Entry into Lower Saxony – Lingen - Information regarding Corona:

Entry restrictions – Exception for the Purpose of Studies
Entry to Germany is again possible without restrictions for travelers from EU countries and some third countries (information on the countries: Federal Ministry of the Interior - Travel Restrictions). All other third country nationals may only enter Germany if it is absolutely necessary. This compelling necessity is recognized for foreign students whose studies or research projects cannot be completely carried out from abroad. They will receive a corresponding certificate from Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences, which must be presented during the visa process and at border controls.

Entry from a Risk Area – Which Countries/Regions are Risk Areas?
The Robert Koch-Institut (RKI – the public health institute in Germany) identifies the international risk areas and regularly updates their overview:
https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Risikogebiete_neu.html

Entry from a Risk Area – Testing, Quarantine and Reporting Obligations
If you enter Germany from abroad and have been in a risk area within 14 days before entering the country, you have an obligation to receive a coronavirus test, quarantine yourself and report your entry, i.e. you are obliged:

- to go directly to your accommodation immediately after arrival and to stay there without interruption for a period of 14 days after arrival. (During this period, you are not allowed to go out for walks nor receive visits from persons who do not belong to your own household.)

- to have yourself tested for coronavirus as soon as possible after entering Germany. (please see below: Corona test in Germany)

- to immediately report the Public Health Service for the District of Emsland that you are subject to testing and quarantine. To do so please send a mail to reiserueckkehrer@emsland.de and give your name, date of birth, your address in Lingen, your cell phone number and the information from which country you came and on which day you entered Germany, as well as whether you have already had a coronavirus test.

Exemption from the Quarantine Obligations – Corona Test before Entry
The quarantine obligations do not apply if you have no relevant symptoms (see below) and have a medical certificate in German or English confirming that there are no indications for your infection with the coronavirus. The medical certificate must be based on an appropriate test for coronavirus (no antibody test or other rapid tests) carried out in a Member State of the European Union or another state acknowledged by the Robert Koch Institute and carried out no more than 48 hours before your entry into the Federal Republic of Germany (see information of the RKI on the recognition of molecular biological tests). Please submit the test result by mail to the Public Health Service for the District of Emsland: reiserueckkehrer@emsland.de

Shortening of the Quarantine Obligation – Corona Test in Germany
If you enter Lower Saxony from a risk area and do not have a medical certificate based on a recognized corona test, you must immediately go into quarantine and report your arrival to the Public Health Service for the District of Emsland. This means that you are subject to the testing, quarantine and reporting obligations (see above).
You can shorten the quarantine period by presenting the Public Health Service for the District of Emsland with a medical certificate based on a recognized corona test.
You can have yourself tested in Germany. This test is free of charge for you if it takes place within 72 hours of your arrival.

You can receive the test directly after landing at the airport or at a test center in the Emsland region. To get tested in Lingen or in the Emsland region, please contact the citizen's hotline (+49 (0) 5931 44-5701 or +49 (0)5931 44-5702); state your name, date of birth, address in Lingen, your mobile phone number, date of arrival in Germany and the country from which you have entered Germany and ask for a test.

Until the results of your test have been submitted, you are obliged to remain in quarantine at home (exception: the direct route to testing). The quarantine only ends before the full 14 days once you have submitted the negative result via mail: reiserueckkehrer@emsland.de.

Entry from a Country/Region that is not a Risk Area
Even if you enter Germany from a country or region that is not one of the risk areas and have not visited a risk area within the last 14 days before entry, you can still receive a voluntary and free corona test, if it is carried out within 72 hours of entry (see above: Corona test in Germany).

Appearance of Symptoms
The following symptoms indicate an infection with the coronavirus: cough, fever, sometimes sore throat, runny nose, loss of sense of smell/taste, headache and aching limbs.

If you have these symptoms, please consult a doctor in Lingen (general practitioner = Hausarzt, Allgemein Mediziner/in). Communication in English is possible in most doctors' offices. Please call and describe the symptoms before you go there.

Support from Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences
Please contact the colleagues in the International Faculty Office of your faculty if you have questions or need support.

Sources:
Website of the Public Health Service for the District and City of Osnabrück, Daily Life - Information for Travellers: https://corona-os.de/im-taeglichen-leben#accordion-286 (in German)

Website of the City of Lingen, Information for travellers: https://www.lingen.de/politik-rathaus-service/im-fokus/informationen-fuer-den-reiseverkehr.html (in German)


Status: August 27, 2020
Center for International Mobility
Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences