



Universität Hamburg
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SPRACHENZENTRUM



MY HOMETOWN

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS 

EDITORIAL

They say that “Home is where the heart is.”

Wherever in the world our lives take us, our home towns will always have a very special place in our hearts. Next to holding countless precious memories of our youth, it is the place that shaped who we are today.

Keeping this special connection in mind, some of our English students set out to share their hometowns with us to allow us a glimpse at where they came from. The texts in this booklet were written by students who took classes with Dr. Henriette Javorek Runte and Orla Mac Mahon in winter semester 2020/2021.

THE DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES is a division of the Language Center of Universität Hamburg. We offer classes for English, French, Spanish, Italian, Russian, Turkish, Chinese, and Portuguese at the higher levels (B2 and C1).

IMPRINT

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EDITORS: DR. HENRIETTE J. RUNTE, ORLA MAC MAHON
EDITOR, LAYOUT & ARTWORK: SARAH FISCHER

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MY HOMETOWN IS...



HAMBURG
GERMANY



SASCHA MÜLLER

Master of Science Biology

The choice to study biology came from my thirst for knowledge and a curiosity for the complex mechanisms that make living things function.

Hamburg is the city I was born in. You can live here for 20 years and still have new places and things to discover. Just big enough to always feel alive, yet small enough to not be too overwhelming.

I love sitting in a quiet spot in the harbour at night and just watching ships come up the Elbe while people are working in the yellow street lights of the industrial harbour on the other side. On a good day, the smell of cookies being made in factories can be smelled across the city; on a bad day, there is a smell of cow dung sweeping in from the countryside.

But besides those things, the single best part about Hamburg has to be that you can get a “Franzbrötchen” everywhere. The single best sticky, sugary and cinnamon-laden pastry in the entire world. It’s certainly not just a squished cinnamon roll and anyone who tells you otherwise is obviously lying.

HAMBURG, GERMANY

- Used to be leading member of the medieval Hanseatic League
- A state and a city at the same time
- 1.84 million people live here
- 7th largest city in Europe and 2nd largest in Germany
- 3rd largest port in Europe
- Alsterwasser, a mixed beer and lemonade beverage was named after the Alster because of its colour
- Named after the Hammaburg, a castle which originally stood between Elbe and Alster
- Storm surges regularly cause parts of the harbour to flood
- Sister city of Osaka, Prague, St. Petersburg, Marseille and Shanghai
- A bid for the 2024 Olympics was made, but voted against by the citizens

HAMBURG, GERMANY

- The most beautiful city in the world
- The city with the most bridges in Europe and it was “European Green Capital” in 2011.
- People in Hamburg can seem very cold and reserved, but we are just minding our own business.
- A rich city, full of history and culture. Whether you are more down to earth or alternative, there are places for you too. If you are interested in astronomy, make sure to visit the Sternwarte in Bergedorf. If it is too far away, you can go to Hamburg’s Planetarium in the Stadtpark, which also has a viewing platform. Another famous viewing platform can be found at the brand new Elphi (short for Elbphilharmonie). The concert hall was finished in 2016 and is Hamburg’s new landmark.
- Surrounded by nature. You can drive to either the North Sea or the Baltic Sea in less than two hours or find your own little beach by the Elbe. To be honest, the water is not the best quality and it seems quite strange to be swimming with giant container ships passing by, only a few hundred meters away. The good thing is that you are at the beach and can cool down when the city heat hits.

JOSEFA CASSIMO

History and Economics

I wanted to be close to my family. Besides, I have a great apartment that I was not willing to give up.

I just love how green the city is. When I look out of my window, I look directly at a tree. Five parks are within walking distance of my apartment, each one more beautiful than the other. One of my favorites is the cemetery in Ohlsdorf. It may sound creepy to hang out at a cemetery, but once you’re there, you’ll see how beautiful it is. I like walking around and reading the headstones and trying to imagine who the person was. If you travel further north, you should take a walk in the Wohldorfer forest. It is great if you want to escape from the busy city and be surrounded by trees.

Schwanenwik is another great park, which is actually more of a meadow than a park. It is the perfect place to watch the sunset.

I love driving through the city at night when the streets are empty and quiet. Crossing the Kohlbrandbrücke and looking at the lights in the harbor always gives me goosebumps.



HAMBURG, GERMANY

- **SAY “MOIN” NOT “HELLO”** In Hamburg we do not say “Hello”. You say “Moin” and the other person responds with “Moin Moin!”
- **RADIO HAMBURG** Many households listen to “Radio Hamburg” in order to be up-to-date with the latest world news and Hamburg-related stories. It is a commercial German radio station.
- **FRANZBRÖTCHEN** The sweet cinnamon-flavored pastry called “Franzbrötchen” originally comes from Hamburg. You can buy them in nearly every bakery, some are even with chocolate.
- **FIRST ZOO WITHOUT CAGES** The zoo “Tierpark Hagenbeck” is located in Hamburg’s district Stellingen and was founded in 1907. It was the first zoo that had enclosures surrounded by moats rather than cages. This means visitors can experience the animals in a more natural environment.
- **SKIING HOLIDAYS IN MARCH** Hamburg is the only federal state where pupils have two weeks of skiing holidays in March.
- **“HAMBURGER FISCHMARKT” (FISH MARKET)** Everyone from Hamburg has visited the famous fish market at least once. You can buy fish, flowers, clothing and large bags

of fruit there.

- **LARGEST JAPANESE GARDEN IN EUROPE** “Planten und Blomen”, with its Japanese garden, is located near Universität Hamburg. The Japanese garden was landscaped in 1988 and is the biggest Japanese garden in Europe.
- **WORLD’S LARGEST TRAIN SET** Hamburg is famous for its “Miniatur Wunderland”, which features miniature versions of Hamburg airport, the Alps, America, Scandinavia and much more. There are 12,000 meters of tracks and the miniature worlds are spread across 6,400 square meters of floor space.
- **WORLD RECORD NUMBER OF BRIDGES** Hamburg has a world record: Hamburg has more than 2,300 bridges and is therefore the city with the most bridges worldwide – it has even more than Venice and Amsterdam.
- **CITY AND FEDERAL STATE** Hamburg is called the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and is therefore both a city and a federal state.

NOELLE SOPHIE NOWACK

German Law



I did my Abitur in Hamburg in 2019 and decided to study medicine, law or theology. Today I am happy to have chosen law and to have the opportunity to experience my hometown from a different perspective.

The “Hamburger Fischmarkt” is located right at the harbor and made me become an early bird on Sundays, as it is open from 05:00 to 09:30 a.m. It is the oldest marketplace in the city and has been selling fresh fish since 1703. You can buy lots of different kinds of fish and enjoy a fish sandwich for breakfast. The local speciality is definitely a “Matjes” (young herring) sandwich. Furthermore, I’d recommend the fruit baskets with exotic fruits for 10 Euro. The “Marktschreier” (market criers) hawk their wares, shout at the other market criers and sometimes also throw bananas into the crowd. After walking around the market I always visit the “Fischauktionshalle”, where different bands play live jazz and rock and visitors can enjoy a “Bier” (beer) at 08:00 a.m. You usually find most of the party-goers from the Reeperbahn there.

JULE VOIGT

Philosophy

I study in Hamburg because it is my beloved hometown.

Hamburg is the most beautiful, precious and wonderful city. Not because of something you can pin down to a single thing. It's not about the people, the food or the looks. It is the combination of all of these things. It's the atmosphere and the feeling the city gives you.

Strolling through the picturesque streets, turning around a corner, and suddenly having a breathtaking view of the Alster and eating spectacular food makes you realize what a marvelous life you are living.

At the same time, Hamburg offers you ways to give something back. People in Hamburg are always looking for ways to help. I'm participating in various awesome projects founded in an effort to help others. They manage to include anyone and especially in times of Corona they have doubled their efforts to leave no-one behind.

I can't imagine living anywhere else. Every time I'm away I become homesick and miss cruising down the Elbchaussee, watching the harbour lights at night, and how the city is never truly quiet...

HAMBURG, GERMANY

- Hamburger (i.e. the people who live in Hamburg - so not edible!) are very happy with their lives
- Hamburgers (edible) probably were inspired by fishcake rolls
- Hamburg is amongst the top 10 greenest cities
- Plus there are more bridges than in Venice because ...
- ... 8.1 percent of the city is covered with water
- The first ever asphalted street is in Hamburg, as well as ...
- ... the largest production region of fruits
- Every 35 minutes a bike is stolen
- Although there has never been a survey, Hamburg is the world's most beautiful city
- And it's not as rainy as everybody says!





SIDNEY VESTING

Biology

I decided to study at Universität Hamburg because Hamburg is my hometown and my family and most of my friends live here.

Since many of my friends and all my relatives live in Hamburg, there are many houses and gardens that make Hamburg special for me. My grandmother, for example, lives in Wandsbek, where it is noisy and full of houses, but she has a green and flowery garden that I associate many childhood memories with.

The district Heimfeld, where I live with my boyfriend, is also very special for me. Every time we go for a walk, we notice that you only have to turn a corner and the spirit and the buildings are completely different.

That shows me how diverse Hamburg is. Even the large forest is still very natural and is ideal for jogging with friends or for autumn walks. In my opinion, the most delicious bread and rolls come from the bakery „Bäcker Becker“, which only exists in Hamburg. Finally, I can also highly recommend trying Franzbrötchen, a delicious Hamburg invention.

HAMBURG, GERMANY

- Hamburg has more bridges than Venice, Amsterdam and London combined.
- There is no bad weather for Hamburg citizens, only bad clothing.
- No other city in Europe has so many weekly markets.
- Hamburg has the world's largest model railway in the Miniatur Wunderland.
- The Davidwache in St. Pauli is the oldest police station in the world.
- The “Hamburger Dom” is the largest public festival in Europe.
- The first zoo in the world was opened in Hamburg.
- More millionaires live in Hamburg than in any other city in Germany.
- Every 35 minutes a bicycle is stolen in Hamburg.
- Hamburg has the largest shoe shop in Europe.

HAMBURG-BERGEDORF, GERMANY

- Bergedorf is the largest district and has the only castle in Hamburg, the “Bergedorfer Schloss”.
- The Boberger Dünen and the Vier- und Marschlande are both famous nature reserves.
- The S-Bahn escalators are always broken!
- There's an observatory. All the streetlights around it shine in an orange light, so you can see the stars better.
- Our old town is really pretty, way better than Hamburg City!
- We've been celebrating the “Wutzrock Festival” annually since 1979.
- You can swim in lots of the lakes in Bergedorf; my favorite is the Oortkaten See. The Boberger See, See Hintern Horn and Allermöher See are also beautiful in summer.
- The LoLa (Lohbrügger Landstraße) is the only place where young people can party every week. There are Ü30 (for people over 30) parties and Beats United parties every other weekend.
- There's a big shopping mall called the CCB (City-Center-Bergedorf).

FRIEDERIKE SOPHIA SZILLAT

Political Science

I chose to study political science at Universität Hamburg because I wanted to stay in my hometown and to be close to my family.



I have lived in Bergedorf my entire life and I would be happy to never leave. When we say we're driving to the city we mean Bergedorf City, when we say we're driving to Hamburg we mean Hamburg City. My family has always lived here and when someone moved away, they always came back.

My American host family came to visit and liked Bergedorf much better than Hamburg, especially the townhouses and the castle.

Bergedorf has its own charm. It has everything you need and is surrounded by nature. In summer, I like to take a walk in the Boberger Dünen and then drink a coffee and watch the planes taking off and landing at the glider airfield. Everyone should come here at least once and enjoy the peace and quiet. It is completely different to Hamburg City. You can enjoy the relaxed, small-town atmosphere, and be in the middle of Hamburg City in 20 minutes.



CHARLOTTE HAUPT

Master of Business Administration

I chose to do my Bachelor's degree at Universität Hamburg because I was born in Hamburg and didn't want to leave for my studies.

Hamburg Schnelsen is a small and quiet district in West Hamburg. It provides everything you need – schools, supermarkets, bakeries and shopping facilities. It's located next to the border of Schleswig-Holstein and kind of rural. You can find fields, forests but also modern quarters.

What I really like about Schnelsen is that it is such a familial and peaceful area and I think it's a very good place for families. Especially the closeness to nature is very nice.

When you live and grow up in Schnelsen, you sort of grow up in a village life but still live in a cosmopolitan city, which is a special combination.

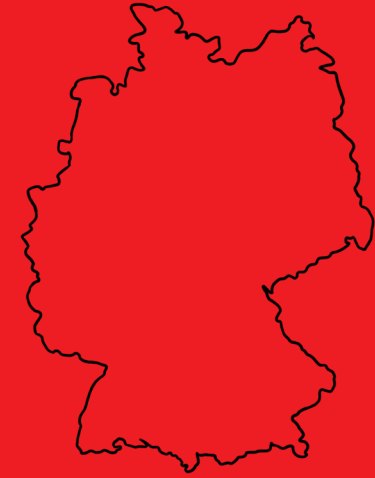
My parents and grandparents still live in Schnelsen and I visit them very often because it still feels like home for me.

HAMBURG-SCHNELSEN, GERMANY

- Hamburg is located right at a river named Elbe, but also has a few hills (e.g. Treppenviertel or Harburger Berge). Therefore, you can hang out at the beaches, take a ride on a boat or go hiking in the hills.
- Hamburg has a lot of bridges – even more than Amsterdam. Go out and explore them and you'll feel as if you're on holiday in another city
- The Hafencity is a very beautiful and modern waterfront. It provides a lot of interesting artistic buildings (for example the Elbphilharmonie)



MY HOMETOWN IS...



SOMEWHERE IN
GERMANY



NORDERSTEDT, GERMANY

- Only a stone's throw away from Hamburg
- In the south of Schleswig-Holstein
- Third (just so we're clear): My hometown doesn't belong to Hamburg! It's (still) an independent city...
- It was founded on the 1st of January 1970, so it's already 50 years old
- I am one of currently 79,358 inhabitants.
- The outline of my hometown on a map is the shape of a symbolic heart (the other way around).
- Noisy streets
- Plenty of events
- Farmland
- City park

SOPHIE NATASCHA GERLACH

Law

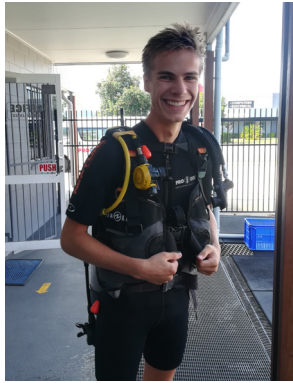


Universität Hamburg was the only university I applied for. One of the main reasons for my decision was to be close to the people in my hometown, who I love.

My hometown is a mix of a village and a city. Sometimes you have the impression that it is more of a city. When you're in the "city center" there are lots of people and it's very noisy. On the other hand, I sometimes feel like a "Dorfkind" (a child from the village), especially when smelling a special country fragrance that I don't want to talk about that much! So much for that! There is farmland just on the other side of the street where I live.

But all jokes aside: Norderstedt is just the perfect mix! My absolute favorite places in Norderstedt are the parks and natural walkways. I love our city park! Yes, we've got one! As you might have expected this park is called "Norderstedter Stadtpark".

But for me, hometown is not only a place where your memories are deep-rooted: hometown is where your heart is. My beloved family and friends live in Norderstedt and my heart belongs to all of them!



THORGE TEUCHERT

Geography

I always found Hamburg to be a beautiful city and it is one of the few university cities that is relatively close to where my family lives.

What makes my hometown Nortorf so special to me are the unique and extraordinary childhood memories I made there. From playing football for hours in the pouring rain with my best friend, over skating in the skatepark until sunset, to the innumerable scavenger hunts on friends' birthdays. Every time I get to pass the places where so many great memories were made, it kind of takes me back to this time and reminds me of how grateful I can be for all these great memories. When I pass these special places of my hometown with my best friend, who shared many of these memories with me, we always immediately think back to some of the special moments – “You remember that one time when we entered the open air bath after hours and fled into the freezing night with nothing but our soaked swimming pants?” Reliving such memories together doesn't ever seem to get boring.

NORTORF (SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN), GERMANY

- Geographical center of Schleswig-Holstein
- Status of a small town
- Mentioned in historic records from the 10th century
- Teldec, a company producing vinyls, had its factory in Nortorf
- Hometown of Joshua Blum – an Olympic bobsled athlete
- Has a sculpture park
- Has a townhall
- Has a marketplace
- Park with glacial relicts
- Project: “Hochzeitswald” – citizens can donate trees for special events such as weddings



ECKERNFÖRDE, GERMANY

- In Low German, the name of the city is Eckernföör. This name is also written on the city sign.
- The Kieler Woche (“Kiel week”) the largest sailing event in Germany, historically starts with the Aalregatta in Eckernförde.
- In around 1500, Eckernförde was infamous for its pirates. This fact is still celebrated annually, called Pirate Spectacle.
- Eckernförde has a naval base.
- It also has a torpedo test station, built like a little island in the sea.
- There is a Danish minority in Eckernförde, which has special rights.
- The only club, K7, named after its street number, closed down a few years ago.
- Grocery stores, unlike in the rest of Germany, are open on Sundays.



EMILIE TELWEST

Economy and Culture of China

My grandparents taught in China and my brother studies economics. I also read a fascinating autobiography by a former lecturer. All of these factors inspired me to study this specific bachelor degree!



When you drive into Eckernförde by night, it is always a special experience. The main road, coming from the south, follows the shore and the bay looks like a half moon. The whole city is lit up, especially the naval base, located at the tip of the crescent. As a child driving home in our family car, this sight always meant coming home, making me feel all cozy and at ease.

Now I often use the train and have discovered another special sensation: the smell of the sea. Actually, Hamburg has a similar smell, so I only notice it when I have been in another part of Germany for a while. As soon as I get out of the train station, I can smell the ocean, the salty air and the unique odor of the seaweed. Although I have been in places far from the sea for months at a time, I am certain that in the long term I would always have to live close to the ocean.



BREMEN, GERMANY

- Bremen is home to the famous 'Stadtmusikanten' from Grimm's Fairy Tales.
- Bremen is Germany's 11th biggest city.
- Part of Bremen's historical city center belongs to the UNESCO world heritage.
- The river 'Weser' parts Bremen.
- Bremen is also a state (consisting of Bremen and Bremerhaven).
- The state Bremen is the smallest in size and population.
- The local annual fair 'Freimarkt' is one of the oldest and biggest in Germany.
- In the local dialect, Bremen is pronounced 'Breem'.
- The 'Freie Hansestadt Bremen' belonged to the Hanseatic League (Hanse).
- Bremen is a traditional stronghold of the SPD (always the strongest party).

LUKAS MOSE

Geography

I wanted to study at a well-reputed institute that offers many possibilities while being able to enjoy the conveniences of living in one of the most attractive cities in Germany.



One thing that I particularly associate with Bremen is riding my bicycle.

Because daily distances were short and it is very comfortable to get around the city by bike, I did so almost every day all year round. I have specifically vivid memories of the early morning rides. On my way to school, I would ride past a local chocolate factory and appreciate the delicate scent filling the air. Later on, passing one of the bridges that traverse the Weser I always took a look at the lovely river and enjoyed the scenery while the wind whistled around my ears. Depending on the season, I could observe the first sunrays of the day glittering on the restless water surface, which never failed to amaze me. On a lucky day the wind would carry the aromatic scent of hops, emanating from the brewery, all over the city as if it wanted to remind us of its presence.

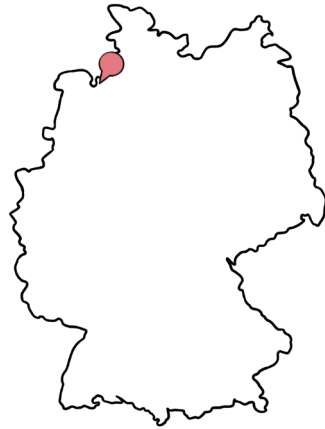
It is truly unique how much joy I got to experience during these short rides. These memories, among many others, make Bremen so special to me.



HANNAH BRUNKHORST

Political Science

Studying at Universität Hamburg was my first choice. Before I moved here, I had already travelled to this great city a few times and had fallen in love right away!



What makes my hometown so special to me is that it's surrounded by beautiful nature. On the weekends, I love going for long walks with my grandparents and their dogs across the marshland. There is quite a famous spot everybody in Nordenham knows, we call it "Am Berg" (at the mountain), it is a lovely scenic viewpoint on the dike. On New Year's Eve many locals meet up with family and friends to look across the river and watch Bremerhaven's spectacular fireworks. I also love taking pictures of sunsets. When you stand on the dike, the view seems never-ending and you can see the sun touching the sea.

What might be helpful to know in case you fancy a shopping day, Nordenham isn't the place to be, since we do not have any high street fashion brands like H&M or Zara and not even any stylish second-hand shops. Nordenham has, however, some nice restaurants. Personally, my favorite restaurant is situated right at the river and is actually a real castle!

The smell that always reminds me of home is kind of a mixture of sea breeze and typical country air which, to be honest, at times can smell quite bad. I think it is pretty cool that I have friends who live on a farm with mostly cows and horses. This is also why I have a close relationship with animals and nature, as I was always surrounded by them growing up.

One of our family Christmas traditions is to visit a play in Plattdeutsch. Unfortunately, I cannot speak it myself, but I can still understand it and it's always fun to watch. On the whole, Nordenham might be a small town and there is not much going on, yet it holds a lot of childhood memories for me and its slower pace can also be really enjoyable sometimes!

NORDENHAM, GERMANY

- It's a small town with about 26,000 inhabitants.
- The town is located at the North Sea coast, right at the mouth of the river Weser.
- Nordenham is the youngest and also the biggest town in the Wesermarsch district.
- Some people, especially the older generations, speak Low German also called "Plattdeutsch", which is not a dialect, but in fact a language!
- In total, there are 35 districts, two of them are islands called Langlütjen I and Langlütjen II.
- We have only one hourly train connection, which is between Nordenham and Bremen Hbf.
- The famous magician, Roy Horn, also well known for his performance as "Roy" in "Siegfried and Roy" in Las Vegas, was born in Nordenham and used to go for walks, with his cheetah Chico, at our local beach.
- The city Bremerhaven is close by but to get there you have to go by ferry or drive through the Weser tunnel.
- Nordenham is surrounded by a lot of nature like the famous Wadden Sea, which is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage site.
- Between 1890-1897, Nordenham could have been called the "Gate to the World" since 100,000 people left for New York and Baltimore from Nordenham's harbor.

MY HOMETOWN IS...

SOMEWHERE
AROUND
THE WORLD



NOA TANK PIÑEIRO

Medicine

I chose Universität Hamburg because it chose me; it was the place where I was accepted to study medicine. I also like the city and the proximity to the sea.



Even though I always felt different when I was there, when I'm far away I identify myself with my region of origin. This is probably because of the mix of being raised by parents from different countries and not belonging to either of them, or to both at the same time. I grew up there and my closest family lives there too, so being with my family makes it special now. But I also love it because of its nature and its climate, as I just described before. It is special because I know the colors of the forests and the sea, I know the sound of the breaking waves, the smell of the Atlantic Ocean. I know the way people act, how caring, generous and joyful they are, which I love. Also, I enjoy the food, everything, even a simple tomato tastes better than anywhere else. I love the way other people enjoy it too; they enjoy spending time with friends and family accompanied by a good meal, whatever their individual priorities are.

BAIONA (VIGO), SPAIN

- It is surrounded by the ocean and old, rounded mountains
- Its coast, beaches and cliffs, mountains and forests are beautiful and wild
- Most of the time everything is green because it rains half of the year
- In addition to Spanish, we speak Galician, which is similar to Portuguese
- The personality of the people is very peculiar, often endearing
- The food quality is extraordinary; you can eat the best seafood
- Because it is located so far west, we have very long days
- There is a special connection between the sea and our culture, which we'll never lose even if we leave the place itself
- When something/someone is cute, we call it "riquísimo/a"
- Everything there is to celebrate, we celebrate with our family and lots of (too much) food

LIMA, PERU

- Friendly and funny people.
- Some of the best restaurants in the world.
- Very loud music in public transport, from reggae to Peruvian cumbia.
- When waiting for the traffic lights to turn green, street artists perform pirouettes.
- One of the largest fountain complexes in the world - a Guinness World Record holder.
- Peru has more than 3,500 varieties of potatoes.
- The Inca Empire was founded and developed in Peru and is one of the most important ancient civilizations in the world.
- The largest Chinese community in Latin America lives in Lima.
- It almost never rains in Lima.
- One of the most densely populated cities in Latin America.



MADAI NADIA LADIGES-SIFUENTES

Economic and Social Sciences

I have been living in Germany for eight years and Universität Hamburg was one of the first institutions I visited. Since then, Universität Hamburg has become the embodiment of one of my greatest goals, which was to study in Germany. This university has accompanied me throughout my academic life and also enjoys a good reputation in the labor market.



My homeland is special because of the people. Peruvians laugh all the time. Despite their precarious lifestyle and daily stress, they bring with them warmth, simplicity and a lot of humour.

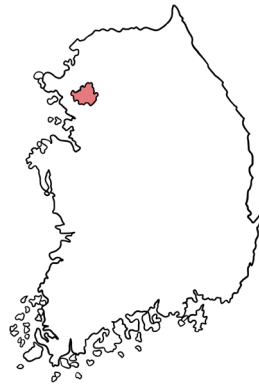
Spending time with Peruvian people helps you to relax. They talk about everything and take a long time to get to the point, which can be irritating when you are in a hurry, but they are so enthusiastic and lively that you forget all your worries.

For Peruvians, family is very important; that's why they help each other if someone has a problem. This is how the tradition of the famous "polladas" came about. "Polladas" is a dish made with chicken and salad, which is sold to raise funds to help a loved one. That's the reason why Peru is so special to me. Peruvians inspire others with their optimistic and joyful attitude, despite their difficult circumstances.

JIEUN SEO

Integrated Climate System Sciences

I wanted to study not only climate science but also social sciences related to climate change, due to my academic background and work experience. I'd like to become an expert in the field of climate policy and was fascinated by this interdisciplinary program.



I used to go to a café, May Bell Bakery, located in a very unlikely place next to Times Square complex—my neighborhood — to prepare for the application for this master's program, almost every day. As the bakery shop is operated in cooperation with one of the best-known cafés, I could enjoy a high quality of coffee and baked goods, like natural yeast baguettes and other healthy breads. Another interesting fact is that the building is a designated cultural asset. There is a regular art exhibition, so you can look at beautiful paintings while enjoying your coffee. It was the perfect place for me to focus on something while relaxing with good food and works of art. I sometimes met my friends there too. Now, during the pandemic, I miss the time by myself or with friends at the café.

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

- Seoul is a metropolitan city with many modern buildings and a huge population, but at the same time you can enjoy very traditional aspects of Korean life as well as great hiking trails, right in the heart of the city.
- Korean people are fashionable and keen on new trends. You can buy trendy and good quality clothes at a reasonable price.
- Korea is known for its efficient and fast delivery food service. You can order anything from chicken wings and rice noodles to coffee and desserts simply by using an app.
- Everything is very efficient. You don't need to waste your time waiting for something to be done.
- Shop staff are very kind and helpful, particularly to foreigners, and always ready to serve you.
- Koreans have a strong emotional attachment. Sometimes they can be too interested in other people's private lives but they will try to help you when you are in trouble.

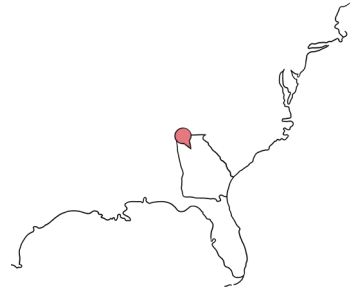
- Baked goods and coffee are very expensive compared to other items.
- There are many cafes, maybe one every 10 meters.
- You can enjoy a variety of street food.



CLARA KALLICH

Political Science

If one asked me about my hometown a year ago, I would have said most definitely; Hamburg. Hamburg, the city I was born in. I associate so many great memories with this vibrant metropolis; joyous years of becoming an adult and heart-warming moments with family and friends. Whenever I come home from a trip through Germany or Europe, I get goosebumps when the train rolls past the HafenCity and Speicherstadt. I never thought that I could feel this sense of belonging anywhere else. But one incredible year proved me wrong.

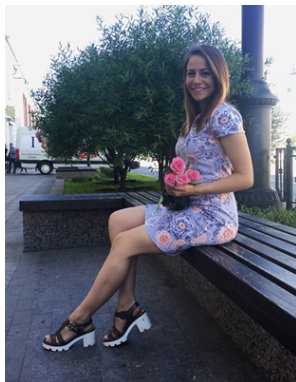


After my apprenticeship, I spent a year in the United States. Throughout the year, I was living with a host family in a small city called Marietta. Marietta is only 40 minutes away from Atlanta, Georgia's capital, and has around 60,000 inhabitants. Coming from bustling Hamburg, Marietta is a quiet town. But such a charming and beautiful one! I especially liked the city center with the water fountain and the little artisan shops, not to mention the small cafés nearby, which offer the most delicious pecan muffins. There are several music and art festivals to enjoy with your friends and family from May to October. And that's what brings me to the significant part of my exchange year: I got to know the most loving host-family I could have wished for. They welcomed me into their lives and treated me like their own daughter. We had so much fun together; hiking at Kennesaw Mountain, browsing at the farmers' market, trying to line dance or having great conversations at BBQs. Whenever I came home from road trips through the U.S. I got goosebumps driving past the Marietta city sign. Marietta is not just a place anymore, it became my second home and I can't wait to be reunited with my host family.



MY (SECOND) HOMETOWN

**MARIETTA, GEORGIA,
UNITED STATES**



SVETLANA GALDINA

There's actually no big story behind my reasons for choosing Universität Hamburg. I came to Hamburg last year as an Au-Pair and wanted to continue my studies here. My diploma was recognized at the university, which gave me the opportunity to choose one of their degree programs.

I'm sure their hometown is a very special place for everyone in any way. And we don't really appreciate it, until we leave this place. I find myself looking through different photos when I'm sad, when I miss my family and friends, my home. Almost every time when I talk to my parents via Skype, I ask them to show me my room, the garden or the whole place. It makes me feel happy; I remember how we spent our family evenings there.

As I grew up there, first, that place made me who I am now, my entire conscious life was spent there. I've made my first mistakes there, set my first big goals. However, the most important part of my city is people who were around me all the time. I once heard that it doesn't really matter where you are, it is more important who you are together with. My best friend is from there, but she doesn't live there now either, that's why both of us get nostalgic for the good old days. We had our special café where we met every time just to talk, to study or something else, we ordered our favorite coffee and eclairs and enjoyed the time together.

OMSK, RUSSIA

- Omsk is located in southwestern Siberia. It's the seventh-largest city in Russia. First of all it's an essential transport node – Omsk serves as a train station for Trans-Siberian Railway and as a staging post for the Irtysh River.
- It was established in the XVIII century, in 1716. The order of Peter I on seeking gold deposits in those lands was the reason for its establishment. The expedition was headed by Ivan Buchholz. It was him who laid the first Omsk fortress for the defense of the southern and eastern borders of the Russian Empire on the left bank of the river Om. Gradually, a new city began setting up around the fortress.
- Almost after a century, Omsk became the regional center of the West Siberian governor generalship.
- For a brief period during the Russian Civil War in 1918–1920, it served as the capital of the anti-Bolshevik Russian State and held the imperial gold reserves.
- Omsk is a leader among Siberian cities as per the number of higher and specialized educational institutions.

41 organizations, including institutions of Omsk scientific centre of the Siberian branch of the Russian Academy of Science, are engaged in various scientific researches and developments.

- The city has rich sports traditions. Every year such sports events as Siberian International Marathon, All-Russian Day of Run “Cross-country Race of Nations” sports festival “Velo-Omsk” take place.
- It is the center of oil, chemical and petrochemical, energy industries. Russia's largest engineering and metalworking companies are located there.
- Average daily temperatures, taken over the past three decades, are +20°C (68°F) for July and –17 °C (1 °F) for January, although temperatures can very rarely reach +40 °C (104 °F) in the summer and very rarely drop to –45 °C (–49 °F) in the winter.





KRISTINA ŽUGEČ

BSc Biology

I grew up and live in Hamburg so I decided to study at Universität Hamburg. Also, I only saw BSc Biology listed at Universität Hamburg.

Zagreb holds a really special place in my heart. I have an overwhelming amount of beautiful memories from every time we've been there: family, student exchanges, friends, culture, architecture, landscapes, food and more.

But no matter which of these factors, I always feel like coming home when being in Zagreb. I adore the smell of the air, the fresh coffee, the heat. Everyone talking in Croatian around me. The kind, warm-hearted people that don't question my origin. I just know this city as well as if I'd lived there my whole life. I enjoy everything there: meeting up with family and friends, drinking really good coffee, talking about everything we desire and taking a walk through the city to see the beautiful buildings and parks.

Having dinner at my grandmother's house and seeing the sun go down rounds it up perfectly. Zagreb feels home to me because I'm accepted for who I am, because of my loving family. I honestly feel home here. It's a deep love that I'll never lose in my life.

ZAGREB, CROATIA

- In Zagreb there are buses and trams, but no tubes.
- Zagreb is the home of the gothic white Cathedral.
- The St. Markus Church has a beautiful detailed roof.
- There's a street near the city center which only contains cafés.
- To get to the upper part of Zagreb, you can take a cable car.
- Every day at 12pm the Lotrščak tower fires a cannon shot.
- Zagreb contains the "Museum of broken hearts" made by citizens.
- At the "Trg žrtava fašizma" lies the Croatian society of fine arts.
- The River Sava flows through Zagreb.
- The Grič tunnel is a construction built because of several wars.



