Schwäbisch Gmünd

The largely-preserved medieval town of Schwäbisch Gmünd has about 60.000 inhabitants and is part of the UNESCO World Heritage "Roman Limes". Schwäbisch Gmünd is the ideal place for students who prefer a cosy town with a rich cultural heritage and a magnificent landscape. The urban life of Stuttgart (600.000 inhabitants), the capital of South-West Germany, is only 40 minutes away by train, with its museums, theatres, shopping facilities and such famous companies such as Daimler and Porsche.

Accommodation and student life

International exchange students find very comfortable surroundings where they quickly feel at home. The International Office offers them a full range of services and activities: orientation and counselling before and during their study abroad semester, affordable accommodation (approx. 250,– € for a fully equipped single room in our dorms), a buddy system, cultural and social leisure events, sports facilities, and free German language courses.

How to apply:

The application form can be downloaded from our website:
www.ph-gmuend.de > International > Information for Incoming Exchange Students

Application deadline: November 30th

Contact:

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Pädagogische Hochschule Schwäbisch Gmünd
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Pädagogische Hochschule
Schwäbisch Gmünd
University of Education

Exploring the World:

Play, Culture and Family in Early Childhood Education

30 ECTS
Summer term (April – July)
University of Education Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany

Exploring the World: Play, Culture and Family in Early Childhood Education
30 ECTS Programme for International Exchange Students

Aim and Contents:
The programme will focus on how children discover the world – and how teachers and educators can give them support in a professional way.

The courses are based upon the link between academic theory and its application: Future teachers and educators will receive the theoretical knowledge and the methodological skills they need to give professional support to children discovering the world.

Target groups:
Students in the field of childhood education, working with the age group 0 – 10 and their parents.
International students will study together with local students!

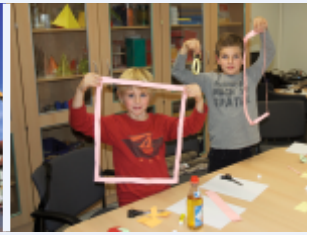
Language:
The language of instruction is English (level B2 is required). The observation and placement will take place in a German speaking environment; however, the communication with the staff at the institutions and with the children can take place in English.

Assessment:
Each module includes an assessment based upon oral and / or written presentations and a portfolio.

Details of the programme:
www.ph-gmuend.de > International > Exploring the World: Play, Culture and Family in Early Childhood Education

Other courses taught in English at our University:
www.ph-gmuend.de > International > Courses taught in English

Students with a good knowledge of German (B2) are welcome to the entire range of our courses. The complete course catalogue can be found under
http://www.ph-gmuend.de/deutsch/studium/vorlesungsverzeichnisse.php



Courses

Children's Play (3 ECTS)
Play provides an important mechanism for children's learning. This course focuses on children's play, on play development and its expression (movement, role play, construction and games), on theories and methods of play guidance and on play rooms, material and toys.

Children, Childhood and Families in the cultural Context (3 ECTS)
The change of our society has led to a change of family life and family structure. Children are faced with different and complex situations in their every-day life. This seminar includes the subjects childhood studies, social change of childhood and family, different forms of families, cultures of families and children as well as children in specific situations.

Observation and Placement: Discovering Children's Ways of Learning & practical Training Period (8 ECTS)
The way we view children and the way we study them influences the observations we make. This course will give an introduction to observation as a dynamic approach conducted within continuously changing daily situations. It includes 10 days of practical training in which students learn to adapt the contents of the seminar to practical settings in an Early Childhood institution.

Exploring the Environment (3 ECTS)
Field trips convey the importance of nature for educational processes.

1. Wilderness (Southern Germany) In this module, students go on different field trips in the local environment (including such places as the Weleda Medicinal plant garden). We do Outdoor education and experimental learning like building a raft, canoeing and other nature adventure skills.
2. Marine Biology (Baltic Sea or Mediterranean)
   During that seven-day field trip the students explore in theoretical and practical lessons unimagined details of live in the oceans, becoming more and more important, especially with regard to global warming.

One of the two field trips will be offered. The trips will be organized by the University; however, students will have to cover the expenses for travelling and subsistence.

Self-Experience & Counselling: *Know yourself, know your pupils!* (5 ECTS)
Self-experience creates awareness and invites to try new paths in communication and in interaction. We work with theoretical input, exercises and with self-reflection. Furthermore, this course provides you with a better idea of how to talk to parents, colleagues and young people and how to build a relationship for professional school counseling and family counseling.

Education, Culture and Language in Germany (8 ECTS)
Educational systems can only be understood within their cultural contexts. This module includes: a weekly German language course (different levels available); German history, culture and society (including cultural excursions) and the International Comenius Week.