Welcome to Münster

Introductory information and tips:
Living, working, studying, education, transport, authorities, leisure
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I. Ten times Münster - in brief

Münster is a multi-faceted city. It is a city of science and learning, the City of the Westphalian Peace, the capital city of bicycles and Germany’s Climate Protection Capital. Westphalia’s longstanding regional capital is a young city, not least thanks to around 50,000 students. It is an outstanding place to live, work, learn and research. It is a place where urban culture, municipal diversity and first-class rural recreation intersect and have a mutually enhancing effect.

I.1. Münster in figures

Münster is a green city. Almost 65 per cent of the city area is used for agricultural and forestry purposes. Here are a few statistics (rounded up or down in some cases):

Geography

- City surface area: 303 square kilometres
- Highest point: Vorbergshügel, 99 metres above sea level
- Lowest point: on the river Ems, 39 metres above sea level
- Neighbouring cities: Bielefeld (62 kilometres to the East), Dortmund (61 kilometres to the South), Enschede (the Netherlands; 65 kilometres to the North-West), Osnabrück (44 kilometres to the North-East).

Climate

- Average annual temperature: 9.2 degrees Celsius
- Average precipitation: 744 millimetres
- Hours of sunshine in 2011: 1706
- Highest and lowest temperatures in 2011: 33.6 degrees Celsius and -8.3 degrees Celsius

People

- Population: Approximately 296,500 inhabitants (155,500 female, 141,000 male)
- Population density: 159,600 households
- Employed individuals (Dec. 2010): 199,500
- Unemployment (Jun. 2012): 5.9 per cent or 8,992 individuals
- Students (winter semester 2012/2013): 50,000
- Pupils (school year 2011/12): 33,350 at general-education schools, 19,750 at vocational colleges
- Foreign inhabitants: 20,297 (Dec. 2011)

Municipal districts

- Central – 122,500 inhabitants
- North – 28,900
- East – 21,400
- West – 58,800
- South-East – 27,500
- Hiltrup – 37,400

And some more statistics

- 9 hospitals, 102 chemists’, 41 nursing homes, 27 nursing services
- 94 general-education schools, 11 vocational colleges, 8 universities
- 14,600 places in 164 nursery schools, crèches and after-school care clubs
- 330 playgrounds, more than 500 sports complexes
- 5 theatres with independent theatre companies, 28 museums and exhibition halls, 2 large event and concert halls, 1 trade fair centre
I.2. Young old city

History was made in Münster, and it continues to have an effect to this day. Here is a condensed historical retrospect:

Münster’s roots can be traced back to the 6th century AD. However, the city officially came into existence in 793, when Frisian missionary Liudger founded the “Monasterium” cloister. Münster became a cathedral city as early as 805, and the city remains an active centre of the Roman-Catholic church.

Münster’s development into a religious Christian centre in Westphalia went hand in hand with its increased significance as a commercial and political hub. Münster received its town charter in 1170. The city enjoyed its economic heyday in the 14th and 15th centuries as an outpost of the Hanseatic league, Europe’s most influential trade network at the beginning of the modern age. The Prinzipalmarkt with the historic Town Hall, which was completed around 1350, continues to testify to the success and self-assurance of the merchant community.

Two events which took place in Münster are destined to remain forever etched on the world’s historic memory. John of Leiden founded the Anabaptist theocracy in Münster in 1534, and declared himself king. The reign of the Anabaptists, a radical Christian reform movement, met a bloody end when soldiers in the employ of Prince-Bishop Franz von Waldeck suppressed the faction’s adherents. Three wrought-iron cages, in which the bodies of the publicly executed Anabaptists were displayed as a warning to the crowds, hang in the tower of St. Lambert’s Church to this day. In 1648, Münster (and its neighbouring city Osnabrück) was the site of the Peace of Westphalia. This effectively ended the Thirty Years’ War and resulted in state sovereignty for the Netherlands and Switzerland.

In 1773, the foundation stone of one of Germany’s most significant university cities was laid with the establishment of the Regional University. Today, the city is home to around 50,000 students who study at its eight universities.

In 1816, Münster was declared the capital of the new province of Westphalia in the kingdom of Prussia. The provincial capital became the “desk of Westphalia” and with it the seat of many authorities and institutions. After the Second World War, the Prussian provinces of Westphalia and Rhineland were included in the new Federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia. However, the Regional Association of Westphalia-Lippe, with headquarters in Münster, continues to be responsible for many cultural and social duties in the Westphalian province. Münster is also the seat of a regional district authority.

The Old Town, which was destroyed by bombing during the Second World War, was the subject of an extensive historical reconstruction after 1945. It was enhanced by new buildings which made international headlines: the municipal theatre (1956), the municipal library (1993), the diocesan library (2005) and the Stubengasse shopping mall (adorned with the German Urban Development Award 2010 and the National Award for Integrated Urban Development 2012). Münster has developed from an administrative city to the economic, scientific and service industry hub of a region with 1.5 million inhabitants.

I.3. City of Peace

The Peace of Westphalia treaties were signed and sealed in Münster and Osnabrück on 24th October 1648. They ended a battle for political and religious supremacy in Central Europe, which had lasted for thirty years and resulted in unimaginable suffering, particularly for the German population. The Peace of Westphalia imposed international law. It was the first time
in European history that a war had been ended via diplomatic channels at the negotiation
table, as opposed to military actions on the battlefield.

www.muenster.de/friede

Münster’s identity has been influenced by the Peace of Westphalia and the accompanying
culture of tolerance. The city also constituted a stage on the journey towards Cold War
conciliation: on 18th June 1990, Foreign Ministers Shevardnadze (Soviet Union) and
Genscher (Germany) met in the Town Hall of Westphalian Peace in order to prepare the
"Two-Plus-Four Accord", which paved the way for the peaceful reunification of Germany.

Peace as a mission:

- Münster underscores its historical responsibility for peaceful co-existence and non-
  violent conflict resolutions during the annual event series entitled "Westphalian Peace –
  yesterday. today. tomorrow."
- The Westphalian Peace Prize is awarded bi-annually by the Economic Association of
  Westphalia and Lippe. One outstanding individual, who is committed to unity and
  peace in a Federal Europe, and a youth organisation which works in an exemplary
  manner towards these aims are honoured. Ex-chancellor Helmut Schmidt was
  honoured in 2012, along with the Children for a Better World. Other personalities
  being honoured were the conductor Daniel Barenboim and the young musicians of
  the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra (2010) or the former UN General Secretary Kofi
  Annan (2008).
  www.westfaelischer-friedenspreis.de
- The message of the Peace of Westphalia endures in the historic Town Hall in the
  Prinzipalmarkt. The Town Hall is considered one of the Gothic period’s most beautiful
  secular buildings. The council chamber is the oldest part of the building, and is
  famous as the "Peace Hall". Although the actual peace treaties were not signed here,
  peace was invoked in advance of the Spanish-Dutch pact, which resulted in the King
  of Spain’s recognition of sovereignty for the Netherlands. Portraits of the envoys to
  the complex peace negotiations, which lasted for five years, hang on the walls of the
  "Peace Hall" in testimony to those times.
- A memorial slab in the fireplace in the Peace Hall bears the inscription: "Anno 1648:
  European heads of state gathered in the Peace Hall to mark the 350th anniversary of
  Westphalian Peace and rekindle this important message. "
  www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus/westfaelischer-frieden.html

I.4. The World's Most Liveable City

Münster is authorised to call itself "The World's Most Liveable City". In 2004, Münster was
the first German city to take first place at the International Awards for Liveable Communities
(LivCom-Awards) in the category of cities with 200,000 – 750,000 inhabitants. Münster
outshone cities such as Seattle/USA, Okayama/Japan, Changshu/China, Poznan/Poland
and Coventry/UK during the urban competition, organised by UNEP, the United Nations
Environment Programme, and IFPRA, the International Federation of Parks and Recreation
Administration. Over 450 cities from around the world participated in the annual competition
in 2004.

The jury awarded the best marks for the systematic development of city and region, the
careful assimilation of historical heritage into city culture and the promotion of environmental
protection and environmental awareness. The jury was particularly impressed by the fact that
Münster's citizens voluntarily play an active, committed role in the city’s ongoing
development.
The combination of dedicated citizens and foresighted environmental planning was crucial to the city’s success in two further competitions. In 2007, Münster represented Germany in the “Entente florale Europe” competition, where it was awarded the gold medal. In 2009, Münster was shortlisted for the European Green Capital Award.

www.muenster.de/stadt/livcom/index218.htm
www.muenster.de/stadt/entente-florale/index_en.html
www.muenster.de/stadt/greencapital/index_en.html

I.5. City of culture

Münster takes centre stage in the international art scene over a period of 100 days each decade. The city plays host to the “Sculpture Projects”, which number among the most important international exhibitions of contemporary art displayed in the public sphere. The first Sculpture Projects took place in 1977. At the event’s fourth anniversary in 2007, the 34 art works by 36 artists from 14 countries attracted around 550,000 visitors from all over the world. The city places several sculptures on permanent display after each exhibition. Münster’s squares and parks have therefore become the largest open-air museum for contemporary sculpture in recent decades.

www.skulptur-projekte.de/aktuell/?lang=en

The Sculpture Projects are the jewel in Münster’s cultural crown. However, day to day cultural life in the city is also extremely diverse and attractive.

Theatre
Münster is home to over 40 theatres and theatre groups, which perform on a regular basis (www.muenster.de/theater.html). Some important theatres:

- **Theater Münster**: The municipal theatre includes the musical, drama, children’s and youth and dance theatres and the symphony orchestra, and thus unites five disciplines under one roof. Around 25 premières and 550 performances per season make for a demanding programme, which is supplemented by productions by the Low German Theatre, guest performances, readings, lectures and exhibitions. The “Großes Haus”, used for major productions, has 955 seats, and the “Kleines Haus”, a smaller stage located in the same building, seats 280 theatre-goers.
  
  www.theater-muenster.com

- **Theater im Pumpenhaus**: North Rhine-Westphalia’s first free theatre was founded in a former sewage pumping station in 1985. The Theater im Pumpenhaus doesn’t have its own company; instead, it offers outstanding national and international artists and theatre groups from Münster the opportunity to showcase their talents during stage performances.
  
  www.pumpenhaus.de

- **Wolfgang Borchert Theatre**: The Wolfgang Borchert Theatre by the city harbour is a professional private theatre with its own permanent company, which is complemented by guest performers. It was founded in 1956, and is one of Germany’s oldest private theatres.
  
  www.wolfgang-borchert-theater.de

- **GOP**: Modern variety theatre productions are staged by international artists in the GOP-Variety Theatre, directly opposite the main railway station. The emphasis is placed on cultivated live entertainment, combined with creative cuisine.
  
  www.variete.de/en/venues/muenster/muenster.html

Cinema
Münster is a city of cinemas. Here, blockbuster films are viewed by up to 80,000 spectators. Münster’s inhabitants go to the cinema up to six times more frequently than the populations of other German cities.

www.muenster.de/medien_film
With its nine screens and 2,700 seats, the Cineplex on Albersloher Weg is the city’s largest cinema. Münster is also home to two cinemas which are regularly singled out for their courageous choice of art house movies away from the mainstream: the “Cinema” on Warendorfer Straße and the “Schloßtheater” on Melchersstraße.

www.cineplex.de/kino/home/city35
www.cinema-muenster.de

In 1981, the “Cinema” hosted the first ever Münster film festival, which quickly gained a national following and is organised by the Filmwerkstatt Münster on a bi-annual basis.

www.filmwerkstatt.muenster.de

Münster has witnessed major film and television productions in recent years. Two of Germany's most popular thriller series are located here: "Münster-Tatort" and "Wilsberg".

www.muenster.de/stadt/filmservice

Museums
Pablo Picasso and August Macke, two of the 20th century's most important painters, occupy a permanent place in Münster's museumscape. Their works are leading exponents within a rich selection of exhibits in Münster’s 29 museums and exhibition halls for art, art history, science and technology.

www.muenster.de/museen.html
www5.stadt-muenster.de/schriften/pdf/Museumsfuehrer_e.pdf

Exhibition density is at its peak along the "Museum Mile", on the Pferdegasse/Domplatz (Cathedral Square). This is the site of the Westphalian State Museum of Art and Cultural History, the Westphalian Art Association, the Bible Museum, the Archaeological Museum, the Diocesan Museum of Christian Art and the Cathedral Treasury in St. Paul’s Cathedral. The Geological-Palaeontological Museum and the Mineralogical Museum (Geomuseum) are also due to reopen on the Pferdegasse during the course of 2013.

Some museums:
LWL State Museum of Art and Cultural History: The collections take the visitor on a journey through 1,000 years of Occidental art and cultural history. The museum, which stores 500,000 artefacts in its repositories, is only able to exhibit 5,000 pieces, or one per cent of the treasures with which it is entrusted, at any one time. It also administers the artistic inheritance of August Macke, one of the most important painters of the Modern Age. Since 2012, the museum is closed, due to a large-scale restructuring and rebuilding, an investment of around 48 million euros. The old building is being completely restructured, and a new building erected on the site of the former Archaeology Museum in the centre of Münster. The new museum, with a total of 7,500 square metres of exhibition space, will be reopened by spring 2014.


Pablo Picasso Museum of Graphic Arts: The museum's collection unites over 800 prints by Picasso, and includes virtually the entire lithographic oeuvre by the Spanish artist. The collection comprises portraits, still life, turbulent bullfight scenes and ancient mythological creatures, all of which inhabit Picasso’s lithographs. Temporary exhibitions on the life and work of Picasso and his contemporaries make the works of the 20th century genius extremely accessible. The museum is located in a listed building on the Königstraße.

www.kunstmuseum-picasso-muenster.de/en/home/home/

Museum of Lacquer Art: The Museum of Lacquer Art on the Windthorststraße is the only one of its kind in the world. The establishment, which is affiliated to the BASF Coatings AG houses a collection of lacquer arts from East Asia, Europe and the
Islamic world, including 1,000 artefacts whose date range spans 2,000 years.  
www.museum-fuer-lackkunst.de

City Museum: The City Museum on the Salzstraße presents the history of the city from its beginnings to the present day. Specific topics and aspects related to Münster’s cultural, artistic and quotidian history are presented during special exhibitions.  
www.muenster.de/stadt/museum/welcome.html

Mühlenhof Open-Air Museum: The Mühlenhof displays four centuries' worth of rural regional culture and craftsmanship over five hectares, and is located in the direct vicinity of the Aasee (Lake Aa) and the “Allwetterzoo” (all-weather zoo). Approximately 30 historic buildings, including a post mill, were either transferred to the museum from their original sites or reconstructed there according to original models.  
www.muehlenhof-muenster.org

LWL Natural History Museum: A permanent exhibition at the museum traces Westphalia's development from the mammoth steppe to agrarian countryside. The 16-metre long skeleton of a tyrannosaurus rex is a real visitor magnet. Attached to the museum there is also a planetarium.  
www.lwl.org/LWL/Kultur/lwl-naturkunde/english

Music
Münster’s music scene is composed of an immense number of orchestras, groups, choirs and bands. The city’s press office provides an initial overview of Münster’s musical spectrum, including performance locations and music lessons online at  
www.muenster.de/kultur_musik.html

Literature
The "Literaturline" on the internet provides interested parties with an overview of the various famous and undiscovered authors living and working in Münster. The site features both a literary events calendar and lists of links to literary event organisers and patrons.  
www5.stadt-muenster.de/literaturline/literaturline.cfm
www.muenster.de/literatur.html

Event and concert locations
The city’s club scene offers a selection of pop, rock and jazz events which delight musical enthusiasts as much as the major classical concerts at the Münster Theatre or the shows featuring international stars, which are held at the Halle Münsterland. Consumer fairs take place in the region's major event centre on a regular basis, such as the Garden and Wellness Fair "spring – flowers – leisure" or the "Fine Arts and Antiques Fair". The Stadthalle Hiltrup offers visitors a diverse programme featuring craft events, concerts and cabaret. With its concerts and parties held in the "Jib" bar, the "Gleis 22" club on the Hafenstraße has been crowned “club of the year” on the German club scene several times to date.  
www.muenster.de/kultur_buehnen.html

I.6. Germany’s cycling capital

Münster without bicycles? Unthinkable! Over 100,000 citizens use the “Leeze“ - the translation of the word "bicycle" in Münster dialect - on a daily basis in order to get to work, school, sport or lectures or to discover the city. Münster is home to an estimated 500,000 bicycles. This means that, from a statistical perspective, each inhabitant owns almost two bicycles.  
www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus/fahrradhauptstadt.html
www.muensterradtouristik.de

Cyclists have access to an extremely well developed, 450 kilometre network of cycle paths designed for bicycle traffic, in addition to 255 kilometres of cycle paths located off the main
roads on access routes. There are even special bicycle roads, on which the “Leezen” set the pace and take precedence over cars. The infrastructure is rounded off by a selection of bicycle parks, rental points and a dense dealer network.

It’s no wonder that Münster has been voted “Germany’s most bicycle-friendly city” several times, both by the ADAC (German Automobile Association) and the ADFC (German Cyclists’ Federation). Germany’s leading consumer safety group, the “Stiftung Warentest”, came to the same conclusion.

However, caution is required: this popular means of transport is a favourite target for thieves. On average, more bicycles are stolen in Münster than in other cities. Those who don’t lock their bikes may soon have to go on foot. This also applies to those who inconsiderately leave their bicycles in inappropriate locations on pavements, streets or pedestrian zones. Bicycles which disrupt traffic or obstruct footpaths are removed by the municipal authorities and taken to central collection points.

Münster is located at the heart of the Münsterland Cycling Region. Cycling is the perfect way to explore the flat parkland, which is dotted with old moated castles. The Münsterland cycling network covers 4,500 kilometres. It offers a wide selection of themed routes and circuits. The excellent infrastructure, which includes bed & bike accommodation, service and bike rental points and bicycle navigation systems, make the Münsterland a cycling paradise for leisure, sport and relaxation.

www.muensterland-tourismus.de/radfahren/index.html

I.7. University town and science city

Münster is a city of science and learning. Its eight universities offer a broad range of subjects. The city is home to the Westphalian Wilhelms University of Münster (WWU), one of Germany’s largest universities. The cluster of excellence "Politics and Religion”, which was created in 2008, is one example of the outstanding research going on at this university. The University of Applied Sciences in Münster is one of the most dedicated of its kind in terms of research. Münster’s universities and scientific institutions, such as the Max-Planck Institute for Molecular Biomedicine, two Fraunhofer Institute branches and the Center for NanoTechnology (CeNTec), form a scientific network which carries out teaching and research in over 500 fields.

With its 296,500 strong population including around 50,000 students, Münster boasts one of the highest “student densities” in Germany. The sciences constitute the city’s largest employer. Almost every fourth individual living in Münster either studies, teaches, researches or works at or for one of the eight universities.

The growing significance of science is becoming increasingly evident in the “innovation quarter” in the west of the city. The Science Park with Technologehof (Technology Centre Münster), Center for NanoTechnology (CeNTec), Max-Planck Institute, the newly built Nanobioanalytics Center (official opening in Jan. 2013) and a series of technology-oriented companies is located in the direct vicinity of the University’s Scientific Centre, the University Clinics and the University of Applied Sciences. The second element of the “innovation quarter” is the Technology Park, which includes companies from the fields of life science and information and communication technology. The “innovation quarter” is rounded off by the Leonardo campus with the college of art and other institutions affiliated to the University of Applied Sciences and the University.

www.allianz-fuer-wissenschaft.de

Contact partners at the municipal authorities: Dr. Matthias Schmidt and Dr. Ulrike Blanc, Academic Office
The universities online:
- Westphalian Wilhelms University – www.uni-muenster.de/en/
- Catholic University of Applied Sciences North Rhine-Westphalia – www.katho-nrw.de/?L=1
- Philosophical-Theological University of Münster – www.pth-muenster.de
- Academy of Fine Arts Münster - www.kunstakademie-muenster.de
- Federal University of Applied Administrative Sciences NRW, Faculty of Finance – www.fhbund.de/EN/00__Home/homepage_node.html?__nnn=true
- Federal University of Applied Public Administrative Sciences – www.fhoev.nrw.de/ms+M52087573ab0.html

Additional important research addresses (selection):
- Münster University Clinics – www.ukmuenster.de
- Center for Nanotechnology GmbH - www.centech.de
- Nanobioanalytics Center – www.nano-bioanalytik-zentrum.de/index10.htm

I.8. Economic location

Münster is the creative “desk of Westphalia”. Greater Münster is peppered with public authorities, consulting companies, insurance companies, banks, computer centres, publishing houses and advertising and design agencies. Nano-biotechnology, health care and life sciences as well as geodata services are only a few examples of the competences that Münster can offer within the service sector.

With a total turnover of over 2 billion euros, the retail trade is an important economic factor. With its traditional merchants’ townhouses and more modern outlets, such as the Münster arcades and the Stubengasse, the historic centre is a consumer magnet.

Münster’s status as a significant industrial location is frequently overlooked. Yet BASF Coatings and Brillux have their headquarters here – two of the big three in the German paint and lacquer industry market. Hengst GmbH & Co. KG is another jewel in the industrial city's crown. Virtually all the famous car manufacturers place their trust in the filters and filter systems manufactured by Hengst. Armacell, still expanding manufacturer of engineered foams, is the world leader in the market for flexible technical insulation materials, and has its headquarters here, too. Compo (fertilizers) is another famous brand "made" in Münster.

Almost 27,000 new jobs have been created in Münster since 1995. A rise of over 23 per cent. And there is still a demand in the fields of health care, IT, engineering and several crafts professions. Münster is a powerful economic location with a high quality of life, an above-average income level and a significantly lower unemployment rate than the average currently prevailing in the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

Information:
Wirtschaftsförderung Münster GmbH
Steinfurter Straße 60a
I.9. Municipal authorities and politics in Münster

Local self-government is firmly anchored in Germany’s Basic Constitutional Law. Cities like Münster have the right to regulate and rule on all matters concerning the local community in an independent manner within the bounds of Federal legislation.

Every five years, German citizens and foreign citizens from the European Union living in the city elect the local parliament, or city council. This is the most important decision-making committee for local authority matters. The next local government elections are due to take place in 2014.

At present, Münster’s city council comprises 80 members, elected for the current legislative period. 31 members represent the CDU (German Christian Democratic Party), 20 the SPD (German Social-Democratic Party), 16 the Bündnis 90/die Grünen/GAL (Alliance 90/The Greens/GAL (Green Alternative List)), 7 the FDP (Free Democratic Party), 3 the Linke (Left List), 1the ÖDP (Ecological-Democratic Party), 1 the UWG (Independent Voting Alliance) and 1 member represents the Piraten (Pirates Party). A proportion of the local self-government electees are responsible for the district councils in the city’s six districts. For example, they take decisions regarding the maintenance and provision of schools, sports complexes and parks in their particular municipal districts.

In addition to the city council and district councils, the citizens also elect the lord mayor directly. He represents the city in his capacity as “first citizen”, and is also in charge of the municipal authorities with around 4,000 employees. The mayor also chairs the city council.

I.10. International Münster

Münster is home to more than 20,000 foreign citizens from 160 nations. They constitute 7 per cent of the population. The largest group, which comprises about 1,900 people, is from Turkey. Around 1,700 inhabitants stem from Portugal and from Poland, respectively. Moreover, almost 20,000 Münster inhabitants have a dual nationality.

Integration Council

Münster already had an elected advisory board for foreigners in 1984, a full decade before boards of this kind became a legal obligation, in order to provide foreign inhabitants with better access to political, social and cultural city life. Since then, the advisory board made every effort to promote co-existence between Germans and foreigners. It launched numerous initiatives designed to integrate refugees.

In 2010, the advisory board was replaced by the Integration Council. 9 of its 27 members are delegated by the City Council. The other 18 members are being elected by all foreign citizens living in Münster, including those who adopted German citizenship no more than five years before. The Integration Council deals with all matters concerning municipal politics. It is the legal and political representation of all Münster citizens with a migration background. Its initiatives have to be considered by the City Council and its political boards. The chairman is Spyros Marinos.
Founded in 1999, the Coordination Office initially had to take care of housing and integration of refugees who came to Münster, of people seeking asylum or emigrants from former Soviet republics. However, the successful integration of foreigners who come to live in Münster is a core strategic task, as the city greatly benefits from cultural diversity. So today, the Coordination Office aims at implementing the Migration Concept, which the City Council passed in 2008 after four years of intense discussions.

The Migration Concept wants to
- make Münster an open city
- increase diversity in everyday life
- maintain social peace
- built a city society committed to respect and tolerance
- create a self-determined togetherness

www.muenster.de/stadt/zuwanderung/pdf/migrationsleitbild_englisch.pdf

Overview of organisations for people with migratory background in Münster:
www.muenster.de/stadt/zuwanderung/migrantenorganisationen.html

Coordination Office for Migration and Intercultural Affairs
Stadthaus 2, Ludgeriplatz 4
48127 Münster
ph. 02 51/4 92-70 54
Reckfort@stadt-muenster.de

Twin cities
Münster has partner cities all over the world. The city has forged nine twinning relationships since 1957. York/England, Orléans/France, Kristiansand/Norway, Monastir/Tunisia, Rishon LeZion/Israel, Fresno/USA, Rjazan/Russia, Mühlhausen/Germany and Lublin/Poland. These connections are complemented by the city’s amicable links with Braniewo/Poland and the twinning relationship between the Münster district of Hiltrup and Beaugency/France. Münster’s twinning relationships are “citizen partnerships”. They create a context for encounters and understanding between thousands of people from schools and universities, sports, culture and partnership associations, year after year. They have also resulted in a multitude of personal friendships around the globe.
www.muenster.de/stadt/partnerstaedte

Information and contact:
Foreign relations team
at the city council and mayoral offices
Klemensstraße 10
ph. 02 51 / 4 92-60 51, -60 52, -60 53
fax 02 51 / 4 92-77 83
partnerstadt@stadt-muenster.de

International life
Münster is home to a thriving international scene. Cultural associations, clubs and public institutions all act as meeting points. Intercultural encounters and international understanding are a feature of everyday life in the city. Below is a selection of international associations:
- Afrika e.V. – association promoting the integration of Africans in Münster
  www.muenster.org/afrika
- Africa in Münster – African events in Münster
  www.muenster.org/afrika-in-muenster
- Checkpoint Afrika – intercultural life and learning
  www.muenster.org/checkpointafrika
• Círculo Hispano-Alemán e.V. - meeting place for Spanish and Latin American enthusiasts
  www.circulo-hispano-aleman.de
• Darfur-Hilfe – help for Darfur
  www.darfur-hilfe.org/
• Deutsch-Italienische Gesellschaft (German-Italian Society) – forum for Italians living in Münster, and “Münsterians” interested in Italy
  www.muenster.org/dig
• Deutsch-Dänische Gesellschaft Münster e.V. (German-Danish Society in Münster) – for the promotion and preservation of German-Danish relations
  www.ddg-ms.de
• Deutsch-finische Gesellschaft Münster e.V. (German-Finnish Society in Münster) – for the promotion and preservation of German-Finnish relations
  www.muenster.org/dfg
• Deutsch-Französische Gesellschaft Münster e.V. (German-French Society in Münster) - forum for German-Francophone exchange
  www.muenster.org/dfgms
• Deutsch-Indische Gesellschaft (German/Indian Association)
  www.muenster.org/digmuenster
• Deutsch-Polnische Jugendakademie e.V. (German-Polish Youth Academy) – information about Münster’s twin city of Lublin
  www.muenster.org/dpja
• Deutsch-Russische Gesellschaft (German-Russian Society) – for the promotion of German-Russian relations
  www.muenster.org/drg
• ECI - English Club International (English International Club)
  www.muenster.org/eci
• Eine Welt Forum Münster (One World Forum in Münster) – Union of One and Third World groups
  www.eineweltforum-muenster.de
• Freunde für Rishon LeZion (Friends of Rishon LeZion)– for the promotion of the partnership between Münster and Rishon LeZion
  www.muenster-rishon.de
• Gemeinschaft für deutsch-polnische Verständigung (Community of German-Polish Understanding) - information, Silesia forum
  www.visitator-breslau.de
• German/Netherlands Corps
  www.1gnc.org/
• Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker, Regionalgruppe Münster (Society for Endangered Peoples, Münster regional group) – human rights organisation for the protection of ethnic and religious minorities, indigenous peoples and pursued refugee groups
  www.gfbv.de/regionalgrp.php?id=15
• GGUA – Gemeinnützige Gesellschaft zur Unterstützung Ayslsuchender e.V. (association for the support of asylum seekers)
  www.ggua.de
• Kindergefährgnischhilfe Münster-Ecuador (Münster-Ecuador Aid Association for Children of Imprisoned Parents) – aid for children in Ecuador
  www.muenster.org/Kindergefaengnishilfe
• Münster-York Partnerschaftsverein (Münster-York Partnership Association)
  www.ms-york.de
• Ökumenischer Zusammenschluss der christlichen Eine-Welt- und Dritte-Welt-Gruppen Münster (Ecumenical Union of Christian One and Third World Groups in Münster)
  www.muenster.org/einewelt
• Pan y arte – development aid for Nicaragua focussing on culture
International universities

Around 3,500 international students and over 200 visiting academics from all over the world at the Westphalian Wilhelms University alone underscore Münster’s international reputation as an attractive university location. Universities and science also make a significant contribution to the city’s international flair.

Both the major universities offer foreign students support to ensure they find their feet as quickly as possible.

- The university’s international centre is called “Die Brücke” (“bridge”). It is part of the university’s international office. The Brücke promotes internationality and international dialogue. It advises foreign students and doctoral students, and provides support in matters of accommodation, bureaucracy and everyday issues.
  www.uni-muenster.de/DieBruecke/en/
  www.uni-muenster.de/InternationalOffice/en/index.html

- The International Office at the University of Applied Sciences also promotes the establishment’s international orientation. The office offers foreign students a range of services, including a welcome service and workshops concerning life and culture in Germany.
The “Connecta International” trade fair takes place in Münster on a regular basis. The International Centre “Brücke” constitutes a collaboration between the University and the City of Münster, creating a forum for international students, academics and graduates which enables them to explore the various professional fields and companies the city and region have to offer. The Federal Foreign Ministry awarded "Connecta" the "Prize for Excellent Care of Foreign Students". www.uni-muenster.de/connecta
II. Living in Münster

Starting life in a new city takes time and often courage. We would like to help you find your feet with information and tips regarding the housing market, registration formalities and electricity and water supplies.

II.1. Housing market

Finding the perfect flat or dream house in a city requires patience and perseverance. Münster is no exception. The Municipal Housing Office is responsible for observing developments on the housing market. It provides citizens with information about rental prices and offers, promotes social residential projects and provides details of economic premises to let.

- Amt für Wohnungswesen/Municipal Housing Office, Stadthaus 3
  Albersloher Weg 33
  ph. 02 51 / 4 92 - 64 02
  wohnungsamt@stadt-muenster.de
- Monday to Wednesday and Friday from 8 am - 12 pm, Thursday from 3 pm – 6 pm
- www.muenster.de/stadt/wohnungsamt

Flat-hunting

The local newspapers, the "Westfälische Nachrichten" (www.wn.de) and the “Münstersche Zeitung” (www.muensterschezeitung.de) advertise the biggest selection of flats and houses for rent and for sale. The real estate sections in the Saturday and Wednesday editions are particularly comprehensive. The newspapers’ housing advertisements are complemented by regional and national online accommodation portals. A selection: www.immonet.de, www.immowelt.de, www.immobilienscout24.de

The majority of flats and houses in Germany are sold or rented in a non-furnished condition. Fully- or partially-furnished flats are the exception. In Münster, furnished single rooms are usually offered in shared flats (WGs). As the name suggests, these are flats or houses shared by several tenants. Shared flats are an inexpensive accommodation option and extremely popular with students. Many rooms in shared flats are advertised in the free event magazine “na dann”, which appears every Wednesday. www.nadann.de

The large number of students makes finding a suitable rented flat particularly difficult at the beginning of the winter semester in September and October. Estate agents help prospective tenants during their search for a flat. If successful, the estate agent charges commission. This commission is paid by the individual who hired the estate agent initially. By law, this amount may not exceed two months' rent plus VAT. The ancillary costs (heating, electricity, waste disposal etc.) are usually not taken into account in the calculation of the monthly rent – exceptions possible.

Accommodation costs

Offers and prices can differ greatly, depending on the flat’s age, location and fittings. The rent index, which is reissued every two years, provides more precise information here. It can be checked online. A printed copy is also available at the Municipal Housing Office. The Municipal Housing Office is always disposed to help assessing accommodation costs. www.muenster.de/stadt/wohnungsamt/mietspiegel.html

Tenants and buyers should on no account underestimate the additional costs charged for heating, electricity, waste disposal and possibly insurance. These ancillary costs have increased significantly in recent years as a result of increasing electricity prices, and are
sometimes as high as a third of the basic rental price - and above. This is why the ancillary costs are now often referred to as the “second rent” in Germany.

Rental deposits or guarantee payments are both permitted and customary, and are independent of the rental commission charged by estate agents. The deposit may amount to up to three months’ rent, and is returned to the tenant upon departure, provided that he or she returns the flat to the landlord in a flawless condition.

Anyone buying a flat or house should remember that the purchase price is inflated by an additional ten per cent in taxes, charges, legal and notarial costs.

Council flats
As is the case with the majority of cities and communities, Münster offers its citizens a number of inexpensive flats, so-called council flats. As this accommodation is subsidised with state funds, the rent is regulated by law and thus below market prices. Those wishing to apply for a council flat must be in possession of a certificate of eligibility for public housing (Wohnberechtigungsschein), which can be obtained from the Municipal Housing Office. In order to obtain a certificate of eligibility, citizens must prove that their earnings do not exceed a stipulated level. They must also fulfil other prerequisites. Foreign citizens also require a valid residence permit in order to apply for a council flat, for example.

It may take some time for the Municipal Housing Office to allocate applicants council flats. This is because an increasing number of people are dependent on flats of this nature, something which results in long waiting lists for certain sizes of flat.

The brochure entitled “Flat-hunting tips for students” is a useful source during the search for a suitable flat. [www.muenster.de/stadt/wohnungsamt/pdf/tipps_fuer_studenten2011.pdf](http://www.muenster.de/stadt/wohnungsamt/pdf/tipps_fuer_studenten2011.pdf)

Housing benefit
Low-income households may be entitled to housing benefit, i.e. financial support with rental payments. The Municipal Housing Office is also responsible for granting benefits of this kind. [www.muenster.de/stadt/wohnungsamt/wohngeld.html](http://www.muenster.de/stadt/wohnungsamt/wohngeld.html)

II.2. Registration formalities

Those moving to Münster are bound to settle in soon. However, new citizens from EU member states should not forget to perform certain important formalities, which can be completed quickly and easily at the Citizen’s Office. Those moving to Münster from non-EU states require a certificate regarding their residence status. This subject is dealt with in more detail in the next section.

Registration in Münster

- Amt für Bürgerangelegenheiten – Bürgerbüro Mitte (Citizens’ Office - Central Office), Stadthaus 1, Klemensstraße 10
  ph. 02 51 / 4 92-33 33
  buergerbuero-mitte@stadt-muenster.de
  [www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt/citizens_office.html](http://www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt/citizens_office.html)
- Monday to Thursday from 8 am - 6 pm, Friday and Saturday from 8 am - 12 pm
  New citizens can also register in the district administration offices and citizens’ advice offices in the Hiltrup, Kinderhaus, Wolbeck, Roxel, Handorf, Gievenbeck, Gremmendorf and Coerde districts. The addresses and opening hours can be viewed at [www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt/citizens_office.html](http://www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt/citizens_office.html)
Registration must take place one week at the latest after arrival in Münster. The following documentation is required:

- Identity card or passport
- Form entitled “Registering with the registration authorities”. This form is available in the Citizens’ Office and from the Münster Information point in Stadthaus 1. It can also be downloaded online at www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt/registration_formalities.html.
- Registration permits can only be issued personally for reasons of data protection. In the event that a third party performs the registration process, he or she must produce a genuine power of attorney signed by the applicant.

Those moving again within the city are obliged to report any change of address to the Citizens’ Office: www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt/change_address_ms.html.

Those leaving both Münster and Germany and returning to their home countries must also report their departure: www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt/deregistration.html.

Radio and television registration
Numerous public television and radio stations can be received in Münster, either via antenna, cable or satellite. These are predominantly financed via the obligatory radio and TV licence fees paid by viewers and listeners – according to the principle “one flat, one fee”. One adult person per flat has to register with the Radio and Television Toll Collecting Agency. It is possible to fill in applications at the Citizens’ Office when completing the usual registration process. Online applications can be made at: www.rundfunkbeitrag.de. The monthly fees for television and radio are currently set at 17.98 euros. It is possible to obtain a fee exemption in certain cases. Applicants can obtain further information by calling the “Rundfunkbeitrag” service telephone number (0 18 / 5 99 95 01 00 – 6,5 cents per minute).

Car registration
 Those bringing their cars to Münster are obliged to register it in the city and to obtain MS car registration plates. The Vehicle Registration Office is responsible in these cases.

- Kfz-Zulassung (Vehicle Registration Office), Rudolf-Diesel-Straße 5-7
- ph. 02 51 / 4 92 - 35 10
- kfz-zulassung@stadt-muenster.de
- www.muenster.de/stadt/ordnungsamt/kfz.shtml
- Monday to Wednesday from 7:30 am – 4 pm, Thursday from 7:30 am – 6 pm, Friday from 7:30 am - 1 pm

The following documentation is required in order to officially register the vehicle’s change of location:

in the case of vehicles registered in Germany / with German number plates

- Registration at the local public office
- Identity card or passport belonging to the registered keeper of the vehicle
- Non-EU citizens: residence permit
- Vehicle registration certificate, parts I and II
- In the case of old vehicle registration documents: vehicle registration documents (“Fahrzeugbrief” and “Fahrzeugschein”) or document confirming that the previous vehicle registration has been cancelled
- Proof of third party insurance via the submission of the seven-figure electronic insurance confirmation number; this combination of numbers and letters (e.g.:
H7FX5A3) allows the vehicle registration office to view an electronic insurance confirmation document stored in a database

- Written proof that the vehicle has undergone an exhaust inspection
- Main inspection report (TÜV (Technical Inspection Authority), Dekra, GTÜ etc.)
- Direct debit authorisation for vehicle tax
- In the case that the vehicle is registered by a third party: power of attorney and identity card belonging to the authorised individual
- Car number plates (only in the case of a registered vehicle)

in the case of vehicles registered abroad:

- Registration at the local public office
- Identity card or passport belonging to the registered keeper of the vehicle
- Non-EU citizens: residence permit
- Direct debit authorisation for vehicle tax
- Proof of third party insurance via the submission of the insurance confirmation number (IC number), which can be obtained from the vehicle insurance company

The following documents are also required in the case of vehicles previously registered in EU countries:

- Foreign vehicle registration certificates - part I and possibly part II; COC (Certificate of Conformity). If there is no COC, the car holder needs a TÜV certificate and approval.
- For vehicles more than three years old: main inspection and exhaust inspection certificates (TÜV (TIA), Dekra or GTÜ)
- Contract of sale or invoice

The following documents are also required in the case of vehicles previously registered in non-EU countries:

- Original foreign vehicle registration documentation and number plates
- TÜV (TIA) certificate in accordance with paragraph 21 Road Traffic Licensing Regulations
- Contract of sale or invoice
- Customs clearance certificate

Driving licence
The vehicle registration office also provides assistance in the case of queries regarding driving licences.

- EU citizens: EU and EEA driving licences are also valid in Germany. However, the validity period has to be checked in any case. As a general rule, these driving licences can be exchanged for a German driving licence with no additional driving examination. Special regulations may apply for bus and lorry drivers, which can be inquired for at the Vehicle Registration Office.
- Non-EU citizens: Those taking up residence in Germany and in possession of a driving licence from a non-EU country may drive a vehicle for six months after their arrival. After this, the licence automatically expires. The Vehicle Registration Office is on hand to answer any questions regarding the subsequent issue of a German driving licence, which may be associated with a driving examination.

Applying for a residents' parking permit
Life in the city centre is attractive. However, parking spaces are often in short supply – for precisely this reason. Residents’ parking permits significantly improve your chances of finding a parking space. This is why Münster is divided into parking zones: www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt/parking_zone.html.

All those whose main place of residence lies within a city centre parking zone and who do not have a garage or permanent parking space are entitled to apply for a residents’ parking
permit from the Citizens’ Office. Applicants must present their identity card or passport, and their vehicle registration documents.
Information and online service: www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt/parking_permit.html

II.3. Residence permit

Nationals from EU member states can register directly with the Citizens’ Office after moving to Münster. The Citizens’ Office forwards the requisite data to the municipal Immigration Office.

Other rules apply to citizens from non-EU countries. They need a certificate of residential status, in the event that they
- wish to work in Germany,
- wish to remain in Germany for a period which exceeds the duration of their visa or if they
- were able to enter the country without a visa and would like to stay longer than 90 days.

Besides a visa, a certificate of residential status may constitute a normal residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) or a second type of residence permit, a so-called "Niederlassungserlaubnis", which is generally issued in the wake of a longer stay. Since 2011, the holder’s biometric data (photograph and fingerprints) are stored on the electronic residence permit cards.

The Residence Act stipulates precisely when a residence permit may be issued. This is the case in the event of the following:
- that the individual in question is offered a post of employment (see chapter IV.5. “Job market”),
- for training purposes,
- to unite a family or
- on humanitarian grounds.

The municipal Immigration Office is responsible for applications of this type, and is available to provide assistance with all questions regarding the certificate of residential status.
- Amt für Ausländerangelegenheiten (Immigration Office), Stadthaus 2, Ludgeriplatz 4 (entrance via Südstraße)
  ph. 02 51 / 4 92-36 36
  auslaenderamt@stadt-muenster.de
- Monday to Friday from 8 am - 12 pm, Thursday afternoons from 3 pm – 6 pm
  www.muenster.de/stadt/auslaenderangelegenheiten/en/home.html

Those applying for a certificate of residential status can save themselves a trip to the Citizens’ Office, as the Immigration Office takes delivery of the application for the new place of residence and forwards it.

A valid passport, a passport photograph, a proof of employment or a financial guarantee must be submitted along with the application for a certificate of residential status. The Immigration Office may require additional documentation. This will be clarified during the application process.

It is important to apply for or extend a certificate of residential status in a prompt manner. In the event that a visa or existing residence permit expires, it may not be possible to obtain a new one.
Residence permit for students and language course participants

Students and language course participants who would like to apply for or extend an existing residence permit should also consult the Immigration Office. The following documentation is required:

- a valid passport,
- a passport photo in addition to proof of
- health insurance,
- documentation confirming admission to a degree course or preparatory course or a valid certificate confirming participation in a language course and
- a financial guarantee: A formal letter of intent from a “sponsor” is recognised, for example, in which the individual confirms that he or she will finance the applicant for the duration of their stay. Those without a declaration are obliged to submit a savings book for inspection, and must fulfil a range of special requirements. The Foreigners’ Registration Office will be pleased to provide applicants with more detailed information.

The residence duration is limited. This amounts to:

- a maximum of two years for study preparation with language course and preparatory course.
- in the case of a subject-based degree course, the issue of a residence permit depends on the average time taken to complete the course in question. This may amount to a maximum of the average length of studies, plus three semesters.
- a maximum of twelve months for a private language course with a minimum of 18 teaching hours per week;

In principle, it is not usually possible to change subjects by law. The Immigration Office determines whether exceptions are possible on a case-by-case basis.

Many students wish to earn money during their studies. Foreign students’ employment eligibility and the extent to which such employment is permitted is recorded in the residence permit.

Residence permits for visiting academics, researchers and professional experts

Visiting academics require the following documentation in order to apply for a certificate of residential status:

- a valid passport,
- a passport photo and
- their contract of employment or grant confirmation.

Family members travelling to Münster also require their own residence permit. It is thus also necessary to bring the spouse’s and children’s passports and proof of financing (the contract of employment or grant confirmation suffices in this instance). A marriage certificate may also be required.

Students or academics coming to do research in Münster have to present the relevant agreement with the researching institution, which has to be approved as such by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees. Further documentation might be necessary. The Migration Office offers help and counselling in any particular case.

The Migration Office will check the convenient residence status for any applicant individually. Bringing the job offer and some proof of the negotiated salary helps to find out the eligible residence permit for skilled workers and professionals.
II.4. Residential electricity and water supplies

The "Stadtwerke Münster" is the all-round supplier of all types of energy (electricity, natural gas, district heating) and drinking water.

Stadtwerke Münster GmbH
Hafenplatz 1
ph. 02 51/6 94-12 34
info@stadtwerke-muenster.de
www.stadtwerke-muenster.de

All those moving into a flat or house should register their electricity and water requirement. The “Stadtwerke” provide a form for applicants which can be downloaded on their homepage. It should be used to register not only name, address and moving date, but also the electricity, natural gas, district heating and water readings. This is important in order to ensure that new residents pay only for the electricity and drinking water which they have actually used. New residents are obliged to inform the “Stadtwerke” of the meter readings within three days of moving in.

Those moving out are also required to inform the “Stadtwerke” of the final meter readings. And anyone moving within the city must inform the “Stadtwerke” of their change of address so that their old details can be replaced with the new ones.

II.5. Waste management

The Germans enjoy a reputation as World Champion waste separators. In addition to recyclable materials such as paper, metal and glass, organic waste and packaging is also collected separately from the remaining waste. This approach aims to minimise waste and conserve reserves of raw materials.

Waste separation
Münster’s waste management services (AWM) perform the removal of residual and organic waste (grey and brown bins), yellow bag (packaging) and blue paper bins. Bottle banks and ten recycling centres add to this convenient system. Residual waste, paper and yellow bags are removed every two weeks, and the organic waste bin is emptied on a weekly basis. Pick up times for household waste in the city’s various districts can be found on the disposal calendar. You can have a reminder sent to your mobile phone.

AWM
Rösnerstraße 10
ph. 02 51/60 52 53 (service desk)
awm@stadt-muenster.de
www.awm.muenster.de

Written information regarding waste disposal issued by the waste management services is available from the Münster Information Point (ground floor, Stadthaus 1), the district Administration Offices and the district Citizens’ Offices. It can also be ordered online.

Information leaflets regarding waste separation are available in several foreign languages.

A brief guide to waste separation
- Grey residual waste bin: light bulbs, hygiene products, cat litter, refuse, sticking-plasters, china, vacuum cleaner bags, nappies, toothbrushes, cigarette ends and cigarette ash
• Brown organic waste bin: kitchen and food waste such as bread and cake leftovers, egg shells, coffee filter papers, fruit and vegetables (including citrus fruits), flowers, leaves, grass cuttings
• Blue paper bin: cardboard files, writing paper and envelopes, books, egg boxes, magazines, cardboard boxes, paper and cardboard packaging, newspapers
• Yellow bag: metal packaging (cans, crown caps), synthetic packaging (clingfilm, foam packaging, yoghurt pots, polystyrene) and composites (milk and fruit juice cartons or tetra packs, frozen food packaging)
• Recyclable glass: This should be separated by colour and placed in the bottle banks located all over the city.

Recycling centres
Recyclable and bulky goods, smaller electronic devices and problem waste from private households are accepted at ten recycling centres throughout Münster free of charge. A fee is charged, however, for the submission of residual waste.

Bulky goods
Once a month, bulky household objects such as furniture, carpets and garden waste (placed in a municipal garden waste bag or tied up) are collected by the bulky goods disposal service. Large electronic devices are collected upon request only. Bookings can be made online under awm.stadt-muenster.de/wohin-mit-dem-abfall/elektrogeraete.html

Ordering waste containers
The waste management services provide all premises with the required containers upon request. Bins holding between 35 and 1,100 litres are available. The waste management services estimate that each individual generates at least 15 litres of residual and organic waste per week. Each household is obliged to use a residual waste bin. Those who prefer to compost their organic waste independently can apply for an organic waste bin exemption. The paper bin is free of charge for private households. Only house-owners, object managers or landlords, and not tenants, are able to order or de-register waste bins.

II.6. Pets
Pets are part of everyday life in the eyes of many. Below is an overview of aspects which have to be taken into account by those who wish to import, register and keep domestic animals in the city.

Importation
Bringing animals from non-EU countries into Germany requires official permission in many cases. In principle, European Community regulations apply to the importation of domestic animals (dogs, cats and ferrets). These regulations serve to prevent the introduction and spread of rabies. In order to avoid problems during the entry process, all pets from non-EU countries which are brought into the European Community must
• be clearly identified with a microchip
• be vaccinated against rabies in accordance with the regulations,
• be accompanied by an official veterinary certificate stating the microchip number; vaccination documents and the possible results of a blood test should also be submitted.

In the case of pets entering Germany from a non-EU country in which there are instances of rabies or whose epidemic status is unknown (e.g. Turkey, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Thailand or India), a blood test (rabies antibody test) should be carried out in an EU-authorised
laboratory prior to departure. After the blood test is complete, pets must wait for a period of three months before being allowed into Germany.

Problems will arise at the first EU border in the event that these requirements are not fulfilled. In these cases, pets may be sent back to the country of origin by the government veterinary surgeon, or kept in quarantine for several months. They may even be put to sleep under certain circumstances. The following legal guidelines apply specifically to dogs: so-called “dangerous dogs”, e.g. pitbull terriers, American Staffordshire terriers, Staffordshire bull terriers, bull terriers and all cross-breeds may not enter Germany.

The Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection offers valuable help on the subject:
www.bmelv.de/SharedDocs/Standardartikel/Verbraucherschutz/Reisen-Verkehr/Heimtiere/Heimtiere.html

Information:
Veterinär- und Lebensmittelüberwachungsamt der Stadt Münster (Münster Veterinary and Food Regulation Office), Nieberdingstraße 30 A
ph. 02 51 / 38 48 33 11
veterinaeramt@stadt-muenster.de

Dog licence fee
All dog owners are obliged to pay a dog licence fee. This is one of the oldest types of tax in Germany, which can be traced back to the 15th century. This tax aims to control the number of dogs in cities. Dog registration and de-registration forms can be obtained from the Citizens’ Affairs Office and the Finance and Investments Office.
www.muenster.de/stadt/finanzen/hundesteuer.html

Living with pets
All those living in rented accommodation are strongly advised to ask the landlord before purchasing a pet. This can save themselves considerable trouble, as not all landlords tolerate dogs or cats on their premises.

Dogs must be kept on leads in the city, in public parks and green spaces and in woods away from designated paths. In Münster, dogs may run free away from built-up areas. This also applies to the bank of the Dortmund-Ems canal, the western part of Lake Aa and the Wienburg Park.

Information for dog holders:
Ordnungsamt (Municipal Public Order Office), Stadthaus 1, Klemensstraße 10
Tel. 02 51/4 92-32 01
E-mail ordnungsamt@stadt-muenster.de
www.muenster.de/stadt/ordnungsamt/hunde_ansprechpartner.html
III. Transport

There are many ways to reach Münster - by air, rail and road, to name but a few. Münster also enjoys an efficient infrastructure. The bicycle is the most frequently used and quickest means of urban transport. The bus route network is well-connected, and all city districts have good transport links. Car drivers will find multi-storey and underground car parks in the city.

III.1. Münster/Osnabrück Airport (FMO)

Over 1.5 million people take off from the FMO airport on an annual basis, for a variety of purposes, with holidays to Majorca, shopping trips in London or business meetings in Munich being just a few.

The airport information service can be reached around the clock on:

ph. 0 25 71 / 94 33 60.
www.fmo.de

Destinations
FMO airport offers direct flights to German destinations and major European cities such as London, Vienna, Venice and Rome with no stopovers. Some airlines also fly directly to holiday destinations such as Palma de Majorca and Antalya. Passengers from Münster also have access to international destinations via the major airports in Berlin, Frankfurt and Munich. Münster/Osnabrück is thus a convenient starting-point for journeys to New York, Cape Town, Bangkok or Sydney. Plans are afoot to extend the airport’s runway to 3,000 and later to 3,600 metres, with the result that direct flights to many intercontinental destinations will be possible in future.

Reservations
Flights from Münster/Osnabrück can be booked directly online:
reiseportal.flughafen-fmo.de/microsites/fh_muenster

Check-in
Passengers on scheduled flights should check in 30 minutes prior to departure at the latest, while those on holiday flights should arrive at the check-in counter 90 minutes before departure time. Information on checking in, baggage, security and duty free can be obtained online at: www.fmo.de/index.php?page=15

Directions
FMO airport is situated near the city of Greven to the North of Münster, approximately 25 minutes by car. Those travelling from Münster by car can reach the airport via the A1 motorway and the Greven exit. The airport provides parking for 7,000 cars.

Public transport: The S50 express bus service, D50 direct bus service and the R51 regional bus service transport passengers between Münster’s main railway station and the airport terminal. Taxi firms and airport shuttles are also available for use.

www.fmo.de/index.php?page=6

III.2. Rail

The main railway station is well-connected to the Deutsche Bahn (German Railways) rail network, with the result that travelling to important European urban centres and all major German cities is both quick and convenient. Regional rail transport companies supplement the range of services available in the Münsterland region.
**Timetables and tickets**

**Service centre** *mobilé* on Berliner Platz 22 (opposite the main railway station):
- Timetables, tickets and information
  - Monday to Friday from 9 am - 7 pm, Saturday from 9 am – 2 pm
  - Telephone information regarding buses and trains: 018 03 / 50 40 30 (9 cents per minute/ max. 42 cents via mobile phone)

**Deutsche Bahn AG**
- Service hotline: 0 18 05 / 99 66 33 (14 cents per minute/ max. 42 cents via mobile phone)
- Free timetable information: Tel. 08 00 / 1 50 70 90
- Timetables and reservations online: www.bahn.de

**Westfalenbahn GmbH**
- Münster-Rheine and Münster-Osnabrück regional railways
  - Tel. 05 21 / 55 77 77 55
  - www.westfalenbahn.de/kontakt.php
  - www.westfalenbahn.de

**Nordwestbahn GmbH**
- Münster-Warendorf-Bielefeld regional railway
  - Tel. 018 05 / 60 01 61 (14/ max. 42 cents per minute)
  - www.nordwestbahn.de

**eurobahn**
- Regional trains between Münster-Dortmund, Münster-Hamm-Bielefeld and Münster-Hamm-Paderborn
  - Tel. 0 18 02 / 9 27 37 27 (6/ max. 42 cents per minute)
  - info@eurobahn.de
  - www.hellwegnetz.de

**General information on local public rail services:**
- www.muenster.de/stadt/stadtplanung/bus-bahn.html

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**Local and long-distance rail services**

Passengers can use a variety of different types of railway service to reach their various destinations:
- The ICE intercity express service travels directly to Cologne, Stuttgart, Munich, Bremen, Hamburg and Kiel on a daily basis.
- Intercity (IC) and eurocity (EC) trains connect Münster directly with many other destinations in Germany and abroad. European capitals such as Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris, Copenhagen and Warsaw can be reached conveniently with just a single change.
- Regional express (RE) and regional railways (RB) offer an hourly service, linking Münster with destinations throughout North Rhine-Westphalia, Osnabrück and Emden in Lower Saxony and Enschede in the Netherlands. Many of these trains also stop at other stations in Münster, including the Zentrum Nord (North Centre), Hiltrup, Albachten, Amelsbüren, Sprakel and Häger.

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**III.3. City buses, ÖPNV (regional public transport)**

The “Stadtwerke Münster” and their partners provide transport for 100,000 passengers throughout the “Münsterland transport community” on a daily basis. 18 city bus routes link the various districts with the inner city, while taxi bus and night buses supplement these services around the clock. Destinations within the Münsterland region are also easily accessible by bus.

**Timetables, tickets and information**
- Service centre *mobilé* on Berliner Platz (opposite the main railway station):
Monday to Friday from 9 am - 7 pm, Saturday from 9 am – 2 pm
https://www.stadtwerke-muenster.de/privatkunden/busverkehr.html
Telephone information: 018 03 / 50 40 30 (9 / max. 42 cents per minute)

Tickets
A range of different tickets is available: single tickets, tickets valid for four or ten journeys, day tickets for individuals and groups (valid from 9 am onwards), weekly and monthly tickets. You can even have the ticket sent to your mobile phone for journeys within Münster.

Tickets can be purchased either on the bus - or at ticket machines and advance ticket offices, which is cheaper. Important: bus and rail tickets must be stamped at the ticket machines. Anyone travelling without a stamped ticket is deemed a fare-dodger and is fined 40 euros if caught.

Bus services
City bus
The "Stadtwerke" promise "a bus every ten minutes" at many bus stops. As several bus routes use the most important traffic arteries, passengers never have to wait long for buses on weekdays. Otherwise, city buses usually run every 20 minutes, with a half-hourly service on sundays.
All buses stop at the main railway station. Other important stops on the city bus routes are Ludgeriplatz, Altstadt/Bült and Aegidiimarkt.

Taxi bus
Münster’s outlying districts are also linked by taxi buses. These travel according to a fixed timetable and route, but run only in the event that a telephone reservation is made half an hour before the scheduled departure. Reservations under ph. 0 18 03/50 40 33 (9 /max. 42 cents per minute). A valid bus ticket is sufficient for the journey.

Night bus
Night buses run from about 8:30 pm to after 1 am, with an all-night service at weekends. Connecting taxi buses guarantee direct, almost door-to-door connections.

Bus services in the Münsterland region
The entire Münsterland region is linked via regional and express buses and the regional night bus, with services usually running every 60 or 30 minutes.

Combining buses and taxis
First bus, then taxi: this is possible via the taxi-call service. Bus drivers can order taxis for passengers, which collect them at the bus stop and take them home. Those wishing to use this service should tell the bus driver their name and the bus stop from which they wish to be collected, when boarding the bus.

Ladies’ night taxi
Bus drivers can order the ladies’ night taxi for female passengers aged 14 years and above, who wish to travel home by taxi after completing their bus journeys. The "Stadtwerke“ cover the costs of the taxi’s outward journey, passengers have to pay the fare only. This service is available from April to September from 8 pm and from October to March from 6 pm.

III.4. Taxis

There are taxi ranks at the main railway station and at many other locations in Münster.
Anyone wishing to order a taxi should call the
• Taxi-Zentrale Münster (Münster Taxi Exchange)
  ph. 02 51 / 6 00 11
  If calling from the Hiltrup and Amelsbüren districts please dial: Tel. 65 55
  Online reservations: www.taxizentrale-muenster.de
• Taxiruf Münster (Münster Taxi Call)
The fare level is set in advance. The drivers switch on the fare display indicator during journeys within the city. Taxi firms offer fixed prices for journeys outside the city, e.g. to the airport. Passengers have a free choice of taxi, e.g. it is not necessary to board the first vehicle waiting at the taxi rank.

The taxi firms also provide other services, including a courier service, invalid transport and even a shopping service. They are also happy to help in other cases. If your car breaks down, for example, taxi drivers will get it back on the road in no time with a jump lead.

III.5. Bicycles

Münster is a city of bicycles, and the “Leeze”, as it is known in Münster dialect, is the most frequently used means of transport. Bicycles constitute 37.6 per cent of traffic in Münster. In 2007, the amount of motorized vehicle traffic fell to 36.4 percent, making it lower than the bicycle traffic statistics for the first time. These statistics are unique in Germany. The bicycle network is extremely well signposted with red and white signs.

- For an initial overview of the cycle path network and the traffic regulations for cyclists, please visit: www.muenster.de/stadt/stadtplanung/radverkehr.html
- Bicycle maps are available in bookshops and from the Münster Information Point, which is located in Stadthaus 1, Heinrich-Brüning-Straße 9.

Bicycle parking options

Visitors and new citizens alike are often amazed at the endless rows of bicycles parked at the main railway station and in the Old Town. Those parking bicycles should ensure that pavements and slip roads are not obstructed in the process. Cyclists can make use of three bicycle parks to ensure that their two-wheelers are stored safely during their absence.

Radstation Münster (Münster Bicycle Station), Berliner Platz 27a (in front of the main railway station)  
Germany’s largest underground bicycle park, with 3,300 parking spaces. Bike repair and rental service available.  
ph. 02 51 / 4 84 01 70  
www.muenster.de/stadt/radstation

Radstation Münster-Arkaden (Münster Arcades Bicycle Station), Königsstraße 7  
Also with bike repair and rental service.  
ph. 02 51 / 7 03 67 90.

Radlager (Bicycle Storage), Stubengasse  
Parking only, automatic entrance.  
www.muenster.de/stadt/stadtplanung/pdf/Flyer_Radlager.pdf

Purchasing bicycles

The correct bicycle is essential in order to ensure that cycling is fun, comfortable and safe.  
Tips on tailoring bicycle size to height and choosing the correct equipment can be obtained from: www.adfc.de

Specialist dealers in over 60 bicycle stores are on stand by with moral and practical support. Second-hand bicycles are also auctioned on a regular basis at discounted prices.

Information and auction dates:  
Citizens’ Office  
ph. 02 51 / 6 06 88 46  
fundbuero@stadt-muenster.de  
www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt/fund-versteigerungen.html
Bicycle rental
Bicycles can be rented from bicycle stations, many bicycle dealers and other suppliers. A list of rental points and prices is available at:
www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus/en/bike-rental.html

Cycling code
- Cycle paths or lanes are a staple feature of all main roads in and around Münster. These also link the city districts with the inner city.
- There are also special traffic light signals for cyclists at crossroads. Cyclists are frequently guided over main junctions with their own "green light periods" and "cycle bridges".
- The promenade is an attractive avenue for cyclists and pedestrians which encircles the Old Town.
- The general speed limit in residential areas is 30 km per hour. This promotes the orderly co-existence of all road users and increases quality of life in built-up areas.
- In contrast to car drivers, cyclists may ride in both directions on "artificial one-way streets" which are marked as such. However, those caught cycling in the wrong direction on genuine one-way streets are obliged to pay a 15 euro fine.
- Cyclists may use the bus lane on combined bus and cycle lanes, e.g. by the main railway station.
- As a rule, pedestrian zones are opened for cycle traffic at night. Signs inform cyclists of the precise access times. Bicycles should be pushed outside these times. Those who cycle in pedestrian zones during the daytime should reckon with a possible 10 euro fine.
- Cyclists have priority over car drivers on cycle routes. However, it is necessary to show consideration for others here, too.

In the case of traffic violations
Cyclists have no airbag and are vulnerable if involved in a collision. These facts alone constitute good reasons for cyclists to comply with traffic regulations - for their own safety. Traffic violations are punished by fines. Here is an excerpt from the "price list":

- Cycling along cycle paths in the wrong direction: 15 euros
- Using a mobile phone while cycling: 25 euros
- Cycling "hands-free" or with headphones or ear plugs: 10 euros
- Cycling at night without lights: 10 euros
- Cycling through a red light: 125 euros and one month's driving ban
- Cycling with a blood alcohol level of 1.6: disqualification from driving

III.6. Cars
Driving in Münster is not particularly stressful, despite the fact that the city attracts a lot of traffic. There is good road access to the city for visitors, parking is convenient and it is also easy to register your own vehicle. Car-sharing is a practical and inexpensive alternative to keeping your own car.
- Information about directions, street plan, multi-storey car parks, parking guidance system, vehicle registration: www.muenster.de/auto.html
- Information and street plans: The Münster Information Point in Stadthaus 1 and in the historic Town Hall on Prinzipalmarkt; ph. 0251 / 4 92-27 10
The inner city was declared low emission zone (LEZ) in 2010. Car drivers need a green or yellow badge to be allowed to drive within the LEZ. Badges can be purchased at the TÜV, Dekra or GTÜ offices, as well as at over 30,000 garages in all Germany. In Münster, the Citizens’ Offices and the Vehicle Registration Office sell them for five euros. Car holders need to present their vehicle registration certificate.

www.muenster.de/stadt/umwelt/umweltzone.html

Arrival
Münster can be reached conveniently by car: those travelling from the Ruhr district and the Rhineland should take the motorways A1 and A43 to the Münster-Süd junction (Münster-South), while those approaching from Bremen and Hamburg should take the A1 to the Münster-Nord junction (Münster-North). A and B roads also lead into and through the city from all directions.

www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus/en/arrival.html

Parking
A parking guidance system is available, which helps visitors to find parking spaces. There are seven multi-storey and underground car parks in the Old Town and near the main railway station, and another two at the Cineplex cinema and Stadthaus 3, near the Halle Münsterland. A selection of parking spaces is also available for long-stay visitors. The main inner city car park, with space for over 900 cars, is located on the Hindenburgplatz, in front of the baroque castle.

- Parking guidance system displaying the number of available parking spaces and their locations:
  www5.stadt-muenster.de/parkhaeuser/
- Information on multi-storey car parks, opening hours, parking charges and long-stay visitors is available from the:
  Westfälische Bauindustrie, ph. 02 51 / 97 23 20
  info@wbi-muenster.de
  www.wbi-muenster.de

Car registration and driving licences
The Vehicle Registration Office is on hand to answer questions regarding vehicle registration and driving licences.

- Kfz-Zulassungsstelle (Vehicle Registration Office), Rudolf-Diesel-Straße 5-7
  Monday to Wednesday from 7:30 am – 4 pm, Thursday from 7:30 am – 6 pm, Friday from 7:30 am - 13 pm
  ph. 02 51 / 4 92-35 10
  kfz-zulassung@stadt-muenster.de
  www.muenster.de/stadt/ordnungsamt/kfz.shtml
  cf. also information on page 20f

Car-sharing
Car-sharing is a practical and inexpensive alternative to running your own car. “Stadtteilautos” are available from a range of service points across the city for shopping purposes, weekend trips, removals or holidays. The benefits: users have nothing to do with the cars’ insurance, maintenance or cleaning.

- Stadtteilauto Münster
  ph. 02 51 / 38 32 30
  info@stadtteilauto.com
  www.stadtteilauto-muenster.de
- Registrations can also be made every Monday and Thursday from 4 pm – 7 pm at the service centre mobilé opposite the main railway station.
IV. Education, school, training, studying, work

Experience shows that foreign citizens planning a longer stay in their host country integrate more quickly if they make educational, training or working arrangements at an early stage. An overview of childcare services, the school system, further training options and the job market follows below.

IV.1. Day care for children

Reliable day care for children is an important factor for those planning to combine family and employment. Münster offers a wide range of children's day care and nursery facilities.

Services for pre-school children

Children's day care facilities are designed for children up to the age of six, when they usually start school in Germany. From the middle of 2013, children have a legal right to a place in or an opportunity to attend day care facilities until they start school. Different kinds of groups and care times exist.

Parents are required to make financial contributions in return for their child's attendance at a day care facility. This contribution depends on the parents' income, the age of the child, the form of care and the length of care provided each day. In the event that several children from a single family require different forms of care simultaneously, parents only pay fees for one child (see also costs payable in the case of the open all-day schools).

Those looking for a place in a day nursery are advised to approach the city's Family Office as a first step. This office can help parents to find a suitable solution or contact partner to help deal with their particular care requirements. Employees can retrieve information regarding free nursery school places throughout the city via a special database. However, the care institutions themselves make the final decision regarding the children's admission.

In the event that families require, or desire, a daily carer at home, the Family Office will be happy to contact the children's day care advisory service.

   Amt für Kinder, Jugendliche und Familien, - Familienbüro (Office for Children, Young Adults and Families, - Family Office), Junkerstraße 1
   ph. 02 51 / 4 92-51 08
   familienbuero@stadt-muenster.de
   www.muenster.de/stadt/jugendamt
   Monday to Friday from 9 am - 12 pm, Thursday afternoons from 2:30 pm - 6 pm and by arrangement
   Information on children's day care institutions can be found at:
   www.muenster.de/stadt/jugendamt/kita_info.html

Services for school children

Many schools continue to provide care for children after teaching hours. This is the case both in primary and secondary schools (junior and intermediate secondary schools and senior high schools (grammar schools). Some schools also provide pupils with a lunch service.

The majority of primary schools are so-called “Offene Ganztagsgrundschulen” ("open all-day primary schools"). Here, the children can do their homework under supervision after the lunch break, and can then play with the other children and participate in sports, games and other activities, which range from football, volleyball and swimming to pottery, theatre and video clubs, cookery or library visits. Participation in these activities is voluntary.
Some schools, including the comprehensive school and some special schools and junior secondary schools, are "genuine" all-day schools, e.g. those where afternoon teaching is also provided. The city's school database provides parents with more detailed information: www5.stadt-muenster.de/schulen.

Parents make an income-based contribution to the costs of all-day school care. They are only obliged to pay fees for one child, even in the event that they have several children. The financial contribution towards lunch is extra; this is paid directly to the school in question and amounts to between 2.30 and 3.50 euros per day and child. Low-income families can apply for an allowance from the School and Further Education Office. www.muenster.de/stadt/jugendamt/kita_schule-kosten.html

Children attending open all-day primary schools can also be registered for an all-day holiday care service for up to six weeks during the school holidays. No additional charges are made for this service. These holiday clubs are organised by a range of institutions including the city of Münster, sports clubs and youth support associations.

- Information on in-school care:
  Amt für Schule und Weiterbildung (School and Further Education Office)
  Stadthaus 1, Klemensstraße 10
  ph. 02 51 / 4 92 - 40 59 or -40 49
  schulamt@stadt-muenster.de
  www.muenster.de/stadt/schulamt/ganztag.html

- Information on school care at the open all-day primary schools:
  Amt für Kinder, Jugendliche und
  ph.: 02 51 / 4 92 – 58 84 or –51 43
  Mentrup@stadt-muenster.de, SchildK@stadt-muenster.de

- Information on holiday care for primary school children:
  Amt für Kinder, Jugendliche und
  ph. 02 51 / 4 92 - 58 64
  WeberNeander@stadt-muenster.de

Services for all children
Those parents with doctor's appointments or who wish to shop in peace in the city centre can take advantage of the childcare service (available for a maximum of three hours per day) provided in the "Maxi-Turm", which is centrally located on the Prinzipalmarkt, next to the Town Hall. There is no need to register children in advance. The "Maxi-Turm" is designed for children aged between four and ten years of age, and is open from Mondays to Fridays from 2 pm to 6 pm and on Saturdays from 10 am to 6 pm. In summer, a sandy play area is set up on the Syndikatplatz in the city centre for families with young children.
www.muenster.de/stadt/kinderbuero/maxi.html

IV.2. School education

In Germany, children are usually obliged to attend school for at least ten years. The Municipal School and Further Education Office is on hand to help parents select the correct school, and also provides advice regarding school-related problems and details of intercultural services.
Amt für Schule und Weiterbildung (School and Further Education Office)
Stadthaus 1, Klemensstraße 10
ph. 02 51 / 4 92-40 01
bildung@stadt-muenster.de
www.stadt-muenster.de/bildung
School system
In Germany, the various Federal States are responsible for the way in which school education is organised. The North Rhine-Westphalian school system applies in Münster. School education starts with primary school (primary level), or school years one to four. After these first four school years, the children progress to secondary education (secondary levels I and II), namely to junior secondary school ("Hauptschule"), intermediate secondary school ("Realschule"), a mixed form called “Sekundarschule”, senior high school ("Gymnasium") or comprehensive schools, which combine the other three types of secondary school education. There are no school fees for state schools or denominational schools. It is also possible to attend the independent Waldorf and Montessori schools.

Junior secondary school (Hauptschule): Children usually attend this type of secondary school for six years, e.g. until their tenth school year. These schools provide pupils with basic education which prepares them for professional training. Upon concluding their studies, pupils are either awarded a lower secondary school leaving certificate ("Hauptschulabschluss"), an intermediate secondary school leaving certificate with qualification for entry to senior technical school ("Mittlerer Abschluss / Fachoberschulreife") or an intermediate secondary school leaving certificate which qualifies them to attend a senior high school sixth form.

Intermediate secondary school (Realschule): Studies at this type of secondary school also last six years, until the children’s tenth school year. Pupils receive the intermediate secondary school leaving certificate (with or without the entitlement to continue their education at a senior high school) upon concluding their studies, which enables them to either embark on a professional apprenticeship or to change to another type of school (a senior high school, comprehensive school or vocational college) in order to obtain a higher educational qualification.

Senior high school: Senior high school pupils take their higher school leaving examinations after completing twelve years of school education. The resulting certificate ("Allgemeine Hochschulreife" or general baccalaureate) is required to study at a university.

Comprehensive school: Pupils can conclude their studies at a comprehensive school with a range of different qualifications, namely the lower secondary school leaving certificate, the intermediate secondary school leaving certificate (including the option to go on to senior high school) or the higher school leaving certificate (after 13 school years).

“Sekundarschule”: Children attend this new type of secondary schools for six years, i.e. until their tenth year. The “Sekundarschule” guides pupils towards the intermediate secondary school leaving certificate or else towards the general A-levels. Therefore, it cooperates with comprehensive or senior high schools or a vocational college.

More general information on the school system can be found at:
www.schulministerium.nrw.de

Schools in Münster
Münster is home to over 40 primary schools, a Montessori school and a Free Waldorf school. With 7 junior secondary schools, 9 intermediate secondary schools, the “Sekundarschule” and 14 senior high schools, in addition to 2 comprehensive schools and a free Waldorf school, secondary education in Münster is extremely extensive. Three of the 14 senior high schools and one comprehensive school are catholic schools.
www5.stadt-muenster.de/schulen
The range of educational options is supplemented by vocational colleges, which prepare pupils aged 16 and above for a specific profession or an additional school qualification. For information on vocational and technical colleges, please visit:
www.stadt-muenster.de/berufskollegs

Amt für Schule und Weiterbildung, Bildungsberatung (School and Further Education Office, Education Advisory Service), Stadthaus 1, Klemensstr. 10
Children with disabilities
Parents of children with special needs, e.g. physical or learning disabilities, can obtain information and support by contacting the coordinator for social inclusion at the School and Further Education Office
Peter Heidenreich
ph. 02 51 / 4 92 – 40 74
heidenreich@stadt-muenster.de

International education options
Münster’s schools place a specific focus on languages and internationality. Not only is it possible to learn a wide range of foreign languages at the city’s schools, but many supporting German language courses are offered specifically for pupils coming from abroad. Bilingual teaching (German/English or German/French) is offered at four senior high schools and one intermediate secondary school. Two senior high schools offer international school leaving certificates (IB, AbiBAC). Eight schools are certified “North Rhine-Westphalia European Schools”.

International education advisory service
Those who require more information about schools in Münster, the school system, German language courses, native language teaching and the like, or wish individual counselling for their school career, can make an appointment with the municipal international education advisory service. This advice is confidential, unbiased, and free of charge. The following languages are spoken: German, Bosnian, English, Croatian, Polish, Russian and Serbian. Advisors will try and find an interpreter in the case of other languages.
Amt für Schule und Weiterbildung, Bildungsberatung International (School and Further Education Office, International Education Advisory Service)
Stadthaus 1, Klemensstraße 10
Christine Czepok
ph. 02 51 / 4 92 - 40 42
czepok@stadt-muenster.de.

Jasmina Schäfer
ph. 02 51 / 4 92 – 40 47
schaeferj@stadt-muenster.de

IV.3. Learning German – without forgetting your native language
Münster is an international city with a multicultural population. Around 50,000 people of foreign descent currently live in the city. There are numerous cultural centres and free advisory and communication services. Schooling and further training / education are extremely important issues in terms of integration. In addition to classes designed specifically for foreign pupils, the city of Münster also offers newcomers afternoon language courses, native language teaching and Islamic studies. The creation of a multicultural society also includes the maintenance of international contacts and encounters, such as via international school exchange programmes.
www.muenster.de/stadt/schulamt/international.html

Native language teaching
Many parents would like their children to learn German, but believe that this should not be at the expense of their native language. Native language teaching, which also includes regional
studies, helps maintain the children’s knowledge of and feel for their own languages. Trained foreign teachers provide lessons in the afternoons, which are usually held over three hours a week. In Münster, native language teaching is currently offered in Arabic, Bosnian, Italian, Croatian, Modern Greek, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Spanish and Turkish. Pupils can find out about, and register themselves for native language teaching at their respective schools.

Schulamt der Stadt (Municipal School Office)
Klemensstraße 10
ph. 02 51 / 4 92-40 69
zimmermann@stadt-muenster.de
www.muenster.de/stadt/schulamt/international_foerderung.html

German as a foreign language
The adult education centre (“Volkshochschule”) offers over 120 courses in “German as a foreign language” for teenagers and adults, beginners and more advanced students per year. Pupils can also learn German, or improve their knowledge of the language, by attending “Club D”. Children and teenagers meet at the adult education centre twice a week for two hours, and practise grammar, spelling and vocabulary. Here, the emphasis is placed on speaking and understanding. At present, pupils are divided into three levels of ability and two age groups for teaching purposes. “Club D” is free of charge – only materials have to be paid for. An initial assessment is obligatory.

Volkshochschule Münster (Münster Adult Education Centre), Aegidiimarkt 3
ph. 02 51 / 4 92-43 21 (service desk)
vhs@stadt-muenster.de
vhs.muenster.de/programm/fachbereiche-sprachen-und-laender-sprachberatung

Family education centres also offer German language courses (see section IV.4, “Additional further education establishments”). The city is also home to a range of private language schools.

IV.4. Additional further education establishments, seminars and courses

Many establishments offer further education. Information about these institutions and the courses they offer can be obtained from the municipal library on Alter Steinweg, the Münster Information Point in Stadthaus 1 and in the city’s various district administration offices. www.muenster.de/weiterbildung

The above mentioned internet address leads to numerous links. The following are particularly useful:

- Database with information regarding further education institutions in Münster: www5.stadt-muenster.de/ibis

Municipal library
The municipal library is another important port of call for foreigners wishing to pursue further education, particularly for those looking for language courses. Over two million books and other resources are borrowed from the library each year, making it one of the largest facilities of its type. The unusual building is also worth a visit for fans of architecture, by the way.

Municipal library, Alter Steinweg 11,
Monday - Friday from 10 am - 7 pm, Saturday from 10 am - 3 pm
ph. 02 51 / 4 92-42 42
buecherei@stadt-muenster.de
www.muenster.de/stadt/buecherei
District branches and – another Münster specialty – the library bus:
www.muenster.de/stadt/buecherei/buecherei-steinweg.html

- Main facts in brief (PDF, 50 kB)
- OPAC - Online-Catalogue of the Public Library Münster

Further education institutions (selection)
Volkshochschule Münster (Münster Adult Education Centre), Aegidiimarkt 3
   ph. 02 51 / 4 92-43 21
   www.vhs.muenster.de
Anna-Kruckmann-Haus, Friedensstraße 5
   ph. 02 51 / 3 35 74
   www.anna-krueckmann-haus.de
Arbeitskreis soziale Bildung und Beratung (Working Party for Social Education and Counselling)
   An der Germania-Brauerei 1
   ph. 02 51 / 27 72 30
   www.asbbmuenster.de
Evangelische Familienbildungsstätte Paul-Gerhardt-Haus (Protestant Family Education Centre)
   Friedrichstraße 10
   ph. 02 51 / 4 81 67 80
   www.ev-fabi-ms.de
Haus der Familie, Krummer Timpen 42
   ph. 02 51 / 41 86 60
   www.haus-der-familie-muenster.de/
Franz-Hitze-Haus, katholisch-soziale Akademie des Bistums Münster (Catholic-Social Academy of the Diocese of Münster)
   Kardinal-von-Galen-Ring 50
   ph. 02 51 / 9 81 80
   www.franz-hitze-haus.de

IV.5. Job market

The job market situation in Münster is currently good. By the end of 2011, the number of unemployed individuals had decreased to 8,400. In December 2011, the unemployment rate was precisely 5.8 per cent, well below the average figure for the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

Career choice – searching for apprenticeships
Stepping into professional life can be difficult for school-leavers and students. The careers advisors at the Federal Employment Agency support those in need of advice as regards the transitions from school to training and study to professional life.
Martin-Luther-King-Weg 22
   ph. 0 18 01 / 55 51 11 (land line 3.9 euro cents/min / max. 42 cents from mobile phones)
   ahlen-muenster.biz@arbeitsagentur.de

The School and Further Education Office, which focuses on the transition from school to career, also advises individuals on educational career choices and orientation.
Stabstelle Übergangsmanagement Schule - Beruf (Transition Management: School and Career, team office)
Klemensstraße 10
Working in Münster as a non-EU citizen
Those from non-EU countries require a work permit in order to be able to work in Germany. Questions regarding residence and work permits are clarified in a combined procedure in accordance with Federal immigration law. The city’s Immigration Office is the first port of call for job-seeking foreigners. Newly arrived citizens from non-EU countries can apply for their residence permits here. The authorities will subsequently decide whether somebody is eligible to work and to what extent, and record this eligibility in the residence permits accordingly.
Amt für Ausländerangelegenheiten (Immigration Office), Ludgeriplatz 4 (Südstraße entrance),
Monday to Friday from 8 am to 12 pm, plus Thursday afternoons from 3 pm to 6 pm
ph. 02 51 / 4 92-36 36
auslaenderamt@stadt-muenster.de
www.muenster.de/stadt/auslaenderangelegenheiten/en/employment.html

Working in Münster as a citizen from a new EU member state
Special regulations apply in the case of citizens from the new EU member states of Bulgaria and Romania until the end of 2013. Although they do not require a residence permit in accordance with the Residence Act, they are only able to take up employment in Germany in the event that they are issued a work permit by the Federal Employment Agency.
Agentur für Arbeit Ahlen - Münster (Federal Employment Agency), Martin-Luther-King-Weg 22
Monday from 7:30 am - 3 pm; Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:30 am – 12:30 pm; Thursday from 7:30 am – 6 pm
ph. 0 18 01 55 51 11 (land line: 3.9 euro cents/min; max. 42 cents from mobile phones)
www.arbeitsagentur.de/muenster

Working in Münster as a citizen from an “old” EU member state or from Switzerland:
Citizens from these states enjoy freedom of movement in their capacity as employees and self-employed individuals. They do not require a special work permit from either the Migration Office or the Federal Employment Agency.

Applying for an electronic tax card
Those wishing to work in Germany legally (and be liable to pay tax and receive social security benefits) require a tax card. It contains information about date of birth, religious confession, number of child allowances and tax category. The employer usually knows whether or not it is necessary to apply for a German tax ID, and where to go, as there are two tax offices in Münster.
Information:
- Finanzamt Münster-Innenstadt (inner city tax office), Münzstraße 10
  ph. 02 51 / 416-0
  Consultation times Monday to Friday 7 – 12 am, plus Monday 1:30 – 5 pm
  www.finanzamt-muenster-innenstadt.de/allgemein/eckdaten/fa337.php

- Finanzamt Münster-Außenstadt, Friedrich-Ebert-Straße 46
  ph. 02 51 / 97 29-0
  Consultation times Monday to Friday 7 – 12 am, plus Monday 1:30 – 5 pm
  www.finanzamt-muenster-aussenstadt.de/allgemein/eckdaten/fa336.php

For general tax information please see: www.elster.de
Approval of foreign qualifications and certificates
In order to obtain a formal acceptance for foreign certificates, university grades or professional qualifications, the first challenge is to find the right place to go. The Chambers of Commerce and Industry, for example, are responsible for commercial and industrial-technical professions. The guilds, several government agencies, the school authorities or even the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs – for university degrees – can also be the appropriate address. More information about the legal acceptance procedures can be found under www.berufliche-anerkennung.de or:
www.mais.nrw.de/08_PDF/003_Integration/004_foerderbereiche/foerderungen_qualifikation_01_Wegweiser_Nrw.pdf

IV.6 Studying in Münster
There are many good reasons to study in Germany. Internationally renowned universities and the strong economy, dynamic culture, historical cities and attractive landscapes all exercise a strong appeal on overseas students. And last but not least, over 100 million people around the world speak German.

International Office
The number of overseas students at Münster’s universities is growing continually thanks to globalisation and internationalisation. Around 3,500 young foreigners are currently studying at the University of Münster alone. The universities promote international exchange and deliberately invite overseas students to study in Münster via support programmes.

The universities also help their overseas guests to organise their studies and life in their host country quickly and smoothly, so that they can concentrate on their education. The Westphalian Wilhelms University, the University of Applied Sciences, the Catholic University of Applied Sciences North Rhine-Westphalia and the Academy of Fine Arts have all set up international offices for this purpose. These inform overseas students about the range of degree courses on offer, admission, registration and study fees and help them to find flats and language courses.

Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster
International Office, Leonardo Campus 11
ph. 02 51 / 83 222 15
international.office@uni-muenster.de
www.uni-muenster.de/InternationalOffice/en/index.html
The university’s international centre is called “Die Brücke” (“Bridge”). This is a part of the International Office. The Brücke promotes internationality and international dialogue. It advises foreign students and doctoral students, and provides support in matters of accommodation, bureaucracy and everyday issues.

University of Applied Sciences in Münster
International Office, Hüfferstraße 27
Tel. 02 51 / 8 36 41 02
The office offers foreign students a range of services, including a welcome service and workshops concerning life and culture in Germany.
ph. 02 51 / 8 36 41 10
https://en.fh-muenster.de/internationaloffice/welcome_service
Semester charge and semester ticket

Universities usually levy a semester charge upon initial registration and subsequent re-registrations. This charge currently amounts to approx. 210 euros at the two main universities (UAS and WWU). This charge is not related to study fees, but is a contribution to the public facilities offered by the university. It also covers the semester ticket, which allows students to use public transport, e.g. buses and regional trains in North Rhine-Westphalia for the entire semester free of charge.

Living costs

The majority of students require between 500 and 700 euros per month for general living costs, a figure which naturally depends on the amount of extra expenses incurred, such as those for literature and leisure activities. Study fees and the semester charge are not included in this amount. In 2007, the university magazine UNICUM compared living costs for students in German cities. According to this survey, Münster was in the middle of the table with an average of 673 euros per month.

Obligation to register

The registration law in North Rhine-Westphalia stipulates that each instance of moving into, moving out of or changing one’s place of residence must be registered with the local authorities (“Anmeldung”, “Abmeldung” or “Ummeldung”) within one week. By law, a furnished room or place to sleep is also considered a “place of residence”. The municipal Citizens’ Affairs Office and the district administration offices issue registration forms. See chapters II.2 and II.3 for further information regarding registration formalities and residence permit.

Health insurance

Students from the EU require a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). This, or its predecessors (forms 111/114), are required in order to be able to take advantage of health insurance services. Other overseas students must take out an overseas health insurance policy which is valid in Germany, or register with an official German health insurance fund. The monthly student charge is around 80 euros.

Living

It is often difficult to find a flat, particularly in a foreign country. The first port of call for those looking for a room or flat is the Münster Student Union (Studentenwerk), which rents students cheap accommodation in halls of residence. Overseas students can apply for places online in advance from their home countries. If a room is free, the student union sends the tenancy agreement directly to the students by post or e-mail. It is very important that applicants check their post and e-mails regularly, as otherwise the room will be rented to someone else. Tenants can transfer the rental deposit, a standard security precaution for landlords in Germany, while still in their home countries. The rent is paid to the student union by direct debit each month. The tenant organises a direct debit authorisation for this purpose. This means that tenants authorise the student union to debit the rent from a bank account of
their choice each month. As this is only possible from a German bank account, overseas students are required to open an account upon arrival.

- Wohnraumverwaltung des Studentenwerks Münster (Student Union Münster - Accommodation Administration), Bismarckallee 5
  ph. 02 51 / 83 79-5 53
  wohnen@studentenwerk-muenster.de
  www.studentenwerk-muenster.de/en

- Consultation times: Tuesdays – Thursdays from 9 am – 12 pm
  By telephone: Mondays – Thursdays from 8:45 am – 3:00 pm, Fridays from 8:45 am – 12:00 pm

In addition to the student union, other private and ecclesiastical sponsors offer reasonable accommodation in halls of residence. The International Student Accommodation Association rents out rooms in houses which used to belong to British army members.

www.uni-muenster.de/international/incoming/austausch/wohnen.html
www.muenster.org/wohnheime

Sharing a flat with others is very popular with many students. Renting a shared flat is usually more expensive than living in halls of residence. The rent is between 180 and 350 euros, depending on the size of the accommodation and the height of the additional costs (e.g. heating, electricity and water). For further information on flat-hunting, see chapter II.1., “Housing market”. The brochure entitled “Flat-hunting tips for students” is another useful source of information during the search for a suitable flat.


Bank account
Those renting a room in a hall of residence require a German bank account in order to pay the monthly rent. Overseas students wishing to open an account must provide proof of the following: a permanent address in Münster, a student ID or a corresponding certificate confirming their student status. Students from the EU receive a free account from all banks.

University Sports Service
The university sports service offers all students in Münster a very extensive, reasonably priced sport programme from A for athletics to Y for yoga. Students don’t pay any basic costs – they only have to pay for the individual sport courses. Students are issued with a university sport semester ticket upon registration (either online or in person in the University Sports Services Office).

University Sports Service, Horstmarer Landweg 62a
ph. 02 51 / 8 33 83 83
www.uni-muenster.de/Hochschulsport/index.shtml
V. Leisure

It comes as no surprise that "The World's Most Liveable City" (LivCom-Award 2004) and its surroundings welcome visitors with a range of attractive leisure activities. New citizens can gain a first impression of Münster during one of the many guided tours, which often provide surprising new perspectives as regards the city's history and everyday life there. The Münsterland region, dotted with picturesque moated castles, is also well worth a visit. And what else is there? A host of museums, festivals and cultural and sporting events.

The municipal Press Office offers some virtual sightseeing – just to get a taste: www.muenster.de/stadt/medien/virtual-tour.html

V.1. Getting to know Münster

Explore the many-faceted city of Münster during an expert guided tour, a guided coach tour or on your own initiative.
www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus/en/well-worth-seeing.html

"Stadt-Lupe Münster"
The association "Stadt-Lupe" organises guided tours for individuals, groups and so-called "intensive tours". The two-hour tour of the Old Town (daily from 11 am, advance booking recommended) is a good way to get to know the historic side of Münster. This tour is also offered in English every Saturday at 11 am from May to October. Alternative tour times or tours in other languages can be arranged on an individual basis. A simple telephone call will suffice, and online reservations are also possible. A selection of themed tours, ranging from the city's history to present day life in Münster, is also on offer.

- Timetable and tickets: "Stadt-Lupe" (office next to the tourist information), Heinrich-Brüning-Straße 9
  ph. 02 51 / 4 92-27 70

- Monday to Friday from 9:30 am - 6 pm, Saturday from 9:30 am – 1 pm
- Tickets can also be obtained from the information point at the city office in the historic Town Hall (Prinzipalmarkt), and at the guided tour meeting points. Tickets for some events with a limited number of participants can only be obtained in advance.
- For an overview of guided tours:
  www.stadt-lupe.de/index.php?hk=1

"StattReisen Münster"
The company "StattReisen" organises a range of themed tours by day and night. “Horror nights” and tours with the night-watchman ensure that the occasional cold shiver runs down your spine... The company also offers a selection of “city games”.

- Timetable and information: StattReisen, Rothenburg 47
  ph. 02 51 / 4 14 03 33

- Monday to Friday from 10 am - 1 pm; Monday to Thursday afternoons from 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm.
- Open programme and group fixtures:
  www.stattreisen-muenster.de/unserprogramm.html

Münsteraner city tours
Visitors can discover the city via the "Altstadtbahn" tram, which makes at least five 50-minutes trips through the Old Town on a daily basis (apart from Monday) leaving from Domplatz. The tram operates from April to October and during December. The tram starts running from 11 am and leaves on the hour. In November as well as from January to March,
the timetable is restricted to the weekends. Information on sights is provided in German, English, French, Russian or Dutch as desired.

- Information: ph. 02 51 / 6 86 74 49
  www.muensteraner-stadtrundfahrten.de

Sightseeing on a double-decker bus
Visitors can enjoy Münster from yet another perspective on the “Münster bus” – a convertible double-decker bus. Hop on – hop off, daily tickets, family and group tickets available.
  www.muensterbus.de

V.2. Historic Münster: On the trail of the Peace of Westphalia

The Peace of Westphalia, signed in Münster and Osnabrück in 1648, did not merely end the Thirty Years’ War, and with it an unimaginable epidemic of murder, which laid waste to and depopulated entire areas: It simultaneously established a European peace administration advocating the equality between states and made a significant contribution to the formation of modern international law. The United Provinces of the Netherlands achieved independence from Habsburg Spain during the negotiations in Münster. This is one of the reasons why the city is so popular with Dutch visitors, who often visit the historic Town Hall with the Peace Hall and the “Krameramtshaus” guild house.
  www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus/en/peace.html
  www.muenster.de/stadt/kongress1648/

Peace Hall in the historic Town Hall
The Peace Hall originally served as the council chamber, and was the scene of the first major diplomatic congress over a period of almost five years from 1644 onwards. The first part of an important treaty was concluded on 15th May 1648: Spain recognised the Netherlands' sovereignty after an 80-year war. The hall's artistic embellishments fortunately escaped Second World War bombing because the magnificent carvings were moved to safety in 1942. Portraits of diplomats and emissaries who negotiated the Peace hang on the walls.

- Friedenssaal im Rathaus (Peace Hall in the Town Hall), Prinzipalmarkt
  ph. 02 51 / 4 92-27 24
  www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus/pdf/Muenster_historical.pdf
  - Tuesday to Friday from 10 am – 5 pm; Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays from 10 am – 4 pm

Krameramtshaus guild house (“Haus der Niederlande”/ “House of The Netherlands”) This Renaissance building, which dates back to the year 1589, is one of the oldest guild houses in Münster. The building was used by the grocers' guild as a meeting point and storehouse. The building was used to house the Dutch emissaries during the negotiations which led to the Peace of Westphalia. It has been home to the Science and Cultural Centre “Haus der Niederlande” (“House of the Netherlands”) since 1995. Exhibitions, book presentations, lectures and film showings are organised here.

- “Krameramtshaus” guild house / Haus der Niederlande (House of the Netherlands),
  Alter Steinweg 6/7
  ph. 02 51 / 8 32 85 13
  www.hausderniederlande.de
  - Library opening hours: Monday to Friday from 9 am – 6 pm

V.3. Literary Münster: Annette von Droste-Hülshoff

Her ballad “Der Knabe im Moor” (“The Lad on the Moor”), the novella “Die Judenbuche” (“The Jew's Beech”) or one of her many poems are read by virtually all schoolchildren in
Germany at some point during their education. Annette von Droste-Hülshoff (1797 - 1848) is one of the most well-known female authors in the German-speaking world. She was born at “Burg Hülshoff” (Castle Hülshoff), just outside Münster. In later years, she lived in “Haus Rüschhaus” in the Nienberge district. Her works illustrate her attachment to the natural beauty present in her local area. Her prose is characterised by a sober, powerful and typically Westphalian beauty. A summary of the author’s life has been drawn up by the Annette-von-Droste Society and can be found at: www.droste-gesellschaft.de

Tip: a bicycle tour is an ideal way to trace the author's history. “Burg Hülshoff” and “Haus Rüschhaus” are situated to the west of the city. A proposed 23 km tour, which starts in the city centre, can be found at: www.bikemap.net/route/254235#lat=51.96857840707&lng=7.564955&zoom=13&maptype=ts_terrain

“Burg Hülshoff” (Castle Hülshoff)
“Burg Hülshoff” is a moated castle built in typical Westphalian style. The property was first mentioned in a document dating back to the 11th century. It is situated between Münster-Roxel and Havixbeck. Annette von Droste-Hülshoff was born here in 1797. On its website, the castle management claims it is possible to experience in person the ghostliness and eerie atmosphere which is a frequent feature of her works during a dawn walk through the castle grounds.

Burg Hülshoff (Castle Hülshoff), Schonebeck 6, 48329 Havixbeck  
ph. 0 25 34 / 10 52 
info@burg-huelshoff.de  
www.burg-huelshoff.de  
The grounds, museum and café-restaurant are open daily from the beginning of April to the end of October from 11 am – 6:30 pm. In November from Tuesday to Sunday from 12 am – 5 pm. Entrance to the grounds and castle buildings is free, while a fee is charged to visit the museum, which is located in the castle’s upper chamber.

Haus Rüschhaus
Westphalian Baroque master builder Johann Conrad Schlaun, who designed Münster's “Schloss” (Castle), the “Clemenskirche” (Clemens Church) and the “Erbdrostenhof” (a Baroque palace), drew up plans for Haus Rüschhaus, which he intended as his own country seat, between 1745 and 1749. Annette von Droste-Hülshoff’s father purchased the property in 1825. The author lived and worked there from 1826 to 1846. It is possible to visit her parlour and study, lovingly nicknamed “Schneckenhäuschen” (“little snail house”), which has been carefully maintained. The “Rüschhaus” is situated near Münster-Gievenbeck.

• Haus Rüschhaus, Am Rüschhaus 81  
  Group registration: ph. 0 25 34 / 10 52  
  info@burg-huelshoff.de  
  www.rueschhaus.de  
  Guided tours of the house’s interior during the wintertime on request only. A new time scheme will apply as from April 2013.

V.4. Moated palaces and castles

Romantic palaces, fortified castles and even a “Westphalian Versailles” in the form of Schloss Nordkirchen (Nordkirchen Palace) - the Münsterland region greets its visitors with a host of magnificent noble seats, earl’s residences and palaces. Legend has it that these buildings once numbered over 3,000, and more than 100 still bear witness to that opulent age. Münster’s Palace and “Schloss Nordkirchen” are two of the most popular sights.

The Palace in Münster, former seat of the Prince-Bishops and a work of Baroque master builder Johann Conrad Schlaun, was badly damaged by bombs during the Second
World War. It was restored to its former glory by 1953. The Palace is now the administrative centre for the University, while the magnificent Botanical Gardens, which are well worth a visit, are located in the "Schloßgarten", or palace grounds.

www.muenster.de/stadt/panorama/pan/schloss.htm
garten.uni-muenster.de/en/

Johann Conrad Schlaun also had a hand in the construction of "Schloß Nordkirchen". The large, symmetrically designed set of buildings is an impressive example of a completely preserved Baroque complex. Today, the Palace is home to the Federal University of Applied Administrative Sciences NRW, Faculty of Finance.

www.schloss-nordkirchen.de

"100-Schlösser-Route" (100 castles route)

The "100-Schlösser-Route" (100 castles route) extends over 1,400 km and takes cyclists on a tour through the Münsterland’s immaculate countryside, passing a host of historic sights en route. The Münsterland tourist association (Münsterland e.V.) has compiled a list of the most attractive castles and palaces.

ph. 0 25 51 / 93 92 91
Free hotline: 08 00 / 9 39 29 19
	
touristik@muensterland.com

www.muensterland-tourismus.de/radfahren/Radrouten/ueberregional/100_SchloesserRoute/index.html

A suggestion from the Münsterland e.V. is the beautiful, easy and even "Castle and Palace Tour", 140 kilometres, including Burg Vischering, Schloß Nordkirchen, Schloß Cappenberg and Schloß Westerwinkel

www.muensterland-tourismus.de/radfahren/Radrouten/regional/BurgSchloesserTour/index.html

For a list of other palaces and castles worth visiting, go to:

www.muensterland-tourismus.de/kultur/burgen_schloesser/Absolut_sehenswerte_Schloesser/index.html

V.5. Around Lake Aa

The recreational area of Lake Aa, darting from the outskirts right into the city centre, is a leisure and sporting paradise. Numerous joggers run around the 40-hectare reservoir each day. The zoo, horse museum "Hippomaxx”, the natural history museum with adjoining planetarium and the Mühlenhof open-air museum are visitor magnets. It is also possible to hire rowing boats and pedalos at the lake. The eye-catching Giant Pool Balls, three enormous concrete billiard balls created by Claes Oldenburg on the occasion of the first sculpture exhibition in 1977, grace the lake’s northern banks. Lake Aa is also a popular location for events.

www.aaseepark.de

"Allwetterzoo" (All-weather zoo)

Over 3,000 animals live in the "Allwetterzoo" in largely natural surroundings and eco-systems. Bears, tigers, lions, monkeys, penguins, parrots and co. feel at ease in twelve large animal houses and in the outdoor enclosures. Approximately one kilometre of the five kilometres of paths through the zoo’s grounds is covered, providing protection from rain and sun, hence the name “all-weather zoo”. The entrance price includes a visit to the dolphinarium and the "Hippomaxx" horse museum.

Allwetterzoo (All-weather zoo), Sentruper Straße 315

ph. 02 51 / 8 90 40

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“Hippomaxx” – Westphalian Horse Museum
The horse adorns the Westphalian coat of arms, and the Münsterland region is a stronghold of equestrian sports. It comes as no surprise that the city has dedicated a museum to the noble creatures. The “Hippomaxx” charts natural and cultural equestrian history and the co-existence of humans and horses over 1,000 square metres. Spectators can even watch their four-legged friends perform in the arena.
Westfälisches Pferdemuseum (Westphalian Horse Museum), Sentruper Straße 311
ph. 02 51 / 48 42 70
info@hippomaxx-muenster.de
www.pferdemuseum.de/en/
April to September daily from 9 am - 6 pm, October and March from 9 am - 5 pm, November to February from 9 am - 4 pm.

Natural History Museum and Planetarium
Visitors to the Zeiss Planetarium, located at the heart of the LWL Natural History Museum, can investigate foreign planets and astronomical events from the comfort of their armchairs. The planetarium’s dome measures 20 metres in diameter, and seats 270 people. The natural history museum invites its visitors to travel back in time to the Mesozoic era. There, they can make the acquaintance of the dinosaurs and experience Westphalia’s transformation from mammoth steppe to agrarian countryside. Great temporary exhibitions.
LWL-Museum für Naturkunde - Westfälisches Landesmuseum mit Planetarium (LWL Natural History Museum – Westphalian State Museum with Planetarium),
Sentruper Str. 285
ph. 02 51 / 5 91 05
www.lwl.org/LWL/Kultur/lwl-naturkunde/english
Tuesday to Sunday from 9 am – 6 pm

Mühlenhof Open-Air Museum
The Mühlenhof showcases the Münsterland’s rural culture and craftsmanship in almost 30 buildings of various sizes. Some houses were moved to the museum from their original locations, while others were reconstructed according to original models. The museum's landmark is a post mill, whose reconstruction marked the occasion of the museum's inauguration in 1961. Romantic souls can hold their marriage ceremony at the Mühlenhof.
Freilichtmuseum Mühlenhof (Mühlenhof Open-Air Museum), Theo-Breider-Weg 1
ph. 02 51 / 98 12 00
service@muehlenhof-muenster.org
www.muehlenhof-muenster.de
April to September from 10 am - 6 pm, October and March from 11 am - 4:30 pm, November to February from 11 am - 4 pm.

“Solaaris” water shuttle
The extraordinary solar ship transports passengers from the city centre (Lake Aa terraces) to the Mühlenhof open-air museum and the zoo. “Solaaris“ runs every hour from 10 am to 5 pm between March and October.
Tickets are valid for the bus to and from the boat, also.
- Information: ph. 02 51 / 849 30 00
www.aaseeschifffahrt.de
V.6. Horse Riding

The Münsterland is equestrian country. The region is home to Olympic victors and World and European champions such as Hans Günther Winkler, Ludger Beerbaum and Markus Ehning. With its 100,000 horses, it is one of Europe’s most intensively equine regions.

The Münsterland also has a great deal to offer amateur riders. The region is peppered with over 1,000 stables for horses and ponies. Special routes lead riders through the countryside on rides lasting between several hours and several days.

- Information on riding routes, stables and riding holidays can be obtained from the Münsterland tourist association on:
  Free hotline: 08 00 / 9 39 29 19
  touristik@muensterland.com
  www.muensterland-tourismus.de/2523/reiten-muensterland

- A selection of stables in the Münsterland region:
  o Ponyhof Schleithoff in Havixbeck, ph. 0 25 07 / 12 27, www.ponyhof.de
  o Reiterhof Hunsche in Lienen, ph. 0 54 83 / 5 74, www.reiterhof-hunsche.de
  o Ponyhof Georgenbruch in Everswinkel, ph. 0 25 82 / 12 16, www.ponyhof-georgenbruch.de
  o Reiterhof Rüenberg in Gronau, ph. 0 25 62 / 2 47 60, www.reiterhof-rueenberg.de
  o Reiterhof Stuft in Münster, ph. 02 51 / 71 77 20, www.reiterhof-stuft.de
  o Reiterhof Meckmann-Dorsel in Münster, tel. 02 51 / 2 30 17 74, www.meckmann-dorsel.de
  o Ferienhof Große Hellmann in Bösensell, (riding holidays), tel. 0 25 36 / 34 11 40, www.grosse-hellmann.de

- Many riding and driving associations (Reit- und Fahrvereine) in Münster give riding, dressage and jumping lessons. For an overview, see:
  www.muenster.de/laufen_fahren_reiten.html

Rewarding day trips for horse enthusiasts
“Warendorfer Hengstparade” (Warendorf stallion parade): Several tens of thousands of visitors throng to the stallion parades, which take place every year at the end of September and the beginning of October. Regional stud-farm employees display over 100 breeding stallions in a rapidly executed variety of poses, and present demanding dressage and driving displays.
www.landgestuet.nrw.de

Catching wild horses in Dülmen-Merfeld: Merfelder Bruch near Dülmen, Europe’s last wild stud-farm, has been home to wild horses since time immemorial. The year-old colts are separated from the herd and caught by hand each year on the last Saturday in May. Around 30 to 40 colts have to be removed from the herd each year in order to prevent bitter battles for supremacy in the limited space offered by the Merfelder Bruch. It’s not just worth visiting to witness the spectacular sight of the wild horses being caught by hand. The grounds are also open at weekends and bank holidays in summer, weather permitting.
www.wildpferde.de

V.7. Sport

Münster is a sporty city. The city’s sports clubs offer a broad range of sporting disciplines. Regional “specialities” include cycling, riding, golf and ballooning. There is also a wide selection of activities tailored to the needs of disabled people.
Popular sport

The Municipal Sports Office and the Municipal Sports Association, which coordinates all the sports clubs in Münster, are pleased to provide advice and information to those looking for sports clubs, sporting activities, sports stadiums, public pools and sports events.

Information: Sportamt (Sports Office)
ph. 02 51/ 4 92-52 01
sportamt@muenster.de
www.muenster.de/stadt/sportamt

The "Stadtsportbund"(Municipal Sports Association) provides information about clubs and associations. ph. 02 51 / 3 03 34
info@stadtsportbund-ms.de
www.stadtsportbund-ms.de
www.sportvereine-ms.de

- For an overview of indoor and outdoor swimming pools in Münster, please go to: www.muenster.de/stadt/sportamt/baeder.html

Competitive sport

Those who prefer to be spectators should investigate the following options:

- Football: Here, the footballing jewel in Münster's crown is the SC Preußen Münster, runner-up in the German Championships in 1951 and founding member of the German Football League in 1963. The team is currently playing in the 3rd national league. Home games at the stadium on the Hammer Straße are attended by an average of 4,700 fans.
  www.scpreussen-muenster.de

- Volleyball: The volleyball ladies from USC Münster enjoy a high position in Federal league rankings. To date, they have notched up nine German Championship titles, eleven German Cup victories and four European Cup victories. The second ladies' team is also high up in the second Federal league. Matches are played at the Berg Fidel "Volleydrom", which seats up to 4,500 spectators.
  www.usc-muenster.de

- Riding: Equestrian enthusiasts can see their favourite stars in action at two major events held in Münster. The indoor K+K cup, organised by the Münster Riding Association, is held in the Halle Münsterland over a five-day period each January. The international jumping and dressage elite meets each August for the "Turnier der Sieger", or "Tournament of Champions", with the majestic backdrop of Münster's Palace.
  www.kkcup.de
  www.turnierdersieger.de

Speciality sport I: Cycling

The Münsterland's flat landscape makes it the ultimate cycling region. "Pättkes", or asphalted rural paths, quiet streets and cycle paths are perfect for extensive tours. All interests and fitness levels are well catered for.

- Münster Marketing publishes a leaflet containing useful tips on cycle tours in and around Münster: www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus/pdf/Flyer_Radtouren.pdf

- The ADFC (German Cyclists' Federation), Dortmunder Straße 19, publishes its tour programme every spring.
  ph. 02 51 / 39 39 99
  info@adfc-ms.de
  www.adfc-ms.de

- "Radsportverein Münster von 1895" (Münster Cycling Association from 1895): The oldest cycling association, which is also one of the largest in North Rhine-Westphalia. The association includes the five divisions racing, cycle tourism, mountainbiking/cross, unicycles and cycle ball.
In addition, several other sports clubs also have cycling tour and racing divisions.

**Speciality sport II: Golf**
Putting and teeing off is the rule at Münster’s two golf clubs. The Münster-Tinnen golf club is based in Amelsbüren, while the Münster-Wilkinghege golf club’s 18-hole green is located on the Steinfurter Straße, near the Münster-Nord (Münster North) motorway exit.

- **Golfclub Münster-Tinnen (Münster-Tinnen golf club)**
  ph. 0 25 36 / 3 30 10 11
  info@gc-tinnen.de
  www.golfclub-tinnen.de
- **Golfclub Münster-Wilkinghege (Münster-Wilkinghege golf club)**
  ph. 02 51 / 21 40 90
  kontakt@golfclub-wilkinghege.de
  www.golfclub-wilkinghege.de

**Speciality sport III: Ballooning**
The “Montgolfiade” balloon festival, which is held annually at the end of August, is one of the highlights on Münster’s event calendar. The sight of 60 balloons rising up from the banks of Lake Aa is most impressive.

www.montgolfiade-muenster.de

Ballooning can also be practised as a competitive sport at Münster’s two ballooning associations. During the competitions, the distance and length of a balloon ride and the target journey are calculated. However, the associations also welcome those who are just “along for the ride”.

- **Freiballonsport-Verein Münster und Münsterland (Münster and Münsterland Free Ballooning Sports Association)**
  fsv-ms@web.de
  www.freiballonsport-verein-muenster.de
- **Mongolfieren Club Gremmendorf (Gremmendorf Hot-Air Ballooning Club)**
  ph. 02 51 / 62 78 79
  info@montgolfieren-club.de
  www.montgolfieren-club.de

Some aeronautical companies also offer hot-air balloon rides:
- **Ballooncharter**
  ph. 02 51 / 8 28 85
  info@ballooncharter.de
  www.ballooncharter.de
- **Ballonteam Münster**
  ph. 01 71 / 410 66 47
  ballonteam-muenster@t-online.de
  www.ballonteammuenster.de
V.8. Theatre, cinema, music, sporting events

Daily newspapers and various magazines, including GIG, Ultimo, na dann, nanu, which are available free of charge at many inner city locations, contain details of events taking place in Münster.

The city’s Press Office also maintains a detailed online event calendar, which also contains links with information about cinemas, city tours, further education events and local markets. www.termine.muenster.org

Other event overviews and leisure tips include:
www.muenster.de/stadt/tourismus/veranstaltungen.html
www.muenster-geht-aus.de
www.muenster.de/freizeit_tipps.html

Cinemas in Münster:
Cineplex, Albersloher Weg 14
  Box office open daily from 2 pm – 11:30 pm, Sundays from 10:30 am – 11:30 pm
  ph. 02 51 / 98 71 23 33
  muenster@cineplex.de
  www.cineplex.de/kino/home/city35
Schloßtheater, Melchersstraße 81
  Box office open daily from 3:15 pm - 9 pm, Friday/ Saturday until 11:30 pm, Sundays from 10:30 am - 9 pm
  ph. 02 51 / 2 25 79
  muenster@cineplex.de
  schlostheater-munster.kino-zeit.de/programm
Programmkino Cinema, Warendorfer Straße 45-47
  Box office open daily from 3 pm, Sundays from 10:45 am
  ph. 02 51 / 3 03 00
  info@cinema-muenster.de
  www.cinema-muenster.de

Theatres (selection):
• Theater Münster, Neubrückenstraße 63
  Box office open daily from Monday to Friday from 10 am – 6 pm, Saturdays from 10 am - 2 pm
  ph. 02 51 / 5 90 91 00
  info-theater@stadt-muenster.de
  www.theater-muenster.com
• GOP Varieté-Theater, Bahnhofstraße 20-22
  Information and advance ticket sales: ph. 02 51 / 4 90 90 90
  info-muenster@variete.de
  www.variete.de/en/venues/muenster/muenster.html
• Theater im Pumpenhaus, Gartenstraße 123
  Ticket reservation: ph. 02 51 / 23 34 43
  buero@pumpenhaus.de
  www.pumpenhaus.de
• Wolfgang-Borchert-Theater (Wolfgang Borchert Theatre), Hafenweg 6-8
  ph. 02 51 / 4 00 19
  verwaltung@wolfgang-borchert-theater.de
  www.wbt-muenster.de
• Boulevard Münster in the Königspassage
  Information and advance ticket sales: ph. 02 51 / 4 14 04 00
  info@boulevard-muenster.de
  www.boulevard-muenster.de
Museums (selection):
- Graphikmuseum Pablo Picasso (Pablo Picasso Museum of Graphic Arts), Königsstraße 5
  ph. 02 51 / 414 47 10
  info@picassomuseum.de
  www.kunstmuseum-picasso-muenster.de/en/home/home/
- LWL-Landesmuseum für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte (LWL State Museum of Art and Cultural History), Domplatz 10
  (Re-opening announced for early 2014)
  ph. 02 51 / 59 07 01
  landesmuseum@lwl.org
  www.lwl.org/LWL/Kultur/LWL-Landesmuseum-Muenster/
- Stadtmuseum (City Museum), Salzstraße 28
  ph. 02 51 / 4 92-45 03
  museum@stadt-muenster.de
  www.muenster.de/stadt/museum
- Museum für Lackkunst (Museum of Lacquer Art), Windthorststraße 26
  ph. 02 51 / 41 85 10
  www.museum-fuer-lackkunst.de

Event and concert locations
Halle Münsterland, Albersloher Weg 32
Advance ticket sales: ph. 02 51 / 1 62 58 17.
Event programme and information: Tel. 02 51 / 6 60 00
info@halle-muensterland.de
www.halle-muensterland.de

Various other locations for musical and cultural events can be found under
www.muenster.de/kultur_buehnen.html

Some event highlights
“Send” fun fair: “Send“ takes place three times a year. The Münsterland region’s largest fun fair attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors. 250 showmen present traditional and modern fair ride sensations on the Hindenburgplatz in front of Münster's Palace in Spring, Summer and Autumn. A firework display traditionally lights up the evening skies on “Send“ Friday.
www.muenster.de/stadt/send

Christmas markets: Visitors have the pick of five different Advent markets surrounded by the Old Town’s festive illuminations. Toy stalls and jewellery and arts-and-crafts stands are perfect for browsing, as you savour the scent of toasted almonds, mulled wine and punch.
www.muenster.de/stadt/weihnachtsmarkt/

Night of the Museums and Galleries: During the "Schauraum" (“Showroom”) festival, which concludes with the "Night of the Museums and Galleries”, the city centre showcases art, culture and savoir vivre over three days usually in early September. Over 40 establishments remain open until midnight and no entry fees are charged. Special tours, readings and lectures make for an inspiring Night.

Shrove Monday procession: Native "Münsterländer", or citizens from the Münsterland region, are by no means as stolid and impassive as the story goes. Their inner flamboyance comes to light at carnival time. The highlight of the crazy carnival season is the Shrove Monday procession, when the Old Town is firmly in the jesters’ hands. Almost 120 groups, music ensembles and magnificently decorated floats from Münster and the surrounding area parade through the city. Associations from the
Netherlands also participate, bringing with them particularly colourful floats and groups.

www.bmk-helau.de
www.muenster.de/kulturell_karneval.html

Münster marathon: The motto of the annual Münster marathon is “Laufen aus Leidenschaft” (“Running for Passion”). Around 6,000 professionals and amateurs attempt the 42 kilometre long route, cheered on by enthusiastic spectators. Those who would prefer not to run the entire route can form a team with like-minded runners and enter the relay marathon.

Information and registration: Münster marathon
ph. 02 51 / 9 27 72 88
info@volksbank-muenster-marathon.de
https://www.volksbank-muenster-marathon.de/marathon/?rubric=englisch

“Münsterland-Giro” cycle race: The cycling elite meets in Münster every year on 3rd October in order to compete in the Münsterland-Giro cycle race, a 200 kilometre route through the region. The highlight is the home stretch against the magnificent backdrop of Münster’s Palace. Even ambitious amateur cyclists can get in the saddle. They have a choice of three open races, with distances between 60 and 130 kilometres.

Information and registration:
www.sparkassen-muensterland-giro.de/welcome.html

“Turnier der Sieger” (“Tournament of Champions”): The “Turnier der Sieger” is one of the highlights of the equestrian calendar. The dressage and jumping elite meets every August in front of Münster’s Palace. The exclusive jumping series, the Riders Tour, also stops in Münster in August.

www.turnierdersieger.de

V.9. For children and families

Münster is child-friendly. The city is home to 330 playgrounds, spread across the entire city. Each district also has a children’s and youth club. Both the city itself and a host of associations, organisations and groups offer a range of activities and services for the entire family.

- Information: städtisches Kinderbüro (Municipal Children’s Office), Junkerstraße 1 Monday to Friday from 9 am - 12 pm, Thursday afternoons from 2:30 pm - 6 pm and by arrangement ph. 02 51 / 4 92-51 09 kinderburo@stadt-muenster.de
  www.stadt-muenster.de/kinderbuero
- Information on activities for children and teenagers:
  www.muenster.de/kinder_jugendliche.html

Holiday clubs for children

Children in Münster are spoilt for choice during school holidays. The Municipal Children’s Office and its partners ensure that children are well catered for with holiday clubs organised in the Easter, Summer and Autumn holidays.

During their Easter holidays, children can have a good romp at “Halli Galli”. In summer, they look forward to the kids camp or the “Atlantis” holiday city - an eventful all-day programme in the Wienburgpark. The advantage for parents with jobs is that they know that their children are in good hands during holiday periods. Other associations also offer reliable care options during school holidays. The “Kinder-Film-Fest” (children’s film festival) takes place during the autumn half-term. The municipal holiday newspapers.

www.stadt-muenster.de/kinderbuero/ferien.html
www5.stadt-muenster.de/ferien_jugend/kb_index.cfm
Holiday trips and other holiday options within Münster, other cities and abroad are also organised for children and teenagers. Non-profit-making tour operators from Münster advertise these in an online database.
www5.stadt-muenster.de/ferienreisen/jib_index.cfm

"Maxi-Turm" and "Maxi-Sand"
Parents sometimes find it easier to run errands or go to the doctor or the authorities without their children in tow. Those in need of a little downtime can leave their children (aged between four and ten) at the Maxi-Turm on the Prinzipalmarkt, where a childcare service is provided. There is no need to register in advance. The kids can climb, play or listen to stories while their parents are away. Qualified staff care for the children for up to three hours (3 euros per hour).

Maxi-Turm at the Stadthausturm, Prinzipalmarkt 15
Monday to Friday from 2 pm - 6 pm, Saturday from 10 am – 6 pm
The “Maxi-Turm“ is closed from the second to the fifth week of the school summer holidays
ph. 4 92-55 55.

The "Maxi-Sand" is a little oasis for children aged up to six years and their parents. The giant sand-pit, located on the Syndikatplatz, is always available for use during the summer months. Buckets, spades and moulds are dealt out on a daily basis apart from Sundays. Parents remain responsible for looking after their children. Older children can play in the sand from 6 pm onwards, when a volleyball net is set up.

"Maxi-Sand", Syndikatplatz, May to September, Monday to Saturday from 11 am - 6 pm
www.muenster.de/stadt/kinderbuero/maxi.html
VI. Good to know

The majority of municipal institutions and offices are located in the three major “Stadthaus” buildings.

- Stadthaus 1, Klemensstraße 10: central duties, including Citizens’ Office, School Office, Civil Registry Office, Münster Information Point, Lord Mayor’s Office
- Stadthaus 2, Ludgeriplatz 2 (and neighbouring building on Hafenstraße 8): social duties, including Social Welfare Office, Immigration Office
- Stadthaus 3, Albersloher Weg 33: technical offices, including those for the fields of planning, building and environmental protection, Municipal Housing Office

Opening hours: usually from Monday to Friday from 8 am to 12 pm and Thursdays from 3 pm to 6 pm; however, many offices and institutions are open all day from Monday to Thursday, and some are even open on Saturdays.

Postal address of the municipal authorities:
Stadt Münster
48127 Münster
ph. 02 51 / 4 92 -0
fax 02 51/ 4 92-77 00
stadtverwaltung@stadt-muenster.de
www.muenster.de/stadt

VI.1. Amt für Bürgerangelegenheiten – Bürgerbüro Mitte (Citizens’ Affairs Office - Central Office)

The Citizens’ Affairs Office and its subsidiary offices are crucial information points. The Bürgerbüro Mitte (Central Citizens Office) in Stadthaus 1 provides advice on the following issues, among others: Registration matters (registration, de-registration, change of address after moving), altering the address on car registration documents, issuing residents' parking permits and parking permits for the severely handicapped, applying for or de-registering dog licences, lost property, certificates of good conduct, accreditation of documents and signatures.

Amt für Bürgerangelegenheiten – Bürgerbüro Mitte (Citizens’ Affairs Office - Central Office), Stadthaus 1, Klemensstraße 10
ph. 02 51 / 4 92-33 33
buergerbuero-mitte@stadt-muenster.de
www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt/citizens_office.html
Monday to Thursday from 8 am - 6 pm, Friday and Saturday from 8 am - 12 pm

Forms to download:
www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt/formulare.html

Virtual Citizens’ Office – more services:
www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt/virt_buergerbuero.html

It is not always necessary to go to Stadthaus 1 in order to arrange official matters. The city’s district citizens’ offices also offer a range of services. Exceptions include naturalization and nationality-related matters.

- Bezirksverwaltung Hiltrup (Hiltrup District Administration Office)
  Patronatsstraße 20
  Monday to Friday from 8 am - 12 pm, Monday and Thursday afternoons from 2 pm - 6 pm
  ph. 0 25 01/4 45 60
  bezirksverwaltung-hiltrup@stadt-muenster.de
  www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt/bv-hiltrup.html
• Bezirksverwaltung Nord in Kinderhaus (District Administration Office North)
  Idenbrockplatz 8
  Monday to Friday from 8 am - 12 pm, Thursday afternoons from 2 pm - 6 pm
  ph. 02 51/4 92-16 01
  bezirksverwaltung-nord@stadt-muenster.de
  www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt/bv-nord.html

• Bezirksverwaltung Südost in Wolbeck (District Administration Office South-East)
  Am Steintor 50
  Monday to Friday from 8 am - 12 pm, Thursday afternoons from 2 pm - 6 pm
  ph. 0 25 06/9 31 90
  bezirksverwaltung-suedost@stadt-muenster.de
  www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt/bv-suedost.html

• Bezirksverwaltung West in Roxel (District Administration Office West)
  Pantaleonplatz 7
  Monday to Friday from 8 am - 12 pm, Thursday afternoons from 2 pm - 6 pm
  ph. 0 25 34/5 88 54-0
  bezirksverwaltung-west@stadt-muenster.de
  www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt/bv-west.html

• Bezirksverwaltung Ost in Handorf (District Administration Office East)
  Vennemannstraße 5
  Monday to Wednesday from 8 am - 12 pm, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2 pm - 6 pm
  ph. 02 51/21 09 70
  bezirksverwaltung-ost@stadt-muenster.de
  www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt/bv-ost.html

• Bürgerbüro Coerde (Coerde Citizens’ Office)
  Hamannplatz 39
  Tuesday afternoons from 2 pm - 6 pm
  ph. 02 51/4 92-16 50
  buergerbuero-coerde@stadt-muenster.de
  www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt/bb-coerde.html

• Bürgerbüro Gremmendorf (Gremmendorf Citizens’ Office)
  Albersloher Weg 550
  Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 2 pm - 6 pm
  ph. 02 51/4 92-16 57
  buergerbuero-gremmendorf@stadt-muenster.de
  www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt/bb-gremmendorf.html

• Bürgerbüro Gievenbeck (Gievenbeck Citizens’ Office)
  Rüschhausweg 17
  Tuesday from 8 am - 12 pm and 2 pm - 6 pm, Thursday afternoons from 2 pm - 6 pm, Friday from 8 am - 12 pm
  ph. 02 51/2 37 24-30
  buergerbuero-gievenbeck@stadt-muenster.de
  www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt/bb-gievenbeck.html

Lost property offices
The Citizens’ Affairs Office includes the lost property offices in Stadthaus 1 and in the district administration offices. Those who have misplaced their bicycles may be reunited with them
at the lost bicycle office. The Municipal Public Order Office stores bicycles there which have been parked in a disorderly or obstructive manner.

Fundbüro Mitte im Stadthaus 1 (Central Lost Property Office), room 159
Monday to Thursday from 8 am to 6 pm, Friday and Saturday from 8 am to 12 pm
ph. 02 51 / 4 92-33 33
fundbuero@stadt-muenster.de
www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt/lost_property_office.html

Lost property office online: www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt/fundbuero-online.html
Fundfahrradstation (Lost Bicycle Office), Industrieweg 75
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 8 am - 12 pm, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2 pm - 6 pm
Tel. 02 51 / 6 06 88 46
www.muenster.de/stadt/buergeramt/fundfahrradstation.html

For items left behind in public transport, please see or dial:
• “Stadtwerke” (municipal buses): ph. 0 180 3 / 50 40 30 (9 Ct. / Min. im dt. Festnetz)
• Westfalen Bus (Westphalian buses):
  www.westfalenbus.de/westfalenbus/view/service/fundsachen.shtml
• Deutsche Bahn (German railways):
  www.bahn.de/p/view/service/bahnhof/fundservice.shtml

VI.2. A selection of other offices, institutions and contact partners

• Abfallwirtschaftsbetriebe Münster (AWM – Waste Management Services),
  Rösnerstraße 10
  Information on waste disposal, bulky refuse, removal dates and charges Monday to Thursday from 8 am - 5 pm, Friday from 8 am - 4 pm
  ph. 02 51 / 60 52 53
  awm@stadt-muenster.de
  www.awm.stadt-muenster.de
• Amt für Ausländerangelegenheiten (Immigration Office), Stadthaus 2, Ludgeriplatz 4
  (Südstraße entrance)
  Responsibilities include residence and employment permits for non-EU citizens
  Monday to Friday from 8 am - 12 pm, Thursday afternoons from 3 pm - 6 pm
  ph. 02 51 / 4 92-36 36
  auslaenderamt@stadt-muenster.de
  www.muenster.de/stadt/auslaenderangelegenheiten/en/home.html
• Gesundheitsamt (Health Office), Stühmerweg 8
  Monday to Wednesday from 8 am - 4 pm, Thursday until 6 pm, Friday until 1 pm
  ph. 02 51 / 4 92-53 77
  gesundheitsamt@stadt-muenster.de
  www.muenster.de/stadt/gesundheitsamt
• Amt für Kinder, Jugendliche und Familien (Office for Children, Young Adults and Families), Hafenstraße 30
  ph. 02 51 / 4 92-51 01
  jugendamt@stadt-muenster.de
  www.muenster.de/stadt/jugendamt
• Familienbüro (Family Office), Junkerstraße 1
  Children’s Day Care Advisory Service
  Monday to Friday from 9 am - 12 pm, Thursday afternoons from 2:30 pm - 6 pm and by arrangement
  ph. 02 51 / 4 92-51 08
  familienbuero@stadt-muenster.de
VI.3. Emergency medical services

The city's press office publishes a list of all emergency services and relief organizations, which can be found at: www.muenster.de/notdienste

Whoever needs medical assistance after opening hours, can rely on the emergency service of the Medical Association Westfalia-Lippe – no appointment necessary. In Münster, the medical center at the Raphael's Hospital is in charge for adult patients, the medical center at the Clemens' Hospital for children and youngsters.

- Emergency medical services: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays from 6 pm, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 pm, Saturdays from 8 am until Monday morning
- ph. 01 80 / 50 44 100 (14 cents per minute / max. 42 cents from mobile phones)
  More information at www.kvwl.de/patient/notdienste/index.htm
- Emergency dental service: ph. 02 51 / 1 44 95 88.
- Emergency chemist's service: Westphalia-Lippe Union of Chemists emergency services finder: www.akwl.de/service/notdienstkalender.php

VI.4. Emergency numbers for the fire brigade, rescue service, emergency doctor and police

Every second counts in the case of accidents involving injured persons, sudden heart attacks or similar emergencies. Emergency numbers are free from all telephone lines.

Münster fire brigade and emergency doctors: ph. 112
The fire services will need the following information:
Who is calling? Where are they calling from?
Where did the incident happen (location, street, house number)?
What happened (fire, accident or similar)?
www.muenster.de/stadt/feuerwehr/notruf.html

Emergency number for the police: ph. 110
Polizeipräsidium Münster (Münster police headquarters)
ph. 02 51 / 27 50
poststelle.muenster@polizei.nrw.de
www.polizei.nrw.de/muenster/
VI.5. Media in Münster

What’s going on in Münster? Newspapers, radio, television and online media are all on hand to keep you up to date with life in the city. Free local newspapers are also delivered every Wednesday and Sunday.

For an overview of all media in Münster and the surrounding area, published by the press office, go to:

www.muenster.de/stadt/medien/pdf/medienverteiler.pdf

Daily newspapers
“Westfälische Nachrichten”
An der Hansalinie 1
ph. 02 51 / 69 07 15
re dak tion.ms@westf aelische-nachrichten.de
www.wn.de

“Münstersche Zeitung”,
Neubrückenstraße 8-11
ph. 02 51 / 5 92 40 51
re dak tion.newsdesk@muensterschezeitung.de
www.muensterschezeitung.de

Free local newspapers
• “Hallo” (Wednesdays and Sundays)
Soester Straße 13
ph. 02 51 / 6 90 96 11
re dak tion@hallo-muensterland.de
www.hallo-muenster.de

• “Kaufen und Sparen” / Münsterische Sonntagszeitung (Wednesdays and Sundays)
Neubrückenstraße 8 - 11
ph. 02 51 / 592 – 41 45
re dak tion@kus-muenster.de
www.kus-muenster.de

• “Münster am Sonntag”
Bahnhofstraße 18
ph. 02 51 / 4 44 31
re dak tion@muenster-am-sonntag.de
www.muenster-am-sonntag.de

Radio and TV
• WDR Studio Münster (radio and TV)
Mondstraße 144
ph. 02 51 / 3 11 30
studio.muenster@wdr.de
www.wdr.de/studio/muenster/nachrichten

• Antenne Münster
Nevinghoff 14
ph. 02 51 / 2 89 54-0
re dak tion@antennemuenster.de
www.antenne-muenster.de

• Center TV
Hafenweg 31
ph. 01 51 / 52 73 50 71
muenster@wmtv-online.de
www.centertv-muenster.de
VII. More information about Münster published in English

The municipal authorities in Münster also provide a series of information in English. The Press Office publishes this information online at: www.muenster.de/en


Information and leaflets regarding events, sightseeing and other issues can be obtained from:
Münster-Information (Münster Information Point)
Stadthaus 1, Heinrich-Brüning Straße 9
   Monday to Friday from 9:30 am - 6 pm, Saturday from 9:30 am - 1 pm
   Tel. 02 51 / 4 92-27 10
Branch office in the historic Town Hall, Prinzipalmarkt
   Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am - 5 pm, Sundays and bank holidays from 10 am - 4 pm
   Tel. 02 51 / 4 92-27 24

The Press Office has also released two videos about Münster, which are available in German and English:
- "Münster"
- "Münster – Stadt der Skulpturen" ("Münster – City of Sculptures")
   They are available on DVD for 3.95 / 9.95 euros, contact via presseamt@stadt-muenster.de
   The flash version of "Münster – City of Sculptures" is being offered for download: www.muenster.de/stadt/medien/filme_film_skulpturen_englisch.html

Some virtual sightseeing, i.e. tours covering the historic Münster, green Münster, museums and sculptures, will be available on the web in the course of the year 2013 on:
- www.muenster.de/stadt/medien/virtual-tour.html
Cover photos (on the front, from above)

Square Depression
"Square Depression" by Bruce Nauman, a contribution to the international Sculpture.Projects 2007.

Prinzipalmarkt
The historic gabled houses were reconstructed in a simplified form after the Second World War. (Centre: the "Stadtweinhaus" (City Wine House) – recessed with balcony – with the "Rathaus" (Town Hall) beside it to the right)

Germany’s cycling capital
The 4.5 km long promenade around Münster’s Old Town serves as an “express highway” for cyclists.

Relaxing by Lake Aa
Art and relaxation: "Pier", a sculpture created by Californian artist Jorge Pardo.

Send
With a mixture of nostalgia and high tech, this large fun fair attracts thousands of visitors to the square in front of the palace three times a year.

Skateboarders
Teenagers feel at home in Münster - a skating stronghold.

University city
Learning, teaching and research are an integral part of life at the university and the city’s seven other institutes of higher education.

Cover photos (on the back, from above left)

Diocesan library
A modern home for a library which boasts a 600 year history: the diocesan library, situated by the Überwasserkirche church, contains one million books, including world class historical treasures.

Goldener Hahn (The Golden Cockerel)
The city’s guests of honour are offered a welcome drink from the “Golden Cockerel” (a chalice dating back to around 1600).

The University
Münster’s Palace is the administrative heart of the Westphalian Wilhelms-University.

Münster Theatre
The Municipal Theatre, which dates back to 1956, integrates the ruins of the Romberger Hof as a "natural dramatic backdrop". The Municipal Theatre includes musical, dance, drama, children’s and youth theatres.

Montgolfiade
When the balloons light up over Lake Aa: Montgolfiade, a traditional hot-air balloon competition.

Festival backdrop
The square of Westphalian Peace becomes an open-air lounge during the annual "Schauraum" (“Showroom”) festival.

Natural History Museum
For dinosaur fans and star-gazers: LWL Natural History Museum with Planetarium.

Equestrian sport
Colourful hobbyhorses advertise the annual "Tournament of Champions" for dressage riders and show jumpers.

Airport
Flights operate from Münster Osnabrück International Airport to destinations around the world.

City of Peace
Diplomacy replaces weapons – the Westphalian Peace put a successful end to the major Thirty Years’ war in Europe in 1648. Today, the city still feels a strong commitment to this historic legacy.