

## Senior Studies at the Christian-Albrechts-University in Kiel

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Kiel, situated at the Baltic Sea, a town of about 250.000 inhabitants, is the capital of Schleswig-Holstein, the most northern federal state of Germany. Her university was founded in 1665. At the moment there are 20.000 students in 9 faculties, with 80 fields of study and 140 courses.

When at the end of 1980 the possibility for older students was established at the German universities, our university too opened its gates to this age group.

An older person, interested in scientific further education, has three possibilities:

1. A regular study with the same curriculum and exams as the younger students. About 220 persons attend these courses.
2. Guest student at regular activities without a certificate (about 250 persons). Students have to apply and pay for participation, it has to be authorized and depends on the respective lecturer, who will decide, whether the student can attend or not.
3. Activities for older students only (about 350 persons between 50 and 80 years old, 60% women, 40% men). These are organized by the „association for contactstudy after career and family“, founded especially for this purpose.

The events, lectures and seminars are designed especially for older citizens and carried out by (emeriti) university lecturers. These activities are additional to the university courses and therefore they have to be financed separately. Every participant buys a so called „UNICARD“, a sort of student ID, for € 60. This entitles students to attend each of the activities on offer. Special activities, e.g. itc-courses, charge some extra fee. Except for some longer running courses all activities are organized per semester and are published in a special study guide. History, archeology, medicine, theology, philosophy, music, literature, biochemie are some of the offered subjects. The guide also contains a choice of regular activities of the university, that may be of interest for older students and important information about the study.

The unicard-money is used for payments to the lecturers, the study guide and some office costs. Apart from a manager the work is done by volunteers, who are interested in education. They also provide advice. In so doing the university is not burdened financially by our participants. Since lecture rooms are occupied, when regular students don't need them, the participation of older students integrates smoothly into university life. This also contributes to an understanding between generations.

Further I want to emphasize, that lecturers like to work with seniors, because they are very motivated, interested, reliable, disciplined and very grateful for the opportunity of further education.

As older students are interested in and open minded about scientific and social questions and problems and can help to solve them with their professional and life experience, one can state, that they form an important part of society.

Co-operation with other institutes is brought into practice via good contacts to the adult education centre (Volkshochschule) in Kiel. We also participate in a network for older students organized by the university of Ulm. Students carry out joint projects via internet.

Furthermore we have links to other German and European universities of the third age through meetings and exchange of information of different umbrella organizations. The association for contactstudies at the Kiel university is actively involved with important national and international organizations of further education of older people, EFOS being one of them.