

The ultimate reader for students of social sciences



Editorial

Hello you,

this reader is supposed to answer the most important questions you might ask yourself in the course of your studies. The first edition was created by an idea of Lea Konrad, Yannik Abu-Shaar, Nina Krüger and Louisa-Anna Süß. Now, we edited it a little bit, so that you are even better informed.

If you are still in need of help or (...), feel free to send us an e-mail (fachschaft03-dl@sowi.uni-giessen.de) or come to our meetings (every Wednesday, 2:15pm in room E019).

We hope this reader is helpful and wish you all the best for your studies!

Helena Renz, Daniel Heinz, Felix Dietrich, Niklas Leonhard and Fabian Levedag

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1. Who are we?

The Student Council is everyone, who wants to be part of the Student Council. Every student can participate regularly or irregularly in any size and any form. There are no entry forms or liabilities, as long as you don't take tasks voluntary (like creating and reworking this reader). If you have any special issue or general interest in student representative you should just check our Student Council meeting (each Wednesday, 14-16 o'clock / 2pm to 4pm) out.

Current active members of the student council:

Yannick Abu-Shaar, Ida Lotter, Daniel Heinz, Berit Vogel, Merlin Bähr, Anna Louisa Süß, Johannes Deinzer, Lea Konrad, Severin Baumgarten, Timo Olbricht, Niklas Leonhard, Sascha Romanowski, Michaela Jirotko, René Lültsdorf, Pia Grohmann, Jana Thumulla, Johanna Lander

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FSGesellschaftswissenschaften/>



Stud.IP: “Aktive Fachschaft Gesellschaftswissenschaften”
[https://studip.uni-](https://studip.uni-giessen.de/studip/details.php?sem_id=e0cdd68bee84d9f9a7018d8e9386e5c9)
[giessen.de/studip/details.php?sem_id=e0cdd68bee84d9f9a7018d8e9386e5c9](https://studip.uni-giessen.de/studip/details.php?sem_id=e0cdd68bee84d9f9a7018d8e9386e5c9)

&again=yes  And at our Student Council meeting (Wednesday 14-16 o'clock
/ 2pm-4pm, Student Council room 019 a&b House E)

2. What does the Student Council do?

We, the “Fachschaft Geisteswissenschaften” (=> Student Council of the humanities), assist you at issues of all kind. We work as a representative or a mediator to advise you.

We meet each week in our Student Council room (019 a&b, house E) on Wednesday at 14:15. There we discuss problems students have and exchange ideas and suggestions.

We are also part of different committees, where we usually have a vote to affect the decisions that could influence the students and the education. We can directly influence the university teaching, can point grievances out or work on the troubleshooting.

A special feature is the visiting professor for critical social-theory. It is completely organized by students, which means we have a working group working with the topic and potential guest lectures. We have a working group organizing event series to set a focus, too.

We also organize a little Christmas party each last Wednesday in the year. We have a lot of mulled wine and cookies - so it's worth to check it out.

Besides that we also meet each first Monday in a month the bar Sowieso. Everyone, who wants to drink a beer or three, is sincerely invited. There you can

meet active Student Council members, get to know them and talk with each other - outside of the university-context.

3. Study structure

You can find a very detailed description of every single module, general information on our study course and helpful instructions for special cases here: <http://goo.gl/aJzTth>

3.1 Study process

The Bachelor degrees in Germany typically last six semesters, however, you can choose to study and achieve the Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences in less or more time. To effectively manage your schedule to do so, the University provides you with a finished plan outlining how to complete your studies in six semesters. However, this is simply a guide which may be used at your discretion depending on your individual needs and preferences. You are free to choose any class in one of our institutes. Usually, students begin with the study module one and continue chronologically. Thus, some lectures may offer their classes just once or some visiting scholars may leave in the next semester. However, some modules have a higher level of performance (M11 – M13) which means you shouldn't take it in the first three semesters. In order to study the way, you want to, you can choose any class you want. For more help, feel free to contact us to provide you with a tailored and individual schedule.

Sem.	Modul						CP
1	M1 POL VL/K – 4 CP	M1 POL PS – 4 CP	M1 SOZ VL/K – 4 CP	M1 SOZ PS – 4 CP	M5 EMP 5 CP	M9 Wiss. Arb. 4 CP	30
					M5 EMP 5 CP		
2	M2 POL VL – 4 CP	M2 POL PS – 4 CP	M2 SOZ VL o. PS – 4 CP	M4 SOZ VL – 1 CP	M6 TEC 5 CP	M9 EDV 3 CP	30
				M4 SOZ VL – 1 CP	M6 TEC 5 CP	M9 A&P 3 CP	
3	M3 POL VL – 1 CP	M3 POL VL – 1 CP	M2 SOZ PS o. VL – 4 CP	M4 SOZ PS – 4 CP	M7 STAT I 5 CP	M10 PV 1 CP	28
	M3 POL PS – 4 CP	M3 POL PS – 4 CP		M4 SOZ PS – 4 CP			
M10 Praktikum – 8 CP							8
4	M11 S – 5 CP	M11 S – 5 CP	M11 VL/K – 4 CP		M7 DA 5 CP	M10 PN 3 CP	31
					M8 EDV II 5 CP	M14 LFP I 4 CP	
5	M12 S – 5 CP	M12 S – 5 CP	M12 VL/K – 4 CP		M8 METH 5 CP	M14 LFP II 8 CP	27
6	M13 S – 5 CP	M13 S – 5 CP	M13 VL/K – 4 CP		M15 Thesis 12 CP		26

Advice: Don't choose your seminars and lectures by time but topics that you are interested in. It is more fun!

3.2 What is a certificate of attendance?

Certificates of attendance are lectures and seminars that you have to take but there is no exam, essay or assignment. The only thing you must do is to attend the lecture or maybe write down the minutes. Those lectures can be recognized by their low CPs (1 CP).

3.3 You can switch modules!

You are allowed to switch the modules M11 – M13 with another module from an adjacent faculty. Once you have decided which module you'd like to switch, you file a motion (informal) at the examination office. The module you want to take instead needs to have at least 14 CP.

More Information:

<https://www.uni-giessen.de/fbz/paemter/gwiss/ba/sosc/faq/faq/austau/aust, aufgerufen am 13.07.2016>

3.4 Practical Training (Module 10)

This module introduces the students to possible vocational- and occupational fields and their specific demands. It promotes the relationship between experience and academics and serves as an orientation aid for the passage from the studies to professional life. Students receive a “reality check” of the concepts from courses they have already finished.

You can intern not only in governmental and non-governmental organizations at local, regional, national and European level but also work for political parties, trade associations, social-welfare associations, trade unions and political, philanthropic as well as cultural foundations. You can also look for internships in educational institutions for children, adults and further education, in private and public media companies and in agencies for public relations, policy advice and policy assessment.

4. Useful information, contact persons and support

The smallest campus is as small as your former school, everyone is alternative, many people who all know where to go, except you... What are your rights? What are you allowed to do? How does everything work? Don't worry! You will find answers to those questions on the following pages!

4.1. Attendance

Attendance is a very relaxed issue in your study course. Attending lectures is not compulsory but you have to attend at least 51% of your seminar courses. You can look that up in the so-called "Speziellen Ordnung". It is always valid, no matter what other people might tell you.

Nevertheless we recommend you to actually come to uni as you chose your courses and lectures after your interest and intend to learn something.

4.2. FlexNow, exams & certificate of performance

Flex Now is a system in which you can register and deregister for exams. In order to do that you have to log into your account on flexnow.uni-giessen.de with you

"s-kennung" and the corresponding keyword which you can find on your "Pin-Brief".

4.3. Registration and deregistration for exams

Being registered at FlexNow in your lectures and seminar courses you are automatically registered for the corresponding exam. Therefore you do not need to run through a special procedure to be able to take an exam.

If you are not able to take an exam (or do not want to), you are able to sign off by "ausflexen" four days ahead of your exam (informal). In order to do that you need to log into your FlexNow Account, press "Abmelden" and confirm that down below. In case this is not possible, you have to send an e-mail to the person in charge of that, Mrs. Schmalz (sandra.schmalz@admin.uni-giessen.de) at the examination office.

4.4. In case of disease

In case you are unwell and not able to take an exam, it is important that you go see a doctor and ask him or her to fill in the following form entirely (otherwise it won't be accepted):

<https://www.uni-giessen.de/fbz/paemter/gwiss/dateien/apg/kra>

It is important that you submit this form three days after the causes became known to the examination office of our faculty.

4.5. Language courses and activities in other fields

The university offers plenty of activities in fields other than your study course. In some courses, you even have to do that! Those activities are quite diverse and cover methodical knowledge in addition to your study course.

You find those activities listed in the EVV (elektronisches Vorlesungsverzeichnis). By attending several courses who are related to each other you can receive a special certificate which can be useful in your professional career.

Apart from that you can also attend free language courses offered by the "Forum Sprachen und Kulturen". But look out! Popular courses such as Spanish are often booked up after a few seconds.

More information: <http://www.uni-giessen.de/studium/waehrend/kurse>

4.6. Student rail pass

With your student rail pass you are allowed to use public transportation services of the RMV, NVV und VGWS. The RMV and NVV even allow free bicycle transportation. You find the pay scale area on the website of the AStA. Unfortunately, you are not allowed to use the ICE or EC train.

City traffic: As Gießen has different campuses and you might have to switch campus between seminar courses and lectures, we listed all campus and the connected stations and bus stops below.

Philosophikum I, II/ University library / Canteen	Rathenaustraße (route 10, 801, 802)
JuWi-Campus	Friedensstraße (route 2), railway station: Gießen Licher Straße (Linie RB 35)
Zeughaus	Marktplatz (route 2,3,13,5,7,12,24,801,802)
Natural sciences	Naturwissenschaften (route 10) Ludwig-Uhland-Schule (route 3,13)
Medicine	Klinikstraße (route 1,10,11)
Veterinary Medicine	Schubertstraße (route 1,10,11)
Sport/ Kugelberg	Volkshalle (route 1)
Campus inner-city/JLU main building	Berliner Platz (every route except for 10) route 5 and 12 stop at „Behördenzentrum“ route 24 stops at „Stadttheater“

Night traffic: The last regular busses depart at around 11:30pm from the Berliner Platz to all districts. The first regular busses depart from around 5/5:30 am.

On the weekend there are two special bus lines – "Venus" and "Saturn". Between 12.30 and 4:30am they operate every hour. "Venus" departs at .27 starting from the train station across "Weststadt" and "Berliner Platz" to

Wieseck. "Saturn" departs at .30 and drives across Kleinlinden, Unterhof and Ludwigstraße. After coming back to Berliner Platz (departure .53) it leaves in direction to Eichendorffring and Grünberger Straße. At the stops "Waldweide" and "Waldstadion" it is possible to switch to cabs to Allendorf and respectively Rödgen.

Open-air pool: The student rail pass is more than a railroad ticket. During the summer term you can enter the open air swimming pools "Ringallee", "Kleinlinden and "Lützelinden" by showing it to the cashier.

Theatre ticket: Moreover you can visit some theatre shows for free. More information: <http://asta-giessen.de/service/theaterticket>

4.7. Study and intern abroad

If the travel bug bites you and you aspire to study or intern abroad, there are plenty of options for you to pursue that. For further information please contact the international office or pay a visit to their homepage (<http://www.uni-giessen.de/international-pages>).

4.8. Legal advice

The AStA offers free legal advice.

Monday	Law of tenancy, general law (Michael Roth)	11am to 1pm (12am to 1pm during the semester break)
Tuesday	BAföG (Anette Klemm)	11am to 1pm (12am to 1pm during the semester break)
Wednesday	Law of tenancy, general law (Susanne Eue)	11am to 1pm (12am to 1pm during the semester break)
Thursday	BAföG, administrative law (Inka Sartorius)	11am to 1pm (12am to 1pm during the semester break)
Friday	Social law, general law	11am to 1pm (12am to 1pm during the semester break)
	Labour and social law (Jörg Braun)	1 to 2pm

Our university also offers special **legal advice for foreigners** which takes place every second Tuesday from 11am to 1pm in the ASV office next to the AStA-office.

4.9. Counseling

The psychological counselling service of the AStA of the Justus-Liebig-University offers free counseling, supporting the following issues:

- stress, overextension, interruption of work
- difficulties caused by stress disorders
- problematic consumption of addictive substances
- Anxiety disorders (e.g. Exam and social anxiety)
- depression
- eating disorders
- conversations with relatives as part of counseling
- psychological diagnostic and problem explanation
- information on counseling and treating doctor's offices

During the consultation hours (Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 3 pm) you can drop in without making an appointment. However you can also make an appointment by e-mail (beratung@asta-giessen.de)

Address: AStA of the JLU Gießen, Jürgen-Dietz-Haus, Otto-Behagel-Str. 25d (room 17)

5. Committees and politics

In the following chapter you find information on all the committees that you can turn to or become involved in.

5.1. General Students Committee (AStA)

The General Students Committee is the acting executive board and the external representing agency of the (constituted) student body at universities. It is therefore considered the student government and student representative organization. The General Students Committee is divided into several departments as you can see below.

Department	Contact details
Public relations	oeffentlichkeit@asta-giessen.de
Finances	finanzen@asta-giessen.de

Culture	kultur@asta-giessen.de
Housing and social policy	woso@asta-giessen.de
University policy	hopo@asta-giessen.de
Studies and teaching	studiumlehre@asta-giessen.de
Traffic and infrastructure	verkehr@asta-giessen.de infrastruktur@asta-giessen.de
Human resources	personal@asta-giessen.de
Anti-racism and political education	antira@asta-giessen.de
Ecology	oekologie@asta-giessen.de
Autonomous departments	
Gay-Trans*-Queer-Department	afr@asta-giessen.de
Queer-Feministic Women Department	lila.block@asta-giessen.de
Foreign students' union (ASV)	asv@asta-giessen.de
ABeR-Department	aber@asta-giessen.de
Family-Department	afr@asta-giessen.de
Faculty Conference (FSK)	fsk@uni-giessen.de

5.2 University groups

Currently there are nine active, political university groups at the JLU Gießen which take part in the election for the students' parliament. That includes Jusos, Uni Grün, die StudentenUNION, die PARTEI university group, UnsereUni, SDS.Gießen Die Linke, Liberale Hochschulgrupp, Bitte Beachten! and the säkulare Liste. Moreover there are groups that are committed to different areas such as UNICEF and Amnesty International. You can get involved in those groups and help shape the life at university actively.

5.3 Institutional structure of the JLU

Senate

The senate is the central institution at the JLU. You could compare it to a parliament on a university level. Its function is to pass resolutions regarding teaching and research (e.g. structure or elimination of study programs). Furthermore the senate comments on study as well as exam regulations, enacts university constitutions and ordinances, judges proposals for appointments, elects the headquarters and comments on the budget draft.

The senate contains of 17 members (nine professors, three students, three research assistant, three technical-administrative assistants). The student representatives are elected on a yearly basis in course of the elections, the other members only every second year.

Headquarters

The headquarters contain of four members (president, first vice-president, second vice-president, chancellor). According to the constitution, further vice-presidents can be elected. The headquarters are responsible for all the tasks that are not assigned to another institution through the hessian university law.

Faculty Councils

The faculty councils are basically the parliament of the faculties. The amount of members depends on the size of the faculty. They discuss and decide on current concerns such as study and exam regulations, teachings and finances.

In the faculty councils there are three student representatives who are elected every year. The other members are elected every second year. You can only candidate for the faculty that you are in. The ticket has to be delivered at the electoral office of the university, not the election committee of the General Students' Committee.

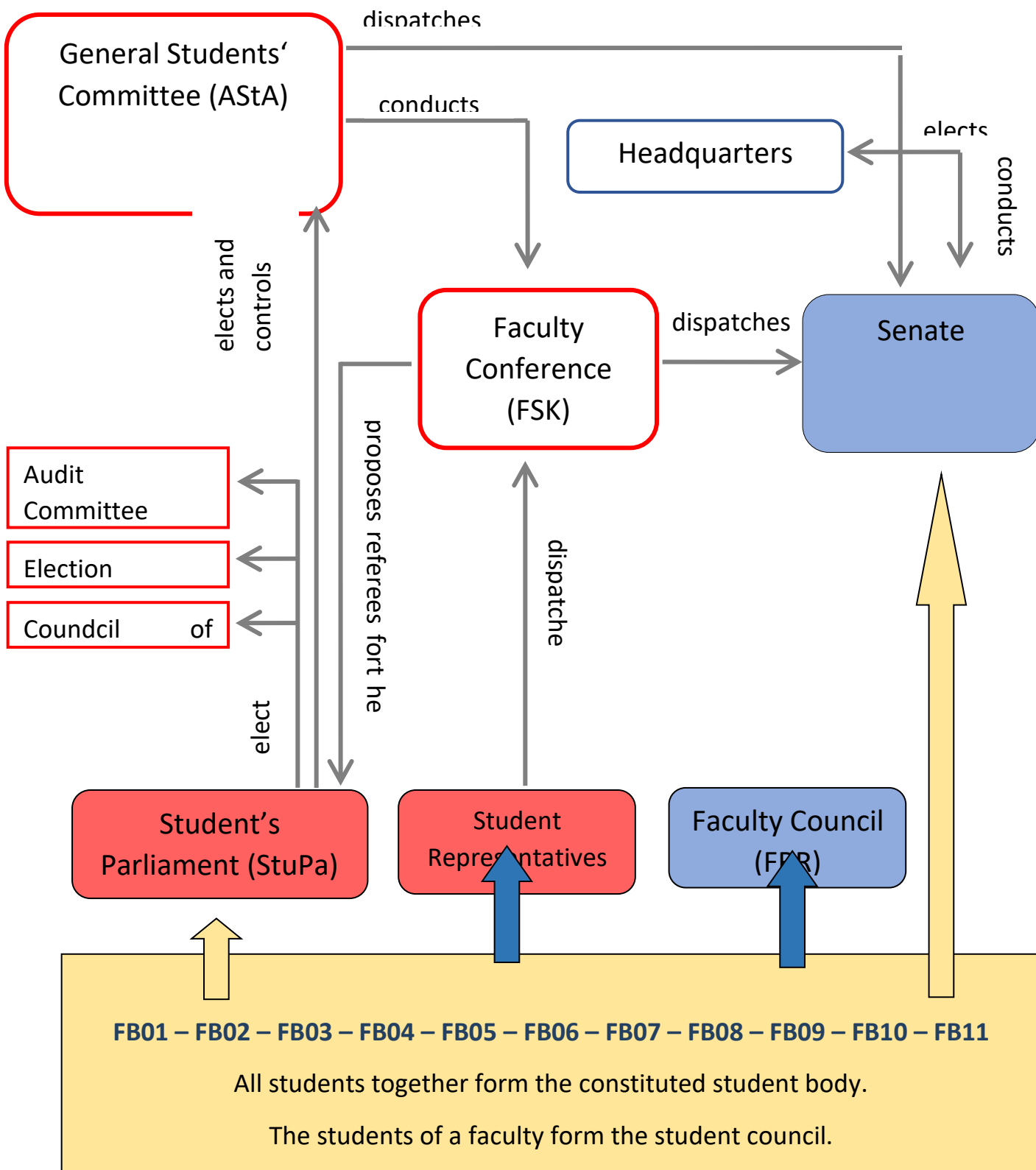
In faculties with a big amount of different programs, the directorates form the lower committee of the faculty (e.g. the directorates of the department for political science and the department of sociology).

Faculty Conference

The platform for the organization and exchange of all the faculties is called Faculty Conference. The faculty conference discusses current concerns and

administers the budget. Further you've got the opportunity to develop new ideas for your own faculty by talking to members of other faculties. The faculty conference will also support you in case of problems within your faculty. The board contains of two to three students who are elected by the conference.

Student Self-Administration **Universitary Self-Administration**



5.4. Student's elections

What? You elect the student's parliament, representing all the students of our university, as well as the students' association.

When? The elections take place in every summer term.

Why? The students' parliament and the student's association take care of our concern, money and interests. If you want to help shape your life at the university, the elections are THE opportunity to do so.

How? There are two options for you to participate in the elections. For one it is possible to vote online for which you can use every computer and mobile terminals. In case you are not able to cast your vote online, you can request an absentee ballot at the electoral office.

6. Leisure Time

Most of the population in Gießen is studying. Moreover, among all university cities in Germany, Gießen has the highest students rate inside its population. Therefore, Gießen will provide you with a daily adventure required quality time. Whether you prefer enjoying cocktails on a rooftop, dancing till the morning sun rises, watching German movies in the cinema, or working out in the park, we will provide you with the prepare you with information about the hotspots in Gießen.

6.1. Night life

Depending on whether you would prefer to enjoy a drink in a more small but mighty location, we advocate the Zentralbar, Zwibbel, Apfelbaum, Dachcafe, Ulenspiegel, Haarlem, Monkeys, Bierexpress, Sowieso or the Enjoy Bar, otherwise in contemplation of individuals who may dance, Gießen provide you with more than enough opportunities on any day of the week (see timetable). For having pre-drinks, we recommend Mr. Jones and Enchiladas. However, Bierexpress would be the cheapest way to get drunk.

But be warned: Gießen is not Berlin, London, New York, or Tel Aviv. Our night life starts very early, so that our dancefloors are filled before midnight.

6.2. Museum

Besides consuming alcohol, Gießen could fancy your needs with its culture. For example

Mathematikum

The Mathematikum is a science museum, located in the heart of Gießen, which offers a huge variety of mathematical hands-on exhibits. The purpose of the Mathematikum is to let people learn mathematics by personal experience, rather than teaching it using formulae or equations. The visitors can therefore learn, by participating in more than 150 interactive exhibits in the museum.

Address: Liebigstraße 8, 35390 Gießen

Opening hours: Mo-Fr 9:00-18:00 Uhr

Weekends and holidays: 10:00-19:00 Uhr

Liebig-Museum

The Liebig-Museum, just like the Mathematikum, aims to provide visitors with a non-conventional experience of chemistry.

Address: Liebigstraße 12, 35390 Gießen

Opening hours: Di-So 10:00-16:00 Uhr

Gießkannen-Museum

The German word for watering (flowers) is Gießen. Therefore, the city Gießen provides you with a museum full of watering cans.

Address: Sonnenstraße 3

6.3. Theatre, Music, and Movies

Kinopolis Gießen

You would like to enjoy a chillout with your friends? Then we would highly recommend the cinema Kinopolis. Special Hint: By showing the retail workers your students-id, you will get a discount.

Address: Berliner Platz, 35390 Gießen

Theatre Gießen

As a student of the Justus-Liebig-University, you are provided with a free entrance any day of the year inside the Theatre Gießen (you are also allowed to use the public swimming pool for free)

Address: Berliner Platz, 35390 Gießen

6.4. University sports

As students, we established all sorts of sports in our university. Whether it is badminton, yoga or soccer, the general university sport offers almost everything you can think of. The basic fee per semester is six euros but depending on the type of sport a further fee can be added. For further information and booking, please visit: <http://www.uni-giessen.de/fbz/svc/ahs>

6.5. Leisure activities in and around Gießen

Canoeing

If you always wanted to do a canoe tour, you have the opportunity to have a great experience in Gießen, Wetzlar and Marburg. On the website: www.kanutours-giessen.com/kanu-touren/ you will find all information on that.

High Robes Gießen

You are looking for a adrenaline rush? In the Gießen climbing centre, you can experience an extraordinary adventure at a breathtaking height. For about ten euros you can spend two hours in the height and prove how brave you are. For more information, visit their website: www.kletterwald-giessen.de

Botanical garden

Enjoy Gießen's nature in the botanical garden! The department of Biology uses the garden for scientific purposes but it can still be a place of recreation.

7. Gender neutral use of language

As student's association of all who may study at the political or sociological department, we try to create an open space for every student. In order to do so, we must constantly reflect and revise our own use of language. As we know, language is part of the social construction of reality and constitutes hegemony. Therefore, our main aim is to break those constitutions, thus empowering all students to participate. Despite this, it is possible some students may feel under-represented, or in fact not represented at all. For example, in the German language, we often use the masculine term as a default description, however some may argue that the -as of yet non-existent- inclusion of the female pronoun in everyday language is of vital importance in order to contribute to such representation. Additionally, further issues may stem from a lack of recognition of people who do not identify within the gender binary – as a stereotypical male or a female – who may still remain hidden. Therefore, we would like you to read our advice on how to adapt the German vocabulary to create a more inclusive language in our German paper. Moreover, this chapter aim is to provide you with advice for the English language.

There has been great debate surrounding gender-neutral use of terms such as 'he' and 'man'. It is commonly said that such terms encapsulate both gender-specific meanings, thus emphasizing the prevalent attitude of male terms being the default, while female pronouns fit under the umbrella of the male standard.

However, it may be important to note that even the supposed gender-neutral meanings of these terms may not in fact be entirely neutral. Moreover, surveys have shown that the use of language impacts the expectations of certain positions, for example, when talking about a police officer, people usually envision a male, while discussing about a nurse, often conjures a female image.

This, therefore, suggests claims that 'man' and 'he' are gender-neutral terms are in fact inaccurate. In order to avoid such errors and expand our knowledge, we must be more vigilant in our daily use of vocabulary, and the meanings behind such terms.

English, as in most languages, requires a great deal of sex marking. For example, one cannot use pronouns to refer to a particular individual without first knowing

their sex. However, such assumptions rely on simple visual judgements, marking a person with a certain gender based on perceived male or female physical characteristics. As previously discussed, this may be inaccurate based on individual's preferences, therefore highlighting the importance of asking people which pronoun they refer to.

As Association, we know such topics may be new for many students. Despite this, however, it is important to provide new students with the necessary knowledge to help combat such issues. Some lecturers, as well as students may be highly sensitive on this topic, therefore if you have any more questions, we would like to invite you to talk with us.



Fachschaft
Gesellschaftswissenschaften
an der JLU Gießen