Entry into Lower Saxony – Osnabrück - Information regarding Corona:

Status: September 16, 2020
Please note that the regulations regarding entry, corona testing, reporting and quarantine obligations may change at short notice.

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 or receive visits from persons who do not belong to your own household.)

- to immediately contact the Public Health Service for the District and City of Osnabrück and report to them that you are subject to quarantine. To do so, please use the digital contact form for new entrants

- to have yourself tested for coronavirus as soon as possible after entering Germany.

Note: A new regulation is expected to come into force on October 1, 2020 for those entering from risk areas. It is planned that testing for the coronavirus in Germany will only be possible from the 5th day after return. Until a negative test result is available, the obligation to quarantine applies.

Exemption from the Testing and Quarantine Obligations – Corona Test before Entry
The quarantine and testing 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). The medical certificate does not have to be submitted to the Public Health Service for the District and City of Osnabrück. However, you must keep it for at
least 14 days after entry and be able to present it upon request. It is advised to keep the number of your social contacts as low as possible during this period and to take a second test 5 to 7 days after entry or after the first test (see below: voluntary second test). You are not exempted from the reporting obligation through the digital contact form.

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. This means that you are subject to the quarantine and reporting obligations (see above).
You can shorten the quarantine period by presenting the public health service 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 10 days of your arrival.

You can receive the test directly after landing at the airport or in a test center in Osnabrück. To get tested in Osnabrück, please contact the Public Health Service in Osnabrück by phone (00 49 541 501-1111, Mo.-Fr. 9-14 o'clock) and state your name, date of birth, address in Osnabrück, your mobile phone number and the country from which you have entered Germany. The Public Health Service will forward this data to the test center, and the test center will inform you by telephone when and where the test will take place. The test results are usually available within two to four days and are transmitted by the test center to the Public Health Service, who will inform you of the result by telephone.

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. You submit the test result by e-mail to corona@Lkos.de.

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Entry from a Country/Region that is not a Risk Area
It is no possible to get a free corona test but you can get yourself tested on a voluntary basis and pay for the test.

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. The following general practitioners have a joint practice very close to the university (Caprivi Campus) and are aware that international students may seek their advice. Communication in English is possible. Please call and describe the symptoms before you go there.
Practice Lankenfeld (Dr. Uwe Lankenfeld, Dr. Lena Schillak, Stephanie Friederich)
Lotter Str. 82, 49078 Osnabrück, phone: +49 541 41422, hausarztpraxis@lankenfeld.de
Those who are subject to quarantine and have no negative test results are also obliged to immediately inform the Public Health Service of Osnabrück of their symptoms (Corona Hotline of the Health Service: 00 49 541 501-1111).

**Voluntary second test**
From an infectiological point of view, a second test 5 to 7 days after entry (or after the first test) is very useful and people entering from risk areas are strongly recommended to make use of this voluntary and free option. Until the second test result is available, you should as a precaution keep the number of your social contacts as low as possible. The second test is only free if carried out within 10 days after entry and in consultation with the Public Health Service in Osnabrück. Please contact the Corona Hotline in good time (preferably several days before): 00 49 541 501-1111.

**Support from Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences**
Visiting Students: Please contact the colleagues in the International Faculty Office of your faculty if you have questions or need support.
Degree-seeking students: Please contact the Center for International Students 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 (in German): https://corona-os.de/im-taeglichen-leben#accordion-286

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Center for International Mobility
Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences