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## Welcome to Weimar



If you are now reading this book you have the good fortune of being in Weimar. Most people generally agree that this is one of the best (and certainly one of the most beautiful) towns in which to study music in Germany. Apart from the LISZT SCHOOL'S obvious academic strength, it also has some wonderful buildings. Where else can you

have singing lessons in a glorious Baroque palace overlooking Weimar or go for a stroll in the surrounding idyllic park afterwards. Weimar (1999's Cultural City of Europe) has more cultural events than in cities several times larger and a peaceful environment in which to concentrate on your studies.

Nevertheless, upon arriving in a new place, one usually encounters at least a few difficulties. There is a well-known saying (we don't believe it was from Goethe) that states, "If something can go wrong, it will." Of course your initial time in Weimar would be quite boring if *nothing* went wrong. It's generally the difficult moments that we tend to remember most. But WE believe that if we can make things a little bit easier for you at the beginning, it would be a help. This is why we have written this *Guide* for you...est assured, a few things will probably go wrong anyway!

### The history of Weimar

Weimar, of course, has a long and glorious history. The name "Weimar" comes from "wihmare," which means "holy swamp," but there's no need to worry... Weimar isn't a swamp anymore! Out of this swamp rose one of Germany's most important cultural centres. Weimar has also had a certain political importance as well - but this is probably of less interest to us artistes.

Weimar came into prominence with the arrival of Goethe towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, but there was another person of some importance who resided

even earlier in Weimar; **J.S. Bach** spent the years 1708-1717 here, where he was court organist and capellmeister. Whilst composing some of his finest works here, he was also diligently pursuing other creative endeavors...Bach's sons Wilhelm Friedemann and Carl Philipp Emanuel were born during this period! You can visit the site of Bach's house, just a stone's throw away from the LISZT SCHOOL's Main Building (to the left of the Elephant Hotel) - there's no longer a building, but there is a commemorative plaque. Bach culminated his stay in Weimar by getting thrown into prison!

The presence of **Goethe** for several decades in Weimar attracted distinguished people from all over Europe to this little provincial town. This can be regarded as the Golden Age; Goethe, one of the great examples of what a human being can achieve. He used the city as an experimental ground for a sort of ideal state, putting his principles into practice. During this period, Weimar was truly one of the greatest cultural centres of Europe, in spite of its small population. Some other famous names belonging to this period are **Schiller**, **Herder** and **Wieland** all of whom made Weimar their home.

After the death of Goethe in 1832, Weimar's next important period followed shortly afterwards. **Franz Liszt** knew about Goethe's epoch and wanted to restore Weimar to its former glory. He succeeded to a large extent. Between 1848-1861 some of Europe's most famous musicians were attracted to the city. Liszt assumed directorship of the National Theatre (which had been directed earlier by Goethe), premiering such works as Wagner's *Lohengrin*. Liszt returned to Weimar spending his summers at a house which is still standing today around the corner from the LISZT SCHOOL cafeteria. The house with his piano has been left in more or less its original state.



In 1872, the LISZT SCHOOL of Music was founded by one of Liszt's pupils upon Liszt's suggestion - it was Germany's first orchestral school. Another tradition stemming from this period and still alive today are the Weimar Master Classes. These were initiated in 1901 by one of the greatest pianists of all time, Ferruccio Busoni and started up again in 1960. The classes which are held every July

directly after the summer semester still attract famous artistes and teachers from all over Europe. The **National Theatre** is still providing first rate concerts and theatre/dance performances, as is the **Weimarer Staatskapelle**, the city's professional orchestra, which recently celebrated its 400<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The **Bauhaus**, one of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century's most influential artistic movements, born in Weimar around the turn of the century is also worth a quick mention. If you would like to know more about the Bauhaus, just ask one of our city's thousands of architecture students who study at Weimar's other school of higher education, the **Bauhaus University**.

The rest of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century was not uneventful in Weimar. From 1933-45 Weimar was chosen as a place of special importance due to its history. The concentration camp **Buchenwald** was erected just a few kilometres away and a city which had seen some of the best sides of humanity was now witness to some of its most horrible manifestations.

After the war, the 40-year era of the **German Democratic Republic** began. The Reunification of Germany took place over a decade ago, so memories of this time are still strong. The enormous amounts of money spent on Weimar's renovation (especially in 1999) have made the imprint of this period less openly visible than in some other East German cities. You will often hear locals begin sentences with, "In DDR-Zeiten..."

### **Some further information about Weimar**

The population of Weimar is about 65,000. The town is located more or less in the centre of Germany, in the province of Thuringia, known as the 'green heart of Germany' for its beautiful natural surroundings. There aren't really any big cities in Thuringia, but there's **Erfurt** next door, the state capital (15 minutes by train), a beautiful medieval city with an impressive cathedral. The nearest large city is about a one hour train ride to the east and is called **Leipzig** well-known for its world-class orchestra, **Dresden** is one hour further and **Berlin** is three hours to the north. In case big cities aren't your thing, there are plenty

of charming villages and small towns in the immediate vicinity. If you like hiking, you can go to the **Thuringian Forest**, a one hour train ride to the west.

Weimar is famous for its parks. There is the central **Ilm Park** (the Ilm is Weimar's river), designed in part by Goethe himself. You can still see Goethe's garden house there. The Ilm Park is a great place to go for a walk or to lie in the grass and read a book in the summer when you need a break from practicing; it's directly adjacent to our main building. Then there's **Belvedere Park**; if you are fortunate enough to be studying voice, guitar, or accordion, you will be spending much of your time here. Last but not least is **Tiefurt Park**, a 20-25 minute bike ride away.

Don't miss the **Goethe House**, where Germany's greatest poet spent the last 40 years of his life. It is now a small art museum, where you can see the study in which he wrote Faust. Another of Weimar's treasures, taken advantage of by very few students, is the **Schlossmuseum** (Palace Museum), across from our main building. It has one of the best art collections in Germany (second only to Berlin and Dresden in the East). It houses works from medieval Russia up through the Renaissance in Germany, Holland, and Italy to the Baroque and Classical periods and culminates with Impressionism and the Weimar School of Painters. Most notable however, are the stunningly beautiful rooms (the museum was once a ducal palace), which provide a wonderful setting in which to view the works of art.

Not wanting to sound too much like a tourist guidebook, we'll stop here and leave the rest to you.

### The LISZT SCHOOL premises



The LISZT SCHOOL has several buildings and some are accessible only with your Toska card.

The **Hauptgebäude** (Main Building), also known as "Fürstenhaus," can be found on Platz der Demokratie. It is a big, yellow building easily recognisable by its corinthian pillars on the front side (open: Mon.-Fri. 7:00-22:00, Sat. 8:00-22:00, Sun. 9:00-22:00). It was built in 1770 and was home to Weimar's aristo-cracy for several years. This is where the piano, strings, and composition departments can be found, as well as the LISZT SCHOOL's main concert hall called the "Festsaal im Fürstenhaus" that you will see mentioned on many concert posters. The main **library** with its abundance of books and scores of music, is also situated in this building (open: Tues.-Thurs. 9:00-13:00, 14:00-18:00, and Fri. 9:00-13:00, 14:00-16:00). There is also the **media library** with many CDs and videos (open Tues. 9:00-12:30, 14:00-17:00 and Wed.-Fri. 9:00-12:30, 14:00-16:00). The **student union** ("StuRa") room is also located here. It offers a place to relax and socialize whilst drinking a coffee and enjoying a chocolate bar available from vending machines. (Student union meetings are held every week; you can contact one of the seven members of the union if you have a question or concern).

The green **Verwaltungsgebäude** (Administration Building) is next to the Main Building (office hours: Mon.-Fri. 6:30-17:00). You will be getting to know this building as the home of the **Department of Academic and Student Affairs**. You will find it on the first floor on the left (office hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 9:30-11:30; Tues., Thurs. 13:30-15:30 and by appointment). This is the place to go if you have any questions; the main office is on the left-hand side (Herr Hoffmann, the Departmental Director sits here) and the office of Frau Brachat, who works especially with international students, is straight ahead.

The **Klostergebäude Am Palais** (Monastery Building "Am Palais") is located in the centre of town, behind the Theaterplatz (open: Mon.-Fri. 7:00-22:00, Sat. 8:00-18:00 sometimes only with your Toska Card). It used to be a monastery and was visited by Martin Luther, initiator of the Protestant reformation, several times. Today it houses the departments of school music, for future teachers in German high schools, recorder, organ and harpsichord. There is also a concert hall here called "Saal am Palais."

The three buildings in Belvedere: **Beethovenhaus** (department of voice), **Bachhaus** (department of guitar) and **Haydnhaus** (department of accordion) are open from Mon.-Fri. 7:00-22:00, Sat. 8:00-18:00, Sun. 9:00-13:00. Behind "Beethovenhaus" is the **Studio Theatre**, where students perform operas throughout the year. Belvedere is a former Baroque palace (dating from 1724) located in an idyllic park on top of a hill. If you are in good shape, you can cycle up to it from the centre of Weimar in less than half an hour, otherwise you can take the bus number 1. Be careful! Not every number 1 goes as far as Belvedere so consult the timetable.

The **hochschulzentrum am horn** (University Centre "Am Horn") the former Russian barracks, is a large site and can be found at the top of Leibnizallee (the street which begins with the bridge across from the "Schlossmuseum"). Open from Mon.-Fri. 8:00-18:00, with Toska card Mon.-Sun. 7:00-22:00). Originally built in 1854 by the architect C.H.F. Streichhan, it was taken over by the Russians during the GDR. This building houses all of the other departments: conducting, wind, brass, percussion, jazz, musicology, and music theory. There is a lecture hall and a musicology library here too. These departments used to be scattered around the town in various other buildings before the old military fortress was renovated in 2001. It now accommodates troops of music students who march up the hill every day to get there. The LISZT SCHOOL's buildings are on the whole



very beautiful, so you may be wondering what the architects who renovated this place were thinking. However, there is one aesthetic inspiration in the building - the bathrooms' multi-coloured tiles...don't miss them! Better not forget your Toska card to get into the main door as well as its various rooms.

## What you have got to do upon your arrival

- 1) Take care of health insurance
- 2) Pay the semester fee
- 3) Go to the Department of Academic and Student Affairs and register
- 4) Sign a housing contract for the place you will be living
- 5) Register at the municipal authority ("Einwohnermeldeamt") in the big Weimar administration building
- 6) Register at the foreign office ("Ausländerbehörde") in the same building
- 7) Open a bank account

## How to do it

### 1) Take care of health insurance

To study in Germany, you must have health insurance. There are three possibilities:

- A. You are a citizen of the European Union and already have health insurance in your home country. In this case, you will need to present your European Health Insurance Card (new from 01.2006). This is enough for your registration at the LISZT SCHOOL. We recommend however, that you take this card to one of the German health insurance companies (AOK, DAK, etc.) and get a certificate which entitles you to visit German doctors ("Berechtigungsschein für den Besuch eines Arztes"). Then, if you become ill, you will save yourself time and trouble at the doctor's office.
- B. You have health insurance in your home country which specifically covers a stay in a foreign country (e.g. Germany). In this case, you should go to one of the German health insurance companies to check whether you are really completely covered. You could check, for example, with the AOK company, which has a student advisory service. (See address below).
- C. You have only got travel health insurance, or haven't got any health insurance at all. In this case, sign up at one of the German health

insurance companies as soon as possible! (Make sure to tell them you're a student). Here are some of the companies in Weimar:

AOK Studentenservice

Gerhart-Hauptmann-Straße 6 (near Goetheplatz)

Tel. 03643/557-0

Mon.-Fri. 10:00-13:00

Deutsche Angestellten Krankenkasse (DAK)

Carl-von-Ossietzky-Straße 67a

Tel. 03643/8386-0

Mon.-Wed. 8:00-16:00, Thurs. 8:00-17:00, Fri. 8:00-13:00

BARMER Ersatzkasse

Goetheplatz 5

Tel. 018500/266200

Mon.-Wed. 9:00-15:00, Thurs. 9:00-18:00, Fri. 9:00-13:00

Innungskrankenkasse

Schillerstraße 10

Tel. 03643/497090

Mon., Wed. 8:00-12:00, 13:00-16:00, Tues., Thurs. 8:00-12:00, 13:00-17:00, Fri. 8:00-12:00

We recommend comparing the prices before deciding on a health insurance.

If you are older than 26, or have already studied for 14 semesters (which you probably haven't), you will need private health insurance.

Last but not least, if you are taking part in an intensive German language course before the beginning of the semester, you may have to get private insurance to cover this short period.

### 2) Pay the semester fee

This is simple enough. You have to go to a bank in Weimar and transfer 58.30 euros to the LISZT SCHOOL's bank account. (If you already have a bank account in

Weimar, go there, otherwise you may have to pay a small additional fee). Here is the LISZT SCHOOL's bank account information:

Empfänger (Recipient): Staatshauptkasse Thüringen

Konto-Nr. (Account Number): 300 1111 321

BLZ (Bank Number): 820 500 00

Kreditinstitut (Bank Name): LZB Hessen-Thüringen (HELABA)

Verwendungszweck (Purpose): "Semesterbeitrag"

"(Your last name), (Your first name),

(Your student number)"

Ask the bank for a receipt after you have transferred the money.

Part of this money covers your "semester train ticket," which allows you free travel on certain trains (more on this later).

Note: The fee may have changed depending on the print year of this *Guide*.

### 3) Go to the Department of Academic and Student Affairs and register

You need to take:

- A. The yellow registration form (which you must fill out)
- B. Your passport
- C. Your letter of acceptance from the LISZT SCHOOL
- D. Proof of health insurance
- E. The receipt showing that you have paid the semester fee.
- F. In case you haven't already submitted them with your application, bring a certified German translation of the transcript of your previous courses, with grades and diploma(s), from the former university/ies you have attended (Doesn't apply to Socrates/Erasmus exchange students).
- G. In case you haven't already submitted it with your application, bring proof of your knowledge of the German language (Doesn't apply to Socrates/Erasmus exchange students).

You will be given your student identification (a Toska card and student certificates).

You will be photographed for the electronic Toska card, so don't forget to look your best!

The Department is located in the Administration Building. The office hours are: Mon., Wed., Fri. 9:30-11:30, Tues., Thurs. 13:30-15:30.

### 4) Sign a housing contract for the place you will be living

If you have already been given a place in a student hall, contact the people in charge as soon as possible.

Music students generally live in Merketalstraße 48. It is a perfect example of East German architecture, in a nice, quiet location overlooking a large field. To get there, take bus number 1 (direction Ehringsdorf over Belvedere or Taubach), get out at the stop called "Falkenburg," then walk up the Merketalstraße hill (on the right) until you get to the student hall on the right-hand side.

Try to avoid arriving at a weekend, since the office will be closed. The office hours are: Mon. 13:00-15:30, Tues. 14:00-17:00, Thurs. 7:30-11:00. Telephone: 03643/903491.

When you register, you will have to pay a deposit of approximately 150 euros, which you will get back after moving out. Room prices range from 80-180 euros per month, depending on the size and furnishings of the room.

Another possibility would be private accommodation - many students live in so-called "WGs" ("Vay-Gays"), short for "Wohngemeinschaft." This basically means that a group of students live together - each has his own room, but the kitchen and bathroom are shared. There are hundreds of such "WGs" scattered throughout Weimar and they can be very nice. The prices are generally a bit more expensive than in a student hall. You could also live in a private single room. To find out about these, check the dozens of advertisements posted on the ground floor of the "Mensa" (cafeteria), in the hallway across from the student union room in our main building, or in the various buildings of the Bauhaus

University. You can also check the Bauhaus University's student internet forum at <http://www.uni-weimar.de/pinnwand/piazza/> (in German). Music students often live together with students from the Bauhaus University - a nice opportunity to mix.

If you arrive in Weimar and haven't got any accommodation yet, or arrive at the weekend, you could stay in a youth hostel. Here are some of Weimar's hostels:

Jugendherberge "Germania"

Carl-August-Allee 13 (near the main train station)

Tel. 03643/850-490

Fax 03643/850-491

Jugendherberge "Am Poseckschen Garten"

Humboldtstraße 17 (near the city centre)

Tel. 03643/850-792

Fax 03643/850-793

Jugendhostel Weimar e.V. "Hababusch"

Geleitstraße 4 (directly in the centre of town, near the "Am Palais" building)

Tel. 03643/850-737

Fax 03643/901-687 or 402-615

Jugendgästehaus "Maxim Gorki"

Zum Wilden Graben 12

Tel. 03643/850-750

Fax 03643/850-749

Hotel accommodation or private rooms can be booked through:

Tourist Information

Am Markt 15

Tel. 03643/745-0

Fax 03643/745-420

<http://www.weimar.de/tourismus>

## 5) Register at the municipal authority ("Einwohnermeldeamt")

The large Weimar administration building is located in Schwanseestraße 17 near to Goetheplatz. The administration building has many flags in front of it. Upon entering the building, push the button for the office that you want to go to (in this case "Einwohnermeldeamt"), and you will get a ticket with a number on it. Watch the display screens until your number is called telling you which room to go to. This will be your first taste of German bureaucracy but don't complain...you will get some money!

You are supposed to register here within a week of your arrival. You have to:

- A. Fill out a form
- B. Take your passport
- C. Take one of your green student certificates

Office hours: Mon. and Wed. closed, Tues. 9:00-12:00, 14:00-19:00, Thurs. 9:00-12:00, 13:00-15:00, Fri. 9:00-12:00.

## 6) Register at the foreign office ("Ausländerbehörde") in the same building



This is slightly trickier. All non-German students (including EU members) who will be living in Germany for more than three months need a valid residence permit. You will score points with the people in the office if you are well-organized. Take the following (it would be advisable to

make photocopies that they can keep, but take the originals too):

- A. The registration form, filled out (you can get this either here or from the Department of Academic and Student Affairs).
- B. Your passport (identity card is sufficient for EU citizens)
- C. Your letter of acceptance from the LISZT SCHOOL
- D. One of your green student certificates

- E. Proof of health insurance
- F. Your housing contract
- G. One passport photo
- H. **Proof that you can pay your living costs for the duration of your studies** (this is where students run into problems; see below)

If you are not being supported by public funds from Germany, you will also be required to pay a registration fee of approximately 40 euros for the first time and approximately 20 euros for each extension.

Living costs in Weimar are considered to be approximately 550 euros per month (including housing and health insurance). In order to get your residence permit, you must prove, **a year in advance**, that you have such an amount. It would be even better if you have enough for two years because you can then receive a two-year residence permit thereby paying the registration fee one time less. Don't forget, keep your permit up-to-date.

But how can you prove that you have this money? You can show them a letter from your parents in which they state that they are supporting you. Or you can show them a bank statement from an account in your home country, or a bank statement from an account in Germany. Other possibilities are: security from a bank, a DAAD grant or other scholarships.

The opening times are almost identical to those of the municipal authorities.

## 7) Open a bank account

As a student, you can open an account, free of charge, at almost every bank. This is quite useful, since regular payments (rent, health insurance, etc.) can be transferred automatically (and with no additional costs) from your account, so you don't have to worry about remembering them. You can also get a free EC-card, with which you can pay electronically at several places (stores, supermarket, train station, etc.) and with which you can withdraw money from cash points.

It is better to make an appointment to open a bank account. Tip: Don't forget that each time you extend your residence permit you must show it to your bank.

You need to take:

- A. Your passport
- B. Your residence permit
- C. One of your green student certificates

The VR-Bank has been especially helpful to foreign students - here it is possible to open an account before you have got your residence permit. You just have to show the permit when you get it later.

Here are some banks in Weimar: (All telephone numbers are with area code 03643, unless otherwise given)

VR-Bank

Dingelstedtstraße 2 (behind the National Theater)

Tel. 03643/817-0

Mon.-Wed. 8:00-17:00, Thurs. 8:00-18:00, Fri. 8:00-16:00

HypoVereinsbank

Schillerstraße 5

Tel. 03643/2425-0

Mon. 8:30-12:30, 14:00-16:00, Tues., Thurs. 8:30-12:30, 14:00-18:00,

Wed. 8:30-14:30, Fri. 8:30-12:30

Postbank

Goetheplatz 7/8

Tel. 03643/231-362, Service Tel. 0180/3040700

Mon.-Fri. 8:00-18:30, Sat. 9:00-12:00

Dresdner Bank

Steubenstraße 15

Tel. 03643/551-0

Mon.-Thurs. 9:30-18:00, Fri. 9:00-16:00

Sparkasse Mittelthüringen

Frauentorstraße 11

Tel. 03643/236-365

Mon., Wed. 8:30-12:00, 13:00-16:00, Tues., Thurs. 8:30-12:00, 13:00-18:00,

Fri. 8:00-12:00, 13:00-16:00

Deutsche Bank

Frauentorstraße 3

Tel. 03643/8655-0

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 9:30-13:00, Mon. 14:00-16:00, Tues. 14:00-18:00,

Thurs. 14:00-19:00, Fri. 14:00-15:30, Wed. closed

Commerzbank

Schillerstraße 16

Tel. 03643/8370-0

Mon., Thurs. 8:30-18:00, Tues., Wed. 8:30-16:00, Fri. 8:30-13:00

## Some helpful tips for studying in Weimar

### Language Courses



Classes at the LISZT SCHOOL of Music Weimar are taught in *German*; people in Weimar (curiously enough) also speak *German*. (English is not so widely spoken as in western *Germany* or in some other European countries). If you can't speak *German*, we recommend that you learn as soon as possible; language is the door to culture. The best way to learn *German* is to

be active; don't expect that just by living here and breathing the air that you will automatically learn the language.

There are intensive *German* courses at the Bauhaus University's Language Centre ("Sprachenzentrum") which take place before the beginning of the semester. They last three weeks and are free of charge. There are also *German* courses which take place during the semester. For information about these courses or to register for them, you can visit the Language Centre's internet site at <http://www.uni-weimar.de/slz> or send an e-mail to Susanne Kirchmeyer, the Director, at [susanne.kirchmeyer@uni-weimar.de](mailto:susanne.kirchmeyer@uni-weimar.de), or call at (03643) 582390. Alternatively, you can drop by the Language Centre's office, located on the second floor of Coudraystraße 13a (a Bauhaus University building, behind Goetheplatz). Office hours are Mon.-Wed. 9:00-12:00 and Tues., Thurs. 13:15-15:30.

Another way to learn *German* is to spend a lot of time with native speakers, *actively* listening to them (and maybe asking them to correct you). Many foreign students spend all their time with other foreign students, which can be nice, but won't help your *German*. It is also very helpful to read things in *German* (newspapers, books that interest you), with a dictionary, if necessary. *German*

radio and television can also be useful. The main thing is to have fun and open new doors and don't worry if you make mistakes initially.

Once you are feeling comfortable with your German, you can take advantage of the Language Centre's other classes: English (at many different levels French, Italian, Spanish, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and even Chinese. See the website listed above, or drop by the office.

### Academic Year

Each academic year is divided into two semesters. Winter Semester is officially from October 1 - March 31, but classes generally end around the second week of February providing some time for a vacation (or to concentrate on practicing). There is also a two-week Christmas break. Summer Semester is officially from April 1 - September 30, but classes end in the middle of July. Some students, however, stay on for the Weimar master classes, which take place during the last two weeks of July. There is usually a preparation week before the semester officially starts.

There are also some public holidays on which universities and businesses are closed.

October 3	German Reunification Day
October 31	Reformation Day
Dec. 25 / Jan. 1	Christmas and New Year
March/April	Good Friday
March/April	Easter Monday
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	The First of May
May	Ascension Day
June	Pentecost

In Germany, holidays (except Christmas / New Year and Easter) are not really celebrated; they are simply days that you don't have to go to work. There are two exceptions. One is the first of May, during which Weimar really comes

to life at the student-organized soap-box derby. Students drive their home-made, often extremely funny wooden cars down a hill to cheering crowds. The other is Ascension Day ("Christi Himmelfahrt"), more popularly known as



"Männertag" ("a day for men"), a day when men are supposed to leave their women at home, set out together for the forest, and drink considerable quantities of beer. This tradition seems to exist only in the former East Germany.

Another important date is 24 June when our LISZT SCHOOL celebrates its birthday ("Dies Academicus"). There is usually a marathon chamber music concert which lasts until the wee hours of the morning as well as various other festivities.

### Course Requirements

In order to know what requirements you have to fulfill during your course of studies, you have to find the little white booklet with all the funny tables, which is included as a supplement in some of the LISZT SCHOOL's semester handbooks (you will probably get this in the mail at some point). You must find the table corresponding to your chosen instrument or subject (i.e. piano); there you can see what you have to do and when (i.e. "Musikgeschichte" in semesters 1-4, "Fachdidaktik" in semesters 3-4 etc.). Tip: the schedule presented in the table is only a recommendation; you can fulfill the requirements any time you like, as long as you have completed the necessary subjects when it's time to register for the "Vordiplom" (exams after 2 years) and for the later "Diplom" (finals). For example, many students doing a "Pädagogisches Diplom" complete some of the courses recommended for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> semesters (i.e. "Sprecherziehung," "Stimmbildung") earlier, so that they have more time to practice in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> semesters.

## Registering for the following semester and for exams



Each semester you have to register for the following one ("Rückmeldung"). There is usually a period towards the end of the semester when this is possible. **Pay attention to posted announcements!** (This is, incidentally, the way things are done at the LISZT SCHOOL; if there is any kind of information, important or unimportant, it is written on pieces of paper and posted on bulletin boards. If you don't read them, you may miss relevant details. Many a student has overheard a conversation in

which the word "Rückmeldung" was mentioned, one hour before the deadline, suddenly remembering it, breaking out in a cold sweat and racing as fast as possible to the bank to transfer the money. "Rückmeldung" consists of transferring the semester fees and bringing the receipt as well as a completed "Rückmeldung" form to the Department of Academic and Student Affairs. If you do it on time, you'll be happy like this student. If not, you will have to pay a late fee of 20 euros.

Important! You also have to register **at the beginning of the semester** for any exams that you will be taking at the end of the semester.

## Scholarships

The LISZT SCHOOL does not offer scholarships, but this shouldn't be such an issue since tuition is free.

## Questions

If you have questions or need help with something related to your studies, visit the Department of Academic and Student Affairs in the Administration Building. Office hours are Mon., Wed., Fri. 9:30-11:30, Tues., Thurs. 13:30-15:30

or by appointment. Contact Herr Hoffmann, the Director (03643/555-156), or Frau Brachat (03643/555-148).

If you have specific questions about choice of courses, special qualifications, preparation for the entrance exam, course requirements, your future profession, etc., you should make an appointment with the head of your department. You can do so at the Department of Academic and Student Affairs or you can call one of the following numbers:

Strings and harp; wind, brass and percussion; conducting and opera coaching:  
03643/555-245

Ask to make an appointment with one of the following department heads:

Strings and harp: Prof. Dr. Friedemann Eichhorn

Wind, brass and percussion: Prof. Armin Bachmann

Conducting and opera coaching: Prof. Jürgen Puschbeck

Voice/Opera; guitar: 03643/555-136

Ask to make an appointment with one of the following department heads:

Voice/Opera: Prof. Ulrike Fuhrmann

Guitar: Prof. Christiane Spannhof

Keyboard instruments and early music; jazz; new music; music pedagogy and music theory: 03643/555-186

Ask to make an appointment with one of the following department heads:

Keyboard instruments and early music: Prof. Gerlinde Otto

Jazz: Prof. Frank Möbus

New music: Prof. Michael Obst

Music pedagogy and music theory: Prof. Dr. Eckart Lange

School music and church music; musicology: 03643/555-186

Ask to make an appointment with one of the following department heads:

School music and church music: Prof. Ulrike Rynkowski-Neuhof

Musicology: Prof. Dr. Detlef Altenburg (including artistic administration: Prof. Dr. Steffen Höhne)

## Student Services

The Weimar/Jena Student Services is the organization in charge of such things as student accommodation and cafeterias. Their main office is in Jena, but they have an office in the cafeteria in Weimar, too, called "InfoTake." It is open: Mon.-Thurs. 10:00-15:00 and Fri. 10:00-14:00. (Tel. 03643/5815-06). You can also call 03643/5816-60 or 03643/5816-63.

## Some helpful tips for living in Weimar

### Transportation



We would recommend having a **bicycle** in Weimar; it's a very bicycle-friendly city, everything is more or less close together (you certainly don't need a car), and cycling is a very pleasant way of enjoying the scenery, as well as being good for the heart and legs. There are various bicycle shops around town, but you can also rent (and sometimes buy) bicycles for cheap prices at the "Grüne Liga" on Rollplatz (near to Goetheplatz). However, they're only open during the first half of the year when the weather is good (usually April-October). Beware of bicycle thieves! Weimar is notorious for stolen bicycles;

make sure you have a sturdy lock.

Another way of getting around in Weimar is by **bus**. The city has an extensive bus network which can take you just about anywhere. For more information, go to Goetheplatz where all buses stop. There is a complete schedule and a kiosk with representatives who can answer your questions. The individual bus prices are somewhat steep; at the kiosk you can buy strips of four tickets, for a considerably lower price per ticket. You can also buy a month or year student pass but remember your student ID.

Despite the fact that Germans love their cars so much, Germany has an excellent **train** network. Once again the prices tend to be steep and the price

system often changes. Nevertheless things are generally well organized (of course people complain about the trains, but one of people's favourite pastimes is to complain and in reality the trains keep on schedule remarkably well.)

As a student of the LISZT SCHOOL you receive a special deal in the form of the "Semester Train Ticket." This allows you to travel on regional trains (RE and RB) between Gera-Gotha (including Jena, Weimar and Erfurt), Großheringen-Saalfeld (including Camburg, Jena and Göschwitz), Großheringen-Weimar, (including Apolda) and Weimar-Kranichfeld, for free. You can also travel with the faster InterCity train (IC) but only between Weimar and Erfurt. All you have to do is show the train conductor your Toska card and an up-to-date green student ID certificate. This is a terrific deal, so take advantage of it! Just don't get caught on an InterCity train (IC) or InterCityExpress train (ICE) because nine times out of ten, you'll have to pay. Tip: you can buy your ticket in the train if you are pushed for time but you can only pay with cash or credit card and not with EC cards!

There are also a few **taxi** in Weimar, but there isn't much reason to use them as a student. They line up in front of the main train station and in front of the *mon ami* cinema on Goetheplatz.

### Eating



You will be getting to know the **Mensa (cafeteria)** very well. Located in the Ilm Park, close to the Liszt house, and a nice walk through the park from the LISZT SCHOOL's Main Building, the "Mensa" is the source of lunch for thousands of hungry architecture and music students. The two

primary advantages of the "Mensa" are that it is a great place to socialize and the prices are very cheap (approx 2 euros). Don't forget your Student ID. The food is variable. One architecture student offered the following analysis: roughly 1/3 of the time the food is really quite tasty and delicious, 1/3 of the

time it is edible and 1/3 of the time it is most unpleasant and best avoided. Every day there is one vegetarian meal, one pasta meal, and three meat dishes to choose from. There is a great emphasis on variety; hundreds of different dishes are tried out by the cooks during the course of the semester. One difficulty tends to arise for larger students of the male gender with high metabolisms because the portions are rather small. If this is the case, ask them if you can have a little bit more; the cafeteria staff are very nice and will usually oblige. You normally pay for your meal by using your Toska card so you will have to load the chip with money using the machines. (Open: Mon.-Thurs. 7:30-19:00, Fri. 7:30-17:00 and on Saturdays during the semester from 11:00-14:00)

### Libraries

As we mentioned above, the LISZT SCHOOL's **main library** is located in the Main Building on Platz der Demokratie, and there is also a **musicology library** in the "Kaserne" (barracks) Am Horn. In case you can't find the music you're looking for here, you have a good chance of finding it in the public library ("**Stadtbücherei**") near Wielandplatz. Besides having a very good sheet music collection (on the top floor), this wonderful library has plenty of classical CDs which you can check out and a *superb classical LP collection* (which unfortunately very few people take advantage of because very few people have record players nowadays). There are also books, books and more books of all kinds. **The Anna Amalia Bibliothek**, our Main Building's next door neighbour, is practically unknown to students. This, the Central Library of German Classicism has a very extensive collection including books in many languages; if you can't find a book elsewhere, there's a good chance you'll find it there. The one disadvantage is that you can't browse; you have to know what you're looking for, find the book number in the catalogue and order it. Someone in the library will find it for you, and you can pick it up from a few hours to a day later. (Please note: due to a fire in 1995 the use of this library may be restricted).

The Bauhaus University also has several libraries. The main one is called the **Limona** and can be found at the end of the Schützengasse across from the

public library. Besides volumes on architecture and design, they also have books on various other topics and even some films.

The public library is open: Tues.-Fri. 13:00-19:00 and Sat. 10:00-13:00. Watch out! The LISZT SCHOOL's main library and the public library are closed on Mondays.

### Music Shops

Weimar has a music shop called "MusikHaus" situated in the *Geleitstraße* off Goetheplatz. Here you can buy or order sheet music, books and CDs as well as other things.

### Telephones

In order to get a telephone connection, you will probably have to deal with the Telecom people. The main office in Weimar ("T-Punkt") is located on the ground floor of the "Handelshaus" on Theaterplatz. They are famous for being inept. If you have any questions or problems, we recommend contacting the office in Erfurt directly.

If you have to call long-distance, the only reasonable solution is to use one of the calling codes provided by private companies (e.g. 01051); with these, your long-distance calls will be infinitely cheaper. See <http://www.billigertelefonieren.de> (Click left on the "Tagesübersicht.")

Due to the explosion of the mobile phone market, public telephones are becoming increasingly rare. Nonetheless, there are still a few, like the ones on the Markt and Schillerstraße. There are also phones on the ground floors of the Main Building and Horn. Some of the public telephone cubicles house coin telephones, some card and some both.

Tip: Germany's code is 0049  
In emergencies police 110  
Fire/ambulance 112

## Mail

The big dark red building with pillars on Goetheplatz is the Main Post Office. You can also buy stamps in the souvenir/tea shop on Brauhausgasse near Frauenplan.

## Medication

There are chemists dotted all around Weimar. The sign to look for is a large red "A" for "Apotheke." Here prescription drugs can be obtained. A "Drogerie" on the other hand, sells over the counter medications as well as useful household items of all kinds.

## Doctors/Hospital

If you have to go to a doctor, make sure you take your proof of health insurance; this is usually the first thing they ask for.

Weimar has a very large modern hospital called the **Klinikum** located conveniently for music students at the end of Merketalstraße. Should you fall ill during your stay, rest assured that there are plenty of specialists in Weimar. Don't forget your health insurance certificate!

## Business Hours

Stores in Weimar are generally open on weekdays from anywhere between 6:00 and 10:00 to around 18:00 or 19:00. Saturday hours are generally 8:00 to 12:00 or 14:00 and in the case of some supermarkets till 20:00. On Sundays everything is closed, with the exception of restaurants and the bakery on Schillerstraße across from Theaterplatz. So make sure you buy your groceries for Sunday in advance!

## Bratwurst



Weimar is famous for its culture and its "Bratwurst." The full name is "Thüringer Rostbratwurst," well-known in the state of Thuringia and the finest of which can probably be obtained in our very city. It is a juicy carnivorous experience. There are usually two or three "Bratwurst" stands on the Markt, but the best is supposed to be from a stand in front of the "Volkshochschule," on the street called Graben, which runs down the hill opposite the post office.

## Cinemas

There are two cinemas in Weimar. The first is the **Kommunales Kino im mon ami**, on Goetheplatz, a small, intimate art cinema popular with students. They often show international films of very high quality so run and get hold of the monthly program as soon as possible. There are also often thematic film series (Russian-Georgian film week, Greek film week, Fassbinder retrospective, etc.), as well as special events (conversations with the director, etc.). This is also a good place to see films in their original language with subtitles; although many of the films are dubbed into German.

The other cinema is **Cinestar**, located on Schützengasse. If you want to see the latest from Hollywood, this is your place. Films in the original language are also shown but usually quite late.

The dilapidated building with its punks, known as **Gerberstraße** and to be found on the street of the same name, also has regular film screenings. Also pay attention to films shown at the **Bauhaus University**, for e.g. weekly French and English films at the Language Centre.

## Smoking

If you are a smoker, you will be very happy in Germany. Here in the east, the idea of a non-smoking section in restaurants hasn't arrived yet. The premises belonging to the LISZT SCHOOL of Music are non-smoking buildings, but there is always a contingent of smokers who stand in front of the automatic doors. At the Bauhaus University, people still *smoke inside the buildings*.

## Concerts/Events

Weimar has an inexhaustible wealth of cultural events. If the regular student and faculty concerts at the LISZT SCHOOL of Music are not enough for you, go to the Tourist Information Office on the Markt for more information. (Tel. 03643/745-0 or <http://www.weimar.de>). Jazz enthusiasts should try **ACC** (near to the Schloss behind the Markt) or the **C-Keller** on Goetheplatz.

## Sports

The **Hochschulsportzentrum** (University Sports Centre) offers all kinds of wonderful possibilities, from swimming to table tennis, from aerobics to Tai Chi, from dance to rock climbing. Even juggling is available! Most of the classes are free, so take advantage of them! They tend to be attended more by Bauhaus-Uni than music students, but after sitting in a practice room all day, we could do with some exercise. The main sports hall is called "Falkenburg," a funny-looking GDR building with a track and soccer field in front of it. It can be reached from town on foot or by bus (stop Falkenburg) so for those of you living in Merketalstraße it is extremely handy...we only hope that after two hours of hard exercise that you can get back up the hill! You can register in the "Mensa" during the first or second week of classes; see the "Hochschulsport" pamphlet published every semester.

## Sper Müll



Twice a year, the residents of each street in Weimar throw out their old belongings that they don't need anymore. These old belongings are placed outside their homes, along the street, and are usually picked up the following morning by the City of Weimar. (We don't know where the things finally end up). This is called "Sperrmüll." It is a splendid opportunity for poor students who need furniture. Many a student has furnished his entire room from scratch from "Sperrmüll" alone. One can also often find interesting relics from the GDR. The pick-up dates are different for each street; they are published once a year in the *Rathauskurier*, published by the city and delivered free to most households (but not, to our knowledge, to student halls).

## Asian Grocery Store

If you are from Asia and are having difficulty adjusting to the German cuisine, there is a small Asian grocery store on Karl-Liebknecht-Straße (not far from the post-office). It is run by a very friendly Korean family.

## E-mail/Internet

What would the modern student do without e-mail/internet access? As a student of the LISZT SCHOOL, you get a free account (usually `firstname.lastname@hfm-weimar.de`). You can check your e-mail/use the internet at the newly finished building behind the Limona library on Schützengasse.

### **A word of conclusion**

We shall conclude our helpful advice here and trust your abilities to find your way in any areas we may not have covered. Brave soul, you are now on your own! If you have any further questions, feel free to ask a random person on the street; whilst he or she may not know the answer, you are more than likely to have an interesting conversation. We at the LISZT SCHOOL of Music Weimar would like to wish you a happy and successful stay in Weimar.

