

Aus dem Senior Service

Ausländische Studierende berichten über ihre Erfahrungen mit dem Senior Service



Waqas Ahmed Bajwa
Pakistan
CME-Student

Hochschule Offenburg is an amazing place to study especially for international students. Besides studies, it also offers some extra-intercultural activities, like gatherings with the Senior Service, also called Get Together, the International Evening and excursions. Among all of them, the Senior Service gathering is the most amazing and beautiful experience. The main idea behind this is for the international students to interact with some experienced local German people, so they can get to know more about life in Germany. They are also our 'language parents', because they always try to speak Deutsch with us in order to enhance our language skill, which is an important part of study and life in Germany. Many of them make good connections with international students and invite them in their homes to interact more with each other by spending some time together on weekends. This also helps students, who are far from their home countries and sometimes feel alone and need some good gathering. They can always count on the Senior Service.

Cultural barriers are something normally every international student faces when they arrive in Germany. Gatherings with the Senior Service people are always a good idea to break this barrier and get into their culture which is not always easy but also not impossible. Besides gathering in University, Senior Service offer's a lot of tours: Wine tasting tours in wine gardens of Offenburg, Offenburg City Guided Tour, Hiking Tour to Müller's Mühle, Black Forest Hiking Trip and a lot of other things. I personally enjoyed all those activities, gathering with Senior Service. And I strongly recommend to all other students to take part in these because it helps in your personal growth. The Senior Service is doing a great job which needs to continue.

Sneha Venkataramana
Indien
CME-Absolventin



Have you ever heard of the term second home? That is what Germany is to me and that's mainly thanks to the wonderful Senior Service in Offenburg. When I first came to Germany, I honestly wanted nothing more but to pick up my unopened suitcases and return back to my place. This was not due to the place. Believe me, Germany is probably one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen. This is because, it was the first time I was ever living outside my country. Not just my country but my house too! You see, Indians usually stay with their parents till they get married and then after that they live with their husbands/wives. So the concept of living alone was very scary. People looked different and scary. The university seemed large and imposing. Amidst all my brooding, I came across wonderful friends who have changed me forever. If you take me before entering Germany and after, I am 2 different persons. Even after getting along with my new friends from all over the world, something was missing. That homesick feeling was always there at the back of my throat. Then, after a month in Germany, I came across the Senior Service.

Uwe and Marlies Budiner were a godsend. They were so nice to me and taking me along for all trips and family outings that they made me feel completely at home. At a time when I was struggling to get around in the cold weather (because I come from the land of beaches - Chennai, India where 25 degrees is considered cold), they helped me with a jacket. That was just the beginning. They told me so many stories about the German culture and took me to so many new places, that I began to fall in love with Germany. There was one event that really touched me and I would like to share it with you all.

It was my first Christmas in Germany and also the first Christmas in snow. Snow is so beautiful. I envy all of you who can get to play in it every year. Anyway, it was Christmas time and the whole of Germany was all prettied up and sparkling in Christmas markets and looked so beautiful. I was alone though because all my friends went back to their countries for vacation and I was just all alone in my room. I was feeling pretty depressed and suddenly my phone rang. The Budiners called me to their house for Christmas. I was pretty thrilled. But only after I got there did I get a bigger surprise. All of their family was there - their son, daughter and grandchild. Now to allow another person into your family is something which really touched me. It was and will be the best Christmas ever. We had such a nice time and singing carols. It was a beautiful night. I have mentioned only one experience here. There are too many to put them into words. I would like to thank all the members of the Senior Service and say to you „You make our days in Germany more special with just that hint of family affection.“ I love you all.

Agus Pradity Tampubolon
Indonesien
ECM-Student



Moving to a new country, the students look for new friends and a new place which feels like home. Through the Senior Service the students can find it. Talk to each other, cook together, baking, eat and drink, everything that can be found in a family. In addition to that, through the Senior Service, we can also learn a lot, not only the language even though it is important, but also the life of being a German. And being in the beautiful city of Offenburg, there are many beautiful places in the Black Forest to visit. And the people from the Senior Service would love to take you to see it and spend time enjoying it.

Sandra Constantino
Mexiko
IBC-Absolventin



No doubt, the Senior Service was one of the experiences that made my stay in Germany wonderful. Vielen Dank.

S B Udhaya Chandran
Indien
IBC-Absolvent



Der Senior Service hat mir während des Studiums und auch danach viel geholfen. Dafür bin ich immer dankbar.



Gabriela García León
Mexiko
IBC-Absolventin

I have met amazing, kind people through the Senior Service. I have had a great time with them and learned a lot about German culture.

Isaac Amit Samuel
Indien
IBC-Student



Not sure about the Senior Service but I sure do remember the one who helped me. Thanks for all the help you did, Franz!

Ankita Dutta
Indien
IBC-Studentin



The Senior Service is an excellent initiative brought into Hochschule Offenburg. It gives a wonderful experience for both new international students and the Seniors of Offenburg to openly interact and spend some great times together. It is a great place to learn about the German culture and heritage in a very informal level. Students can openly ask questions and doubts that they generally have when studying in a new country and they can count on the warm and welcoming seniors to help them out. I personally, got acquainted with a very nice couple and keep in touch with them even after a year in Germany and every meeting with them is entertaining and yet insightful, since they can tell me so many things about Germany that I wouldn't know from many of my young friends.

Selvi Siregar
Indonesien
IBC-Absolventin



One of the most amazing communities I have ever joined. I felt so welcomed and loved. You gave me so many nice memories in Germany. Very, very nice memories and I miss you all so much. Thank you, Senior Service!!! Keep up the amazing work.

Hasham Munir
Pakistan
CME Absolvent



Best people of town.