

Philipps



Universität
Marburg

**WELCOME TO THE
UNIVERSITY OF MARBURG**

Information for International Researchers

Welcome to the University of Marburg

Information for
International Researchers



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Words of Welcome from the Lord Mayor of Marburg, Dr. Thomas Spies

Most cities have a university; Marburg is a university city. This small but distinct difference demonstrates how tightly the city and the University of Marburg are interwoven.

I am very happy that you have chosen Marburg as your place to teach and conduct research. Your knowledge, ideas, and perspectives will enrich our community. Many of you are not planning on staying here forever, yet I sincerely hope that – over the course of time – you will be able to change your perspective from “I conduct research here” to “I live here.”

The Welcome Center provides specialized assistance and personal advice on all topics that are important for your stay in Marburg.

It is the city's objective to assist you in the practical matters of everyday life such as housing, childcare, school, and voluntary work placement.

Guests of the university are guests of the city. I say to all of you: Welcome!

Yours,

Dr. Thomas Spies, Lord Mayor of Marburg

Words of Welcome from the President of the University of Marburg, Prof. Dr. Thomas Nauss

The University of Marburg stands for education, research, and the application of these to improve our world and our lives. This requires curiosity, freedom of mind, and the courage to tackle new challenges and forge ahead on novel academic paths.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our cosmopolitan, diverse, and international university community. Research and stimulating education alike thrive on meeting people and exchanging ideas. Even today, I invite you to seek out this kind of exchange with other people and feel welcome: in your work environment, seeing a painting in our art museum, enjoying a picnic in our own University Woods, taking a world tour at our Botanical Garden, playing music with our university orchestras, or joining our intramural sports teams to add some physical activity to the balance. And, of course, taking advantage of the myriad other opportunities offered by our university and university city.

For your questions about research funding or teaching, you can contact our Research Funding Office, our Service Center for Digitally Supported Research, or our upcoming Workshop for Digitally Supported Teaching – among others. For all other questions, the doors to the Welcome Center are open to you. The staff at the Welcome Center will help you with any questions you may have about your arrival or stay in Marburg. On that note, we would like to offer our special thanks to the City of Marburg, which is very committed to supporting the work of the Welcome Center to help make your path to University of Marburg as smooth and free of bureaucracy as possible.

We – the University of Marburg and the City of Marburg – would like to jointly wish you a warm welcome!

Sincerely Yours,

Prof. Dr. Thomas Nauss, President of the University of Marburg



1



The University of Marburg

1.1 The University of Marburg

“Other cities have a university – Marburg is one.”

You will quickly realize how appropriate this motto is for the city of Marburg with its close connection to the University of Marburg. The university is spread over 300 buildings at over 100 locations across the city. With more than 4,000 employees, including 362 professors and about 2,500 academic staff, it is one of the city's largest employers. In a city of 75,000 residents, roughly 22,000 students are enrolled at the University of Marburg.

With the creation of the university in 1527, Landgrave Philipp the Magnanimous of Hesse laid the foundations for an international and cosmopolitan university offering a wide range of subjects and cutting-edge interdisciplinary research, attracting students and researchers from across the globe. From the Brothers Grimm and Mikhail Lomonosov to the first winner of the Nobel Prize in Medicine, Emil von Behring: The alumni gallery of the University of Marburg is not only long but also international. The University of Marburg's leading position in research and teaching, prominent accolades and prizes, and academic exchanges that have always crossed borders and subjects proves the university's claim to offer the best possible funding and research environment at the highest international level for its researchers from Germany and abroad.

The University of Marburg subscribes to the classic university model, providing a broadly diverse and varied research environment among its sixteen departments. Numerous interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research projects set the stage for attractive and future-oriented research opportunities for its researchers. The largest department is the School of Medicine, but the Humanities, Natural Sciences, and numerous small departments, from Ancient Oriental Studies to Celtic Studies, are integral to the University of Marburg's character as well.

By committing to the classic university model with a wide spectrum of subjects, the University of Marburg is convinced that advancements in knowledge will emerge not only within individual disciplines but also through the thematic and methodological exchange among disciplines and their academic cultures. The University of Marburg therefore aims to ensure the best possible conditions for excellent research and teaching in each department and school as well as to create excellent conditions for ongoing interdisciplinary cooperation.



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→ E-mail: info@uni-marburg.de

History of the University of Marburg

→ www.uni-marburg.de/en/university/about

1.2 Research Profile, Research Focus, Top-Level Funding

As the oldest and most tradition-steeped university in Hesse, the University of Marburg combines cutting-edge research with exemplary support for early-stage researchers and attractive degree programs, all in a scenic region. Ranked among the leading research institutions in Hesse, its academic foci are infection and tumor research, synthetic microbiology, materials science, cognitive and applied neuroscience, language dynamics, biodiversity and climate, and peace and conflict studies.

Through cooperation across departmental boundaries, numerous interdisciplinary groups have developed which show great success for early-stage researchers in the area of research and development. These are demonstrated by top positions in the German national performance rankings, the high level of third-party funding, and reputation as well as by numerous accolades for Marburg scholars, including 13 DFG Leib-

niz Prize winners and two European Research Council Grant recipients. In addition, the number of group research projects at the University of Marburg has grown in recent years, some completed by the university alone and others in close cooperation with partners. Meanwhile, from the social sciences to medicine, nearly all major academic fields have been integrated into research networks.

Cutting-edge research at the University of Marburg is demonstrated by numerous excellent, cross-regional and internationally established research and training consortia and academic research centers. The long list of collaborative research centers, DFG research groups, and research centers funded by the LOEWE Hesse Excellence Programs attests to the excellent research achievements by scholars from Marburg and their colleagues around the world.

1.3 Research Campus of Central Hessen

The University of Marburg stands out for the strength and diversity of its research and interdisciplinary profile. Individual academic achievements and collaborative research projects are equally important in this regard. Accordingly, the University of Marburg has been cooperating with its partners in Central Hessen, Justus Liebig University Giessen and THM (Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen – University of Applied Sciences), for over twenty years. In 2016, the three partners founded the Research Campus of Central Hessen (Forschungscampus Mittelhessen, or FCMH for short) as a joint institution linking two traditional comprehensive universities and their unique profiles with a university of applied sciences and its strong focus on engineering. With the FCMH, the universities are developing and strengthening the proven and successful networks they have established together to promote top research, train early-stage researchers, and expand their joint research infrastructure

This cooperation allows for the further development of Marburg's research projects with particularly reliable partners over the medium and long terms. The Research Campus of Central Hessen pools the strengths of these three universities to maximize their potential. In this



way, they strive to become even more successful in top international research and in the promotion of excellent early-stage researchers. Researchers at all career levels benefit from FCMH networks and partners:

- FCMH brings researchers at the three universities together to develop and support new joint research projects.
- It provides a platform to showcase the research successes of the FCMH universities.
- It fosters the transfer of knowledge with partners in industry, business, and public life.
- It creates synergy effects among the universities by establishing innovative and sustainable structures.
- It provides an excellent training environment for early-stage researchers.

The Research Campus of Central Hessen is an engine for progress and innovation in the region: FCMH consists of thousands of researchers who can jointly enhance and exploit the synergistic potential of their complementary expertise, shape the future, advance cutting-edge research, and tackle the big questions of our time – from understanding the brain to developing power sources of the future.

Research at a glance:

→ www.uni-marburg.de/en/research



Research Campus of Central Hessen
Senckenbergstr. 3
35390 Giessen

→ Tel.: +49 (0) 641 / 991 64 81

→ E-mail: geschaefsstelle-fcmh@fcmh.de

→ www.fcmh.de/en



1.4 Support for Early-Stage Researchers

Early-stage researchers are of great importance to the University of Marburg. They are supported in a number of ways, with doctoral candidates, postdocs, and habilitation candidates being the focus of this support. Their comprehensive qualification forms the basis for future successful research performance in all academic disciplines. In order to do justice to the various intentions and requirements of students at various points in their education, the University of Marburg offers its early-stage researchers advisory services regarding funding, study, and research trips, extracurricular continuing educational opportunities, certification programs, networking opportunities and mentoring as well as opportunities for mobility and support with individual internationalization plans. The university sets up a productive environment for young talent with a range of graduate programs and structured doctoral programs. Most importantly, early-stage researchers can find support for all of the important queries regarding their individual qualification paths.

1.5 International Networking

The University of Marburg is a cosmopolitan, internationally performing university that cooperates with universities and research institutes around the globe in numerous active partnerships, in both research and teaching. Members from all departments participate in international research networks and cultivate an intensive international exchange. The highest level of research knows no national borders. Networks have been created across the whole European Union and beyond, especially in the field of medicine, with a special research focus on tumor and inflammation research as well as infection biology in close conjunction with cell biology. For decades, physicists and mathematicians have cooperated with scholars from both the United States and Russia. Members of the Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies (CNMS) carry out research together with colleagues from countries in the Arab region.

The University of Marburg is a favored destination for international researchers: around fifteen fellows from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation conduct research every year at the University of Marburg, and about a quarter of the university's doctoral

candidates come from abroad. The University of Marburg's international profile includes roughly 100 cooperation agreements outside of Europe and about 900 Erasmus+ Inter-Institutional Agreements with over 240 European universities.

1.6 Family-Friendly University

The University of Marburg attaches great importance to creating family-friendly conditions for students and employees and demonstrates a long-standing commitment in this area. Family Services is an advisory body and point of contact for family-oriented activities at the university. The University of Marburg is a certified family-friendly university by the state of Hesse. This recognition allows the further strengthening of the development of a family-friendly way of doing research, with a focus on regional networking.



Gütesiegel
Familienfreundliche
Hochschule
Land Hessen

TIP

Welcome Center
Contact the University of Marburg
Welcome Center in time.
→ [www.uni-marburg.de/en/
international](http://www.uni-marburg.de/en/international)





Welcome to Marburg

Welcome to Marburg

We are delighted to welcome you to the university city of Marburg with its historic old town nestled among the river Lahn, the castle, and the attractive surrounding countryside.

The Russian poet Boris Pasternak, who spent a semester in Marburg in 1912, described the town on the river Lahn as “not just a town, but a medieval fairy-tale.” The streets and winding alleys of the *Oberstadt* (upper city), where the famous Brothers Grimm once lived, bring Marburg’s medieval past alive. The name *Oberstadt* is particularly apt: the street leads up a steep hillside to the historic market square, and the path continues up many steps to the Landgrave Castle at its peak. Standing by the castle, you can enjoy magnificent views of the historic downtown, the Lahn valley, and the city’s central landmark – the early gothic church of St. Elizabeth’s.

You will soon notice that Marburg and the University of Marburg are closely linked with one another. The university buildings are located all over the city, and around 22,000 students account for a quarter of the population, significantly shaping the cityscape. As a result, the University of Marburg is the largest employer in the region, followed by the Giessen and Marburg University Hospital (*Universitätsklinikum Giessen und Marburg*) and pharmaceutical company CSL Behring GmbH.

Insider Info

For more information about Marburg and current events, visit:

- ➔ www.marburg.de
- ➔ www.marburg-tourismus.de





Newcomers' Day @ Mittelhessen

"Newcomers' Day @..." is a series of events for professionals and managers who have recently moved to the Central Hesse region. If you have recently started a job in Central Hesse, the "Newcomers Day @..." is a quick and easy way to learn about the region and also meet other newcomers to Central Hesse.

→ <https://newcomers.mittelhessen.eu>
(German)

Marburg is a city with international flair. People from more than 120 countries live in this cosmopolitan university city, characterized by respect and appreciation. Marburg is a safe city valued for its great inner-city mobility: most routes can be covered either on foot or by bike, or via the well-developed public transportation system. With its central location, the city is an ideal starting point for travel both in Germany and across Europe. Both German and international guests, in particular, appreciate the excellent train connections, with the international airport in Frankfurt am Main only one hour away.

Marburg is a family-friendly community. Numerous daycare facilities for toddlers and children, primary and secondary schools, continuing educational institutions, and advisory offices provide an ideal infrastructure for young families.

2.1 St. Elizabeth's Church, Landgrave's Castle



The St. Elizabeth's Church is not only Marburg's most famous building but also a major public attraction that fascinates visitors from all over the world. Construction of the early gothic hall church began in the same year that Elizabeth of Thuringia was canonized (1235). The church which was erected by the Teutonic Order over her grave, and Saint Elizabeth of Thuringia became one of the most important pilgrimage sites of the late Middle Ages. To this day, this Protestant church is an extraordinary monument of sacred architecture.



The Landgrave's Castle is one of the main attractions among the sights in Marburg. The oldest parts of the building visible from the outside date back to the 13th century. The first Landgrave, Heinrich I of Hesse, grandson of Saint Elizabeth, built his residence here. The most recent building is the Wilhelm's Tract (*Wilhelmsbau*), whose foundation stone was laid in 1493. Visitors to the castle can gain exciting historical insights in the Prince's Hall and west wing of the castle as well as the chapel through encounters with cultural history exhibits and the original architecture, including the remains of earlier castle structures from the ninth and tenth centuries.





2.3 Historic Old Town

Charming alleyways and winding steps, half-timbered houses with state-of-the-art renovation, and venerable churches – the charm of Marburg's old town invites you to take a stroll, stay for a while, and enjoy. You will come across countless documents and marks that have been left behind everywhere by well-known names such as the Brothers Grimm, Martin Luther, or Nobel Prize winner Emil von Behring.

Free-time activities in Marburg and its surrounding areas

While Marburg's past enthralls, the city's present also attracts visitors with its wide variety of cultural activities. Thanks to various museums, art exhibitions, cinemas, theaters, and cultural centers, Marburg has a lot to offer for all tastes. There are also several green spaces such as the scenic old botanical garden located in the city center or the extensive Castle Park with its diverse rose garden – great for enjoying a summer day. If you are looking for a recreational activity, you can visit the sport and leisure swimming pool AquaMar, the nearby swimming lake in Niederweimar, the climbing park in the Marburg City Woods, or rent a boat for a trip on the river Lahn.



Marburg, Facts and Figures

(as of: October 2022)

Federal State: Hessen

County: Marburg-Biedenkopf

Administrative District: Giessen

Population: 75.000

Area: 124 square kilometers

Geographical location

Centrally located in Mittelhessen; one hour away from the urban center Rhine-Main region with its international airport Frankfurt/Main

Insider Info

The bell in the Renaissance gable of the Rathaus (Town Hall) is also something of a Marburg landmark. Why not walk around there on the hour and hear it for yourself?



University Facilities and Institutions



3.1 Welcome Center

The Welcome Center is a central service point at the University of Marburg and provides information, advice, and support for international scholars and their families. In this capacity, it offers specific support in all nonacademic matters in preparation of your stay, after your arrival in Marburg, and for your departure.

Examples of services offered by the Welcome Center:

- Internet portal in German and English
- Support for finding accommodation
- Checklists for preparing your stay and your first days after arrival
- Advice on formalities (residence permit, registration, health insurance)
- Helping you find day care or a school for your children
- Excursions and events for international scholars and their families

On our website, you will find regularly updated information and links that will help you to organize your stay and manage everyday life. We also post information on current events and offers.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Welcome Center if you have any questions, wishes, or suggestions. You can reach us by e-mail, telephone, or in person. The Welcome Center at the University of Marburg was one of the award winners of the "Welcome Centers for Internationally Mobile Researchers" competition sponsored by the Humboldt Foundation, the Deutsche Telekom Foundation, and the Donors' Association for the Promotion of Humanities and Sciences in Germany (*Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft*).

The Welcome Center at the University of Marburg is a member of the German and European network EURAXESS. National EURAXESS Centers offer professional counselling for visiting researchers at their institutions. They provide information about funding opportunities, residence permits, social security, and taxation and as well as other questions related to the mobility of international researchers.

Welcome Center
F|05, Deutschhausstr. 11+13
35037 Marburg

→ Tel.: +49 (0) 6421 28-24954

→ E-mail: welcome@uni-marburg.de

→ www.uni-marburg.de/en/international/from-abroad/faculty/mobile-researchers



→ www.euraxess.de

3.2 Language Center

The Language Center at the University of Marburg is a service of the university. It offers university members a diverse, research-based course program, currently including eight languages: German as a foreign language, English, French, Italian, Russian, Spanish, Chinese, and Japanese. The courses offered range from beginner courses to higher-level differentiated courses in languages for specific purposes. Most classes run during the semester and are held once or twice a week.

For doctoral students and postdocs from abroad without any prior knowledge of German, the Language Center in cooperation with the Department of International Affairs and Family Services offers a semester-long beginner course in German every semester.

As an alternative or supplement to the language courses, a multimedia self-study center with a large selection of language-learning materials is available to all university members free of charge. With its expert, multilingual team, the self-study center will let you study at your own pace, optionally with the help of level-specific self-study plans. Introductory events and short workshops in several languages provide support and advice. As a further opportunity to improve your foreign language skills at your own initiative, the Language Center can help you find a native speaker of your target language. To support your tandem arrangement, the tandem team offers you individual consultation, workshops, and a range of tandem materials with practice-oriented activities.

3.3 University Library

The University Library (*Universitätsbibliothek*) at Marburg consists of the Central University Library and fourteen departmental libraries located all over the city, offering specialized information for their respective subjects. The Central University Library offers an impressive collection of electronic media and digital collections as well as a large and freely accessible collection of study and research literature. In addition, the library provides a multitude of services that include an information desk and an academic skills service,

workspaces for both individual and group study, a media center where staff and students can use or borrow multimedia equipment, lounge areas, and a cafeteria. Thanks to its long hours of operation, its wide range of academic literature, and its high-quality working environment and technology, the library offers an attractive learning and research environment of the highest standard. We are looking forward to welcoming you to our library!

Language Center

B|03, Biegenstraße 12

35032 Marburg

→ Tel.: +49 (0) 6421 28-21325

→ E-mail: sz@staff.uni-marburg.de

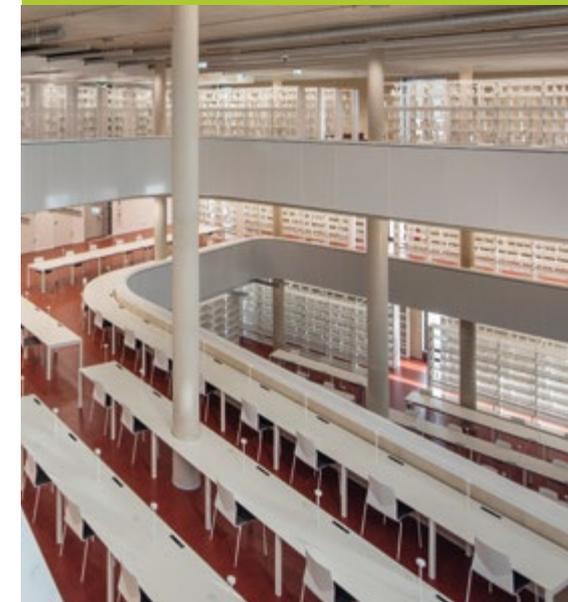
→ www.uni-marburg.de/en/language-center

Discover the University Library:

→ www.uni-marburg.de/en/ub

A list of all departmental libraries can be viewed at:

→ www.uni-marburg.de/en/ub/about-us/contact





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 → E-mail: mara@uni-marburg.de
 → www.uni-marburg.de/en/mara

3.4 MARburg University Research Academy (MARA)

Marburg University Research Academy (MARA) provides a common framework to support junior scholars from the beginning of their doctoral work until they have established themselves within or outside of academia. The training opportunities MARA offers are designed to support junior scholars from Germany and abroad in developing their skills in research, leadership, and

management, in successfully securing third party funding, and in advancing their careers. In various program areas, MARA offers targeted support for doctoral candidates and postdoctoral scholars. MARA's opportunities range from specific continuing-education courses through financial assistance and consulting to opportunities for interdisciplinary networking.

TIP

“New to the University of Marburg” Presentation

Twice a year, the Department of Staff Development offers the “New to the University of Marburg” information session. The event covers important information of interest to new employees, for example working conditions and support opportunities and balancing family and work.

3.5 Department of Teaching Development and Higher Education Didactics

The Department of Teaching Development and Higher Education Didactics (or “HD” for short) is a support team for the development and support of teaching and learning at the University of Marburg.

The HD supports instructors and tutors at the University of Marburg with varied opportunities to further

develop their individual teaching skills and practices, for example through thematic workshops, individual consultation, teaching feedback, and coaching. The HD offers two qualification programs, one for instructors and one for tutors, and certificates can be earned in both that can serve as evidence for later appointments.

3.6 Staff Development

In coordination with the MARburg University Research Academy (MARA), the Department of Staff Development (*Referat für Personalentwicklung*) offers managers in science, administration, and technology opportunities for support in fulfilling their roles and tasks. This includes advanced training and individual consultations on topics related to everyday management.

For all employees, the Department of Staff Development offers a wide range of continuing-education and training opportunities to support the development of social, personal, and professional/methodological

skills. Fostering a good working atmosphere is very important to the University of Marburg. For this reason, annual reviews have been conducted since 2010 between employees and their managers. The Department of Staff Development also supports employees in their career development by promoting in-service training and individual consultations.



Department of Teaching Development and Higher Education Didactics (HD)

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 → Tel.: +49 (0) 6421 28-26369
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 → www.uni-marburg.de/de/universitaet/administration/verwaltung/dezernat3/dez3b/hochschuldidaktik (German)

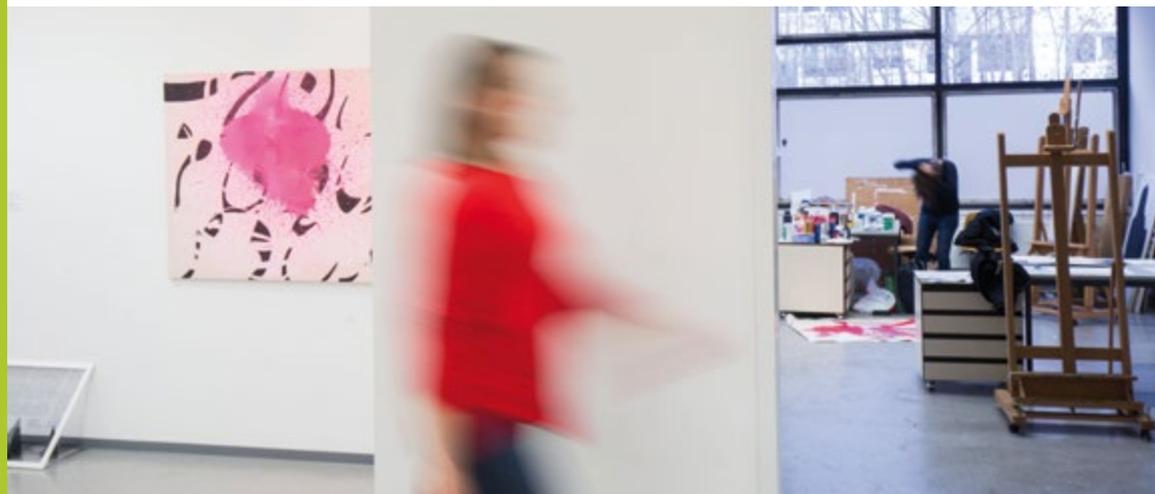
Staff Development

B|10, Biegenstr. 9
 35032 Marburg
 → Tel.: +49 (0) 6421 28-26145
 → E-mail: personalentwicklung@uni-marburg.de
 → www.uni-marburg.de/personalentwicklung (German)

3.7 Collections and Museums

The more than thirty scientific collections in Marburg are among the special treasures at the University of Marburg. Their great variety enriches teaching, gives rise to innovative questions and leads to new research results. In addition, the museums and collections of the university make an important contribution to communicating scientific research questions and results to society. The study of holdings from colonial contexts has been the focus of research and teaching projects at the University of Marburg for a long time. Several museums are a part of the university.

The Art Museum downtown is not only housed in a building representative of the art deco period but also exhibits important works from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries along with revolving current exhibits. The Chemikum Marburg hands-on lab has particular importance in communicating scientific findings to society. Interested visitors can run their own experiments there with expert guidance and supervision.



- www.uni-marburg.de/en
- > University
- > Institutions
- > Museums and Public Collections

University Museums of Arts and Cultural History

University Museum of Arts

- B|11, Biegenstr. 11
- 35037 Marburg
- Tel.: +49 (0) 6421 28-22355
- E-mail: museum@uni-marburg.de

University Museum of Cultural History

- S|01 Landgrafenschloss
- Schloss 1
- 35037 Marburg
- Tel.: +49 (0) 6421 28-25871
- E-mail: museum@uni-marburg.de

Chemikum Marburg

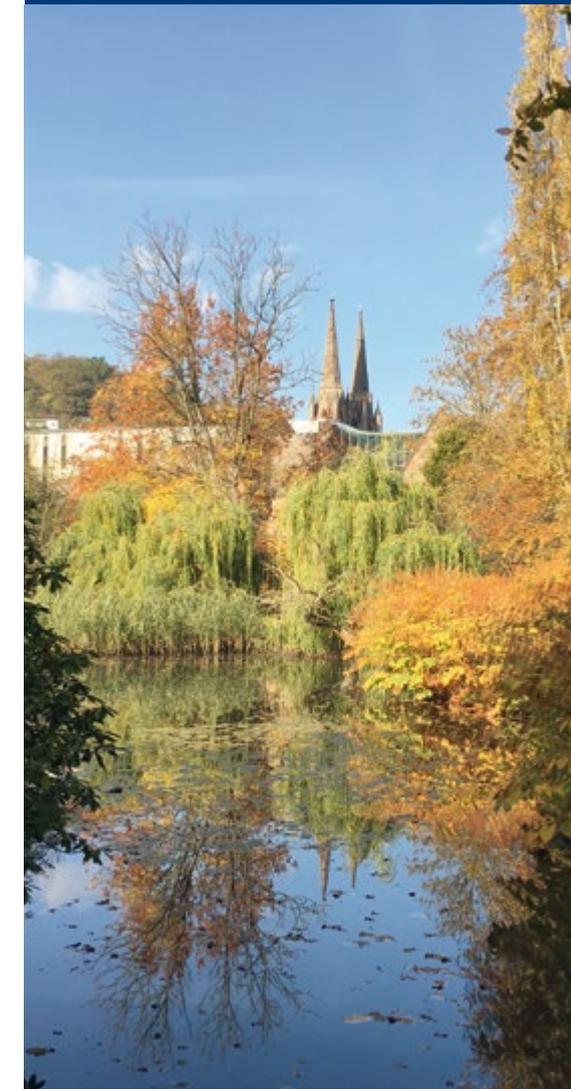
- N|01, Bahnhofstr. 7
- 35037 Marburg
- Tel.: +49 (0) 6421 28-25252
- E-mail: info@chemikum-marburg.de

3.8 Botanical Gardens

The Botanical Gardens at the University of Marburg demonstrate their importance for science and research by hosting regular events and attractions for visitors of all ages. The Old Botanical Garden is a popular destination for locals, university staff, students, and visitors from elsewhere. It has been located in the same spot for nearly 200 years. In the New Botanical Garden, there is a Green School (*Grüne Schule*), a green classroom where children and young people can take part in events tailored to their age group that introduces them to the world of botany.

For information on regular events at the Botanical Garden, visit:

- www.uni-marburg.de/botgart (German)





Work and Research at the University

4.1 Employment Contract or Appointment

Academic employees at universities enter employment contracts with the university that specify the salary scale and conditions of employment. In Germany, however, many professors and academic staff are appointed as public servants. Public servant salaries are laid out by the German Federal Salaries Act (*Bundesbesoldungsgesetz*, law governing the salaries of public servants) and the corresponding regulations of the respective German state. The salary scale for professors is called "W." In most states, academic staff are paid according to a collective pay agreement known as the "TV-L."

You will have to sign your employment contract before you officially start working. Your institute or the human resources department will notify you in advance which forms and documents have to be submitted to draw up the contract. As an employee, you will usually be required to pay tax and social security contributions.

Human Resources Department

The Human Resources Department at the University of Marburg is located in the Administrative Building in Biegenstrasse 10.

- www.uni-marburg.de/en
- > University
- > Contact Human Resources Department

Insider Info

What do scholars earn in Germany?

For information on collective pay agreements and salary scales, visit:

- www.academics.com
- > Salaries in science and research in Germany
- www.oeffentlicher-dienst.info (German)
- www.hochschulverband.de/en

EURAXESS Germany
 → www.euraxess.de
 > Jobs and Funding



DAAD Scholarship Database
 → www.funding-guide.de

DAAD

Research in Germany:
 → www.research-in-germany.org

**Research in
Germany**



Land of Ideas

www.research-in-germany.de

4.2 Visiting Fellowships

If an institute invites you to work at the university as a fellow, you will become a member of the university for the duration of your stay, entitled to make use of the facilities and opportunities offered by the university. As such, you will be subject to the terms and regulations of your host institute. We recommend that you make clear arrangements with your academic host at the earliest opportunity regarding the use of equipment and laboratories, the practical cooperation with other members of the academic and technical staff, if applicable, at the institute. Please note that fellows and visiting researchers are not insured by the university. You will have to take out your own health insurance policy. In addition, we recommend that you take out accident and third-party liability insurance. Many insurance companies offer appropriate insurance packages.

Insider Info

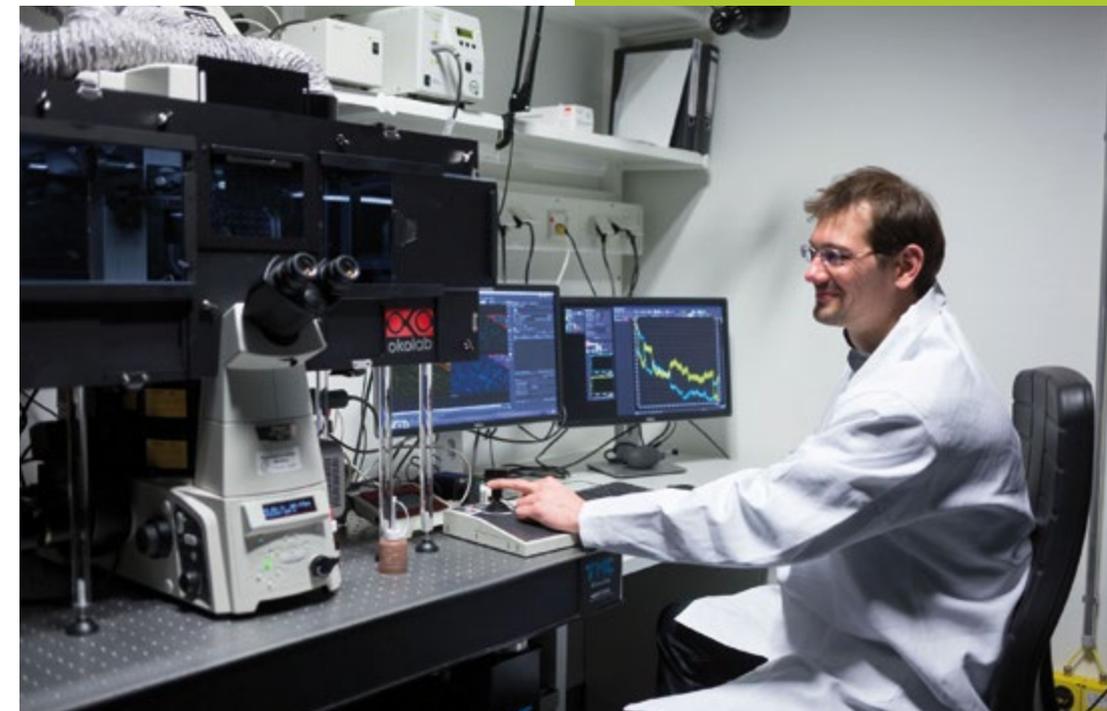
Search for research funding with ELFI

ELFI is a service point for electronic research funding information in the German-speaking world. ELFI maintains a database that collates and organizes information on research funding.

→ www.elfi.info/e_index.php

Financing and funding research visits in Germany

There are a number of funding programs for foreign researchers who want to conduct research in Germany as well as for German researchers who want to return to Germany after spending an extended period abroad. If you are interested in these programs, EURAXESS Germany maintains a comprehensive database containing more than 100 programs offered by funding organizations in Germany. You can also find funding programs for students, postgraduates, and postdocs in the scholarship database run by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The "Research in Germany" portal is an information platform that gives a very good overview of the research and funding opportunities in Germany.





BRING YOUR FAMILY

5.1 Childcare

Day care and nurseries

If your children will be accompanying you during your research period in Germany, you are strongly advised to inform yourself about childcare facilities as soon as possible and, if necessary, organize a childcare placement in Germany from your home country. There are a large number of childcare spots available in the city of Marburg. Upon completing their first year of life until they are enrolled in school, all children have a legal right to receive adequate care in a nursery or a day care center. Please note that there is no entitlement to full-time care.

- From the age of six-months, children can be cared for (mostly full-time) in nurseries.
- Children from ages 2–3 are cared for in a day care or kindergarten until they go to school. They are cared for either in the morning or for the entire day.
- In Marburg there are four childcare facilities that offer places specifically for children of members of the University of Marburg.

The cost of childcare varies depending on the service (with or without lunch; care for children under age 3).

Child caregivers

Child caregivers offer individual and flexible care. They typically care for a number of children in their own home. Child caregivers require training and an official care license from the relevant Department of Children's and Young Peoples' Affairs (*Jugendamt*).

Registration for childcare in Marburg

Little Bird is a portal where you can register for a childcare place in Marburg. All childcare institutions and child caregivers in Marburg are listed on Little Bird.

On-site in Marburg: Childcare
Registration at Little Bird
→ <https://portal.little-bird.de/marburg>



Additional information on childcare:
Family Guide from the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women, and Youth:
→ www.familienportal.de



On-site in Marburg: Schools

The City of Marburg offers a wide range of public schools. In total, there are 23 schools at various locations. Some schools in Marburg offer bilingual instruction in specific subjects, as well as intensive and additional courses in German as a foreign language for schoolchildren. You can find a list of all the schools in Marburg on the City of Marburg website:

→ www.marburg.de
 > Leben in Marburg > Rund um Schule

The state education authority for the Marburg-Biedenkopf region and the City of Marburg can advise teachers, parents, and schoolchildren regarding school life. The education authority also has an admissions and advice center (ABZ), a point of contact for schoolchildren with no or limited knowledge of German who move to the Marburg-Biedenkopf area from abroad.

→ www.schulaemter.hessen.de/standorte/marburg (German)

Infrastructure for families at the University of Marburg

The compatibility of family and studying or work is important to the University of Marburg. For this reason, the University of Marburg provides infrastructure for families that is under continuous development. Numerous parent/child rooms, breastfeeding rooms, and spaces to change diapers all over the different departments and institutions of the university offer individual retreats for researchers and students with children. The University of Marburg runs its own vacation childcare program six weeks a year during school holidays and offers a babysitter exchange as well as a free additional childcare for all members of the university who require childcare outside of the regular care due to their work.

TIP:**Vacation childcare**

The University of Marburg offers vacation childcare for schoolchildren (ages 6 to 12) of members of the university. Please visit our family services website for more information:
 → www.uni-marburg.de/familien-service (German)

5.2 Schools

All children living in Germany are required to attend school between the ages of 6 and 15. The first stage of school is called *Grundschule* (Years 1–4). After this, there is a choice between three different types of school:

- *Hauptschule*, which continues until Year 9 or 10 and leads to a general school diploma, called *Hauptschulabschluss*;
- *Realschule*, which continues until Year 10 and culminates in an intermediate school diploma, known as *Realschulabschluss*;
- *Gymnasium*, which continues until Year 12 and leads to the senior school diploma, called *Abitur*, which is also the entrance qualification for higher education.

Apart from these, there is also the *Gesamtschule*, a comprehensive school combining the three types of school under one roof where students are divided into groups according to their performance.

State-run schools in Germany are free of charge. However, you will have to pay for some of the books and teaching material as well as for excursions. There are only a few fee-based private or international schools. The local education authority (*Schulamt*) can provide information on the situation in your area. You usually decide which school to enroll in after a visit and an interview with the principal. Depending on the German state, the school year normally begins after the summer holidays between July and September.

On-site in Marburg:

Steinmühle Bilingual Primary School

The Steinmühle private school has established a bilingual primary school at the start of the 2019/20 school year. It serves as a foundation for an international school branch that will be expanded to Year 10 until the 2027/28 school year. More information:

→ www.steinemuehle.de/steinmuehle-bilingual-primary-school-english-version

University of Marburg staff will be able to apply for a reserved place at the Steinmühle bilingual primary school. The respectively applicable school fees must be paid by the parents. Please contact international@uni-marburg.de to find out more about the application procedure.

Additional information on the German school system:

EURAXESS Germany:
 → www.euraxess.de

German Education Server:
 → www.eduserver.de

Additional information on child allowance:
 Bundesagentur für Arbeit:
 → www.arbeitsagentur.de/en/welcome
 EURAXESS:
 → www.euraxess.de
 > Information and Assistance
 > Family

In Marburg:

Application for child allowance

In order to apply for child allowance you need to contact the Family Office (*Familienkasse*) for Hesse located in Bad Hersfeld.

Familienkasse Bad Hersfeld

Vitalisstraße 1
 36251 Bad Hersfeld
 → Tel.: 0800 4 5555 30
 → E-mail: Familienkasse-Hessen@arbeitsagentur.de



5.3 Benefits for Families

Child allowance

Parents are eligible to apply for child allowance (*Kindergeld*) for children up to at least age 18. Under certain circumstances, foreign parents are also entitled to child allowance. Child allowance is usually paid when the applicant is domiciled or a habitual resident in Germany. Applications must be made in writing to the local Family Office (*Familienkasse*).

Parental allowance

Parental allowance compensates for loss of income following the birth of a child. After deducting taxes, social security payments, and tax allowances, it amounts to 65–67% of the average monthly income available prior to birth. From 1 January 2015 onward, a child's parents may claim parental allowance in this form as Basic Parental Allowance (*Basiselterngeld*) for a period of up to 14 months. The child's parents can distribute this eligibility period among themselves as they wish. One parent may claim parental allowance for a maximum of 12 months; this period is extended by two further months if the parent's partner is also involved in caring for the child for at least two months.

Eligibility:

Parents are eligible for parental allowance if they

- care for and educate their children themselves after birth,
- are not employed for more than 30 hours per week,
- live together with their children in one household and are a resident or have their habitual place of residence in Germany.

Application and deadlines:

Application for parental allowance (*Elterngeld*) must be made in writing to the office responsible for parental allowance in your state.

Additional information on parental allowance:
 Federal Office for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women, and Youth:
 → www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj

In Marburg:

Applying for parental allowance:

For those living in Marburg, the authority responsible for parental allowance is the Hessisches Amt für Versorgung und Soziales in Giessen.

Hessisches Amt für Versorgung und Soziales

Südanlage 14 A
 35390 Gießen
 → Tel.: +49 (0) 0641 / 79 36 0
 → E-mail: postmaster@havs-gie.hessen.de
 → www.rp-giessen.hessen.de (German)



5.4 Employment Opportunities for Partners

Employment law regulations

If you are accompanying your spouse to Germany and intend to search for a job, please take note of the employment law regulations. Inquire at the German foreign mission or your local Immigration Office (*Ausländerbehörde*) whether you are eligible to engage in paid employment and what documents may be required to be submitted for the application.

Job offers

You will find job offers in the weekend editions of newspapers, online, or through the employment agencies that are part of the Federal Employment Agency (*Bundesagentur für Arbeit*).

Job offers and useful information for anyone wishing to take advantage of the free movement of labor can be found at EURES – The European Job Mobility Portal. EURES staff work at the job centers in the local employment agencies in Germany.

Dual career services

Family Services at the University of Marburg supports academically qualified partners of newly appointed professors, postdocs as well as executives with the job search if they lose their jobs due to the transfer of their partner to the University of Marburg. For this purpose the service institution maintains intensive cooperation with various authorities in the region.

Dual career services

→ www.uni-marburg.de/familienservice/dualcareer (German)

Information and advice:

EURES – The European Job Mobility Portal:

→ www.ec.europa.eu/eures

Federal Employment Agency:

→ www.arbeitsagentur.de/en/welcome

Useful online job portals:

→ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs>

→ www.academics.com

Insider Info:

Job offers at the University of Marburg:
→ www.uni-marburg.de/en
> Job Opportunities



Living in Marburg

6.1 Accommodation in Marburg

The University of Marburg offers two guesthouses for visiting scholars and their families. The guesthouse in the Old Botanical Garden is designated for visits lasting a few weeks. This centrally located guesthouse has seven single bedrooms and three double bedrooms. The guesthouse on Hansenhauser Weg is designed to accommodate guests for up to three years and is the best option for scholars with families. There are separate apartments that are available only to postdocs and scholars with comparable qualifications and their families. In case there are no available apartments in the guesthouse for the duration of your stay in Marburg, the Welcome Center will be happy to assist you with finding private accommodation. We recommend that you start looking for accommodation in Marburg for you and your family as soon as possible, preferably several months prior to your visit.



Guesthouse administration
B|03, Biegenstraße 12
35037 Marburg

→ Tel.: +49 (0) 64 21 / 28 -261 10
→ E-mail: gaestehaeuser@verwaltung.uni-marburg.de

Searching for accommodation in Marburg:
the following website may be useful:

→ www.op-marburg.de (German)
→ www.marbuch-verlag.de (German)
→ <https://studentenwerk-marburg.de/en>
> Living > Private Room Exchange



6.2 Health Care in Marburg

Health care in the city of Marburg is provided by a tight network of general practitioners and specialists from almost all disciplines, such as ophthalmology, orthopedics, gynecology, and obstetrics. Additionally, in the Lahnberge area, there is the University Hospital of Giessen and Marburg (UKGM). Other private clinics and medical centers can be found right in town. The health care services is topped off by a wide range of counselling services, such as family or psychosocial counselling. Opening hours at doctor's offices vary considerably. On weekends, they are generally closed, but emergency and on-call services are always available. Marburg's Healthy City (*Gesunde Stadt*) project aims to optimize health care for Marburg's residents through preventative measures, improved care structures, series of events on-location events, and the consideration of health issues in all areas of life.

Costs of medical treatment and health insurance

In Germany, the costs of medical treatment, a hospital stay, or medication are generally covered by health insurance companies, except for the patient share. For this reason, international researchers and accompanying family members are required to have adequate health insurance coverage for the entire duration of their stay in Germany. In Germany, there is statutory and private health insurance. If you are employed as a worker, you are required in principal to have statutory health insurance for yourself, up to a specific level of income. Unlike private insurance, statutory health insurance companies settle any costs that arise directly with the doctor or the hospital. You must also always present your health insurance card before treatment. If you are accompanied in Germany by your spouse and/or children, they can normally be added to your health insurance plan at no additional cost (family insurance).

EU, EEA, and Swiss citizens

The following applies to citizens from member states of the European Union as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland: if you are voluntarily or compulsorily insured in your home country, you can make use of health care services in other EU countries as well as in Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland for short stays and claim the costs from your health insurance company. For long-term stays that exceed a vacation visit, business trip, or conference attendance, please note the following: If you have statutory health insurance, it is possible to register yourself with a German insurance company with support from your home insurance company. You will receive the same services as any member of a German health insurance company. The German health insurance company will then invoice your insurance company in your home country.

Residence with a scholarship

If you come to Germany with a scholarship or if you are self-financed, you must usually arrange for private health insurance.

If you have arranged private health insurance, initially you will usually have to pay the bills for treatment costs and medication yourself and subsequently file for reimbursement from the insurance provider. Take note of the policy conditions that specify whether the insurance company will reimburse them and how much of the cost. Depending on the insurance tariff, specific treatments are often exempt from reimbursement, or a so-called "excess" is defined, which means that you must pay part of the medical bill yourself. Please note that preexisting conditions are not covered by private health insurance in Germany, and the patient must cover the costs her- or himself.

Find out about the German health insurance system:
 → www.dsv-europa.de/en/news.html



6.3 Mobility and Transport in Marburg

The local public transport system in Marburg is very well developed. You can reach most destinations quickly and easily by bus. If you are coming to Marburg for a longer period, it is worth buying discounted weekly or monthly tickets. There are also extensive bike paths. If you like to travel by bike, then this is a practical alternative to public transport. As Marburg is a compact city, however, most destinations are also within walking distance.

With its central location, Marburg is an ideal starting point for travel both within Germany and across Europe. In Germany, there is a well-developed public transport system. With German Rail (*Deutsche Bahn*), suburban lightrail (*S-Bahn*), buses, trams, and subways (*U-Bahn*), you can comfortably reach most destinations. Deutsche Bahn offers many special rates and savings opportunities. With the BahnCard50 or the BahnCard25, you get a 50% or 25% discount, respectively, on any travel ticket you buy for a whole year.

6.4 Religion in Marburg

Article 4 of the German Constitution or Basic Law (*Grundgesetz*) guarantees the freedom of belief: every person may freely choose or practice her or his religion. Likewise, every person has the freedom not to belong to a religion and the freedom to leave or to change a religious community. Today, about 26 percent of the population in Germany is Roman Catholic, and another 24 percent are Protestant. Roughly 5 percent of the population are Muslim, about 2 percent belong to other religious communities, and roughly 35 percent are not affiliated with any religious group. Altogether, there are more than 160 different religious communities in Germany who contribute to the religious diversity of the country. All major religious communities are represented in Marburg. In addition, there is a Protestant student congregation and a Catholic student congregation in Marburg, each offering church services and numerous events during the semester.

6.5 Leisure Activities in Marburg

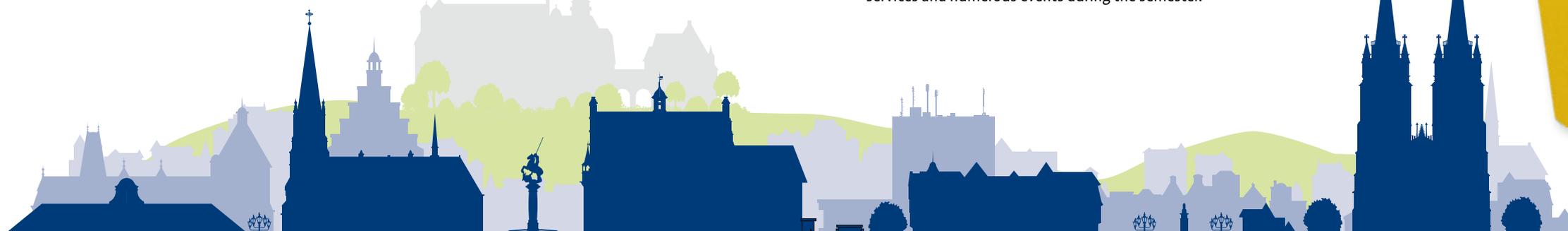
Aside from the excellent learning opportunities, the university city of Marburg has an abundance of free-time activities and leisure opportunities available. You can stroll around the parks, go for a swim at the nearby pool or lake, and enjoy physical or leisure activities with your family. Thanks to the various museums, art exhibitions, cinemas, theaters, and cultural centers, Marburg has a lot to offer for all tastes.

Free-time activities in Marburg:

- www.marburg.de
- > [Leben in Marburg](#)
- > [Sport & Freizeit](#)

Insider Info:

The Welcome Center regularly holds cultural events, get-togethers, and day trips for international researchers and their families. You are invited to take part!



Imprint:

Publisher:

Philipps-Universität Marburg
Dezernat VI – Internationale Angelegenheiten
und Familienservice
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Concept, text, and editing:

Philipps-Universität Marburg
Dezernat VI – Internationale Angelegenheiten und
Familienservice

Date: October 2022. All the information contained
in this brochure has been carefully researched and
checked, and every effort has been made to avoid
errors. Factual or printing errors may however occur.

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from the brochure “Discover Marburg” by Marburg
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Passages of text from the EURAXESS Germany online
portal are reprinted here in a partially revised version
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er is solely responsible for the contents.

Design: www.bosse-meinhard.de | Bonn

Translation: Eriksen

Photo Credits:

Adobe Stock: 42, 43
Colorbox: 36
Viola Düwert: 17 (Steinweg)
Reinhold Eckstein: 13, 16, 41
Markus Farnung: 8, 18
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