

STUDYING TODAY

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2017

The most important
findings of the
21st Social Survey
by Deutsches
Studentenwerk

The economic and social situation of students in Germany



Sozialerhebung

We do the maths so that you count.
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An information brochure of the Deutsches Studentenwerk





»Social Survey – We crunch numbers so that you count«

»We do the maths so that you count« was our slogan when we invited students in the summer of 2016 to take part in the 21st Social Survey and to provide information on their economic and social situation. We were able to analyse questionnaires from more than 55,000 students – so thank you very much!

»We«, that's the three institutions which conducted the 21st Social Survey as a team. Together with us, the Deutsches Studentenwerk, these are the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBWF), which funds the Social Survey, and the German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies (DZHW), which conducts the interviews on a scientific basis. These partners deserve our deepest gratitude.

The 21st Social Survey presents an accurate picture of the social profile of students in German higher education. And it is an important empirical base for policy and the development of higher education in Germany. This information brochure will provide you with the most important results.

Enjoy reading!

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Social profile of students in Germany

Generally, the typical student:

holds a qualifying secondary school degree („Abitur“ in German, 95%) • is studying for a bachelor's degree (82%) • spends 33 hours a week on his or her studies • spends 9 hours a week earning money • is financially supported by his or her parents (88%, 541 Euro on average) • lives in accommodation of his or her own (38%), with or without a partner • studies full-time (92%) • has an academic family background (52%, this means at least one parent holds an academic degree) • spends 323 Euro on his or her rent • lives in a solid relationship (54%)

She: is 24.5 years old • studies cultural sciences (25%); has 909 Euro a month at her disposal; eats at the Mensa once or twice a week (40%)

He: is 25 years old • studies engineering (31%) • has 927 Euro at his disposal • eats at the Mensa* at least 3 times a week (39%)

Which degrees studied most frequently?

21% engineering • 18% languages and cultural sciences • 22% mathematics / natural sciences • 18% law and economics • 14% social sciences, psychology, education science • 8% medicine / health • women study cultural sciences most frequently: 25%, men engineering sciences: 31%

How do students finance their studies?

86% with parental support: an average 541 Euro • 61% of students work to earn an additional income: an average 385 Euro • 25% receive federal financial aid (BAföG)*: an average 435 Euro • 5% receive scholarships: an average 423 Euro

What do students pay on accommodation?

monthly rent paid by students: 323 Euro (national average) • Cities with the most expensive accommodation for students: 1. Munich, 2. Cologne, 3. Frankfurt, 4. Hamburg, (all above 360 Euro) • only 259 Euro in Saxony, compared to 373 Euro in Hamburg; in the five east German federal states („Länder“) states, rent levels are generally low

*Mensa: student restaurants; *BAföG: financial support under the Federal Training Assistance Act; *Studierenden- und Studentenwerk: student service organisations



How much money do students spend on average on:

accommodation: 323 Euro • food and drinks: 168 Euro • transport: 94 Euro • clothes: 42 Euro • learning material: 20 Euro • 19% barely manage to make ends meet on their income

Pursued degrees:

62% Bachelor degrees • 22% Master degrees • 13% regulated state examinations („Staatsexamen“, mostly law and medical schools) • 3% Magister, „Diplom“, others

Students with children:

6% of students have children, on average, student parents are: 35 years old, eleven years older than students without children; 55% have one child, 32% have two children, 12% have three or more children

Domestic student mobility:

35% of students leave their own Federal State (in which they received their higher education entrance qualification) for their first degree course • Regional differences: only 20% do so in North-Rhine Westphalia, compared to 77% in the state of Brandenburg • West German students studying in East Germany: 5%, East German students studying in West Germany: 35%

Immigration background

20% have an immigration background, 12% of whom have Polish, 12% Turkish and 9% Russian roots

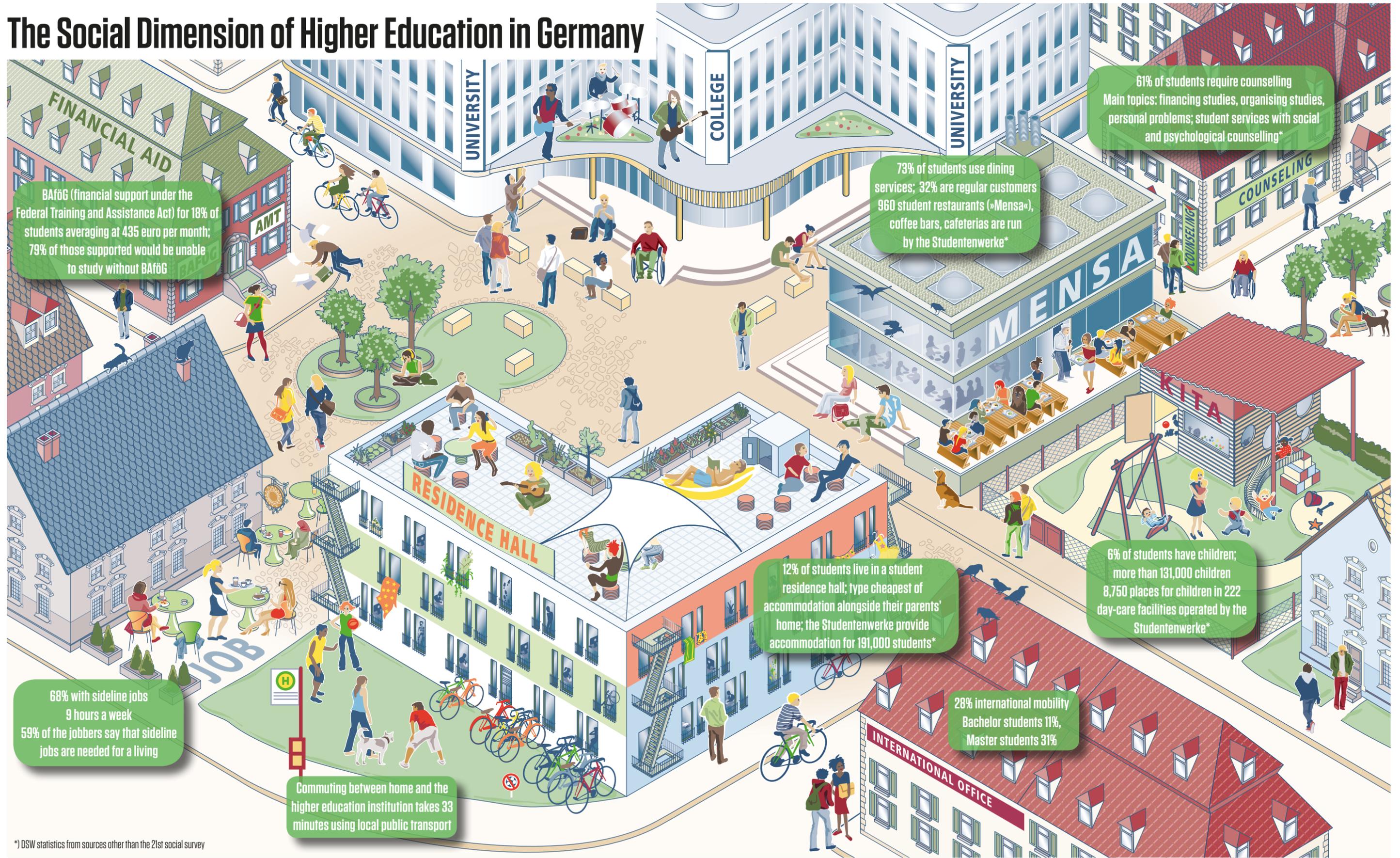
Impairments

11% of students have disabilities or suffer from chronic diseases, 47% of which are mental health issues, 18% have chronic somatic diseases

International mobility

28% have already been abroad when they are studying in higher semesters

The Social Dimension of Higher Education in Germany



BAföG (financial support under the Federal Training and Assistance Act) for 18% of students averaging at 435 euro per month; 79% of those supported would be unable to study without BaföG

61% of students require counselling
Main topics: financing studies, organising studies, personal problems; student services with social and psychological counselling*

73% of students use dining services; 32% are regular customers
960 student restaurants (»Mensa«), coffee bars, cafeterias are run by the Studentenwerke*

12% of students live in a student residence hall; type cheapest of accommodation alongside their parents' home; the Studentenwerke provide accommodation for 191,000 students*

6% of students have children; more than 131,000 children
8,750 places for children in 222 day-care facilities operated by the Studentenwerke*

68% with sideline jobs
9 hours a week
59% of the jobbers say that sideline jobs are needed for a living

28% international mobility
Bachelor students 11%,
Master students 31%

Commuting between home and the higher education institution takes 33 minutes using local public transport

*) DSW statistics from sources other than the 21st social survey

»Economic pressure on Students is growing«

Professor Dieter Timmermann, President of Deutsches Studentenwerk, on the most important results of the 21st Social Survey

PROFESSOR TIMMERMANN, THE SOCIAL SURVEY PROVIDES INFORMATION ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION OF STUDENTS IN GERMAN HIGHER EDUCATION. WHAT IS IT ACTUALLY LIKE?

Dieter Timmermann: »It varies. The Survey clearly demonstrates that there is no one student. Today's student community is diversified and pluralistic, just like our society as a whole. We are talking about different groups, about a great multitude of students. Income reflects this in an exemplary manner. On average, students have 918 Euro a month at their disposal, but 28% of them must manage with less than 700 Euro a month. Individual groups of students, such as those with children, also show just how diversified students are. This group alone accounts for 6% of all students. Also, 11% of students have a disability or suffer from a chronic disease.

Study financing gives you a good idea of what the economic situation of students is like. In Germany, financing your studies rests above all on the pillars of parental support, sideline jobs and federal financial aid (BAföG). 86% of students are financially supported by their parents, while more than two thirds have sideline jobs alongside their studies and one fifth receive BAföG. Scholarships and (private) student loans only play a subordinate role.«

WHAT HAS CHANGED COMPARED TO THE 20TH SOCIAL SURVEY FOUR YEARS AGO?

»There are two things that I've noticed. First, since 2012, the employment rate has risen by six percentage points, from 62 to 68% of all students. What surprises me is that today even more students are working part-time alongside their studies. And secondly, non-cash parental support has grown substantially, from a money value of 261 Euro in 2012 to a current level of 309 Euro a month. This indicates that rising costs have put more pressure on students, especially with regard to rent, and to reduce it, parents must dig deeper while students are working more. I believe this has also something to do with BAföG. Since BAföG levels are insufficient, the students are making up for this with more employment, while parents have to give them more support.«

WHAT DOES THE 21ST SOCIAL SURVEY HAVE

TO SAY ABOUT BAFÖG?

»Well, you have to bear in mind that the 21st Social Survey was conducted in the summer of 2016, and it was only afterwards, during the 2016/2017 winter semester, that the most recent increase in BAföG support took effect. So the 21st Social Survey shows how things were in the summer of 2016 - and they weren't exactly good as far as BAföG is concerned. Just 18% per cent of all students received BAföG at the time. Whether the rate of supported students has significantly increased (thanks to the raising of the parental allowance levels by 6% coming into effect as of the 2016/2017 winter semester, as announced by the Federal Government), will have to be ascertained by the coming, 22nd Social Survey. I am sceptical in this respect. But if you take a look at the discrepancy between average incomes, which are at 918 Euro, and the current BAföG maximum rate of 735 Euro, it is obvious that there is an urgent need for action regarding BAföG.

And what I am worried about is that 37% of the students from the "low" social group of origin who do not apply for BAföG that they don't because they do not want to run into debt - in spite of the fact that the BAföG loan share has a ceiling of a maximum 10,000 Euro and repayment is wholly socially acceptable. This shows that BAföG and its fair conditions must be much more advertised!«

YOU MENTIONED RISING RENT LEVELS. IS THIS A PROBLEM FOR STUDENTS?

»It certainly is. At an average 323 Euro per month, rent remains the highest share of expenditure. In university cities with ever diminishing affordable housing, such as Munich, Cologne, Frankfurt am Main, Hamburg or Berlin, students pay significantly more on rent. All in all, we urgently need more government-supported housing for students. In many Federal States, the Studentenwerke or student services organisations are building new residence halls for students, but this is not enough. Students coming from less affluent households in particular heavily depend on accommodation in publicly founded student residence halls. 41% of the students living there belong to the lower income quartile. Almost the same number of students have no money left at all at the end of the month. This shows how important the Studentenwerke's services are for students!«

»The students have to work more and their parents have to increase their financial support.«

ABOUT

Prof Dr **Dieter Timmermann**, has been the President of Deutsches Studentenwerk, or DSW, since 2012. DSW is the German National Association of Student Affairs and unites all 58 local or regional student services organizations (the "Studentenwerke"). A trained education economist, Prof Timmermann was chancellor of the University of Bielefeld from 2001 until 2009. Born in 1943 in Friedrichshof in Mecklenburg, Dieter Timmermann had been a professor of Economics of Education and Education Planning at the University of Bielefeld since 1982. He has been working for OECD in Paris as well as for GIZ, the German agency for international development and cooperation and has been a member of numerous advisory boards and councils. From 2001 until 2004, he was the President of the expert commission on financing lifelong learning on behalf of the German federal government."

Foto: Kay Hirschelmann



#Student of #Social Survey 21 | Thanks to all students who took part in the survey!



The „Sozialerhebung“ or social survey of Deutsches Studentenwerk on the social dimension of higher education in Germany - is the most important, nationally representative, study on the social and economic conditions of student life in German higher education.

Deutsches Studentenwerk - DSW (German National Association for Student Affairs) is the umbrella organisation of the 58 local or regional Studentenwerke, the student service organisations in Germany. The Studentenwerke are service-providers for students and institutions of higher education that ensure the social dimension of higher education in Germany. They promote the social, economic, financial, cultural, and health-related concerns of all students at German institutions of higher education. The Studentenwerke operate student residence halls and dining services, they provide social and psychological counselling, administrate the student financing (BAföG) and assist German and international students on an equal basis

The economic and social situation of students in Germany in 2016 21st Social Survey by Deutsches Studentenwerk

A joint project run by the:

- Federal Ministry of Education and Research, www.bmbf.de
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