Germany!

Beer, Bretzeln, Kartoffelsalat and Oktoberfest? In my opinion the land of poets and philosophers has much more to offer than just beer festivals and delicious food (by the way, Bretzeln (pretzels), Kartoffelsalat (potato salad) and Oktoberfest are more likely to apply to Bavaria, just one of the 16 federal states of Germany).

Federal Republic of Germany is located in the heart of Europe. The Germany you know today came to existence in October 1990, from the German reunification of BRD (West Germany) and DDR (East Germany). Before that they were separated by the wall. Germany with its 83 million inhabitants extends from the sea on the north to the Alps on the south and therefore has a variety of attractions for each kind of traveler. For example, in summer you can go swimming in the sea (Baltic or North Sea) or enjoy beautiful nature while hiking in the mountains. On the other hand coming for a ski trip in winter might be a thing for you. If you are not all about that, and maybe you are more interested in the culture, architecture and art just spend some great time in the colorful and lively city of Berlin one of the many splendid cities that Germany has to offer. Although, Germany is not considered the most popular holiday destination in Europe, there are some other things Germany is well known for: “German quality”, fast cars and the “German Autobahn”, where you can drive as fast as your car allows you, are just some of the things I would like to mention. Come and try, but don’t drink and drive. We are also the country of the strange and long words: Grundstücksverkehrsgenehmigungsverordnung (Land transaction approval transferring responsibilities Regulation) yes, it is one word. Nevertheless “Deutschland” is the place to be, with the „hard language“ and the angry, but polite people.
Guten Tag!
Wie geht es dir?
Ich hätte gerne zwei Bier.
Lasst uns zum Strand gehen.
Ich freue mich dich bald wieder zu sehen.
Prost!

Hello
How are you?
I would like to have two beers.
Let’s go to the beach.
I am looking forward to seeing you again soon.
Cheers!

Studying in Germany

If you meet specific requirements everybody is allowed to study in Germany and there are also a large number of students coming from abroad. To be admitted to dentistry you need to have a very good high school grades. If you meet these requirements, you still have to choose one of the 30 state universities and go through a central selection process. The costs of the study depend on the state and the respective university. Normally you need to pay a small fee for tuition each semester and you are required to buy materials that you will need for the studies. The study usually lasts 10 semesters (5 years) following 2 years of working as dentist under a supervision of a more experienced colleague, after which you are allowed to work as dentist on your own.

In Germany we have 2 student associations, the ZAD (Zahnmedizinischer Austauschdienst) and the BDZM (Bundesverband der Zahnmedizinstudierenden in Deutschland). The ZAD is an organization founded by the students for the students and the organization supports German dental students to gain practical experience during clerkship in countries all over the world (from south America, Asia, Africa and India, just to name some of them), but mostly in the countries where the people don’t have access to oral healthcare. If students are interested in improving their practical skills in another country and also want to get to know a new and interesting culture, a program at ZAD is a great way to expand their horizons.

The ZAD does more than organizing clerkships; they also represent the interests of German dental students abroad. As a member of the IADS, ZAD regularly takes part at the international congresses of the IADS.

Beside the ZAD there is another important German organization, the BDZM. BDZM is responsible for the political interests of German dental students. They represent the students on the German political scene and at universities in order to maintain the excellent education level and to seek improvement.