35 11
kfz-zulassung@stadt-muenster.de
- www.stadt-muenster.de/kfz (see chapter II.3.)

Car-sharing

Car-sharing is a practical and inexpensive alternative to running your own car.

“Stadtteilautos” are available from a range of service points across the city. The benefits: users have nothing to do with the cars' insurance, maintenance or cleaning.

- Stadtteilauto Münster
ph. 02 51 / 38 32 30
info@stadtteilauto.com
www.stadtteilauto-muenster.de
- Registrations can also be made every Monday and Thursday from 4 pm – 6 pm at the service centre *mobile* opposite the main railway station.

IV. Education, school, training, studying, work

Experience shows that foreign citizens planning a longer stay in their host country integrate more quickly if they make educational, training or working arrangements at an early stage. This chapter gives you an overview of childcare services, the school system, further training options and the job market.

IV.1. Day care for children

Reliable day care for children is an important factor for parents who have to combine family and employment. Münster offers a wide range of children's day care and nursery facilities. Children gain their first experience with children of the same age. They learn German and about German culture through play and normal everyday activities. The child's development will be professionally monitored and supported. Childcare attendance is not compulsory. However, once a child reaches the age of one, parents have a legal right to a place in day-care. The Münster City Familienbüro (Family Support Centre) helps families to find a suitable solution for their needs.

Amt für Kinder, Jugendliche und Familien, - Familienbüro (Office for Children, Young Adults and Families, - Family Support Centre), Junkerstraße 1

ph. 02 51 / 4 92-51 08

familienbuero@stadt-muenster.de

www.stadt-muenster.de/jugendamt

Monday to Friday from 9 am - 12 pm, Thursday afternoons from 2:30 pm - 6 pm and by arrangement

Finding the right day-care facility

There are different types of childcare for children of all ages. The Familienbüro will be happy to provide more information. As well as nurseries, there are also childminders, who look after small groups of children. Many nurseries and day-care facilities organise information events for parents.

Many nurseries are equipped to meet the requirements of children with special educational needs. Don't hesitate to seek advice for extra help if you have a child with special needs.

For basic conceptual questions on day-care:

Andreas Wildemann, ph. 02 51/ 4 92-51 33

wildemann@stadt-muenster.de

The *Kita-Navigator* is a practical database with profiles of all day-care facilities and gives an overview about childcare in Münster.

www.kita-navigator.stadt-muenster.de

www.stadt-muenster.de/jugendamt/kindertagesbetreuung/kindertageseinrichtungen/anmelde-und-aufnahmeverfahren.html

Registering for a place

Registering for a facility is easily done online via the Kita-Navigator, as well:

www.kita-navigator.stadt-muenster.de

If you need help using the Navigator, the Familienbüro will be happy to assist. The nursery year always begins in August and children need to be registered by the previous 31st January. If parents require childcare for their child at short notice or in the course of the year, the Familienbüro advises on the options available.

How much does day-care cost?

Contributions depend on the parents' income. For parents with a joint pre-tax income of less

than 3000 euros per month, nursery places in Münster are free of charge. If you have more than one child, you still only pay for one child.

Gabriele Bauer, ph. 02 51 / 4 92-51 47
bauerg@stadt-muenster.de

Services for school children

Most schools provide care for children after teaching hours and provide pupils with a lunch service. Please see chapter IV.2 ("School education").

Services for all children

Parents who have an appointment in town or who wish to shop in peace in the city centre can take advantage of the childcare service (available for a maximum of three hours per day) provided in the "Maxi-Turm", which is centrally located on the Prinzipalmarkt, next to the Town Hall. There is no need to register children in advance. The "Maxi-Turm" is designed for children aged between three and ten years of age, and is open from Mondays to Fridays from 2 pm to 6 pm and from 10 am to 6 pm on Saturdays. From May to September, a sandy play area ("Maxi-Sand") is set up on the Syndikatplatz in the city centre for families with young children.

www.stadt-muenster.de/kinderbuero/maxi-turm-maxi-sand.html

IV.2. School education

In Germany, school attendance is compulsory from the age of six. All children must attend school for a minimum of ten years. There are various different types of school. In general primary school (years 1 to 4) is followed by secondary school, which takes the child through to year 10 or, if studying for the Abitur (the university entrance qualification), through to year 12 or 13.

Which school for my child?

In Münster there are a number of state, church and private schools. State and church schools are free to attend, private schools may require payment of a fee.

www.muenster.de/stadt/schulamt/international.html

The online schools database gives an overview:

www.stadt-muenster.de/schulamt/schule-in-muenster/schuldatenbank

For the first four years, your child will attend a primary school, which the parents elect. From year 5, you can choose from a variety of school types: Hauptschulen (secondary general schools), Realschulen (intermediate secondary schools), Gesamtschulen (comprehensive schools), Sekundarschulen (secondary schools), Gymnasien (grammar schools) and the PRIMUS School.

Some schools (Referenzschulen) are able to offer children from abroad extra support with learning German. A Referenzschule may be any of the school types listed above.

PRIMUS, the city's model school, and the private schools Montessorischule and Waldorfschule accept children from year 1 to year 10. Waldorfschule also accepts children for the Abitur.

City of Münster Schulamt (Schools Office)

Stadthaus I, Klemensstraße 10, 48143 Münster

Bildungsberatung (Education Advisory Service)

Stadthaus I, Klemensstraße 10, 48143 Münster

• Esther Bückmann, ph. 02 51/4 92 - 40 49

Bueckmanne@stadt-muenster.de

- Christine Czepok, ph. 02 51/4 92 - 40 42
Czepok@stadt-muenster.de
- Jasmina Schäfer, ph. 02 51/4 92 - 40 47
SchaeferJ@stadt-muenster.de
- Monika Spöhle, ph. 02 51/4 92 - 40 76
Spoehle@stadt-muenster.de

Advice can be provided in multiple languages if required.

Registering for a school

The school year always starts in summer. For primary schools, children need to be registered by the November before they will start school. For secondary schools, children need to be registered in the February before the start of the new school year. You can choose which school your child will attend, but you may only register for one school. If you have moved to Münster during the school year and are looking for the right school for your child, please contact the Bildungsberatung (Education Advisory Service) directly.

Every child who attends school is examined by a doctor. The examination is organised by the school and is carried out free of charge.

Afternoon childcare and schooling

Many schools have lessons in the morning only. Most schools are able to provide afternoon childcare and lunch if required. Whether or not you take advantage of this provision is your choice. Some schools have lessons all day. You can find out more about all-day schools and supervision of your child in the afternoon from schools and from the schools database: www.stadt-muenster.de/schulamt/schule-in-muenster/schuldatenbank

Parents have to make an income-based contribution to the costs of all-day school care. The same principle applies for school children as for children in pre-school day-care: Parents only pay for one child, even if they have several children. Financial contribution towards lunch is extra and amounts to between 2.80 and 3.50 euros per day and child. Low-income families can apply for an allowance:

www.stadt-muenster.de/jugendamt/kindertagesbetreuung/kindertageseinrichtungen/elternbeitrag-kosten.html

Financial support

State schools in Germany are free to attend. There is no charge for either the parents or the child. Under specific circumstances, you can apply for financial assistance with costs arising in relation to school attendance, e. g. for school books. Further information can be obtained from schools or the Bildungsberatung (Education Advisory Service, see above).

Children with special needs

Every child is in good hands in Münster's schools and nurseries, regardless of his or her abilities. Children with and without special educational needs learn together and from each other.

In Münster, all children can attend a normal school. If a special school might be more appropriate for your child, this option is also available.

City of Münster Schulamt (Schools Office)
Stadthaus I, Klemensstraße 10, 48143 Münster
ph. 02 51 / 4 92 - 40 09
schulaufsicht@stadt-muenster.de

Interpreters / Linguistic and cultural mediators

Schools can request interpreters for meetings with parents that concern issues with legal implications, such as certificates, grades or moving up to the next class.

Meetings between parents and the school can be supported by freelance linguistic and

cultural mediators. They have undergone intercultural training and work in more than one language. There is no charge to parents for their services.

The Münster Integration Council is cooperating with the Migrants Self-Organisations to offer intercultural counselling for parents by competent native speakers. Those are volunteers and help to facilitate communication between parents and the various educational institutions. Newly immigrated children and young people should find the best possible access into the German school system and be able to manage the transition from school to professional life. Support is offered in Albanian, Arab, Azerbaijani, English, French, Greek, Kurdish-Kurmanji, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Slovenian, Spanish and Turkish.

Münster Integration Council
Dr. Ömer Lütfü Yavuz, Tel. 0176/25191257
yavuz@muenster.de

Support and assistance for families in challenging situations

Life with children gives rise to many challenging situations. Get help,

- if your child is having difficulty learning
- if there is conflict at school
- if your child is finding day-to-day life at school difficult

In the event of difficulties at school, your child's form teacher is the first point of contact. Advisory teaching staff or educational social workers are also available at many schools. The Schulpsychologische Beratungsstelle (School Psychology Advisory Service) is there for everyone – parents, teachers and children.

School Psychology Advisory Service
Klosterstraße 33, 48143 Münster
ph. 02 51/4 92 - 40 81
schulpsy@stadt-muenster.de

IV.3. Learning German – without forgetting your native language

Mastering German is essential for a good education. A wide range of language support options for children of all ages is available in Münster.

In day-care, small children learn German through play. Language development will be evaluated by nursery nurses. You have a right to specific language support for your child where needed. Some nurseries also offer complementary language support for parents. Nurseries support, monitor and document the linguistic development of all children in their care. If you as a parent do not want the nursery to document your child's development in this way, he or she will need to take a language test at the age of four. Children who do not attend day-care also take this test. Children who are identified as requiring language support have to attend a language course. Any questions:

Andreas Wildemann, ph. 02 51/ 4 92-51 33
wildemann@stadt-muenster.de

All schools are able to provide children from abroad with support in learning German. Some schools are specialised in this area.

Lessons in the child's first language

Many immigrant children grow up speaking more than one language. To ensure that they retain and continue to develop their first language, additional lessons in other languages, e.g. Arabic, Bosnian, Italian, Croatian, Modern Greek, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Spanish or Turkish are available.

www.muenster.de/stadt/schulamt/international_foerderung.html#Unterricht

Bildungsberatung (Education Advisory Service)
Stadthaus I, Klemensstraße 10, 48143 Münster
• Esther Bückmann, ph. 02 51/4 92 - 40 49
Bueckmanne@stadt-muenster.de
• Christine Czepok, Tel. 02 51/4 92 - 40 42
Czepok@stadt-muenster.de
• Jasmina Schäfer, Tel. 02 51/4 92 - 40 47
SchaeferJ@stadt-muenster.de
• Monika Spöhle, Tel. 02 51/4 92 - 40 76
Spoehle@stadt-muenster.de

German as a foreign language

The adult education centre (“Volkshochschule Münster”) offers a wide variety of more than 120 courses for German as a foreign language to students from all over the world. It offers all levels from basic to advanced (A1-C2) with the possibility for students to take the respective internationally recognized telc or Goethe-Institute examinations.

Pupils can also learn German, or improve their knowledge of the language, by attending “Club D”. Children and teenagers meet at the adult education centre twice a week for two hours and practise grammar, spelling and vocabulary. Here, the emphasis is placed on speaking and understanding. At present, pupils are divided into groups according to their levels of ability (A1-B1) and age. “Club D” is free of charge – only materials have to be paid for. An initial assessment is obligatory.

Volkshochschule (Münster Adult Education Centre), Aegidiimarkt 3

ph. 02 51 / 4 92-43 21 (service desk)

vhs@stadt-muenster.de

vhs.stadt-muenster.de/programm/fachbereiche-sprachen-und-laender-sprachberatung

Family education centres also offer German language courses (see section IV.4, “Additional further education establishments”). The city is also home to a range of private language schools.

IV.4. Additional further education establishments, seminars and courses

Many establishments offer further education. Information about these institutions and the courses they offer can be obtained from the municipal library on Alter Steinweg, the Münster Information Point in Stadthaus 1 and in the city’s various district administration offices.

www.muenster.de/weiterbildung

Münster Public Library

The Münster Public Library is a place to explore for everyone, whatever age or interests. There are quiet spaces to study or read, and about 300.000 books, dvds, blu-rays, audio-books, newspapers and magazines to choose from and borrow. Visitors from other countries appreciate the collection of language courses, fiction, children’s books and newspapers in different languages. The library provides free Wifi and internet access for customers also in the branch libraries. Complementary to the main library at Alter Steinweg in the town centre and an eBranch (muensterload.de), five branches and a mobile library cover the outer parts of town.

Münster Public Library, Alter Steinweg 11, is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 7pm and Saturday from 10am to 6pm. Monday is self-service only.

ph. 02 51 - 4 92 42 42

buecherei@muenster.de

www.stadt-muenster.de/buecherei

www.muensterload.de (eBranch)

Further education institutions (selection)

Volkshochschule Münster (Münster Adult Education Centre), Aegidiimarkt 3
ph. 02 51 / 4 92-43 21
www.vhs.muenster.de

The adult education centre in Münster (Volkshochschule Münster VHS) is a communal centre for further education which functions as important pillar for learning and education. With its courses and seminars – which are accessible to everyone – the VHS covers the demand for education beyond schools, universities, institutions for continuing professional development and youth work.

Courses and seminars are accessible to everyone. They cover a wide range of areas such as general education and the fields of political, professional and cultural education and qualification. The VHS provides language courses and organises language proficiency tests in cooperation with renowned institutions on all levels defined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages established by the Council of Europe. The VHS is accredited as examinations centre for language certificates and other officially recognised certificates in the fields of information technology, economy, social work and cross-cultural competence.

Anna-Krückmann-Haus, Friedensstraße 5
ph. 02 51 / 3 35 74
info@anna-krueckmann-haus.de
www.anna-krueckmann-haus.de

Arbeitskreis soziale Bildung und Beratung (Working Party for Social Education and Counselling)
An der Germania-Brauerei 1
ph. 02 51 / 27 72 30
www.asbbmuenster.de

Evangelische Familienbildungsstätte Paul-Gerhardt-Haus (Protestant Family Education Centre)
Friedrichstraße 10
ph. 02 51 / 4 81 67 80
www.ev-fabi-ms.de

Haus der Familie, Krummer Timpen 42
ph. 02 51 / 41 86 60
fbs-muenster@bistum-muenster.de
www.haus-der-familie-muenster.de/

Franz-Hitze-Hause, katholisch-soziale Akademie des Bistums Münster (Catholic-Social Academy of the Diocese of Münster)
Kardinal-von-Galen-Ring 50
ph. 02 51 / 9 81 80
www.franz-hitze-haus.de

IV.5. Job market

The job market situation in Münster is currently good. For the last couple of years, the unemployment rate has been well below the average figure for the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

Working in Münster as a citizen from an EU member state or from Switzerland:

Citizens from these states enjoy freedom of movement in their capacity as employees and self-employed individuals. They do not require a special work permit from either the Migration Office or the Federal Employment Agency.

Working in Münster as a non-EU citizen

Those from non-EU countries require a work permit in order to be able to work in Germany. Questions regarding residence and work permits are clarified in a combined procedure in accordance with Federal immigration law. The city's Immigration Office is the first port of call for job-seeking foreigners and decides whether somebody is eligible to work and to what extent, and record this eligibility in the residence permits accordingly.

Amt für Ausländerangelegenheiten (Immigration Office), Ludgeriplatz 4 (Südstraße entrance),

Monday to Friday from 8 am to 12 pm, plus Thursday afternoons from 3 pm to 6 pm

ph. 02 51 / 4 92-36 36

auslaenderamt@stadt-muenster.de

www.stadt-muenster.de/en/auslaenderamt/employment.html

Career choice – searching for apprenticeships

Stepping into professional life can be difficult for school-leavers and students. The careers advisors at the Federal Employment Agency support those in need of advice as regards the transitions from school to training and study to professional life.

Martin-Luther-King-Weg 22

ph. 08 00 4 55 555 00 (free)

ahlen-muenster.biz@arbeitsagentur.de

www.arbeitsagentur.de/web/content/EN/index.htm

Applying for an electronic tax card

Those wishing to work in Germany legally (and be liable to pay tax and receive social security benefits) require a tax card. It contains information about date of birth, religious confession, number of child allowances and tax category. The employer usually knows whether or not it is necessary to apply for a German tax ID, and where to go, as there are two tax offices in Münster:

- Finanzamt Münster-Innenstadt (inner city tax office), Münzstraße 10

ph. 02 51 / 416-0

www.finanzamt-muenster-innenstadt.de/allgemein/eckdaten/fa337.php

- Finanzamt Münster-Außenstadt, Friedrich-Ebert-Straße 46

ph. 02 51 / 97 29-0

www.finanzamt-muenster-aussenstadt.de/allgemein/eckdaten/fa336.php

Consultation times Monday to Friday 7 – 12 am, plus Monday 1:30 – 5 pm

For general tax information please see: www.elster.de

Approval of foreign qualifications and certificates

In order to obtain a formal acceptance for foreign certificates, university grades or professional qualifications, the first challenge is to find the right place to go. The Chambers of Commerce and Industry, for example, are responsible for commercial and industrial-technical professions. The guilds, several government agencies, the school authorities or even the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs – for university degrees – can also be the appropriate address. Valuable information about the legal acceptance procedures can be found at

www.integration.nrw.de/Anerkennung_von_Qualifikationen/index.php

IV.6 Studying in Münster

There are many good reasons to study in Münster. The internationally renowned universities and the strong economy, historical city and attractive nightlife all exercise a strong appeal on overseas students. And last but not least, over 100 million people around the world speak

German.

International Offices

The number of overseas students at Münster's universities is growing continually thanks to globalisation and internationalisation. Around 3,400 young foreigners are currently studying at the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster (University of Münster, WWU) alone. The universities promote international exchange and deliberately invite overseas students to study in Münster via support programmes.

The universities also help their overseas guests to organise their studies and life in their host country quickly and smoothly, so that they can concentrate on their education. The WWU, the University of Applied Sciences, the Catholic University of Applied Sciences North Rhine-Westphalia and the Academy of Fine Arts have all set up international offices for this purpose. These inform overseas students about the range of degree courses on offer, admission, registration and study fees, and help them to find flats and language courses.

University of Münster

International Office, Schlossplatz 3

ph. 02 51 / 83 222 15

international.office@uni-muenster.de

www.uni-muenster.de/InternationalOffice/en/index.html

The university's international centre is called "Die Brücke" ("Bridge"). It is part of the International Office. The Brücke promotes internationality and international dialogue. It advises foreign students and doctoral students, and provides support in matters of accommodation, bureaucracy and everyday issues.

www.uni-muenster.de/DieBruecke/en/

University of Applied Sciences in Münster

International Office, Hüfferstraße 27

Tel. 02 51 / 8 36 41 02

<https://en.fh-muenster.de/internationaloffice/index.php>

The office offers foreign students a range of services, including a welcome service and workshops concerning life and culture in Germany.

https://en.fh-muenster.de/internationaloffice/incomings/international_students.php?p=2

Catholic University of Applied Sciences North Rhine-Westphalia

International Office – Cologne head office

ph. 02 21 / 77 57-313

international@katho-nrw.de

www.katho-nrw.de/katho-nrw/internationalisation/?L=1

Academy of Fine Arts Münster – College of Visual Arts

International Office at the Study Office, Leonardo Campus 2

ph. 02 51 / 83 61-102

nienhaus@kunstakademie-muenster.de

www.kunstakademie-muenster.de/international/

Semester charge and semester ticket

Universities usually levy a semester charge upon initial registration and subsequent re-registrations. This charge currently amounts to 239 euros (University of Münster, UAS: 233 euros). This charge is not related to study fees, but is a contribution to the public facilities offered by the university. It also covers the semester ticket, which allows students to use public transport, e.g buses and regional trains in North Rhine-Westphalia for the entire semester free of charge.

Living costs

The majority of students have between 650 and 700 euros per month at their disposal, the individual need depends on the amount of extra expenses incurred, such as those for literature and leisure activities. The semester charge is not included in this amount. The renowned online newspaper DIE ZEIT compares living costs in German cities. According to this survey, Münster ranges in the middle of the table with an average of 775 euros per month (2015).

Obligation to register

The registration law in North Rhine-Westphalia stipulates that each instance of moving into, moving out of or changing one's place of residence must be registered with the local authorities ("Anmeldung", "Abmeldung" or "Ummeldung") within one week. By law, a furnished room or place to sleep is also considered a "place of residence". The municipal Citizens' Affairs Office and the district administration offices issue registration forms. See chapters II.2 and II.3 for further information regarding registration formalities and residence permit.

Health insurance

Students from the EU require a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). This, or its predecessor (form 128), are required in order to be able to take advantage of health insurance services. Other overseas students must take out an overseas health insurance policy which is valid in Germany, or register with an official German health insurance fund. The monthly student charge is around 80 euros.

Living

It is often difficult to find a flat, particularly in a foreign country.

Helpful information is provided at:

www.uni-muenster.de/en/living/accomodation/index.html

The first port of call for those looking for a room or flat is the Münster Student Union (Studentenwerk), which rents students cheap accommodation in halls of residence. Overseas students can apply for places online in advance from their home countries. If a room is free, the student union sends the tenancy agreement directly to the students. It is very important that applicants check their post and e-mails regularly, as otherwise the room will be rented to someone else. Tenants can transfer the rental deposit, a standard security precaution for landlords in Germany, while still in their home countries. The rent is paid to the student union by direct debit each month. The tenant organises a direct debit authorisation for this purpose. This means that tenants authorise the student union to debit the rent from a bank account of their choice each month. As this is only possible from a German bank account, overseas students are required to open an account upon arrival.

- Wohnraumverwaltung des Studentenwerks Münster (Student Union Münster - Accommodation Administration), Bismarckallee 5
ph. 02 51 / 83 79-5 53
wohnen@studentenwerk-muenster.de
www.studentenwerk-muenster.de/en
Consultation times: Tuesdays - Thursdays from 9 am-12 pm and Thursday afternoon from 1-3 pm
By telephone: Mondays - Thursdays from 8:45 am-3:00 pm, Fridays from 8:45 am-12:00 pm

In addition to the student union, other private and ecclesiastical sponsors offer reasonable accommodation in halls of residence. The International Student Accommodation Association rents out rooms in houses which used to belong to British army members.

www.muenster.org/wohnheime

Sharing a flat with others is very popular with many students. Renting a shared flat is usually

more expensive than living in halls of residence. For further information on flat-hunting, see chapter II.1. ("Housing market"). The municipal housing office provides advice particularly for students:

www.stadt-muenster.de/wohnungsamt/wohnungsvermittlung/studierende.html

Bank account

Those renting a room in a hall of residence require a German bank account in order to pay the monthly rent. Overseas students wishing to open an account must provide proof of the following: a permanent address in Münster, a student ID or a corresponding certificate confirming their student status. Students from the EU receive a free account from all banks.

University Sports Service

The university sports service offers all students in Münster a very extensive, reasonably priced sport programme from A for athletics to Y for yoga. Students don't pay any basic costs – they only have to pay for the individual sport courses. Students are issued with a university sport semester ticket upon registration (either online or in person in the University Sports Services Office).

University Sports Service, Leonardo-Campus 11

ph. 02 51 / 8 33 83 90

hochschulsport@uni-muenster.de

www.uni-muenster.de/Hochschulsport/en/

V. Leisure

It comes as no surprise that "The World's Most Liveable City" (LivCom-Award 2004) and its surroundings welcome visitors with a range of attractive leisure activities. New citizens can gain a first impression of Münster during one of the many guided tours. The Münsterland region, dotted with picturesque moated castles, is also well worth a visit. And what else is there? A host of museums, festivals and cultural and sporting events.

The municipal Press Office offers some virtual sightseeing – just to get a taste:

www.muenster.de/stadt/medien/virtual-tour.html

V.1. Getting to know Münster

Explore the many-faceted city of Münster during an expert guided tour, a guided coach tour or on your own initiative.

www.muenster.de/sightseeing.html

www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus/en/well-worth-seeing.html

There are many options for those who want to get a taste of Münster. Here is a selection:

"Stadt-Lupe Münster"

The association "Stadt-Lupe" organises guided tours for individuals and groups. The two-hour tour of the Old Town (daily from 11 am plus 2 pm from May to October, advance booking recommended) is a good way to get to know the historic side of Münster. This tour is also offered in English. Alternative tour times or tours in other languages can be arranged on an individual basis. A simple telephone call will suffice, and online reservations are also possible. A selection of themed tours, ranging from the city's history to present day life in Münster, is also on offer.

- Timetable and tickets: "Stadt-Lupe" (office next to the tourist information), Heinrich-Brüning-Straße 9
ph. 02 51 / 4 92-27 70
Monday to Friday from 10 am - 6 pm, Saturday from 10 am – 1 pm
Tickets can also be obtained from the information point at the city office in the historic Town Hall (Prinzpalmarkt), and at the guided tour meeting points. Tickets for some events with a limited number of participants can only be obtained in advance.
www.stadt-lupe.de

"StattReisen Münster"

The company "StattReisen" organises a range of themed tours by day and night. "Horror nights" and tours with the night-watchman ensure that the occasional cold shiver runs down your spine. The company also offers a selection of "city games".

- Timetable and information: StattReisen, Rothenburg 47
ph. 02 51 / 4 14 03 33
Monday to Friday from 10 am - 1 pm, Monday to Thursday afternoons from 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm.
www.stattreisen-muenster.de

k3 Stadtführungen

Visitors can discover the city by bus, by bike, or on foot. There are open guided tours and themed tours, e.g. to the market or along the "Tatort"-detective story trail.

- Information: ph. 02 51 / 14 32 516
Monday to Saturday from 10 am - 6 pm
www.stadtfuehrungen-in-muenster.de/

Sightseeing on a double-decker bus

Visitors can enjoy Münster from yet another perspective on the “Münster bus” – a convertible double-decker bus. Hop on – hop off, daily tickets, family and group tickets available.

- www.muensterbus.ms

V.2. Historic Münster: On the trail of the Peace of Westphalia

The Peace of Westphalia, signed in Münster and Osnabrück in 1648, did not merely end the Thirty Years' War, and with it an unimaginable epidemic of murder, which laid waste to and depopulated entire areas: It simultaneously established a European peace administration advocating the equality between states and made a significant contribution to the formation of modern international law. The United Provinces of the Netherlands achieved independence from Habsburg Spain during the negotiations in Münster. This is one of the reasons why the city is so popular with Dutch visitors, who often visit the historic Town Hall with the Peace Hall and the “Krameramtshaus” guild house.

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

www.muenster.de/stadt/kongress1648/

Peace Hall in the historic Town Hall

The Peace Hall originally served as the council chamber, and was the scene of the first major diplomatic congress over a period of almost five years from 1644 onwards. The first part of an important treaty was concluded on 15th May 1648: Spain recognised the Netherlands' sovereignty after an 80-year war. The hall's artistic embellishments fortunately escaped Second World War bombing because the magnificent carvings were moved to safety in 1942. Portraits of diplomats and emissaries who negotiated the Peace hang on the walls.

- Friedenssaal im Rathaus (Peace Hall in the Town Hall), Prinzipalmarkt
ph. 02 51 / 4 92-27 24
www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus/pdf/Muenster_historical.pdf
Tuesday to Friday from 10 am – 5 pm; Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays from 10 am – 4 pm

Krameramtshaus guild house (“Haus der Niederlande”/ “House of The Netherlands”)

This Renaissance building, which dates back to the year 1589, is one of the oldest guild houses in Münster. The building was used by the grocers' guild as a meeting point and storehouse. The building was used to house the Dutch emissaries during the negotiations which led to the Peace of Westphalia. It has been home to the Science and Cultural Centre “Haus der Niederlande” (“House of the Netherlands”) since 1995. Exhibitions, book presentations, lectures and film showings are organised here.

- “Krameramtshaus” guild house / Haus der Niederlande (House of the Netherlands),
Alter Steinweg 6/7
ph. 02 51 / 8 32 85 13
www.uni-muenster.de/HausDerNiederlande/

V.3. Literary Münster: Annette von Droste-Hülshoff

Her ballad “Der Knabe im Moor” (“The Lad on the Moor”), the novella “Die Judenbuche” (“The Jew's Beech”) or one of her many poems are read by virtually all schoolchildren in Germany at some point during their education. Annette von Droste-Hülshoff (1797 - 1848) is one of the most well-known female authors in the German-speaking world. She was born at “Burg Hülshoff” (Hülshoff Castle), just outside Münster. In later years, she lived in “Haus Rüschaus” in the Nienberge district. Her works illustrate her attachment to the natural

beauty present in her local area. Her prose is characterised by a sober, powerful and typically Westphalian beauty. A summary of the author's life has been drawn up by the Annette-von-Droste Society and can be found at:
www.droste-gesellschaft.de

Tip: a bicycle tour is an ideal way to trace the author's history. "Burg Hülshoff" and "Haus Rüschaus" are situated to the west of the city. A proposed 23 km tour, which starts in the city centre, can be found at:
www.bikemap.net/route/254235#lat=51.96857840707&lng=7.564955&zoom=13&maptype=ts_terrain

"Burg Hülshoff" (Hülshoff Castle)

"Burg Hülshoff" is a moated castle built in typical Westphalian style. The property was first mentioned in a document dating back to the 11th century. It is situated between Münster-Roxel and Havixbeck. Annette von Droste-Hülshoff was born here in 1797. The castle management claims it is possible to experience the ghostliness and eerie atmosphere which is a frequent feature of her works during a dawn walk through the castle grounds.

- Burg Hülshoff (Hülshoff Castle), Schonebeck 6, 48329 Havixbeck
ph. 0 25 34 / 10 52
info@burg-huelshoff.de
www.burg-huelshoff.de

The grounds, museum and café-restaurant are open daily from the beginning of April to the end of October from 11 am – 6:30 pm. In November from Wednesday to Sunday from 12 am – 5 pm. Entrance to the grounds and café is free, while a fee is charged to visit the museum, which is located in the castle's upper chamber.

Haus Rüschaus

Westphalian Baroque master builder Johann Conrad Schlaun, who designed Münster's Schloss (Castle), the Clemenskirche (Clemens Church) and the Erbdrostenhof (a Baroque palace), drew up plans for Haus Rüschaus, which he intended as his own country seat, between 1745 and 1749. Annette von Droste-Hülshoff's father purchased the property in 1825. The author lived and worked there from 1826 to 1846. It is possible to visit her parlour and study, lovingly nicknamed "Schneckenhäuschen" ("little snail house"), which has been carefully maintained. The "Rüschaus" is situated near Münster-Gievenbeck.

- Haus Rüschaus, Am Rüschaus 81
Group registration: ph. 0 25 34 / 10 52
info@burg-huelshoff.de
haus-rueschhaus.de
Guided tours of the house's interior from April to October, during the wintertime on request only.

V.4. Moated palaces and castles

Romantic palaces, fortified castles and even a "Westphalian Versailles" in the form of Schloss Nordkirchen (Nordkirchen Palace) - the Münsterland region greets its visitors with a host of magnificent noble seats, earl's residences and palaces. Legend has it that these buildings once numbered over 3,000, and more than 100 still bear witness to that opulent heritage. Münster's Palace and Schloss Nordkirchen are two of the most popular sights.

- The Palace in Münster, former seat of the Prince-Bishops and a work of Baroque master builder Johann Conrad Schlaun, was badly damaged by bombs during the Second World War. It was restored to its former glory by 1953. The Palace is now the administrative centre for the University, while the magnificent Botanical Gardens, which are well worth a visit, are located in the Schlossgarten, or palace grounds.
www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus/en/old-town-area_residence.html

- garten.uni-muenster.de/en/
Johann Conrad Schlaun also had a hand in the construction of Schloss Nordkirchen. The large, symmetrically designed set of buildings is an impressive example of a completely preserved Baroque complex. Today, the Palace is home to the Federal University of Applied Administrative Sciences NRW, Faculty of Finance.
www.schloss-nordkirchen.de

“100-Schlösser-Route“ (100 castles route)

The “100-Schlösser-Route“ (100 castles route) extends over 960 km and takes cyclists on a tour through the Münsterland’s immaculate countryside, passing a host of historic sights en route. The Münsterland tourist association (Münsterland e.V.) has compiled a list of the most attractive castles and palaces.

ph. 0 25 71 / 94 93 92

Free hotline: 08 00 / 9 39 29 19

touristik@muensterland.com

www.muensterland-tourismus.de/5116/100_Schloesser_Route

The Münsterland e.V. suggests the beautiful, easy and even “Castle and Palace Tour“, 140 kilometres, including Burg Vischering, Schloss Nordkirchen, Schloss Cappenberg and Schloss Westerwinkel

www.muensterland-tourismus.de/5137/radtour-burg-und-schloss-tour

For a list of other palaces and castles worth visiting, go to:

www.muensterland-tourismus.de/4907/schloesser-burgen-muensterland

V.5. Around Lake Aa

The recreational area of Lake Aa, darting from the outskirts right into the city centre, is a leisure and sporting paradise. Numerous joggers run around the 40-hectare reservoir each day. The zoo, horse museum “Hippomaxx“, the natural history museum with adjoining planetarium and the Mühlenhof open-air museum are visitor magnets. It is also possible to hire rowing boats and pedalos at the lake. The eye-catching Giant Pool Balls, three enormous concrete billiard balls created by Claes Oldenburg on the occasion of the first sculpture exhibition in 1977, grace the lake’s northern banks. Lake Aa is also a popular location for events.

“Allwetterzoo“ (All-weather zoo)

Over 3,000 animals live in the “Allwetterzoo“ in largely natural surroundings and eco-systems. Bears, lions, monkeys, penguins, parrots and co. feel at ease in twelve large animal houses and in the outdoor enclosures. Approximately one of the five kilometres of paths through the zoo’s grounds is covered, providing protection from rain and sun, hence the name “all-weather zoo”.

The entrance price includes a visit to the sea lions’ “Robbenhaven” and the “Hippomaxx” horse museum.

Allwetterzoo (All-weather zoo), Sentruper Straße 315

ph. 02 51 / 8 90 40

info@allwetterzoo.de

www.allwetterzoo.de/englisch/index.php

Opening hours: Daily from 9 am until close of admissions (6 pm from April to September, 5 pm in March and October, 4 pm from November to February).

“Hippomaxx“ – Westphalian Horse Museum

The horse adorns the Westphalian coat of arms, and the Münsterland region is a stronghold of equestrian sports. It comes as no surprise that the city has dedicated a museum to the

noble creatures. The “Hippomaxx“ charts natural and cultural equestrian history and the co-existence of humans and horses over 1,000 square metres. Spectators can even watch their four-legged friends perform in the arena.

Westfälisches Pferdmuseum (Westphalian Horse Museum), Sentruper Straße 311
ph. 02 51 / 48 42 70

info@hippomaxx-muenster.de

www.pferdemuseum.de/en/

April to September daily from 9 am - 6 pm, October and March from 9 am - 5 pm,
November to February from 9 am - 4 pm.

Natural History Museum and Planetarium

Visitors to the Zeiss Planetarium, located at the heart of the LWL Natural History Museum, can investigate foreign planets and astronomical events from the comfort of their armchairs. The planetarium’s dome measures 20 metres in diameter, and seats 270 people. The natural history museum invites its visitors to travel back in time to the Mesozoic era. There, they can make the acquaintance of the dinosaurs and experience Westphalia’s transformation from mammoth steppe to agrarian countryside. Great temporary exhibitions!

LWL-Museum für Naturkunde - Westfälisches Landesmuseum mit Planetarium (LWL Natural History Museum – Westphalian State Museum with Planetarium), Sentruper Str. 285

ph. 02 51 / 5 91 05

www.lwl.org/LWL/Kultur/lwl-naturkunde/english

Tuesday to Sunday from 9 am – 6 pm

Mühlenhof Open-Air Museum

The Mühlenhof showcases the Münsterland’s rural culture and craftsmanship in almost 30 buildings of various sizes. Some houses were moved to the museum from their original locations, while others were reconstructed according to original models. The museum’s landmark is a post mill, the reconstruction of which marked the museum’s inauguration in 1961. Romantic souls can hold their marriage ceremony at the Mühlenhof.

Freilichtmuseum Mühlenhof (Mühlenhof Open-Air Museum), Theo-Breider-Weg 1

ph. 02 51 / 98 12 00

info@muehlenhof-muenster.org

www.muehlenhof-muenster.org

March to October from 10 am - 6 pm (cashier closes at 5:30 pm), November to February from 11 am - 4 pm (in winter closed on Saturdays).

“Solaaris“ water shuttle

The extraordinary solar ship transports passengers from the city centre (Lake Aa terraces) to the Mühlenhof open-air museum and the zoo. “Solaaris“ runs every hour from 10 am to 5 pm between end of March and October.

Tickets are valid for the bus to and from the boat, also.

- Information: ph. 02 51 / 849 33 30

www.aaseeschiffahrt.de

V.6. Horse Riding

The Münsterland is equestrian country. The region is home to Olympic victors and World and European champions such as Hans Günter Winkler, Ludger Beerbaum and Markus Ehning. With its 100,000 horses, it is one of Europe’s most intensively equine regions.

The Münsterland also has a great deal to offer amateur riders. The region is peppered with

over 1,000 stables for horses and ponies. Special routes lead riders through the countryside on rides lasting between several hours and several days.

- Information on riding routes, stables and riding holidays can be obtained from the Münsterland tourist association on:
Free hotline: 08 00 / 9 39 29 19
touristik@muensterland.com
www.muensterland-tourismus.de/2523/reiten-muensterland
- Many riding and driving associations (Reit- und Fahrvereine) in Münster give riding, dressage and jumping lessons. For an overview, see:
www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus/sport_reiten.html
www.muenster.de/laufen_fahren_reiten.html

Rewarding day trips for horse enthusiasts

“Warendorfer Hengstparade“ (Warendorf stallion parade): Several tens of thousands of visitors throng to the stallion parades, which take place every year at the end of September and the beginning of October. Regional stud-farm employees display over 100 breeding stallions in a rapidly executed variety of poses, and present demanding dressage and driving displays.

www.landgestuet.nrw.de/veranstaltungen/

Catching wild horses in Dülmen-Merfeld: Merfelder Bruch near Dülmen, Europe’s last wild stud-farm, has been home to wild horses since time immemorial. The year-old colts are separated from the herd and caught by hand each year on the last Saturday in May. Around 30 to 40 colts have to be removed from the herd each year in order to prevent bitter battles for supremacy in the limited space offered by the Merfelder Bruch. It’s not just worth visiting to witness the spectacular sight of the wild horses being caught by hand. The grounds are also open at weekends and bank holidays in summer, weather permitting.

www.wildpferde.de/index.php?id=3

V.7. Sport

Münster is a sporty city. The city’s sports clubs offer a broad range of sporting disciplines. Regional “specialities“ include cycling, riding, golf and ballooning. There is also a wide selection of activities tailored to the needs of disabled people.

Popular sport

The Municipal Sports Office and the Municipal Sports Association, which coordinates all the sports clubs in Münster, are pleased to provide advice and information to those looking for sports clubs, sporting activities, sports stadiums, public pools and sports events.

Information: Sportamt (Sports Office)

ph. 02 51 / 4 92-52 01

sportamt@stadt-muenster.de

www.stadt-muenster.de/sportamt/startseite.html

The “Stadtsportbund“(Municipal Sports Association) provides information about clubs and associations. ph. 02 51 / 3 03 34

info@stadtsportbund-ms.de

www.stadtsportbund-ms.de

Those looking for a certain discipline or a club in their immediate environment, should have a look at:

www.sportvereine-ms.de

For an overview of indoor and outdoor swimming pools in Münster, please go to:

www.stadt-muenster.de/sportamt/baeder.html

Competitive sport and sporting events

Those who prefer to be spectators should investigate the following options:

- Football: The local number one is the SC Preußen Münster, runner-up in the German Championships in 1951 and founding member of the German Football League in 1963. The team is currently playing in the 3rd national league. Home games at the stadium on the Hammer Straße are attended by an average of 4,700 fans.
www.scpresussen-muenster.de
- Volleyball: The volleyball ladies from USC Münster enjoy a high position in Federal league rankings. To date, they have notched up nine German Championship titles, eleven German Cup victories and four European Cup victories. The second ladies' team is also high up in the second Federal league. Matches are played at the Berg Fidel "Volleydrom", which seats up to 4,500 spectators.
www.usc-muenster.de
- Riding: Equestrian enthusiasts can see their favourite stars in action at two major events held in Münster. The indoor K+K cup, organised by the Münster Riding Association, is held in the Halle Münsterland over a five-day period each January. The international jumping and dressage elite meets each August for the "Turnier der Sieger" (Tournament of Champions) with the majestic backdrop of Münster's Palace.
www.kkcup.de
www.turnierdersieger.de
- Running: The motto of the annual Münster marathon is "Laufen aus Leidenschaft" ("Running for Passion"). Around 6,000 professionals and amateurs attempt the 42 kilometre long route, cheered on by enthusiastic spectators. Those who prefer not to run the entire route can form a team with like-minded runners and enter the relay marathon.
Information and registration: Münster Marathon e.V.
ph. 02 51 / 9 27 72 88
info@volksbank-muenster-marathon.de
<https://www.volksbank-muenster-marathon.de/marathon/?rubric=englisch>
- Cycling: The cycling elite meets in Münster every year on 3rd October in order to compete in the "Münsterland-Giro" cycle race, a 200 kilometre route through the region. The highlight is the home stretch right in front of Münster's Palace. Professionals and ambitious amateur cyclists have a choice of three open races, with distances between 60 and 130 kilometres.
Information and registration:
www.sparkassen-muensterland-giro.de/welcome.html

Speciality sport I: Cycling

The Münsterland's flat landscape makes it the ultimate cycling region. "Pättkes", or asphalted rural paths, quiet streets and cycle paths are perfect for extensive tours. All interests and fitness levels are well catered for.

- Münster Marketing publishes a leaflet containing useful tips on cycle tours in and around Münster: www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus/pdf/Flyer_Radtouren.pdf
- The ADFC (German Cyclists' Federation), Dortmund Straße 19, publishes its tour programme every spring.
ph. 02 51 / 39 39 99
info@adfc-ms.de
www.adfc-ms.de
- "Radsportverein Münster von 1895" (Münster Cycling Association from 1895): The oldest cycling association, which is also one of the largest in North Rhine-Westphalia. The association includes the five divisions racing, cycle tourism, mountain-biking/cross, unicycles and cycle ball.
kontakt@rsv-muenster.de
www.rsv-muenster.de

Radsportfreunde Münster (Friends of Cycling in Münster): Activities ranging from cycle tourism to racing
ph. 02 51 / 86 22 21
rsf@muenster.org
www.radsportfreunde-muenster.de/

Tri Finish Münster: Founded in 1985 as the city's first triathlon association, Tri Finish offers racing and cycle tourism tours
ph. 02 51 / 39 48 98 02
kontakt@trifinish.de
www.trifinish.eu

In addition, several other sports clubs also have cycling tour and racing divisions.
www.sportvereine-ms.de

Speciality sport II: Aquatic sports

Sailing, rowing, canoeing, swimming and triathlon are big in Münster - thanks to several lakes and streams and the Dortmund-Ems-Canal.
www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus/sport_wassersport.html

The 2.000 metre long regatta course on the Aasee (Lake Aa) is a focal point of attraction when the yearly rowing regatta is on in April or when the sailing clubs invite. Beginners and experts are welcome at the sailing schools at Lake Aa right in the city centre as well as in Hilstrup. The Münster Triathlon attracts several thousand people every year in June and has three starter levels on offer for recreational and top athletes. And whoever prefers a relaxing paddle tour: There are enough opportunities to rent canoes and pedalos and paddle along the romantic Werse or the Ems.

These clubs offer water sport, courses and facilities:

- Segel-Club Münster e.V., Annette-Allee 7
ph. 02 51 / 7 63 51 13
info@segel-club-muenster.de
www.segel-club-muenster.de/
- Segelclub Hansa Münster, Mecklenbecker Strasse 112
02 51 / 79 82 60
info@segelclub-hansa.de
www.segelclub-hansa.de
- Hilstruper-Segel-Club e. V., Zum Hilstruper See 171b
ph. 0 25 01 / 1 64 10
hisc@hilstruper-segelclub.de
www.hilstruper-segelclub.de
- Segelschule Overschmidt (Sailing School and boat rental)
Annette-Allee 1
ph. 02 51 / 8 49 30 00
info@overschmidt.de
www.overschmidt.de
- Münsteraner Regatta Verein
ph. 02 51 / 23 32 60
info@m-r-v.de
www.muenster.de/~regatta
- Paddel Sport Münster von 1923 e.V. (canoe polo), Wersetimpen 54
info@paddelsport-muenster.de
www.paddelsport-muenster.de
- Wasser + Freizeit Münster e.V. (triathlon)
ph. 0251 / 6 03 44
info@wasser-freizeit.de
www.wasser-freizeit.de
- Tri Finish Münster e.V. (triathlon)

ph. 02 51 / 39 48 98 02
kontakt@trifinish.de
www.trifinish.eu

Canoe rentals for recreational purpose:

- Canu Camp, Homannstr. 64 in Angelmodde

ph. 0 25 35 / 95 0 52

info@canucamp.de

www.canucamp.de

- Kanuverleih Pleistermühle, Pleistermühlenweg 196

ph. 0 25 71 / 9 82 73

rucksack@rucksack-reisen.de

www.kanuverleih-pleistermuehle.de

Speciality sport III: Ballooning

The "Montgolfiade" balloon festival, which is held annually at the end of August, is one of the highlights on Münster's event calendar. The sight of 60 balloons rising up from the banks of Lake Aa is most impressive.

www.muenster-montgolfiade.de

Ballooning can also be practised as a competitive sport at Münster's ballooning associations. During the competitions, the distance and length of a balloon ride and the target journey are calculated. However, the associations also welcome those who are just "along for the ride".

- Freiballonsport-Verein Münster und Münsterland (Münster and Münsterland Free Ballooning Sports Association)

ph. 0 25 48 / 22 60 19

info@fsv-muensterland.de

www.fsv-muensterland.de

- Montgolfieren Club Gremmendorf (Gremmendorf Hot-Air Ballooning Club)

ph. 02 51 / 62 78 79

info@montgolfieren-club.de

www.montgolfieren-club.de

- Ballonteam Luftschloss

ph. 02 51 / 2 30 20 77

lm@ballonteam-luftschloss.de

www.ballonteam-luftschloss.de

Some aeronautic companies also offer hot-air balloon rides:

- Ballooncharter

ph. 02 51 / 8 28 85

info@ballooncharter.de

www.ballooncharter.de

- Ballonteam Münster

ph. 01 71 / 410 66 47

ballonteam-muenster@t-online.de

www.ballonteammuenster.de

Speciality sport IV: Golf

Golf has become quite fancy in the last couple of years - and a lot more common and accessible. The Münster-Tinnen golf club is based in Amelsbüren, while the more traditional Münster-Wilkinghege golf club's 18-hole green is located on the Steinfurter Straße, near the Münster-Nord (Münster North) motorway exit. Hiltrup offers nine holes and explicitly invites guests and new members. Patrick's Pitch & Putt is the only public golf course, open daily from 9 am to dawn.

- Golfclub Münster-Tinnen (Münster-Tinnen golf club)
ph. 0 25 36 / 3 30 10 11
info@gc-tinnen.de
www.golfclub-tinnen.de
- Golfclub Münster-Wilkinghege (Münster-Wilkinghege golf club)
ph. 02 51 / 21 40 90
kontakt@golfclub-wilkinghege.de
www.golfclub-wilkinghege.de
- Golfen in Hilstrup - the open golf course (welcomes guests)
ph. 0 25 01 / 5 94 87 19
golfen-in-hilstrup@gmx.de
www.golfen-in-hilstrup.de/
- Patrick's Pitch & Putt (public golf course)
ph. 02 51 / 38 12 57
golf@pitchundputt.de
www.pitchundputt.de

The Münsterland landscape offers a great variety of attractive golf courses. The Münsterland tourism association lists a selection:

www.muensterland-tourismus.de/4430/golf-muensterland

Speciality sport V: Speckbrett

"Speckbrett" is a curiosity, really, and almost exclusively to be found in Münster. Invented in 1929 as an unexpensive and fun alternative to tennis, it is still being performed with a solid wooden racket (originally a chopping board, "Brett"). Speckbrett courts can be found in three clubs and on over 40 public sports grounds.

www.schwimmvereinigung.de/speckbrett_anlagen.php

V.8. Theatre, cinema, music, museums and events

The daily newspapers and various magazines, including GIG, Ultimo, na dann or nanu, which are available free of charge at many inner city locations, give an overview of music and theatre events, cinema and nightlife.

The city's Press Office also maintains a detailed online event calendar, which contains links and information about cinemas, city tours, further education events and local markets.

www.muenster.de/veranstaltungskalender

More leisure tips at:

www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus/veranstaltungen.html

www.muenster-geht-aus.de

www.muenster.de/freizeit_tipps.html

Cinemas in Münster:

- Cineplex, Albersloher Weg 14
Nine screens and 2,700 seats
Box office open daily from 2 pm – 11:30 pm, Sundays from 10:30 am – 11:30 pm
ph. 02 51 / 98 71 23 33
muenster@cineplex.de
www.cineplex.de/muenster/
- Schloßtheater, Melchersstraße 81
Box office open daily 15 minutes before the first until 30 minutes after the last show
ph. 02 51 / 2 25 79
muenster@cineplex.de
www.cineplex.de/muenster/infos/das-schlosstheater/1161/

- Repertory cinema Cinema, Warendorfer Straße 45-47
Box office open daily from 3 pm, Sundays from 10:45 am
ph. 02 51 / 3 03 00
info@cinema-muenster.de
www.cinema-muenster.de

Theatres (selection):

- Theater Münster: The municipal theatre includes the musical, drama, children's and youth and dance theatres and the symphony orchestra, and thus unites five disciplines under one roof. Around 25 premières and 550 performances per season make for a demanding programme, which is supplemented by productions by the Low German Theatre, guest performances, readings, lectures and exhibitions. The "Großes Haus", used for major productions, has 955 seats, and the "Kleines Haus", a smaller stage located in the same building, seats 280 theatre-goers.
Neubrückenstraße 63
Box office open daily from Monday to Friday from 10 am – 6 pm, Saturdays from 10 am - 2 pm
ph. 02 51 / 5 90 91 00
theaterkasse@stadt-muenster.de
www.theater-muenster.com
- GOP: Modern variety theatre productions are staged by international artists in the GOP-Variety Theatre, directly opposite the main railway station. The emphasis is placed on cultivated live entertainment, combined with creative cuisine.
Bahnhofstraße 20-22
Information and advance ticket sales: ph. 02 51 / 4 90 90 90
info-muenster@variete.de
www.variete.de/en/venues/muenster/muenster.html
- Theater im Pumpenhaus: North Rhine-Westphalia's first free theatre was founded in a former sewage pumping station in 1985. The Theater im Pumpenhaus doesn't have its own company; instead, it offers outstanding national and international artists as well as theatre and dance groups from Münster the opportunity to showcase their talents.
Gartenstraße 123
Ticket reservation: ph. 02 51 / 23 34 43
buero@pumpenhaus.de
www.pumpenhaus.de
- Wolfgang Borchert Theatre: The Wolfgang Borchert Theatre by the city harbour is a professional private theatre with its own permanent company, which is complemented by guest performers. It was founded in 1956, and is one of Germany's oldest private theatres.
Am Mittelhafen 10
ph. 02 51 / 39 90 70
tickets@wolfgang-borchert-theater.de
www.wbt-muenster.de
- Boulevard Münster, Königspassage
Information and advance ticket sales: ph. 02 51 / 4 14 04 00
info@boulevard-muenster.de
www.boulevard-muenster.de

Museums (selection):

- LWL State Museum of Art and Culture: The collections take the visitor on a journey through 1,000 years of Occidental art and cultural history. The museum stores 500,000 artefacts in its repositories, about 1,300 exhibits are on show in the 51 exhibition spaces. It administers the artistic inheritance of August Macke, one of the

most important painters of the Modern Age. The museum reopened in 2014 after a large-scale restructuring and rebuilding, an investment of around 48 million euros.

Domplatz 10

ph. 02 51 / 59 07 01

museumkunstkultur@lwl.org

www.lwl.org/LWL/Kultur/museumkunstkultur

- Pablo Picasso Museum of Graphic Arts: The museum's collection unites over 800 prints by Picasso, and includes virtually the entire lithographic oeuvre by the Spanish artist. The collection comprises portraits, still life, turbulent bullfight scenes and ancient mythological creatures, all of which inhabit Picasso's lithographs. Temporary exhibitions on the life and work of Picasso and his contemporaries make the works of the 20th century genius extremely accessible. The museum is located in a listed building on the Königsstraße.
Picassoplatz 1/ Königsstraße 5
ph. 02 51 / 414 47 10
info@picassomuseum.de
www.kunstmuseum-picasso-muenster.de/en/home/home/
- Museum of Lacquer Art: The Museum of Lacquer Art on the Windthorststraße is the only one of its kind in the world. The establishment, which is affiliated to the BASF Coatings AG houses a collection of lacquer arts from East Asia, Europe and the Islamic world. The collection includes 1,000 artefacts from 2,000 years.
Windthorststraße 26
ph. 02 51 / 41 85 10
julia.kroker@basf.com
www.museum-fuer-lackkunst.de/en/homepage
- City Museum: The City Museum on the Salzstraße presents the history of the city from its beginnings to the present day. Specific topics and aspects related to Münster's cultural, artistic and quotidian history are presented during special exhibitions.
Salzstraße 28
ph. 02 51 / 4 92-45 03
museum@stadt-muenster.de
www.stadt-muenster.de/museum/info-gbnlf.html
- Archaeological museum: Lovers of Mediterranean and oriental antique culture will find original artefacts, replicas of antique sculptures, models of monuments and sanctuaries and a collection of antique coins.
Fürstenberghaus, Domplatz 20-22
ph. 02 51 / 83 25 412
<https://www.uni-muenster.de/ArchaeologischesMuseum/>
- Mühlenhof Open-Air Museum: The Mühlenhof displays four centuries' worth of rural regional culture and craftsmanship over five hectares, and is located in the direct vicinity of the Aasee (Lake Aa) and the "Allwetterzoo" (all-weather zoo). Approximately 30 historic buildings, including a post mill, were either transferred to the museum from their original sites or reconstructed there according to original models.
Theo-Breider-Weg 1
ph. 02 51 / 98 12 00
www.muehlenhof-muenster.org
- LWL Natural History Museum: A permanent exhibition at the museum traces Westphalia's development from the mammoth steppe to agrarian countryside. The 16-metre long skeleton of a tyrannosaurus rex is a real visitor magnet. Attached to the museum there is also the planetarium.
Sentruper Str. 285

ph. 02 51 / 5 91 05
www.lwl.org/LWL/Kultur/lwl-naturkunde/english

- Kunsthalle Münster (Exhibition hall for temporary art): On the top floor of an old warehouse building overlooking the harbour and thriving on the vicinity of young artists' studios, which the municipal administration supports in the same warehouse, it is a laboratory for trends in modern and experimental art.

Hafenweg 28
ph. 02 51 / 6 74 46 75
kulturamt@stadt-muenster.de
www.muenster.de/stadt/kunsthalle/

For more museums please see www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus/museen.html

Event and concert locations

- Halle Münsterland, Albersloher Weg 32
Advance ticket sales: ph. 02 51 / 1 62 58 17.
Event programme and information: Tel. 02 51 / 6 60 00
info@mcc-halle-muensterland.de
www.mcc-halle-muensterland.de/en/
- Jovel Music Hall, Albersloher Weg 54
info@jovel.de
www.jovel.de
- Gleis 22, Hafenstraße 34
www.gleis22.de/home.htm
- Hot Jazz Club, Hafenweg 26b
ph. 02 51 / 68 66 79 08
Christian@hotjazzclub.de
www.hotjazzclub.de

Various other locations for musical and cultural events can be found under www.muenster.de/kultur_buehnen.html

Some more event highlights:

"Send" fun fair: "Send" takes place three times a year. The Münsterland region's largest fun fair attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors. 250 showmen present traditional and modern fair ride sensations on the Schlossplatz in front of Münster's Palace in Spring, Summer and Autumn. A firework display traditionally lights up the evening skies on "Send" Friday.

www.stadt-muenster.de/send/startseite.html

Christmas markets: Visitors have the pick of five different Advent markets surrounded by the Old Town's festive illuminations. Toy stalls and jewellery and arts-and-crafts stands are perfect for browsing, as you savour the scent of toasted almonds, mulled wine and punch.

www.stadt-muenster.de/weihnachtsmarkt/startseite.html

Night of the Museums and Galleries: During the "Schauraum" ("Showroom") festival, which concludes with the "Night of the Museums and Galleries", the city centre showcases art, culture and savoir vivre over three days usually in early September. Over 40 establishments remain open until midnight and no entry fees are charged. Special tours, readings and lectures make for an inspiring night.

www.stadt-muenster.de/kulturamt/nacht-der-museen-und-galerien.html

Shrove Monday procession: Native "Münsterländer", or citizens from the Münsterland region, are by no means as stolid and impassive as the story goes. Their inner flamboyance comes to light at carnival time. The highlight of the crazy carnival

season is the Shrove Monday procession, when the Old Town is firmly in the jesters' hands. About 120 groups, music ensembles and magnificently decorated floats from Münster and the surrounding area parade through the city. Associations from the Netherlands also participate, bringing with them particularly colourful floats and groups.

www.bmk-helau.de

www.muenster.de/kulturell_karneval.html

Skatenight: In-line skaters meet in front of the Münster Palace from 7 pm every 1st and 3rd Friday from May to September. At 8 pm the procession starts on a 17 to 20 kilometre round course.

www.skatenight-muenster.de

V.9. For children and families

Münster is child-friendly. The city is home to over 300 playgrounds, spread across the entire city. Each district also has a children's and youth club. Both the city itself and a host of associations, organisations and groups offer a range of activities and services for the entire family.

- Information: städtisches Kinderbüro (Municipal Children's Office), Junkerstraße 1
Monday to Friday from 9 am - 12 pm, Thursday afternoons from 2:30 pm - 6 pm and by arrangement
ph. 02 51 / 4 92-51 09
kinderbuero@stadt-muenster.de
www.stadt-muenster.de/kinderbuero
- Information on activities for children and teenagers:
www.muenster.de/kinder_jugendliche.html

Holiday options for children and teenagers

Children in Münster are spoilt for choice during school holidays. The Municipal Children's Office and its partners ensure that children are well catered for with holiday clubs organised in the Easter, summer and autumn holidays.

During their Easter holidays, children can have a good romp at "Halli Galli". In summer, they look forward to the kids camp or the "Atlantis" holiday city - an eventful all-day programme in the Wienburgpark. The advantage for working parents is that they know that their children are in good hands during holiday periods. Other associations also offer reliable care options during school holidays. The "Kinder-Film-Fest" (children's film festival) takes place during the autumn half-term, offering high quality films and entertainment.

www.stadt-muenster.de/kinderbuero/ferienprogramme.html

Parents can look for a suitable programme in the municipal database:

www5.stadt-muenster.de/ferien_jugend/kb_index.cfm

Holiday options within Münster, trips to other cities and abroad are also organised for teenagers. The municipal youth information centre (JIB) advises on non-profit-making tour operators from Münster and on long-term trips abroad.

www.stadt-muenster.de/jib/reiseinformation.html

"Maxi-Turm" and "Maxi-Sand" for younger children

Parents sometimes find it easier to run errands or go to the doctor or the authorities without their children in tow. Those in need of a little downtime can leave their children (aged between three and ten) at the Maxi-Turm on the Prinzipalmarkt, where a childcare service is provided. There is no need to register in advance. The kids can climb, play or listen to stories while their parents are away. Qualified staff care for the children for up to three hours (3 euros per hour).

Maxi-Turm at the Stadthaustrum, Prinzipalmarkt 15

Monday to Friday from 2 pm - 6 pm, Saturday from 10 am – 6 pm
The "Maxi-Turm" is closed from the second to the fifth week of the school summer holidays
ph. 02 51 /4 92 55 55.

The "Maxi-Sand" is a little oasis for children aged up to six years and their parents. The giant sand-pit, located on the Syndikatplatz, is always available for use from May to September. Buckets, spades and moulds are dealt out on a daily basis apart from Sundays. Parents remain responsible for looking after their children. Older children can play in the sand from 6 pm onwards, when a volleyball net is set up.

"Maxi-Sand", Syndikatplatz, May to September, Monday to Saturday from 11 am - 6 pm
www.stadt-muenster.de/kinderbuero/maxi-turm-maxi-sand.html

VI. Good to know

The majority of municipal institutions and offices are located in the three major “Stadthaus” buildings.

- Stadthaus 1, Klemensstraße 10: central duties, including Citizens’ Office, Schools Office, Civil Registry Office, Münster Information Point, Lord Mayor’s Office
- Stadthaus 2, Ludgeriplatz 2 (and neighbouring building on Hafenstraße 8): social duties, including Social Welfare Office, Immigration Office
- Stadthaus 3, Albersloher Weg 33: technical offices, including those for the fields of planning, building and environmental protection, Municipal Housing Office

Postal address of the municipal authorities:

Stadt Münster

48127 Münster

ph. 02 51 / 4 92 -0

fax 02 51/ 4 92-77 00

stadtverwaltung@stadt-muenster.de

www.stadt-muenster.de

VI.1. City map

A Münster city map with a lot of additional information as regards barrier free facilities, gastronomy, parking, traffic, culture, education, health etc., is available on the internet: www.muenster.de/stadtplan

The official street-map in print can be purchased at the Münster information point, Stadthaus 1, Heinrich-Brüning-Straße 8, and at the service point at Stadthaus 3, Albersloher Weg 33, as well as in all local book stores.

VI.2. Amt für Bürger- und Ratsservice (Citizens' Affairs Office - Central Office and District Offices)

The Citizens’ Affairs Office and its subsidiary offices are crucial information points. The Bürgerbüro Mitte (Central Citizens Office) in Stadthaus 1 provides advice on the following issues, among others: Registration matters (registration, de-registration, change of address after moving), altering the address on car registration documents, issuing residents’ parking permits and parking permits for the severely handicapped, applying for or de-registering dog licences, lost property, certificates of good conduct, accreditation of documents and signatures.

Amt für Bürger- und Ratsservice – Bürgerbüro Mitte (Citizens’ Affairs Office - Central Office), Stadthaus 1, Klemensstraße 10

ph. 02 51 / 4 92-33 33

buergerbuero-mitte@stadt-muenster.de

www.stadt-muenster.de/en/citizens-office/citizens-office.html

Monday to Thursday from 8 am - 6 pm, Friday and Saturday from 8 am - 12 pm

It is not always necessary to go to Stadthaus 1 in order to arrange official matters. The city's district citizens' offices also offer a range of services. Exceptions include naturalization and nationality-related matters.

- Bezirksverwaltung Hilstrup (Hilstrup District Administration Office)
Patronatsstraße 20
Monday to Friday from 8 am - 12 pm, Monday and Thursday afternoons from 2 pm - 6 pm
ph. 0251 /4 92-16 33 through to -16 36
bezirksverwaltung-hilstrup@stadt-muenster.de
www.stadt-muenster.de/buergerservice/bezirksverwaltungen-und-buergerbueros/bezirksverwaltung-hilstrup.html
- Bezirksverwaltung Nord in Kinderhaus (District Administration Office North)
Idenbrockplatz 8
Monday to Friday from 8 am - 12 pm, plus Thursday afternoons from 2 pm - 6 pm
ph. 02 51/4 92-16 50
bezirksverwaltung-nord@stadt-muenster.de
www.stadt-muenster.de/buergerservice/bezirksverwaltungen-und-buergerbueros/bezirksverwaltung-nord.html
- Bezirksverwaltung Südost in Wolbeck (District Administration Office South-East)
Münsterstraße 7
Monday to Friday from 8 am - 12 pm, plus Thursday afternoons from 2 pm - 6 pm
ph. 0 25 06/9 31 90
bezirksverwaltung-suedost@stadt-muenster.de
www.stadt-muenster.de/buergerservice/bezirksverwaltungen-und-buergerbueros/bezirksverwaltung-suedost.html
- Bezirksverwaltung West in Roxel (District Administration Office West)
Pantaleonplatz 7
Monday to Friday from 8 am - 12 pm, Thursday afternoons from 2 pm - 6 pm
ph. 0 25 34 /5 88 54-0
bezirksverwaltung-west@stadt-muenster.de
www.stadt-muenster.de/buergerservice/bezirksverwaltungen-und-buergerbueros/bezirksverwaltung-west.html
- Bezirksverwaltung Ost in Handorf (District Administration Office East)
Vennemannstraße 5
Monday to Wednesday from 8 am - 12 pm, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2 pm - 6 pm
ph. 02 51/21 09 70
bezirksverwaltung-ost@stadt-muenster.de
www.stadt-muenster.de/de/buergerservice/bezirksverwaltungen-und-buergerbueros/bezirksverwaltung-ost.html
- Bürgerbüro Coerde (Coerde Citizens' Office)
Hamannplatz 39
Tuesday afternoons from 2 pm - 6 pm
ph. 02 51/4 92-16 59
buergerbuero-coerde@stadt-muenster.de
www.stadt-muenster.de/buergerservice/bezirksverwaltungen-und-buergerbueros/buergerbuero-coerde.html
- Bürgerbüro Gremmendorf (Gremmendorf Citizens' Office)
Albersloher Weg 550 (2nd floor)
Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 2 pm - 6 pm
ph. 02 51/4 92-16 68 and -16 69
buergerbuero-gremmendorf@stadt-muenster.de
www.stadt-muenster.de/buergerservice/bezirksverwaltungen-und-buergerbueros/buergerbuero-gremmendorf.html

buergerbueros/buergerbuero-gremmendorf.html

- Bürgerbüro Gievenbeck (Gievenbeck Citizens' Office)
Rüschhausweg 17
Tuesday from 8 am - 12 pm and 2 pm - 6 pm, Thursday afternoons from 2 pm - 6 pm, Friday from 8 am - 12 pm
ph. 02 51/2 37 24-30 and -31
buergerbuero-gievenbeck@stadt-muenster.de
www.stadt-muenster.de/buergerservice/bezirksverwaltungen-und-buergerbueros/buergerbuero-gievenbeck.html

Lost property offices

The Citizens' Affairs Office operates lost property offices in Stadthaus 1 and in the district administration offices.

- Fundbüro Mitte im Stadthaus 1 (Central Lost Property Office), room 159
Monday to Thursday from 8 am to 6 pm, Friday and Saturday from 8 am to 12 pm
ph. 02 51 / 4 92-33 33
fundbuero@stadt-muenster.de
www.stadt-muenster.de/buergerservice/fundsachen.html

Lost property office online:

www.stadt-muenster.de/buergerservice/fundsachen/fundbuero-online.html

Fundfahrradstation (Lost Bicycle Office)

Those who have misplaced their bicycles may be reunited with them at the lost bicycle office.

The Municipal Public Order Office stores bicycles there which have been parked in a disorderly or obstructive manner.

Industrieweg 75, ph. 02 51 / 6 06 88 46

Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 8 am - 12 pm, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2 pm - 6 pm

www.stadt-muenster.de/buergerservice/fundsachen/fahrraeder.html

For items left behind in public transport, please see or dial:

- Westfalen Bus (Westphalian buses):
www.bahn.de/westfalenbus/view/service/fundsachen.shtml
- Deutsche Bahn (German railways):
www.bahn.de/p/view/service/bahnhof/fundservice.shtml
- "Stadtwerke" (municipal buses): Items left behind in municipal buses are being transferred to the municipal lost & found.

VI.3. A selection of other offices, institutions and contact partners

- Abfallwirtschaftsbetriebe Münster (AWM – Waste Management Services),
Rösnerstraße 10
Information on waste disposal, bulky refuse, removal dates and charges
Monday to Thursday from 8 am - 5 pm, Friday from 8 am - 4 pm
ph. 02 51 / 60 52 53
awm@stadt-muenster.de
www.awm.stadt-muenster.de
- Rechts- und Ausländeramt, Ausländerbehörde (Immigration Office), Stadthaus 2,
Ludgeriplatz 4 (Südstraße entrance)
Responsibilities include residence and employment permits for non-EU citizens

Monday to Friday from 8 am - 12 pm, Thursday afternoons from 3 pm - 6 pm
ph. 02 51 / 4 92-36 36

auslaenderamt@stadt-muenster.de

www.stadt-muenster.de/en/auslaenderamt/a-warm-welcome.html

- Amt für Gesundheit, Veterinär- und Lebensmittelangelegenheiten (Health Office), Stühmerweg 8
Monday to Friday from 8 am - 12 am, Thursday 3 - 6 pm
ph. 02 51 / 4 92-53 77
gesundheitsamt@stadt-muenster.de
www.stadt-muenster.de/gesundheit
- Amt für Kinder, Jugendliche und Familien (Office for Children, Young Adults and Families), Hafensstraße 30
ph. 02 51 / 4 92-51 01
jugendamt@stadt-muenster.de
www.stadt-muenster.de/jugendamt/startseite.html
- Familienbüro (Family Office), Junkerstraße 1
Children's Day Care Advisory Service
Monday to Friday from 9 am - 12 pm, Thursday afternoons from 2:30 pm - 6 pm and by arrangement
ph. 02 51 / 4 92-51 08
familienbuero@stadt-muenster.de
www.stadt-muenster.de/jugendamt/eltern-und-familien/familienbuero.html
- Ordnungsamt (Municipal Public Order Office), Stadthaus 1, Klemensstraße 10
Service hotline for all public safety and order matters: Monday to Saturday from 7 am – 7 pm, Friday and Saturday until midnight
ph. 02 51/4 92-11 11
ordnungsamt@stadt-muenster.de
www.stadt-muenster.de/ordnungsamt/startseite.html
- Wirtschaftsförderung Münster GmbH, Steinfurter Straße 60a
Advice on setting up your own business and for questions regarding Münster as a suitable location.
Consultations by arrangement.
ph. 02 51 / 68 64 20
info@wfm-muenster.de
www.wfm-muenster.de

VI.4. After hour medical services

- Emergency medical services: **Call 112!**

The city's press office publishes a list of all emergency services and relief organizations, which can be found at: www.muenster.de/notdienste

Whoever needs medical assistance after opening hours, can rely on the emergency service of the Medical Association Westfalia-Lippe – no appointment necessary. In Münster, the medical center at the Raphael's Hospital is in charge for adult patients, the medical center at the Clemens' Hospital for children and youngsters.

- After hour medical services:
www.kvwl.de/patient/notdienste/notfalldienst_anrufinhalte_engl.pdf
ph. 116 117
More information at www.kvwl.de/patient/notdienste/index.htm
- Emergency dental service: ph. 02 51 / 1 44 95 88.
- Emergency chemist's service: Westphalia-Lippe Union of Chemists emergency services finder: www.akwl.de/notdienstkalender.php

VI.5. Emergency numbers for the fire brigade, rescue service, emergency doctor and police

Every second counts in the case of accidents involving injured persons, sudden heart attacks or similar emergencies. Emergency numbers are free from all telephone lines.

Münster fire brigade and emergency doctors: **ph. 112**

The fire services will need the following information:

Who is calling? Where are they calling from?

Where did the incident happen (location, street, house number)?

What happened (fire, accident or similar)?

www.stadt-muenster.de/feuerwehr/notruf.html

Emergency number for the police: ph. 110

Polizeipräsidium Münster (Münster police headquarters)

ph. 02 51 / 27 5-0

poststelle.muenster@polizei.nrw.de

www.polizei.nrw.de/muenster/

VI.6. Media in Münster

What's going on in Münster? Newspapers, radio, television and online media are all on hand to keep you up to date with life in the city. Free local newspapers are also delivered every Wednesday and Sunday.

For an overview of all media in Münster and the surrounding area, published by the press office, go to:

www.muenster.de/stadt/medien/pdf/medienverteiler.pdf

Daily newspapers

- "Westfälische Nachrichten" and "Münstersche Zeitung"
Aschendorff publishing
An der Hansalinie 1
ph. 02 51 / 69 0-0
info@aschendorff.de
www.aschendorff.de

Free local newspapers

- "Hallo" (Wednesdays and Sundays)
Soester Straße 13
ph. 02 51 / 6 90 96 11
redaktion@hallo-muensterland.de
www.hallo-muenster.de
- "Kaufen und Sparen" / Münsterische Sonntagszeitung (Wednesdays and Sundays)
Neubrückenstraße 8 - 11
ph. 02 51 / 6 90 88 94
redaktion@kus-muenster.de
www.kus-muenster.de

For gigs and events:

- Ultimo
ph. 02 51 /89 98 30
ultimo@muenster.de
www.facebook.com/ultimo.muenster
- Gig

Sauerländer Weg 2^a
ph. 02 51 /98 72 30
office@gig-online.de
www.gig-online.de

Radio and TV

- WDR Studio Münster (radio and TV)
Mondstraße 144
ph. 02 51 / 3 11 3-0
studio.muenster@wdr.de
www1.wdr.de/studio/muenster/
- Antenne Münster
Nevinghoff 14
ph. 02 51 / 2 89 54-0
redaktion@antennemuenster.de
www.antennemuenster.de

VII. More information about Münster published in English

The municipal authorities in Münster also provide a series of information in English. The Press Office publishes this information online at:
www.muenster.de/en

The Citizens' Office, the Municipal Immigration Office and Münster Marketing also offer an extensive range of information online - also available in English.
www.stadt-muenster.de/en/citizens-office/citizens-office.html
www.stadt-muenster.de/en/auslaenderamt/a-warm-welcome.html
www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus/en/index.html

Information and leaflets regarding events, sightseeing and other issues can be obtained from:

Münster-Information (Münster Information Point)

Stadthaus 1, Heinrich-Brüning Straße 9

Monday to Friday from 9:30 am - 6 pm, Saturday from 9:30 am - 1 pm

Tel. 02 51 / 4 92-27 10

Branch office in the historic Town Hall, Prinzipalmarkt

Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am - 5 pm, Sundays and bank holidays from 10 am - 4 pm

Tel. 02 51 / 4 92-27 24

www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus/en/tourist-information.html

The Press Office offers some virtual sightseeing:

Views of Münster, seen from above, and some impressions from the renowned Sculpture Projects: www.muenster.de/stadt/medien/filme.html.

Moreover, there is a virtual tour covering the historic Münster, green Münster, and some culture:

- www.muenster.de/stadt/medien/virtual-tour.html

The Press Office has also released a video about sculptural Münster:

- "Münster – Stadt der Skulpturen"

Available on DVD for 9.95 euros, contact via

presseamt@stadt-muenster.de

The flash version of “Münster – City of Sculptures” is being offered for download:

www.muenster.de/stadt/medien/filme_film_sculpturen_englisch.html

VIII. Useful apps for your mobile phone

Only a very small selection of apps to get you started:

Getting around Münster: bus and rail in Münster and Münsterland

<https://www.stadtwerke-muenster.de/privatkunden/busverkehr/fahrplaninfos/app-co/fahrplan-app.html>

Münster app: an audio guide for Münster, Android only

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=de.muenster.audioguideen>

Stadtwerke Münster app: useful knowledge for everyday questions

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=de.swms.muenster>

WWU app: helps to find your way around the University of Münster

<https://www.uni-muenster.de/de/app/>

DB Navigator: timetables and more for Deutsche Bahn railways

www.bahn.de/p/view/buchung/mobil/db-navigator.shtml

Cover photos (on the front, from above)

Square Depression

"Square Depression" by Bruce Nauman, a contribution to the international Sculpture.Projects 2007.

Prinzipalmarkt

The historic gabled houses were reconstructed in a simplified form after the Second World War. (Centre: the "Stadtweinhaus" (City Wine House) – recessed with balcony – with the "Rathaus" (Town Hall) beside it to the right)

Germany's cycling capital

The 4.5 km long promenade around Münster's Old Town serves as an "express highway" for cyclists.

Relaxing by Lake Aa

Art and relaxation: "Pier", a sculpture created by Californian artist Jorge Pardo.

Send

With a mixture of nostalgia and high tech, this large fun fair attracts thousands of visitors to the square in front of the palace three times a year.

Skateboarders

Teenagers feel at home in Münster - a skating stronghold.

University city

Learning, teaching and research are an integral part of life at the university and the city's seven other institutes of higher education.

Cover photos (on the back, from above left)

Diocesan library

A modern home for a library which boasts a 600 year history: the diocesan library, situated by the Überwasserkirche church, contains one million books, including world class historical treasures.

Goldener Hahn (The Golden Cockerel)

The city's guests of honour are offered a welcome drink from the "Golden Cockerel" (a chalice dating back to around 1600).

The University

Münster's Palace is the administrative heart of the Westphalian Wilhelms-University.

Münster Theatre

The Municipal Theatre, which dates back to 1956, integrates the ruins of the Romberger Hof as a "natural dramatic backdrop". The Municipal Theatre includes musical, dance, drama, children's and youth theatres.

Montgolfiade

When the balloons light up over Lake Aa: Montgolfiade, a traditional hot-air balloon competition.

Festival backdrop

The square of Westphalian Peace becomes an open-air lounge during the annual "Schauraum" ("Showroom") festival.

Natural History Museum

For dinosaur fans and star-gazers: LWL Natural History Museum with Planetarium.

Equestrian sport

Colourful hobbyhorses advertise the annual "Tournament of Champions" for dressage riders and show jumpers.

Airport

Flights operate from Münster Osnabrück International Airport to destinations around the world.

City of Peace

Diplomacy replaces weapons – the Westphalian Peace put a successful end to the major Thirty Years' war in Europe in 1648. Today, the city still feels a strong commitment to this historic legacy.