



Paths to university degrees: Providing opportunities for refugees

At the present time many refugees with good educational qualifications, for example from Syria and Iraq, are coming to Lower Saxony and looking for a new perspective for the future. The Lower Saxony Ministry of Science and Culture has set itself the goal of actively supporting refugees in enrolling for a university degree.

→ What possibilities are there for refugees?

Refugees interested in studying for a degree are provided with support for enrolment in a degree course, the continuation of a degree course already started in their home country or in the pursuit of additional scientific qualifications. Refugees with qualifying educational certificates and a sufficient command of the German language can already study in Lower Saxony. Those who are unable to present a university matriculation certificate have the possibility of obtaining such a certificate by successfully undergoing entry and assessment tests at the Niedersächsisches Studienkolleg (Lower Saxony Preparatory College) for a selected study course. In addition, there is also now the option of being granted direct entry to a university for a matriculation-free study course without an assessment test if the entry test is passed at an above-average level (for more information see: <http://tinyurl.com/qyuykzu>).

→ The path to university

The first contact is always via the respective university. A fundamental condition is a knowledge of the German language at Level B1. Information on the possibilities of acquiring the necessary German language skills can be obtained from local authorities, universities and adult education facilities. Universities have designated contact persons (<http://tinyurl.com/ngaadpt>) to whom candidates should refer their questions. Candidates must first clarify with those nominated contact persons the conditions under which they may commence a study course. The entry test is carried out by the Niedersächsisches Studienkolleg (<http://tinyurl.com/onarery>).

→ New grant programme for adult education

In order to provide the best possible support to refugees in their efforts to gain entry to a university degree course, the Lower Saxony Ministry of Science and Culture has together with sponsors of adult education set up five pilot projects. The facilities taking part in that project ensure that there are sensible transitions into the educational system for refugees and are also there to advise and support candidates. The focus of those measures is on teaching German language skills. The services on offer are aimed at refugees aged 18 years and over. Contact data for the individual project sponsors can be found on the site of the Lower Saxony Ministry of Science and Culture: <http://tinyurl.com/owh3woq>

→ Additional information

Information on the assessment of foreign school certificates in terms of entry to a German university are listed on the internet site of the **Kultusministerkonferenz**: <http://tinyurl.com/ohj6d2d>

On the internet site of the **Koordinierungsstelle für Studieninformation und –beratung** there is a great deal of more in-depth information, such as on the financing of degree courses, on scholarships, on student unions and other facilities: <http://tinyurl.com/p27s4sx>

Students who on account of their refugee status face particular difficulties in terms of making a start and in their overall situation can apply for a **scholarship** from the university at which they have started a degree course. Further information can be found in the internet offers of the universities of Lower Saxony.

Lower Saxony **Adult Education Facilities** run a wide range of educational programmes preparing students for university, and also provide on-going advice and support in the study-course entry phase. General information associated with adult education facilities can be found on the internet at: <http://tinyurl.com/nounpyw>

In the form of online courses, the **Servicestelle Offene Hochschule Niedersachsen gGmbH** offers all those interested in taking up a university degree course in Lower Saxony a good opportunity to prepare for a university course independent of their location and at times to suit their respective circumstances. All information associated with online courses can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/pe2ejvl>