

**Summary:**

At the University of Augsburg the International Office offers a course which is supposed to help foreign students prepare for their studies at Augsburg. Mrs Kirchner, who is responsible for this course and who looks after foreign students, gives some information about preconditions, the program, and the application procedure.

(Voxpops:) “Preparatory course? What? What for? Eh?” - “For beginners, right?” - “No, I didn't do that...” - “Okay, so either that's for foreign students who are preparing for their studies or...”

Narrator: Exactly! The preparatory course is really supposed to be for foreign students who are about to begin their studies at the University of Augsburg. Not everybody knows what it feels like to be all alone in a foreign country, not to know anybody in the new city, and not to know whom to contact. That's why the International Office and its preparatory course give you the opportunity to find your way around uni more easily. Mrs Kirchner, who is responsible for the course, gives you more information.

Mrs Kirchner: We want the participants to get used to university and to the different institutions such as the computer center and the library before the beginning of their studies, but that they also know what a mensacard is, where they can buy it and so on. The participants' social integration is very important. They get to know other foreign students before the beginning of their studies, but they also meet German tutors who accompany them during their free time and offer events...So fun doesn't come up short.

Narrator: That doesn't sound that bad, right? And how can you participate?

Mrs Kirchner: An admission to study at the University of Augsburg is very important as well as a good knowledge of German as the course will take place in German and is not a normal language course, but a preparatory course. Our main target group are students who are going to do their whole studies at the University of Augsburg and who will also be doing their final exams here.

Narrator: Aha, so you only need an admission and knowledge of German...And how does the course run?

Mrs Kirchner: In the year 2011 the preparatory course will start on September 19 and end on October 10. That means that it'll last for three weeks. There will be program in the mornings and in the afternoons and there will be 4 modules during the course.

Narrator: By modules Mrs Kirchner means that the course is divided into four different units. First, the participants learn how to take notes, how to make a presentation or how to write a term paper. Afterwards, there is a practical block during which the participants interview members of staff at the student union, at the course guidance

and counseling service or at the sports center. The interviews are then prepared together with the German tutors and are then presented to the others. Furthermore, the participants have the opportunity to talk to students who are already more advanced in their studies. The last and probably the most important module is about networking with other freshers. Anastassiya and Ina also share this opinion.

**Anastassiya:** During the preparatory course I felt like being in a package of M&Ms. We were a lot of people from different countries: from Vietnam, Brazil, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan. We didn't only work together, but we also did a lot of things together, we had parties, and cooked together. And we are still in contact today and I think that that's just great!

**Ina:** But of course we didn't just laze around, but we also talked to a lecturer of our subject. That's what I thought was most useful.

**Narrator:** So it's really worth attending the preparatory course. But where can you enroll for the course?

**Mrs Kirchner:** The application procedure is the following: one can find information about the course at our homepage and a registration form can be downloaded there as well which is to be sent to me together with the admission to study at the University of Augsburg. I'll then send an email to the participants to confirm their participation as well as the particulars of the uni's banking account. The course is for free, but the participants pay a deposit of 100 euros which they get back if they attend the course.

**Narrator:** The number of participants is, however, limited to 25. So you have to hurry up! If you won't get a place, we've got a tip for you:

**Mrs Kirchner:** There is an introductory day for foreign students and the evening before that, there is the "Kennenlernabend" where you get the opportunity to get to know other people. At the introductory day, the tutors are introduced, because, at the University of Augsburg, every foreign student gets a German tutor if he or she wants to. This tutor helps to get through the first semester and is available for questions concerning the organization of your studies or everyday life.

**Narrator:** It's never bad to prepare for an upcoming challenge, because a good and easy start is very promising. Enroll yourself early enough, pack your bags, and get into student life. We're waiting for you!

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