

# **Profile description of the Bischöfliches Studierendenwerk Münster gGmbH**

The Bischöfliche Studierendenwerk Münster currently manages six facilities. These include the five student halls of residence: "Collegium Marianum", "Deutsches Studentenheim", "Fürstin-von-Gallitzin-Heim", "Liebfrauentift" and "Thomas-Morus-Kolleg", plus "Café Milagro" for student catering.

Our student halls of residence currently house a total of 380 students. Café Milagro offers reasonably-priced lunches during the semester periods, as well as café services in the afternoon and a bistro in the evening.

## **Our profile:**

### **1. A detailed look**

We take individuals into account at our facilities. We want students to feel at home with us and receive certain basic conditions and open spaces to successfully shape their time as a student and for them to use this time to develop their personality.

This is primarily done through the attention and support of the community in our student halls of residence. We encourage these types of community in the way our residential, corridor and house communities are formed, as well as by selecting the overall groups and their interests.

Full-time staff provide pedagogical support. As part of this support, students have points of contact for various situations surrounding student life and communal living in our facilities. In close collaboration with the student pastor and the Catholic Student and University Community (KSHG), we offer pastoral support and an open ear for all personal and religious matters.

### **2. Communal living**

Our facilities are communal places – not places of anonymity. All students are expected to actively participate in their respective communities. The feeling of community is intensified through activities and events (parties, building get-togethers, activities, church services, etc.).

A tutor programme is created in all student halls of residence on a semester basis and implemented and organised by the students themselves. The tutor programme events form a central cornerstone of the how the community come together in our residences.

The full-time staff support the content and organisation of the activities we offer and there is a sufficient financial framework in place to support the activities and events at our facilities.

Alongside the activities and events at our facilities, we intensively encourage our students to participate in activities offered by the Catholic Student and University Community (KSHG).

### **3. Assumption of responsibility**

Our communities can only work if there are increasing numbers of students prepared to take on responsibility and positions. All facilities select people as spokespersons and assign volunteers positions for certain tasks for a certain period of time.

Recognising commitment to volunteering is important to us and we encourage this commitment in different ways.

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## **4. Participation**

The students in our facilities are experts in their own areas.

Our residential communities are involved with the application process for future residents. There are committees at all of our student halls of residences, who have the right to state their views when we're allocating rooms.

By organising the application process well, this enables wide participation in the selection process. In light of this, a coordinated plan has been developed for implementing the application process and opportunities to participate.

All facilities are involved in the communities' committees via representatives.

## **5. Internationalism**

International students are very welcome at our facilities and we make every effort to help these people integrate successfully into our communities.

Our student halls of residence are open to students of all nationalities. We see students from other countries as a form of cultural enrichment for communal living.

We are interested in making sure that students with minimal or lacking German language skills receive the necessary information. That's why we provide all important documents and information in English too.

Students coming via exchange programmes are a welcome challenge to us (e.g. Erasmus+). As these students are only a guest at our facilities for a few months and/or for a short period of time, appropriate integration into our communities is very important. We want to be good hosts and points of contact for them too.

## **6. Service focus**

We take the concerns of our residents and guests seriously and are always eager to find good solutions. The full-time staff take care of the administrative and organisational processes at our facilities. In doing so, we want to be competent and prudent points of contact for the students in our facilities.

## **7. Awareness of values and inter-religiousness**

The Bischöfliche Studierendenwerk Münster is a Catholic institution of the Münster diocese. It's important to us that communal living in our facilities is sustained on the basis of the Christian image of man of mutual respect and appreciation of each individual.

As a matter of principle, students of all denominations can be accepted into our student halls of residence. By living with people with different religious convictions, we encourage inter-religious exchange, among other things. Therefore, our student halls of residence should be places of dialogue.

Together with the student pastor and KSHG, we offer regular church services and liturgical periods for all students. In this context, without having to follow missionary suggestions, we sincerely invite all students to attend our spiritual and religious events. It's important to us that all students help us to promote this way of thinking at our facilities.