



Time for discovery
Map of Germany for international students and PhD candidates



DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

Hello and welcome to Germany!

We're delighted that you're interested in studying or earning a PhD in Germany. Where do you want to go? Closer to the North Sea or the Alps? In a big city or smaller town? Aachen or Leipzig? There are many universities to discover in towns and cities all over Germany. There are a total of 400 institutions of higher education to choose from, around 60% are publicly financed and operated, another 30% are private state-accredited institutions, and 10% are church-financed and state-accredited. It's not easy to get an overview!

Want to study in Germany? Ask the DAAD!

The German Academic Exchange Service DAAD offers an extensive range of information and advising services to prospective and current students. The DAAD was established in 1925 as a joint association of German universities and their student bodies. Today it is the largest funding organisation of its kind in the world. With headquarters in Bonn, an office in Berlin, 15 regional offices and 56 information centres worldwide, the DAAD is supported by more than 450 lectorships (lektors are young German academics working at universities abroad in many academic areas) in over 110 countries. Every year, thousands of students and scholars discover the opportunities of higher education which Germany has to offer. A 2016 study by the British Council confirmed that Germany's internationalisation measures have been extremely successful: Out of the top 25 countries worldwide, Germany took fourth place.

We look forward to welcoming you here!

Your DAAD Team



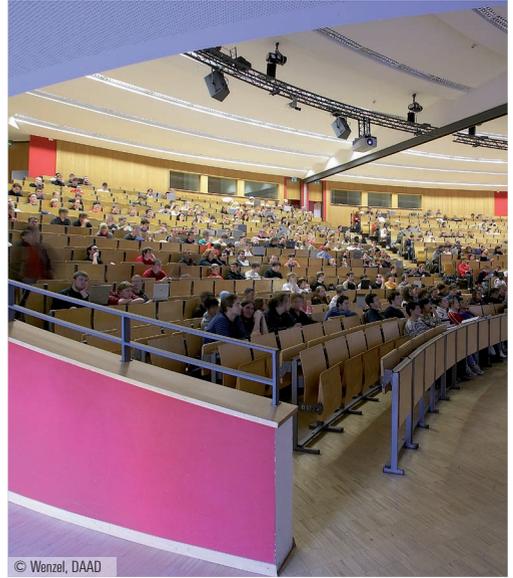
Germany – Land of higher education

Calling all pioneers and creative thinkers! Studying and researching in Germany

Germany is a land of higher education whose universities offer more than 18,000 different degree programmes. Those who study or earn their PhD here receive intensive support, are taken seriously as aspiring academics and are warmly welcome as creative thinkers.

Small country – Huge fan base

German higher education has fans around the world. Word has spread that Germany is a great place to live and study. The 320,000 international students in Germany are living proof of this. Many wish to stay here after graduation, while others decide to travel to other countries or return home after their studies. And most remain in close contact with Germany for years to come.



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International orientation – Global cooperation

German universities have an international orientation. They cooperate with universities and research institutes around the world. Thousands of visiting researchers and students from abroad work and study in Germany. There are more than 1,300 bachelor's, master's and doctoral programmes, many of which are taught in English (and other languages) and are tailored to the needs of international students. The diverse range of programmes attracts academics from around the world and creates an atmosphere of inspiration and curiosity.

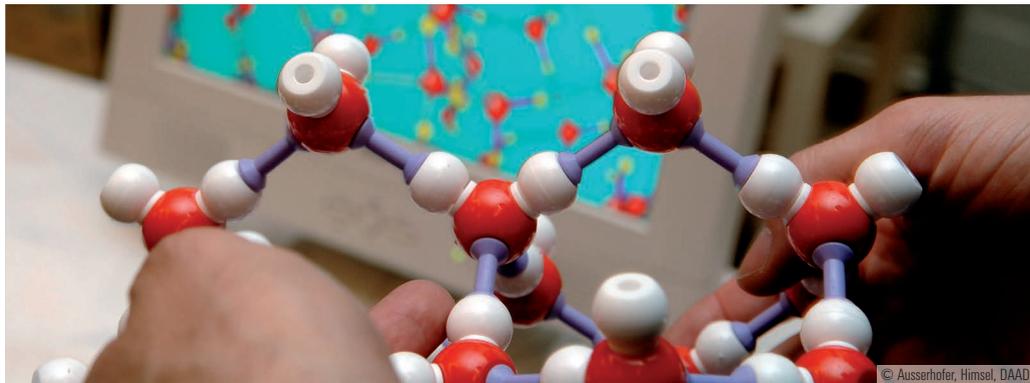
A resource with real value – German higher education

Germany has limited natural resources. All the more reason to be proud of the innovations and advances of its universities. The German government invests heavily to enhance the quality of research, science and teaching. German universities also pay close attention to maintaining high standards by monitoring their quality on a regular basis. And these efforts are paying off. The level of quality at all German universities is extremely high.

Innovative thinking – A German tradition

A long history of higher education

Innovative thinking and curiosity at German universities are not recent phenomena. They were the driving forces behind the establishment of the first German university in Heidelberg in 1386. German higher education was also strongly influenced by Wilhelm von Humboldt in the 19th century. He believed in uniting research and instruction – a principle that is still practised to this day.



Nobel Prizes from Germany

Two Germans were among the very first Nobel laureates: Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen and Emil von Behring. In the meantime, more than 80 Germans have garnered Nobel Prizes in the fields of the Natural Sciences, Medicine, Literature and Peace. They include Gustav Hertz, Max Planck, Robert Koch, Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard, Günter Grass, Thomas Mann, Theodor Mommsen, Gustav Stresemann and Willy Brandt.

Brilliant inventions and discoveries

No less impressive is the list of inventions from Germany: airbag, Aspirin, chipcards, compact camera, the computer, diesel motor, electrical generator, jet engine, light bulb, the MP3 format, refrigerator, toothpaste and the X-ray technology – all of them excellent ideas “made in Germany”.

The tradition continues – The Excellence Initiative

Germany has a wealth of ideas when it comes to supporting cutting-edge research. German universities vie for inclusion in the so-called “Excellence Initiative”. The campaign promotes funding programmes for junior researchers and the establishment of “Excellence Clusters”. These promote even better academic performance in higher education for the benefit of all students.

16 states – A wide range of study, admission and doctoral requirements

Information provided by the International Office

There are 16 federal states in Germany. Each of them enjoys a high degree of autonomy, each has their own higher education laws, and the universities themselves issue their own study, admission and doctoral regulations. Each university operates an “International Office” responsible for providing information on academic life and the concerns of international students.

The difference between universities, universities of applied sciences, and colleges of art, music and film

Universities are ideal for students looking for degree programmes with a strong theoretical orientation. Universities offer a broad spectrum of subjects. Some specialise in certain disciplines, e.g. technology or medicine.

Universities of applied sciences offer practice-oriented professional qualification (internships/practical semesters). Students can gain a solid basis of scientific knowledge tailored to the real-world demands of professional practice.

Colleges of art, music and film focus on artistic production. These schools offer programmes in such subjects as Fine Arts, Acting, Dance, Design, Graphic Art, Instrumental Music and Singing. A certain amount of artistic talent is a prerequisite for admission which candidates demonstrate in an aptitude test.

PhD programmes – Individual or structured

There are two ways to earn a doctorate. The first is through individual study, i.e. working independently and writing a dissertation on a subject of your choice. If you take this route, it is absolutely essential to have a doctoral supervisor. He or she must be convinced that your proposal is a suitable doctoral topic. The second possibility is to enrol in a structured PhD programme. You can do this by applying for admission to a research training group, graduate school or an international PhD programme.

Students in Germany are well-advised

The quality standards at German universities are very high. Special emphasis is placed on offering suitable advising services to international students. Many universities offer “study buddy” and orientation programmes to ensure that their international students get off to better start.

Accommodation, separating trash, pedestrian crossings Don't worry, just ask!

In addition to getting used to a new university and new rules, you'll also have to deal with the challenges of everyday life in Germany: apartment hunting, store opening hours, recycling, traffic lights, semester tickets etc. You'll be learning something new and exciting about Germany and its people every day.



Photo: private

Active university life – Individual study

“When I compare life at university in Germany with that in my home country Russia, there are two differences I especially notice: First of all, students are more willing to get involved in university life. They work in university groups, start their own projects and share information about their topics. In this way, they actively shape university life and make the most of individual study. And this, second of all, allows me to work as a student assistant in a department here. That's not possible in Russia.”

Anastasia Buyshina comes from Russia and studies Baltic Management Studies (bachelor's programme) at the University of Applied Sciences in Stralsund.

Ask for help

Germany is a safe country where you can move around freely. Helpful neighbours, fellow students or passers-by are never far away if you ever need support. Getting help is easy – just ask! This also applies to the police who Germans regard as their friend and helper.

The German Studentenwerk – Contact partner for social matters

Looking for a room in a student hall of residence? Have a question about language courses? The sports programme? Studying with a disability? The first place to go is the German Studentenwerk which offers numerous services and support measures. Both German and international students can find competent staff there who can answer their questions. Some Studentenwerk branches offer service packages for international students. However, their range of services can vary. Usually full-service packages include accommodation, meal plan, semester contribution, information, cultural events, excursions and health insurance. Some branches of the Studentenwerk offer optional plans, for example, the use of bicycles, computers, furniture, language instruction and sports courses. The Studentenwerk occasionally provides an airport pick-up service as well.

Studying costs money

Financial aspects

Even the hardest-working student can't live on book-learning alone. Paying rent, eating at the dining hall, taking the train... it all costs money. Naturally, the amount you need depends on your lifestyle. Generally the cost of living is lower in smaller towns. You also need money to obtain a student visa. To get one, you have to prove you have sufficient funds to cover your living expenses in Germany. The German authorities require students to have a minimum of around 9,000 euros per year at their disposal.

Tuition fees, semester contribution

Most public universities do not charge tuition fees for undergraduate and many master's degree programmes. However, certain master's programmes can cost up to 10,000 euros per semester. Tuition fees vary at private universities. All students in Germany are required to pay a "semester contribution", a mandatory fee that varies in cost depending on the university. The fee costs around 250 euros per semester on average.

Students travel cheaply

The semester contribution covers the cost of a bus and train ticket. With your "semester ticket", you can travel around town and your region at no additional cost.

Many funding opportunities

Don't have enough money to study in Germany? A scholarship from a funding organisation, foundation or university can help. Scholarships are usually not awarded to finance entire degree programmes or first-time students. There are special funding programmes for students from Europe, e.g. the Erasmus+ programme.

Is it allowed to work part-time?

Working part-time is no problem if you're a student from the EU or EEA (European Economic Area) – provided you work less than 20 hours per week each semester. Otherwise, you will have to pay into the German social security system. Students from other countries of origin should inquire about the legal requirements and necessary permits at the university's International Office or the Studentenwerk.

Top-rate medical treatment

The German health care system is one of the best in the world. International students can use it if they get sick – on the condition that they have a valid health insurance policy. It covers the bulk of the expenses for doctor's visits and hospital stays. For more information, contact your health insurance provider at home or the International Office at your German university.

The German Pharmaceutical Act is very stringent. In Germany you can only get medication at pharmacies. Unlike other countries, certain medication (e.g. antibiotics) is available only on prescription.

The German language

A language worth learning

German is a surprisingly versatile language. Some of the most touching poems, songs and novels have been written in German, many of which are known and loved around the world. German also plays a special role as a scientific language. Some disciplines like Philosophy are inconceivable without German.



German is a logical language.

“I’ve always liked German, but I only began seriously learning it when I decided to move to Germany from the United States. That was a good basis. Once I arrived in Münster, I took an intensive language course, and after that, several other ones. Some were free, others cost money. At first German was strange to me, but then I realised how logical the language and its grammar are. That simplified things tremendously. Like the fact you write German the same way you say it. My goal is to read Goethe in German.”

Veronika Malek from Poland studies Fine Arts – Painting & Art History at the Academy of Fine Arts in Münster.

A competitive edge

More than 15 million people are currently learning German as a foreign language in schools, universities and Goethe-Institutes. There are many good reasons to learn German – for one, it unites people. There are more than 100 million native speakers in Europe and over 180 million German speakers worldwide. People with German skills have a competitive edge in the globalised world.

German as an admission requirement

Proof of German language proficiency is an admission requirement for many degree programmes at German universities. You can meet this requirement by passing the TestDaF or the DSH exam. These tests evaluate your German language skills. They assess your reading and listening comprehension in German, as well as your written and oral expression. Some applicants are not required to submit a language certificate, e.g. if they received an “Abitur” from a German School Abroad. The International Office can tell you which language certificate you need. In other words, just ask!

Language courses

Taking a language course is the good way to learn German or improve one’s German language skills. There are numerous possibilities: courses offered before your studies, during your studies, at language schools or universities, online or offline.

Hard-working students deserve a good time

Eating ...

Good food is an important part of German culture. Whether it's green sauce or red pudding, Nuremberg sausages or Kassel bread – every region has its own recipes and great dining. Sweet, sour, hearty, vegetarian, you name it. Germans enjoy international cuisine as well. There are ethnic food stores with African and Asian specialties, and even in small towns, you'll be greeted by the smell of döner, pizza or chop suey.

... and drinking

The most basic and inexpensive beverage in Germany is tap water which is safe to drink and available everywhere. Beer is brewed and enjoyed from north to south. There is also a long tradition of winemaking in Germany. Tea and coffee are extremely popular as well. In fact, Germany has a distinctive coffee culture. Visiting friends for coffee and home-made cake on a Sunday afternoon – typically German. And because Germany is a big fruit-producing nation, there is wide variety of juices that people like to mix with sparkling water to create what they call "Schorle". The latest trend: Soft-drink microbreweries.



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Dancing, singing, street festivals

Germans like to celebrate. With cheerful parades, live music, city and street festivals and even fireworks. Depending on the occasion, they wear Carnival costumes, elegant evening wear or party clothes. Many of these festivals have a Christian origin, but are often celebrated by everyone. The German national holiday is the 3rd of October.

One country – Many landscapes

Romantic, diverse, green

Nature lovers have much to discover in Germany. Deciduous and coniferous forests, small ponds and gigantic lakes, crystal-clear brooks and mighty rivers, heathland and moors, expansive lowlands and rolling hills, tidal plains and breathtaking alpine vistas.



Temperate climate

The weather in Germany is very pleasant. There are four seasons: spring, summer, autumn and winter, all of which are distinctly unique but are rarely extreme. Temperatures in Germany average above 20°C in the summertime and frequently hover around 0°C in the winter.

Ecology preserves the habitat

Germany does a lot to protect the environment. Climate protection and the use of renewable energies have become the focus of science and business in recent years. And the general population is behaving accordingly. The number of environmentally friendly solar panels on German rooftops is growing as is the awareness of where our food and products come from. This is also evident in the use of raw materials. Germany has a deposit system on bottles and cans, and waste materials are systematically collected, from which similar goods are manufactured. In addition to recycling, upcycling is becoming increasingly popular. With a little imagination and cleverness, seemingly unusable items are being converted into new, high-quality products.

Poets, writers, composers and philosophers

World-class art even in small towns

You'll find art and culture everywhere in Germany. There are public readings, poetry slams, book fairs and literature festivals. At public and private theatres, the curtain rises every year for countless plays and operas, cabaret performances and pop concerts. Not to mention the many cultural events staged at bars, in churches and cinemas. And especially nice in the summer: open-air events under the starry sky.



Germany, a land of books

“There are many things in Germany that I find ‘remarkable’ in the truest sense of the word: the books, for example, which are everywhere. You find them at libraries, book shops, yes, even in special boxes where people can help themselves to free books. Kids are encouraged to read at home and at school. This has positive long-term effects. It increases environmental awareness as it does tolerance towards other political and religious views. As I see it, the Germans’ relationship to books is a reflection of how important education, attitude and critical thinking are to them.”

Guilherme Amorim Franchi comes from Brazil and studies Agricultural Sciences in the Tropics & Subtropics M.Sc. at the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart.

A paradise for museum lovers

Want to discover the treasures of the past and present? Great, what kind of museum would you like? Museum of art? Technology? Natural history? Ethnology? Archaeology? Or something more specific? A famous person perhaps? No problem. The list of museums in Germany is long. Most cities offer a “Long Museum Night” with shuttle service that takes you from one museum to the next.

History and architecture up close

You don't have to go to a museum to experience history in Germany. Medieval walls, ancient half-timbered houses, castles and fortresses still exist in many cities. Forty of these historical landmarks are listed as World Heritage sites. Germany also has its share of architectural highlights, designed by such renowned architects as Foster, Gropius, Herzog & de Meuron, Libeskind, Van der Rohe, and Zaha Hadid. You'll find works from the Bauhaus to post-modernism all over Germany: the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, the Kö-Bogen in Düsseldorf, the Palais Quartier in Frankfurt, the Weissenhof Estate in Stuttgart and much more.

Germany is a peaceful country

Article 3 of the German constitution: Equality before the law

The German constitution serves as the basis of peaceful coexistence. Article 3 states:

- (1) All persons shall be equal before the law.
- (2) Men and women shall have equal rights. The state shall promote the actual implementation of equal rights for women and men and take steps to eliminate disadvantages that now exist.
- (3) No person shall be favoured or disfavoured because of sex, parentage, race, language, homeland and origin, faith, or religious or political opinions. No person shall be disfavoured because of disability.



Parliamentary democracy and federalist state

The Federal Republic of Germany was established in 1949 as a parliamentary democracy. After East and West Germany united in October 1990, Berlin was chosen as the capital and seat of the federal government. The Bundestag in Berlin is the German parliament and highest legislative body of the state.

Germany is comprised of 16 federal states, three of which are city-states: Berlin, Bremen and Hamburg. All of the states have their own state parliaments and governments which participate in shaping the policy of the federal government via the Bundesrat. Many laws can only be passed with the approval of the Bundesrat.

Criss-cross, back and forth Discover Germany's transport network

Germany is on the move. Its network of autobahns (highways), railway lines, navigable rivers and airline connections is extremely dense. It connects people and countries, facilitates transportation of goods and is an essential requirement for the high quality of life in Germany.



I especially like the half-timbered houses and castles.

“I'm always fascinated by the many old buildings here in Germany. Whether it's houses, churches, castles or administrative buildings – I've discovered architectural treasures everywhere in the city and the country. My absolute favourite “oldies” are the half-timbered houses and castles. Many of them have been painstakingly

renovated with attention to detail and are especially protected by federal and state governments. ‘Historical landmark protection’ is quite efficient in Germany.”

Takashi Kubota comes from Japan and is pursuing a doctorate in Law at the University of Cologne with specialisation in International Criminal Law.

Travelling around

Germany is situated in the heart of Europe. Thanks to its central location, it's an excellent starting point for trips to neighbouring Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria, Switzerland, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands and Denmark. Special deals on train fares, plane tickets and long-distance buses make travelling affordable for students as well.

Respect the environment

In order to protect the environment, more and more citizens are choosing to car-pool or car-share instead of buying a car. An increasing amount of goods are transported by rail or ship, and people often take buses, trains or even bikes to work, on holiday or for short trips. Bikes are especially popular among students. Cycling is good for the environment and practical: there are bike paths and even parking garages for bikes in many cities.

Discover Germany!

Time to start planning your tour of discovery. Turn the map over and circle the places you'd like to visit when you come to study in Germany – the country of poets and writers, scientists and researchers. You have plenty to look forward to!

Cultural and recreational highlights

There is plenty to discover

Life isn't just studying and working! There are numerous cultural highlights, exciting festivals and interesting fairs to discover in Germany. Here is a small selection:

January	Poetica World literature festival	www.poetica.uni-koeln.de	Cologne
February	Deutscher Kleinkunstpreis Most prestigious German prize for cabaret, chanson and small-scale art	www.unterhaus-mainz.de	Mainz
Within the first three months of the year	CeBit Largest IT trade fair in the world	www.cebit.de	Hannover
Spring	Sehsüchte Europe's largest international student film festival	2016.sehsuechte.de	Babelsberg
March	lit.cologne International literature festival	www.lit-cologne.de	Cologne
Every year in March / April	Heidelberger Frühling Classical music festival with international performers, ensembles and orchestras	www.heidelberger-fruehling.de	Heidelberg
March	Leipziger Buchmesse Second-largest book fair in Germany	www.leipziger-buchmesse.de	Leipzig
April / May	Internationale Kurzfilmtage Oldest short-film festival in the world, largest international platform for short formats	www.kurzfilmtage.de	Oberhausen
Early summer Pentecost holidays	Düsseldorfer Jazz-Rally Renowned and by far the best-attended jazz festival in Germany	www.duesseldorfer-jazzrally.de	Düsseldorf
Every year between May and November	Lange Nacht der Industrie A behind-the-scenes view of regional industry	www.langenachtderindustrie.de	various regions
June to September Every five years	documenta World's most prestigious exhibition of contemporary art	www.documenta.de	Kassel
July / August	Bayreuther Festspiele Music theatre festival devoted to Richard Wagner's operas	www.bayreuther-festspiele.de	Bayreuth
Every year between June and September	Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival One of the largest classical music festivals in the world	www.shmf.de	Schleswig-Holstein
September	Internationale Funkausstellung IFA World's largest consumer electronics trade fair	www.ifa-berlin.de	Berlin
October	Frankfurter Buchmesse Largest German book fair	www.buchmesse.de	Frankfurt
November	euro-scene Leipzig Festival of contemporary theatre and dance	www.euro-scene.de	Leipzig
December	Nürnberger Christkindlesmarkt One of the largest and most famous Christmas markets in Germany	www.christkindlesmarkt.de	Nürnberg

Planning your study visit in Germany

Comprehensive assistance and information on site and online

You can receive more help and advice, as well as publications with detailed information about planning study visits in Germany from DAAD information centres and regional offices, the lektors and instructors sent to foreign universities by the DAAD, the Goethe-Institut and German diplomatic missions abroad, the embassies and consulates.

DAAD information centres and regional offices

- www.daad.de/local

Extensive information about studying in Germany

- www.daad.de/deutschland
- www.study-in.de
- www.internationale-studierende.de
- www.study-in.de/blog
- www.facebook.com/Study.in.Germany

Information about degree programmes

- www.daad.de/international-programmes
- www.hochschulkompass.de
- www.universityranking.de
- www.studienwahl.de

Information on PhD study in Germany

- www.daad.de/deutschland/promotion

FAQs about studying in Germany

- www.study-in.de/de/service

Information regarding visa matters

- www.auswaertiges-amt.de

Scholarships and funding programmes

- www.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/hinweise
- www.funding-guide.de

Information about learning German

- www.deutsch-uni.com
- www.goethe.de
- www.fadaf.de
- www.testdaf.de
- www.sprachnachweis.de
- www.daad.de/sommerkurse



Successful country Third-largest economy in the world

Germany's economy is strong and has a broad-based export business. Its top exports include products in electrical engineering, mechatronics, mechanical engineering, the automotive industry, environmental technology, pharmaceuticals and chemistry. According to the World Trade Organisation, Germany is the third-largest trading country after China and the USA.

With a GDP of around three trillion euros, the German economy is the largest in Europe. Germany is also one of the strongest exporting nations in the world, which explains why many international investors are interested in collaborating with German firms. In recent years, almost 800,000 German companies maintained trade relations with foreign partners.



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Publisher DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
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Text COM.CAT, Düsseldorf

Translation Robert Brambeer, Titisee-Neustadt

Design and typesetting Faktor E, Bonn

Cover photo Dörthe Hagenuth, Bechstedt

Image credits on map side (clockwise from top to bottom): Ebert, Ausserhofer/Himsel, Hagenuth, Hagenuth, Lichtenscheidt, Ausserhofer/Himsel, Hagenuth, Abbis, Schoppe-Kirsch, alle DAAD.

Printing Media Cologne Kommunikationsmedien GmbH, Köln/Frankfurt

Print  compensated
Id-No. 1658475
www.bvdm-online.de

© DAAD

This brochure is also available in German.

Print run October 2016 - 55,000

The DAAD is committed to using language which applies to both men and women to an equal degree. For reasons of readability, however, it was not possible to consistently use gender-equitable phrasing in this publication.

This publication was funded by the
Federal Foreign Office.



Federal Foreign Office