



ORIENTATION WEBINAR

High School Germany 2026



TODAY'S AGENDA



01	INDTRODUCTION
02	LIFE IN A HOST FAMILY
04	SCHOOLS IN GERMANY
05	PROGRAM RULES
06	IMPORTANT INFORMATION BEFORE ARRIVAL
07	QUESTIONS FROM YOU

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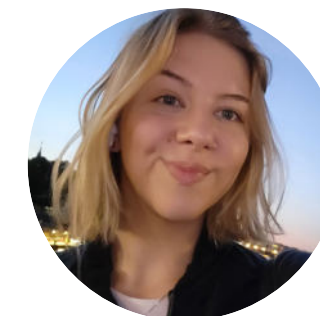
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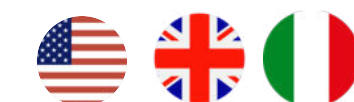
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INTRODUCTION

OUR DESTINATIONS

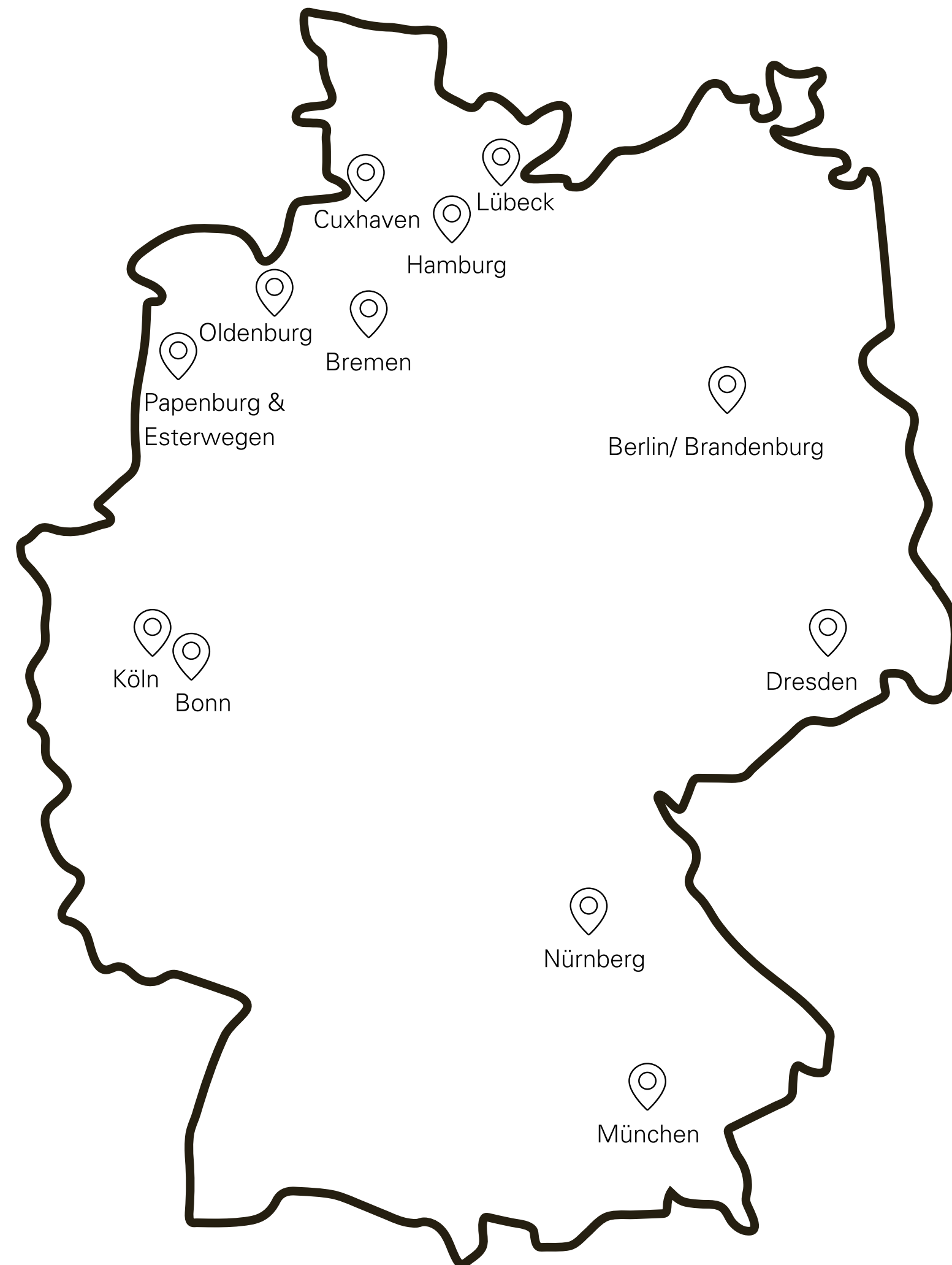
Where are you going to live?

81

STUDENTS

14

COUNTRIES



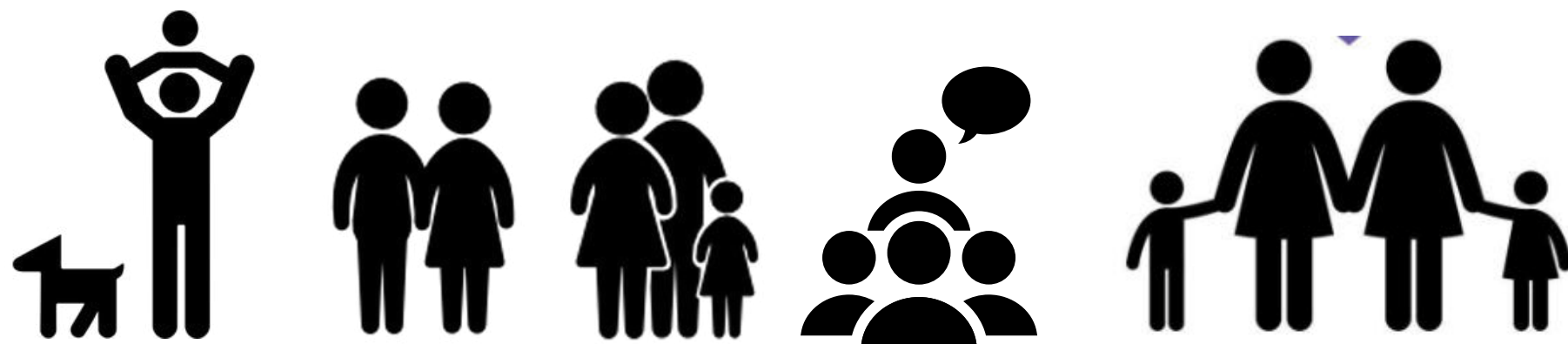
LIFE IN A HOST FAMILY

LIVING IN A HOST FAMILY

You are a valued member of the family!

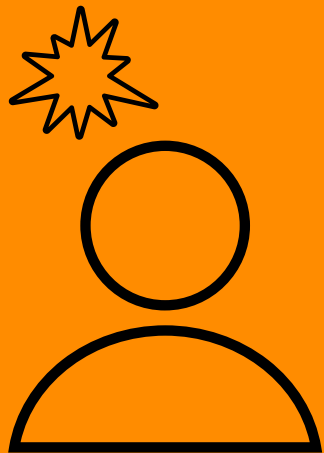
Your host family is looking forward to having you!

- Experience German culture firsthand, practice your knowledge of German in real life
- Every host family is different
- Keep in mind, whoever your family is, you will be a valuable member of your host family!



LIFE IN A HOST FAMILY

CULTURE SHOCK



*Feeling confused? Stressed? Or surprised?
Kein Problem! That is common because of unfamiliar
customs, language, food, or social rules.*

- Language: Daily life in a new language brings challenge
- Communication style
- Weather: Temperature and lack of sunshine in wintertime
- Typical German customs and food: Abendbrot
- Way of getting around: Public transport or bike

How to cope with all these cultural differences?

Stay open-minded. Don't be shy to ask questions.
Build a daily routine, connect not only with your family
but also with your schoolmates. Communication is key!



LIFE IN A HOST FAMILY

COMMUNICATION

Open communication is key to a great host family experience!

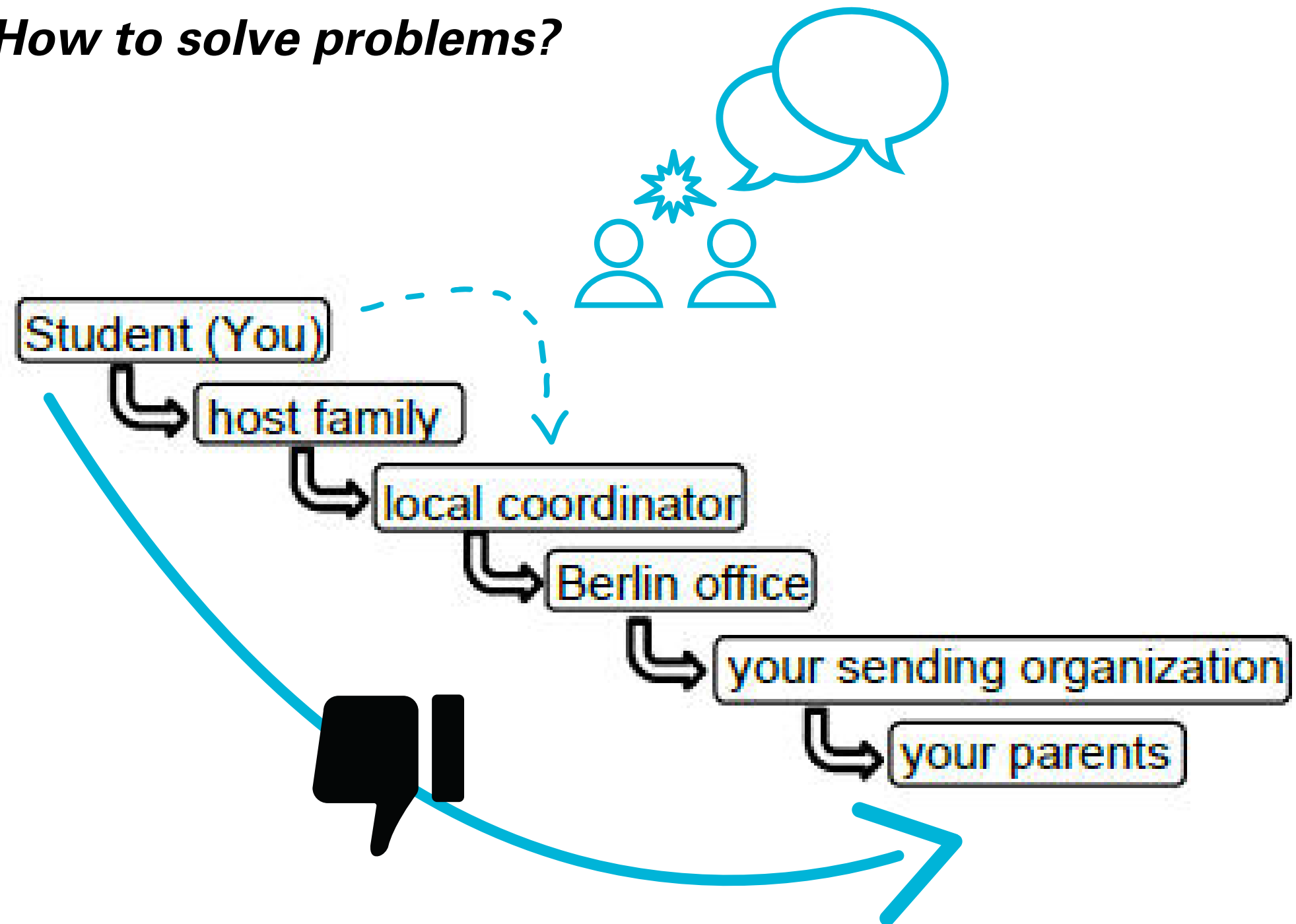
Your host family wants to get to know you and make you feel at home. In order to be able to support you, it's up to you to speak up and share your thoughts.

- Let them know how you feel and what you need. This builds trust and mutual understanding.
- Germans tend to be rather direct in their way of communication. Don't take it personal. You can talk with them about anything, and you'll always get honest feedback.



WHISPER DOWN THE LANE

How to solve problems?



LIFE IN A HOST FAMILY

THE HOST FAMILY IS NOT A HOTEL

Your host family is welcoming you into their home and wants you to be an active part of their daily life.

That means e.g.:

- Join in with everyday tasks like setting the table or help doing the dishes. It's a great way to bond and be part of the team!
- Keep your room cozy, tidy up and keep the common rooms clean so everybody feels comfortable.
- Getting curious about recycling! In Germany, households sort their waste into bins for glass, paper, organic waste, and more. Don't hesitate to ask how it works, your interest will be appreciated!



LIFE IN A HOST FAMILY

SUCCESSFULLY LIVING TOGETHER



- The more you interact with your host family, the faster your German will improve. Don't spend too much time in your room.
- If you come home later as planned, just let your host family know. They'll appreciate it.
- Show curiosity by joining them in activities, and share your own interests and culture as well.
- Want to invite friends over? Sure! Simply ask first, they'll be happy to help you organize.





LIFE IN A HOST FAMILY

SUCCESSFULLY LIVING TOGETHER



- Join your host family for at least one meal a day. It's a great way to connect and practice your German! If you can't make it, just let them know in advance.
- Every home has its own rhythm. Respect your host family's house rules.
- Be informed that Germany has very strict laws about illegal streaming and downloading, so don't take the risk.
- Only toilet paper should go in the toilet. This keeps the plumbing system running smoothly.
- Talk to your hosts about laundry routines.

LIFE IN A HOST FAMILY

Cultural exchange!

Your stay in Germany is a wonderful opportunity for cultural exchange!

- It's a chance to experience everyday life in a new country, to build meaningful connections, and for personal growth.
- Keep an open mind, things might be different from what you're used to, but that's part of the adventure.
- Your host family and new friends will introduce you to the German culture, be confident to share your own traditions and experiences too.
- When things feel unfamiliar or overwhelming, stay curious and open. Shifting your perspective can turn challenges into valuable learning moments.



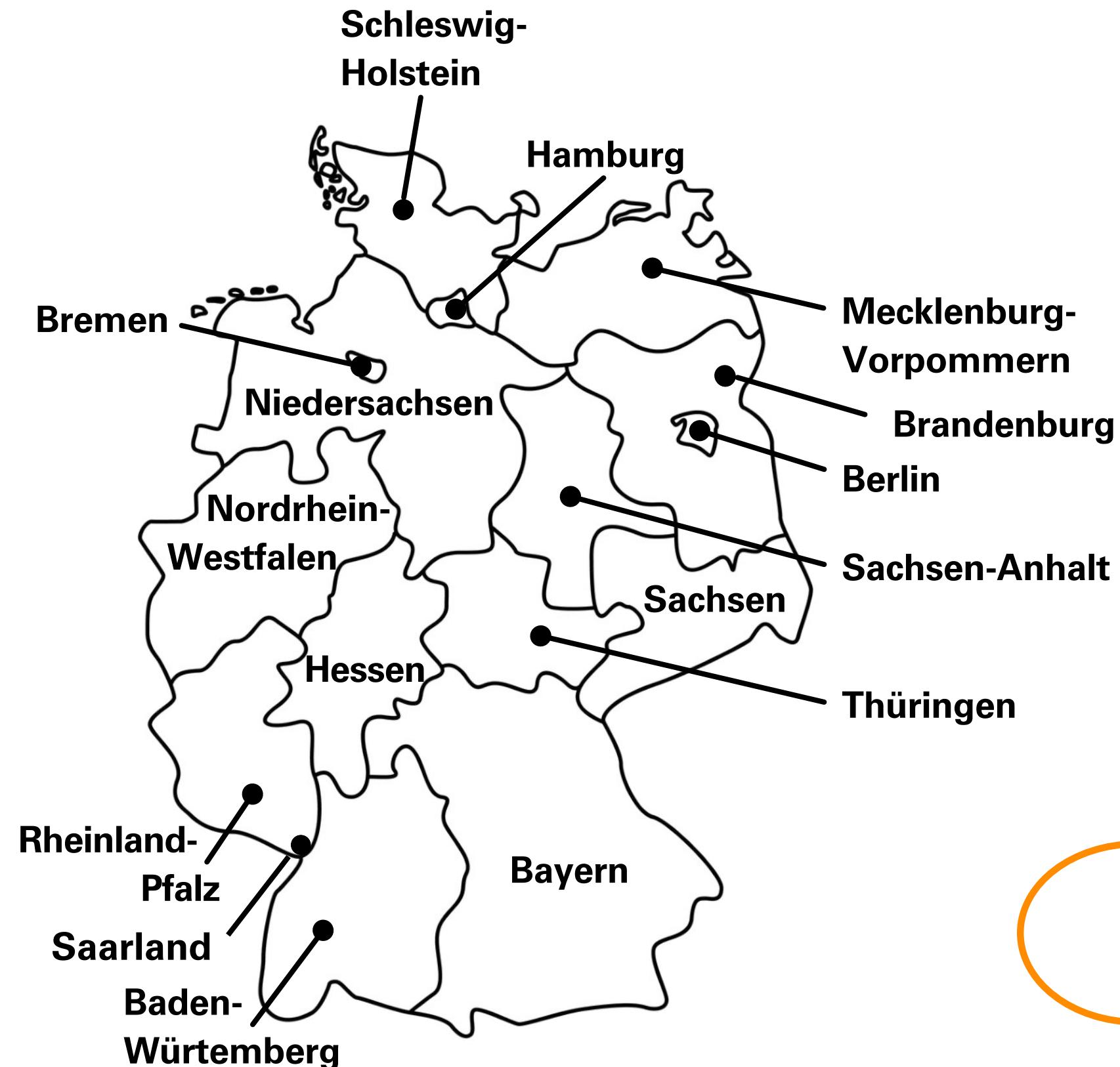
HIGH SCHOOL



HIGH SCHOOL IN GERMANY

What can I expect from a German high school?





16 states - 16 school systems

- each federal state has its own rules
- no fundamental differences and schools provide a general education
- but vacation dates, grading policies, and some subjects may vary
- G8 & G9
- types of schools: Gymnasium, Gesamtschule, Vocational High School



We make sure that all requirements from your home school are fulfilled. You just have to provide the details!



HIGH SCHOOL School in Germany *What to expect?*

- start: around 8:00 a.m.
- lessons: 6–8 classes, finish by 1:00–3:00 p.m.
- lunch: At home, cafeteria, or packed
- no uniform
- books: Borrow or buy
- technical equipment varies from school to school
- grades based on performance in exams and participation in class (participation is mandatory!)



HIGH SCHOOL

Getting around

How do I get to school?

- public transport: train, bus, tram, metro
- student ticket or Deutschlandticket
- short distances: walk or bike
- host family/ local coordinator will help you with the purchase of your ticket



Your school day

What happens on my first school day?

- you'll be accompanied by host parents, siblings, or a GLS staff member
- register at the secretary's office
- bring: pen, paper, drink, snack, 1 passport photo
- books will be provided later
- grades 9 -10: fixed timetable
- grades 11-12: course system with individual timetable



Students placed in Nürnberg need to bring their original vaccination passport.



HIGH SCHOOL

Your school day

How do I make friends?

- take the initiative - chat with your classmates
- join school activities (AGs): volleyball, basketball, choir, drama club...
- or Vereine (clubs) outside of school
- take part in events: concerts, school runs, Christmas markets....



HIGH SCHOOL

School breaks and Travel Requests

When can I travel?

- travel time only on weekends and during school breaks
- school breaks vary by state
- students may travel with host family or individually
- a travel request needs to be submitted one week before every trip



GLS GERMAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL BERLIN

GLS LANGUAGE SCHOOL BERLIN

TRAVEL REQUEST

(To be handed in to GLS staff at least two weeks before the intended journey)

I, _____, would like to travel independently during my GLS High School Program.

Destination: _____

Dates: _____

Means of travel: _____

Accommodation at destination (please include address and telephone number):

Reason for travel (please clarify in detail):

PARENTS' CONSENT

I hereby confirm that my son/daughter, _____, is allowed to travel on his/her own. I take full responsibility for the safety and well-being of my son/daughter during this trip and have made necessary insurance provisions. We hereby release GLS, GLS staff, contracted field staff and the host family from all liability, injury, damages or claims that may occur during the trip.

Furthermore, I am aware that school attendance is obligatory in Germany and that travelling should only be undertaken during the school holidays and in agreement with the local host family. If, however, the student does need to miss class, I am aware that he/she is responsible of informing the class tutor and obtaining permission and that GLS is not responsible for the negative influence that unjustified absences may have on the student's grades.

Date

Parent's signature

Von GLS Mitarbeiter auszufüllen:

Antrag bewilligt: _____ (Berlin, _____ GLS Sprachenzentrum)

School, Kastanienallee 82, 10435 Berlin, Germany, Tel.: +49 (0)30 780089-12, Internet: www.gls-berlin.de

School in

Germany is

mandatory!

Being excused from school

What happens when I am sick?

What to do, when you don't feel well and cannot attend school?

1. Tell your host parents
2. Call the school secretary
3. When you don't feel better after 2 days, go and see a doctor

➤ Up to 2 days your host parents can excuse you.
As of day three, you'll need to submit a doctor's note.

➤ On your first day back after being ill, please bring a written note from your host parents or a medical certificate and give it to your class teacher/ tutor proactively.

**School in
Germany is
mandatory!**

School report

What if I need a school report?

- tell us if you need grades or if a attendance letter is sufficient
- let us know if your report must be notarized (don't take it to your home country then!)
- you'll receive your report at the end of your exchange

Wilhelm-Remy-Gymnasium Bendorf

Halbjahreszeugnis 11/1

Vor- und Zuname: [REDACTED]

hat im Schuljahr 2018/2019 die Jahrgangsstufe 11/1 besucht

Leistungsfächer	Noten	Punkte
Englisch	ausreichend	05
Biologie	ausreichend	05
Sport	ausreichend	06

Verpflichtende Grundfächer	Noten	Punkte
Deutsch	ausreichend	06
Grundkurs Geschichte	mangelhaft	03
Gk SkEk	mangelhaft	03
Mathematik	ausreichend	06
Chemie	ausreichend	05
Bildende Kunst	befriedigend	07
Katholische Religion	ausreichend	05

Frei gewählte Grundfächer (in Überschreitung der Pflichtstundenzahl)	Noten	Punkte
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Bemerkungen:

Versäumt wurden **8** Stunden, davon **0** Stunden unentschuldigt.

Bendorf, den 24. Januar 2019

[Signature]

HIGH SCHOOL

Last but not least...

Where can I get help?

- need help? No Problem! Ask in the secretary's office, teacher's room, a counselor or your class teacher/tutor
- school will feel different - think of it as part of your intercultural adventure, not as a seamless continuation of your school year
- be patient with yourself and others - take it easy, you've got this!



HERE TO HELP!
#Lehrerzimmer



PROGRAM RULES

What we expect from you



**Respect GLS &
host family rules**



**Follow German
Laws**



**Attend school
everyday**



**Travel only with
permission**

Please remeber



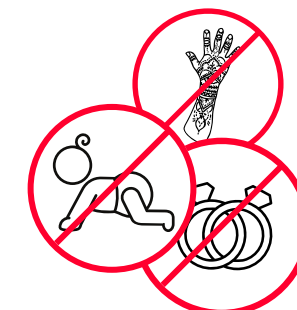
No smoking



No drinking



No drugs



No life changing decisions

TRAVEL REQUEST

How do I get permission to travel?

- The travel request is needed for journeys without your host family and overnight stays
- Send it to GLS **at least 1 week before** the intended trip for approval
- Note that overnight stays are only permitted if accompanied by someone aged 21 or older
- Has to be filled out and signed by your natural parents



GLS LANGUAGE SCHOOL BERLIN

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EXTRAS

BERLIN WEEKEND

Discover Germany's Capital



Explore iconic landmarks



Taste traditional German food



Fun activities & free time



Two nights in a central hostel



Meet exchange students from all over Germany

1 X SEMESTER





Are you ready for GERMANY?



Ready, set, GO!

Did I think of everything?

- 1** **Did I contact my host family?**
Please make sure to contact your host family as soon as you have received their contact details.
- 2** **Did I join the WhatsApp-Group?**
Please scan the QR-code in the student hand book.
- 3** **Do I know who will pick me up at the airport?**
Either your host family or a transfer driver will pick you up and take you to your new home. Please make sure that you have saved all relevant contacts before hand.

- 4** **Do I need to bring medication?**
Please check legal rules for your meds. Bring a doctor's note, original packaging, and a copy of the prescription.
- 5** **Do I have all relevant GLS documents?**
Booking confirmation, letter of acceptance, school confirmation, host family details, visa documents, insurance card
- 6** **Do I have all other relevant documents?**
Passport, bank card, 2 passport photos, travel authorization if needed
- 7** **Are my bags packed?**
Try to travel light, ideally just one suitcase and one bag!



What about a gift for your host family?

Contact details

Did I save all numbers?

GLS WhatsApp-Group 2026-2027



GLS team mobile number during office hours

Monday – Friday: 9am – 5 pm



+ 49 151 6884 8232

Please save the number of
your host family and
local coordinator (see
student handbook) in case
of emergency or problems
at the airport





THANK YOU for your attention.

Do you have any **QUESTIONS?**