



HOCHSCHULE OSNABRÜCK
UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

“Religious and Cultural Diversity”

5th to 14th of September 2023

Program International Social Work



University of Applied Sciences, Osnabrück, Germany

A cooperation within the “International Social Work” program with the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland (Sion) and the Department of Social Work at the Malmö University (Sweden)

Persons in charge of the program

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Welcome and Introduction

Dear students,

we would like to welcome you to the University of Applied Sciences Osnabrück!

The module "International Social Work - Religious and Cultural Diversity" offers the opportunity to reflect on issues of religious and cultural diversity in a group of students and teachers from different countries.

Religious and Cultural diversity is the quality of diverse or different religions and cultures, as opposed to monoculture. The term "cultural diversity" can also refer to having different cultures respect each other's differences. It is often used to mention the variety of human societies or cultures in a specific region, or in the world as a whole. It refers to the inclusion of different cultural perspectives in an organization or society.

Diversity opens up new possibilities and the exchange of ideas. And it provides new approaches to problem solving: Global challenges today are multi-faceted, so having people from different backgrounds can lead to better solutions to problems through a wealth of opinions.

By analogy with biodiversity, which is thought to be essential to the long-term survival of life on earth, it can be argued that cultural diversity may be vital for the long-term survival of humanity. The General Conference of UNESCO took this position in 2001, asserting in Article 1 of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity that "...cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature" (UNESCO (2002): "UNESCO Universal Declaration On Cultural Diversity". UNESCO Universal Declaration On the Cultural Diversity)

We hope that our program will stimulate you to explore new contacts and new ways of thinking and living in connection with a future worth living for all living beings. We wish that you will be encouraged to expand your circle of life and work and promote open-mindedness towards 'the other' and 'the foreign'.

We would like to thank our partner universities, the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland, HES-SO Valais-Wallis, School of Social Work and the University of Malmö, for contributing to this teaching opportunity.

We wish you all a stimulating stay at our Department of Social Work.

Yours sincerely,

Andrea Braun (Dean of the Faculty of Business Management and Social Sciences)

Ayça Polat (Professor of Social Work in the Context of Societal Diversity)

Joachim Thönnessen (Professor of Social Sciences)

Abigail Joseph-Magwood (Senior lecturer with a focus on "Critical race theory", "intercultural competence" and 'Lewis Deep Democracy, CoResolve' amongst other topics)

Program overview

Timetable	Tuesday 05.09.2023 Welcome; Social Work in Migration; Cultural Diversity; Dinner together	Wednesday 06.09.2023 Full-day-Workshop on Awareness of everyday racism	Thursday 07.09.2023 Happiness and reflection through bodywork	Friday 08.09.2023 Intercultural Communication Excursion to Café Mandela
				Afternoon: Johannisstr. 133-135
09h15-10h45	Welcome Ayca Polat: Social Work in the Migration Society (Part 1)	Abigail M. Joseph-Magwood: Raising awareness of everyday racism (Workshop)	Johannes Hirata: „Happiness, Ethics and Economics (Part 1)	Rosalie Borchert: “Promoting integration and participation of long-term unemployed people in the labour market in Malmö – A qualitative case study in practice”
	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
11h15-12h45	Ayca Polat: Social Work in the Migration Society (Part 2)	Abigail M. Joseph-Magwood: Raising awareness of everyday racism (Workshop)	Johannes Hirata: „Happiness, Ethics and Economics (Part 2)”	Group 1: Café Mandela (Excursion), Johannisstrasse 133-135 https://www.diakonie-os.de/angebote/fluechtlingsarbeit-migration/cafe-mandela.html Group 2: Individual time for presentation preparation
	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
14h00-15h30	Joachim Thönnessen: Workshop: Cultural Diversity according to Geert Hofstede (Part 1)	Abigail M. Joseph-Magwood: Raising awareness of everyday racism (Workshop)	Lea Helle: meeting your biases through bodywork: Implicit biases as social and embodied habits from a yogic perspective (make sure to wear comfortable clothes)	Group 1: Individual time for presentation preparation Group 2: Café Mandela (Excursion), Johannisstrasse 133-135
	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	
15h45-17h15	Joachim Thönnessen: Workshop: Cultural Diversity according to Geert Hofstede (Part 2)	Abigail M. Joseph-Magwood: Raising awareness of everyday racism (Workshop)	Lea Helle: meeting your biases through bodywork: Implicit biases as social and embodied habits from a yogic perspective	
18h30	Welcome-Dinner at Planeta Sol, Bergstraße 8 <small>The costs are covered by fundings from the Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences.</small>			Weekend plans (optional) Saturday: German Emigration Center Bremerhaven Sunday: open for your ideas

Timetable	Monday 11.09.2023 Initiatives and individual time for preparation	Tuesday 12.09.2023 Social work in osnabrueeck International social work	Wednesday 13.09.2023 Student Presentations	Thursday 14.09.2023 Student Presentations, Farewell; Dinner together
	After first break: Johannisstr. 91			
09h15-10h45	Lara Benteler: Exil (Refugee Social Work). Topic: Insights into concrete social work with refugees	Sabine Kohlsaas: opportunities to study in Osnabrück as international student (only about 30 min.) After that: Presentation of the affected person consultation	Jonas Christensen: Intercultural Learning in Social Work – Local and Global awareness	Presentations 2 Moderation: A.M. Joseph - Magwood
	BREAK		BREAK	BREAK
11h15-12h45	Maren Wilmes (Department Head, Migration and Youth Social Work, School, Caritas Osnabrück) (Excursion): Social Work with Refugees in Osnabrück; Johannisstr. 91	Julie Tiemann-Nagata: Presentation of the association "Zusammenbewegen e.V."	Presentations 1 Moderation: J. Thönnessen	Presentations: 2 Moderation: J. Thönnessen
	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
14h00-15h30	Lena Segler-Heikkilä: „Intercultural Communication and Soft Skills as Factors for increasing Wellbeing in Social Work“ (make sure to wear comfortable clothes)	Lisa Borrelli, Stefanie Tamara Kurt: Integration and Migration in Switzerland	Presentations 1 Moderation: A.M. Joseph - Magwood	Presentations. 2 Moderation: A.M. Joseph - Magwood
	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	
15h45-17h15	Lena Segler-Heikkilä: „Intercultural Communication and Soft Skills as Factors for increasing Wellbeing in Social Work“	Lisa Borrelli, Stefanie Tamara Kurt: Integration and Migration in Switzerland	Presentations 1 Moderation: J. Thönnessen	Presentations. 2 Moderation: J. Thönnessen

				18:00 h Farewell-Dinner at Taj Mahal, Dielingerstr. 29 The costs are covered by fundings from the Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences.
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Program of the module

Monday, 04.09.2023

Arrival of the students in Osnabrück.

You will be given bus tickets with which you can travel to the accommodation. The bus lines number 16 and 17 go from the main train station to the accommodation (Caprivi Street). The bus stop is located in the immediate vicinity of the accommodation for the swiss students.

Tuesday, 05.09.2023

Ayca Polat: Social Work in the Migration Society

Venue: Room SL0216

Ayca Polat is a professor at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences at Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences. She focuses on theories and approaches to diversity, migration and the critique of racism, gender mainstreaming and exclusion and participation in social work.

The sessions will provide an introduction to the following topics:

- Migration and Integration as metanarratives
- Doing difference and Inequality
- Consequences of racism in a migration society
- Intersectionality
- Requirements for the practice of Social Work

The theoretical inputs will be complemented by discussion of case studies.

Joachim Thönnessen: Workshop, Cultural Diversity according to Geert Hofstede

Venue: Room SL2016

Joachim Thönnessen is a professor at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences at Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences. His main focus is on social sciences, especially empirical social research. In addition, he is concerned with the focal points of alternative concepts of life and society, social critique and is significantly involved in the study of International Social Work.

The concept of "Menschheitsfamilie" (Daniele Ganser) means that we all belong to the human family: Russians and Ukrainians, vaccinated and unvaccinated, people of color and white-skinned people. All countries in the world share the same basic problems, but each national society has developed its own answers over time. On an individual level, there is no substitute for a personal international

experience. In addition, we can gain knowledge about the differences between national cultures in today's world, and we should develop the ability to translate between cultures. For an effective co-operation among people from different nations, two basic requirements must be met: The first is to speak or have learned a common language. The second is: to act according to common rules and norms. To gain an international perspective, we must become aware of our own culture amidst a diversity of cultures that we may encounter in people from other countries. The presentation will introduce the six basic problems identified by Geert Hofstede and discuss them using practical examples from the everyday world.

Literature:

Geert Hofstede, Gert Jan Hofstede and Michael Minkov, *Cultures and Organizations: Software of the Mind*. Revised and expanded 3rd edition. New York: McGraw-Hill USA, 2010,
Michael Minkov (with contributions by Geert Hofstede): *Cross Cultural Analysis. The Science and Art of Comparing the World's Modern Societies and Their Cultures*. Los Angeles et al, Sage Publications, 2012

Welcome Dinner: 6:30 pm at Cachaçaria Planeta Sol, Bergstraße 8

The location is within walking distance.

The costs are covered by fundings from the Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences.

Wednesday, 06.09.2023

Abigail M. Joseph-Magwood: Workshop: Raising awareness of everyday racism

Venue: Room SL2016

Abigail M. Joseph-Magwood is a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences. She focuses on Critical race theory, Lewis Deep Democracy, CoResolve, intercultural competence, project management, team development and scientific work.

The workshop will entail the following:

- definitions of race and racism
- perception, use of language and behaviour
 - privilege
 - individual and group-related 'racial' identity
 - intervention strategies

The workshop is designed to be interactive and will build on the students' knowledge of the subject matter. There will be a balance between both theoretical input and practical aspects.

Thursday, 07.09.2023

Johannes Hirata: Workshop, Happiness, Ethics and Economics

Venue: Room SL0216

Johannes Hirata is a professor at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences at Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences. His teaching focus is in the areas of economics, especially international economics. His main focus is on the foundations of economics, business ethics and sustainable development.

Happiness was once the explicit objective of economics as a science, and until today this idea has a strong influence on economic thought and even on economic policy. In the meantime, however, social sciences have produced a solid amount of data on happiness, and the empirical findings cast doubt on the claim that economic growth will raise happiness. In this workshop we will take a close look at the factors influencing happiness, at the relationship between culture and happiness and at the case of Bhutan as a country that has enshrined happiness in its constitution as the overarching objective of development.

Literature:

Hirata, Johannes (2011): Happiness, Ethics, and Economics. London: Routledge.

Layard, Richard (2005): Happiness: Lessons from a New Science. New York: Penguin.

Skidelsky, Robert; Skidelsky, Edward (2012): How Much is Enough? Money and the Good Life. New York: Other Press.

Lea Helle: meeting your biases through bodywork: Implicit biases as social and embodied habits from a yogic perspective

Venue: Room SL0216

Lea Helle is a trained social worker and junior researcher at the Bertha von Suttner Privat University in Austria, where she is involved in both teaching and research. Before joining the world of academia, she lived in New York City for ten years, where she worked as a professional dancer and yoga teacher.

In this workshop, we will delve into the complex relationship between biases and our embodied experiences. Using Yoga Asana as a connecting tool that has long been known to serve as a bridge between body and mind, we will both move and practice, but also discuss yogic principles, laying a focus onto the yamas and niyamas, which are understood to be an integral part of the philosophical and practical system of Yoga and originate from the text 'The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali'.

We will explore how our bodily sensations and movements can shape our biases and vice versa. Through exercises, inputs and group discussions, students will gain a deeper understanding of the role that embodiment plays in perpetuating and mitigating biases.

Friday, 08.09.2023

Rosalie Borchert: "Promoting integration and participation of long-term unemployed people in the labour market in Malmö – A qualitative case study in practice"

Venue: SL0216

Rosalie Borchert is a Master's student from Sweden and will give a short presentation on her Master's thesis.

after that: Individual time for presentation preparation

Excursion: Café Mandela (social work with refugees)

Venue: Johannisstrasse 133-135

Café Mandela invites people to meet, consult and exchange ideas. Refugees looking for a home in Osnabrück can make contact with locals. Over coffee and tea all guests can come into contact casually. Language barriers can be bridged in a relaxed atmosphere. The full-time and volunteer staff help refugees arrive and integrate in Osnabrück. Café Mandela is a first point of contact for questions concerning the everyday life of refugees.

The head of the facility will tell us something about the institution and is going to answer your questions.

Saturday, 09.09.2022

Venue: Bremerhaven, reached by train

German Emigration Center in Bremerhaven

„At the German Emigration Center embark on an exciting journey through time into the history of emigration and immigration in Germany and Europe. A journey experienced with all of your senses and just like the experiences of actual emigrants and immigrants from over three centuries.”

Travel by train:

departure Osnabrück 10:29 am - arrival Bremerhaven 12:31 am; Return to Osnabrück: departure (for example): 18:28 pm – arrival 20:26 pm

The costs are covered by fundings from the Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences.

Monday, 11.09.2023

Presentation of different Initiatives

Exil (Refugee Social Work): Insights into specific social work with refugees

Venue: Room SL0216

For 35 years, the Exil association has been working to ensure that people with a history of migration can live here in dignity and without fear. Unbureaucratically, with a lot of full-time experience and voluntary commitment, they ensure that people with a history of migration find a reliable contact point in Osnabrück.

Excursion: Migration Work, Caritas Osnabrück

Venue: Johannisstraße 91

Refugee social work helps adult refugees and their families to act independently in all areas of daily life. This concerns counselling and orientation assistance after the arrival of the refugees as well as counselling in all questions of daily life. For questions about housing, health, visits to authorities, access to schools and kindergartens as well as access to language learning opportunities. Contact persons are available to offer advice and assistance.

The Department Head, Maren Wilmes, is going to give us information about refugee social work and is open for your questions.

Lena Segler-Heikkilä: „Intercultural Communication and Soft Skills as Factors for increasing Wellbeing in Social Work“

Venue: Room SL2016

Lena Segler-Heikkilä works as a principal lecturer in the department of communication, languages and interpreting at Diaconia University of Applied Sciences in Helsinki/Finland. Her fields of special interest are intercultural communication, nonverbal communication, alternative communication methods (e.g. arts and music as ways to communicate) as well as the connection between functioning interaction and wellbeing (e.g. mindful communication at work)

In the Workshop, we will discuss four soft skills and their usage at work: Communication, empathy, flexibility and creativity. After a short theoretical input, we will work in small groups on concrete examples taken from real life how soft skills can be utilized in order to increase wellbeing in working life situations. During the workshop, we use the Learning Café Method.

Tuesday, 12.09.2023

Sabine Kohlstaat: Opportunities for foreign students in Osnabrück

Venue: Room SL2016

A colleague from the Director International Faculty Office, Faculty WiSo (Director International Faculty Office, Faculty of BMSS) will report about possibilities to study in osnabrück.

Counselling for affected persons Osnabrück

Venue: Room SL0216

“Our services are varied and based on the needs of persons affected. We accompany people seeking advice through all stages, such as the emotional reprocessing of a crime, reporting a crime or providing information about compensation payments, if requested by the affected persons. Our advice is voluntary, confidential and free of charge.”

[Home - The Lower Saxony Victim Counselling Service \(betroffenenberatung.de\)](https://www.betroffenenberatung.de)

Julie Tiemann – Nagata: Presentation of the association "Zusammen bewegen e.V."

Zusammen Bewegen e.V. is a registered non-profit association based in Osnabrück, Germany, whose goal is to help young people build a healthy and non-violent future through education and intercultural exchange. It is a registered association with volunteer members. They stand for tolerance, respect, intercultural dialogue and appreciation for other cultures in order to reduce prejudices and fear of contact. In order to be able to guarantee a successful integration, they would like to build a bridge of community. Through various projects they would like to support and strengthen the lives of weaker people in a solidary and sustainable way.

[Zusammen Bewegen – Zusammen Bewegen \(zusammen-bewegen.de\)](https://www.zusammen-bewegen.de)

Lisa Borrelli & Stefanie Tamara Kurt: Integration and Migration in Switzerland

Venue: Room SL2016

Lisa Marie Borrelli works as Associate Professor at the Institute of Social Work at the HES-SO Valais-Wallis, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland. Her research interests include migration studies and the socio-legal aspects of state control, as well as social policies and the study of poverty. Starting in 2023 she co-directs two research projects, 'Tracing Syrian refugee return dynamics across South/North Divides' (funded by the Swiss Network for International Studies) and 'Frontline work in humanitarian crises: state and non-state cooperation' a project within the NFP80.

Stefanie Kurt, PhD in Law, is Full Professor at the Institute of Social Work at the HES-SO Valais-Wallis, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland. She is currently a project leader within the National Center of Competence in Research (NCCR) for migration and mobility studies (nccr-onthemove) as well in the National Research program Covid-19 in Society both funded by the Swiss National Foundation. Her main research interests are migration law, citizenship, and human rights.

'Integration' appears as a buzzword for a foreign national in various contexts: at the entry, during residence in and if being expelled from Switzerland. The Swiss core principle of integration is that foreigners are fully responsible for their own integration pathway and must contribute successfully. This is favored by positive incentives accompanying this integration path. The so-called 'integration stage model' that is applied in Switzerland functions based on a two-tiered system: On the one hand, it wants to achieve the "stabilization" or "improvement" of the residence title, and, on the other hand, the early detection of a possible "integration deficit" that needs to be "immediately addressed". Accordingly, naturalization is the last step on the ladder of a successful integration process and only granted to successfully integrated foreign nationals.

The complex interplay of this integration stage model, which links support (integration promotion) and control (integration demand), poses challenges for social work professionals. As part of the state's integration apparatus, social work is dispersed throughout different authorities or in organizations that support and strengthen foreigner's integration. Therefore, social work actively participates in a system, which differentiates and governs foreign nationals based on their alleged level of integration and threatens or prescribes consequences for residence status under immigration law if failing to meet expectations.

The presentation discusses Swiss migration law and highlights where and how 'integration' is used as a term and how social work is situated within. The aim is to encourage students to critically reflect

current integration policies within a restrictive migration regime and to explore possible fields of action.

Literature

Stefanie Kurt & D'Amato Gianni, The Swiss Rationale of Integration Policies: Balancing Federalism, Consociationalism and Direct Democracy. In: Franzke J., Ruano de la Fuente J.M. (eds) Local Integration of Migrants Policy. Palgrave Studies in Sub-National Governance. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham, 2021, DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-50979-8_5.

Willem Schinkel, Against 'immigrant integration': for an end to neocolonial knowledge production. *Comparative Migration Studies* (2018) 6:31. 2018) 6:31, <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40878-018-0095-1>

Stefanie Kurt, Fast-Tracking Full Citizenship in the Context of the Swiss Integration Stage Model, NCCR on the Move Working Paper #15, October 2017.

Wednesday, 13.09.2023

Jonas Christensen: Intercultural learning in social work

Venue: Room SL2016

Jonas Christensen, PhD in Education, Senior Lecturer/Assoc Professor in Social work esp. Organization, Dept of Social Work, Malmö University, International project Coordinator and Course Instructor for international courses up to doctoral level in collaboration with partner universities. His research focuses on: Social sciences/Educational science; profession, organizational learning, internationalization in higher education, transnational learning and collaboration, social welfare.

Societal challenges become more complex not the least when it comes to our understanding of Social Policy and the role of Social Work. We'll need more of a cross-border and holistic understanding in how we face societal challenges in which Levels of knowledge acquisition out of different perspectives is a part to understand a Societys Capacity to face challenges. Reflective and reflexive processes can therefore be seen as a substantial part of Meaningfulness in Profession and Identity. Cross-border collaboration makes a substantial contribution in to this understanding not the least in the connection between the local and global. The term Glocal is due to this essential to be aware of in Social Work Profession. Reflective and reflexive learning processes is a part in this.

In this session, Intercultural Learning in Social Policy and especially Social Work Education is discussed in a national and comparative context. This is done through the eyes of levels of knowledge acquisition and GLOCAL.

After: Start Presentations by the students

Thursday, 14.09.2023

Presentations by the students

Farewell Dinner: 6:00 pm at Taj Mahal, Dielingerstraße 29

The costs are covered by fundings from the Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences.

Information about the exam

Oral assignment

Purpose:

To analyze a specific theme within a cultural or religious system and reflect on the implications for social work and social work practice.

Assessment Criteria

- Outline the concept of 'culture' and/or 'religion' and the discourses within that field/these fields
- Identify and compare theoretical frameworks that support analysis, specifically cultural/religious models and aspects of affiliation or delimitation
- Discuss aspects of the challenges in a cultural/religious context focusing on your chosen topic of interest;
- Reflect, discuss and analyse current research on religious and cultural diversity and the implications for social work practice.

Specific Instructions

Oral presentation Sep 13th-14th

- You are supposed to undertake an oral presentation of your chosen topic* (presentation as a power-point est incl. time for discussion – in total, max 30 min.).
- This oral presentation can be done group-wise (up to three persons) or individually.
- Use the frame of references due to the content of the campus-part incl. articles and literature
- You may put in your presentation on the course web according to the presentation

At the end of the module each participant will receive a certificate of participation.

Practical information

Accommodation for the swiss students

You will be staying at the Guest House of the Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences. The exact address is: **Caprivistraße 30a, 49076 Osnabrück**. It's located at the Caprivi Campus in the **CA Building**. You will be staying in double rooms.



The rooms are each equipped with their own bathroom (shower, toilet, sink), towels (1x small, 1x large) are included. Bed Linen is also provided. In the guest house there are 2 common rooms equipped with a kitchenette (without stove and oven) as follows: Refrigerator, toaster, electric kettle, microwave oven, coffee maker, Dishwasher, TV set, Crockery. There is also a washing machine and dryer in the basement for a fee. WiFi is available in the guest house with the WiFi of the university.

Students from other countries must arrange their own accommodation. Enclosed you will find ideas for accommodations:

[STARTSEITE | Penthouse Backpackers Osnabrück \(penthousebp.com\)](http://penthousebp.com)

[Willkommen im: Hotel / Hostel Neustadt in Osnabrück \(hotel-neustadt.com\)](http://hotel-neustadt.com)

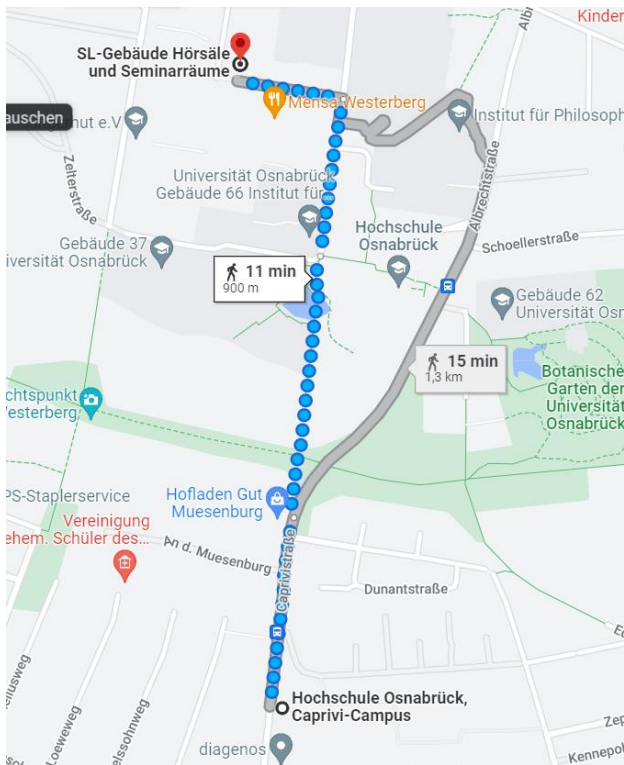
[Vienna House by Wyndham Remarque Osnabrück | Osnabruck Hotels, NI 49076 \(wyndhamhotels.com\)](http://wyndhamhotels.com)

[Hotel am Nikolaiort Innenstadt Osnabrück - Zentrum Osnabrück \(hotel-nikolaiort.de\)](http://hotel-nikolaiort.de)

[Select Hotel Osnabrück | Select Hotels Osnabrück \(select-hotels.com\)](http://select-hotels.com)

[B&B Hotel Osnabrück | Günstiges Hotel in Osnabrück \(hotel-bb.com\)](http://hotel-bb.com)

Venue of the Classes



The classes will be held near the Caprivi Campus, on the Westerberg Campus. The exact address is: **Barbara Straße 21, 49076 Osnabrück.**

STANDORT WESTERBERG



Almost all classes will be held in the SL – Building, in the **Rooms SL0216 and SL0217 (second floor).**

We hope you will enjoy your stay!

If any questions arise feel free to mail us.

For any questions regarding your free time or places to go in the city, you can also message the student assistant.