



Study and Research in Germany – The Practical Guide for Hong Kong and Macau Students

DAAD Information Centre Hong Kong & Macau



DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst
German Academic Exchange Service

Publisher

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The information contained in this brochure was compiled with greatest possible care. However a guarantee for the correctness of the contents cannot be given.

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Universities in Germany

Welcome!

All over the world German higher education institutions enjoy an excellent reputation. German degrees carry great prestige while teaching and research provide key impulses for innovation and progress. Institutions boast state-of-the-art equipment and labs to provide students with the very best conditions for successful studies.

At a very competitive price, more than 350 higher education institutions offer thousands of degree programmes, making Germany's higher education landscape diverse and affordable.

Today, more than 35,000 students from Southeast Asia (including China and India) are undertaking courses in Germany. This brochure, compiled by the DAAD Information Centre Hong Kong & Macau, has been designed to help students from Hong Kong and Macau to make an informed choice. If you wish to receive regular updates on the information contained in this brochure, please subscribe to our quarterly email newsletter by sending an email to daadhk@hkbu.edu.hk

Our official website:
ic.daad.de/hongkong



Six Reasons to Study in Germany

In the Heart of Europe

Germany lies in the heart of Europe – an excellent starting point to discover other European destinations. You are in London, Paris, Prague or Rome in no time.

High Academic Standard

The standard of higher education in Germany is first-rate. The renowned tradition of German universities dates back to 14th century and ensures an outstanding level of education and research. Products of German companies, especially machine tools, motor vehicles and electrical engineering products, are leading in the international market.

International Degree Programmes (IDP)

Studying in Germany no longer means studying in German medium alone – far more than 800 International Degree Programmes offer courses which are entirely or partly taught in English. These courses are offered in various disciplines, including economics, engineering, natural sciences, environmental studies and computer sciences, and lead to internationally recognised bachelor's or master's degrees or even to a PhD.

Practical Experience

Studying in Germany often includes interaction with industries. Close ties with companies like SAP, Siemens, DHL, Daimler, BMW or Bosch will increase your career prospects. Many institutions of higher education offer students the opportunity to do internships or carry out research in industry.

Economic Power

Germany is one of the world's largest economic players – and Hong Kong's and China's most important EU business partner, especially for machinery, automobiles, chemical and electrical products as well as IT. The economic co-operation between the two countries is increasing along with the presence of German companies in Asia.

Moderate Costs

Most universities in Germany are state-funded. Many do not charge any tuition fees at all, whereas some universities charge a nominal fee to the tune of 500 euro per semester. Students have to bear their living expenses, such as accommodation, food, transport and health insurance.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I study in a German university after my HKCEE?

No. The minimum requirements for entering German universities are a pass in Chinese Language and Culture and Use of English, and other 2 AL subjects. Although a very small number of universities accept applications from Form 5 graduates, it is not the usual practice, and we do not recommend it.

University Entry Requirements p.13

Do I have to have some knowledge of German?

Not necessarily. However, to know German makes life in Germany much easier, so it is for one's own sake to know some German for survival.

Language Requirements p. 14

Is German difficult to learn?

Not difficult at all. And the language is getting more popular in Hong Kong. There are institutions such as Goethe Institut, which provides new German courses every 3 months.

Learning German p. 17

What is the difference between the two German language proficiency tests, DSH and TestDaF?

For recognition, they are equivalent. DSH is provided only in Germany and by universities. TestDaF is provided all over the world, including Hong Kong.

Language Proficiency Tests p.15



Are German degrees recognized in Hong Kong?

Yes. Germany's bachelor's, master's and PhD degrees are internationally recognized.

Does DAAD offer visa and university application services?

No. However, we are always here to help whenever you have queries about studying and living in Germany. The university application is made directly from students to the universities while visa application is processed at the German Consulate General in Admiralty, Hong Kong.

Visa Application p.18

Is it expensive to live in Germany?

Yes and no. It is just as expensive as in Hong Kong. Normally it costs a student around 500 - 800 euro per month, including accommodation and food.

Living Expenses p.12

Can I work in Germany during my study?

Yes. However, it is not easy to find a job, and studying in Germany isn't easy either. We therefore do not recommend you to work during your study.

Working in Germany p.19

Can I travel around in Europe during my study?

Yes, absolutely. With a student visa for Germany, you can travel to many different European Union member states without extra visa.

Is there any scholarship programme offered by the DAAD for students studying bachelor's and master's degree programmes in Germany?

Unfortunately no. However, there are scholarship programmes for students studying doctoral programmes or conducting research.

DAAD funding programmes p.21



Higher Education in Germany

Higher Education Institutions

There are more than 350 officially recognised institutions of higher education throughout Germany. In total, German universities and colleges offer more than 13,000 degree programmes.

There are three main types of higher education institutions in Germany:

- Universities and Technical Universities (TU)
- Universities of Applied Sciences (FH)
- Colleges of Arts and Music.

Universities (Universitäten)

Universities in Germany put strong emphasis on the combination of teaching and research. They offer a broad range of subjects from the humanities to science and engineering. Universities provide excellent opportunities for specialisation. Only universities and technical universities award doctoral degrees.

Universities of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschulen)

In contrast with the research-oriented universities, universities of applied sciences are more practice-oriented.





Subjects offered are mainly engineering, economics, social science and design. Courses include at least 1 semester of practical experience (internships). Universities of applied sciences usually do not award doctoral degrees but offer the bachelor's and master's degree.

Colleges of Art, Film and Music (Kunsthochschulen)

Colleges of art, film and music prepare students for careers as professionals in the field of art, music, design, media or film. Students wishing to study at a college of art, film or music must demonstrate their particular artistic talent and are usually required to pass an aptitude test. In most cases

applicants have to submit a portfolio of their own art or design work. Currently, around 32,000 students are undergoing training in 55 public and state-recognised institutions.

Further information on higher education institutions:
www.higher-education-compass.de

What can I study in Germany?

In recent years the academic programmes at German universities have undergone major reform. Meanwhile, the new bachelor's and master's degree programmes have all but replaced the traditional German degrees at most universities.

Bachelor's Degree

The bachelor's degree, which is the first degree in countries following the Anglo-Saxon model, has now also been introduced at German universities. A full bachelor programme at a German university takes normally 6 or 7 semesters (3 to 3.5 years). Bachelor programmes are designed with a student workload of around 40 study hours per week completed over 45 study weeks per year.

Master's Degree

Students who hold a bachelor's degree and wish to specialise in a particular area can take up a master's programme. The chosen degree programme must be closely related to the bachelor's subject. Master's degree programmes last two to four semesters (1 to 2 years). After receiving your master's degree you can enter professional life or continue studying for the next academic qualification – the doctoral degree.

Doctoral Degree (PhD)

Students wishing to gain a doctorate (PhD) need to have completed a course of academic studies up to master's level with above-average grades. If you decide to do a doctorate in Germany, you can choose between two different approaches.

Students who take the traditional route must first find a supervisor before they can start on their doctoral dissertation. This very free system with no compulsory attendance, deadlines or binding curriculum, calls for a great deal of personal initiative.

To find an academic supervisor candidates need to find out as soon as possible which university suits best their area of research. Please contact DAAD Information Centre Hong Kong & Macau if you need further assistance.

As an alternative to an individual research project you can do your doctorate in a structured programme. Structured doctoral programmes are offered by:

- Research training groups organised by the German Research Foundation (DFG)
- Graduate schools at universities
- Doctoral programmes at universities
- International Max Planck Research Schools

Further information on PhD:
www.daad.de/promotion

Research Opportunities in Germany

Research enjoys top-ranking status in Germany. You can go for research at a university or in one of the national research centres.

There are many organisations that generally open up research opportunities for international scholars and scientists.

Further information on research opportunities:
www.research-in-germany.de
www.research-explorer.dfg.de



International Degree Programmes

Studying in Germany no longer means studying in German medium alone – over 800 International Degree Programmes offer courses which are entirely or partly taught in English. These courses are offered in a wide range of disciplines, including engineering, natural sciences, environmental studies, computer science and economics and lead to internationally recognised bachelor's or master's degrees or even to a PhD.

International Degree Programmes (IDP) in Germany provide particularly intensive support, guidance and supervision. For a detailed list of the IDPs in Germany please come to our office or visit the DAAD database at: www.daad.de/international-programmes

Summer Schools – Language and Specialist Courses

If you are not sure whether or not to study in Germany and just want to get a glimpse of German life and study environment, a summer school would be the right choice for you. Summer schools are conducted at universities all over Germany.

The range of available courses is enormous. Summer courses are a very good opportunity to prepare yourself for an International Degree Programme.

www.summerschools-in-germany.de

What does it cost to study in Germany?

University Fees

Studying in Germany is an inexpensive option compared to other popular study destinations, as public higher education institutions in Germany receive substantial state funding. As a result, German Universities charge no or only very moderate tuition fees. Moreover, international students are subject to the same fees as German students.

Where fees are charged, they currently range from 0 to 500 euro per semester.

In addition to tuition fees universities usually charge a small amount of so-called “semester contribution”, which often also includes the cost of a public transportation ticket.

Note: Tuition fees at private institutions can be considerably higher!

Living Expenses

Compared to many other European Countries living in Germany is relatively inexpensive.

You will require around 650 euro per month. This amount covers housing, food, transport, study material and other expenses such as health insurance and leisure activities.

Living expenses differ from city to city. They are usually higher in large cities than in smaller cities.

Health Insurance

Compulsory health insurance is required for every student in Germany. The charge for students is approximately 50 euro per month. In the case that you have already purchased an insurance coverage in Hong Kong or Macau, you might perhaps be exempted from buying the health insurance in Germany, depending on your purchased insurance coverage.

At many universities the ‘Studentenwerk’ offers service packages for international students. Please get in contact with the Studentenwerk or the International Office for more information.

www.internationale-studierende.de

Scholarships and Funding

Hong Kong and Macau students, academics and researchers can apply for scholarships from DAAD and numerous other funding organisations.

Note: Neither the DAAD nor the majority of the funding institutions offer scholarships for undergraduates.

For DAAD funding please visit our Hong Kong website:

ic.daad.de/hongkong/2.3.0.php
ic.daad.de/hongkong/2.3.1.php

For more information about other funding possibilities you may consult the DAAD scholarship database at:

www.funding-guide.de



Your Way to Germany

University Admission Requirements

Direct admission to study at a German university depends upon whether your higher education entrance qualification is considered equivalent to the German school leaving qualification.

The Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) in Germany has issued the following guidelines:



Academic Requirements: Undergraduate Courses

For students from Hong Kong:

Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE)

2 Advanced Level (AL) subjects or 1 Advanced Level subject + 2 Advanced Supplement Level (AS) subjects

In addition:

AS “Use of English” and
AS “Chinese Language & Culture”

Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE)

7 subjects with at least 6 subjects in a single sitting including

- Chinese Language (or another language)
- Mathematics
- English Language (Syllabus B)

Note: However, only a very small number of universities accept applications from form 5 graduates.

Information about the recognition of the new HKDSE will be coming soon. Please contact our DAAD office on behalf.

For students from Macau:

Macau students holding the **Certificate of Senior Secondary Education** (Form 6, Senior Middle Three, Grade 12) together with the pass of the university entrance examination are not directly eligible for a bachelor’s programme at German universities.

A qualification assessment examination in Germany (Feststellungsprüfung) must be taken. Foundation courses (Studienkolleg) at the university of your choice can help you with the preparation for the examination.

Macau students who have successfully finished their first year bachelor’s studies at a Macau university can directly apply for a related bachelor’s programme at a German university.

Note: The university entry requirements may be modified by individual institutions or according to specific subjects.

Also keep in mind that if you wish to apply for courses where applicants outnumber the places available, you may need to surpass the minimum requirements.

For more information about the guidelines for Hong Kong and Macau students see the ZAB website (only German)
www.anabin.de

TestAS

TestAS is a central standardised aptitude test for international students wishing to take an undergraduate programme in Germany. With TestAS you can assess your ability to cope with the demands that German universities place on their students. Good results at TestAS can improve your chances of being admitted for studies at a German university.

For more information see:

www.testas.de

Academic Requirements: Postgraduate Courses

Bachelor’s degree holders are eligible to join master postgraduate courses, usually in a

related field. Some courses have additional requirements such as a minimum GPA or a good GMAT score.

Applicants for a PhD (doctoral studies) are generally expected to have obtained their master’s degree. Some institutions may also offer exceptionally qualified bachelor’s degree holders direct entrance into a PhD programme.

Language Requirements

The need of German proficiency depends on the kind of programme you are planning to apply for.

International Degree Programmes

German universities currently offer more than 800 internationally-oriented degree programmes. These well-structured, high level International bachelor, master and doctoral programmes feature intensive student counseling and academic advising. Most courses are taught in English, though German courses often supplement the programmes. Approximately half of those enrolled in these degree programmes are international students.

Most international degree programmes also require applicants to present proof of a good command of English (TOEFL or IELTS) for university admission.

However, it is certainly advisable to learn some basic German before going to Germany, even if it is not a course requirement!

For more information see:

www.daad.de/international-programmes

Doctoral Studies

As research is frequently conducted in an international context with English as the main medium of communication, PhD students often do not need proficiency in German to embark on their project. Please enquire with your course coordinator or academic supervisor to find out if German is required.

Programmes in German Language

For most of the around 10,000 degree programmes in Germany the language of instruction is German. If you want to study in one of these programmes you will have to prove adequate knowledge of German. The language proficiency required for university admission can be certified by two different tests – the DSH and the TestDaF. (see: “Language proficiency tests” below)

If you intent to learn the German language from scratch, please set aside a minimum of one year for intensive language studies before taking the proficiency test.

Language Proficiency Tests

English

You can take either the **Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)** or **International English Language Testing System (IELTS)** to prove your English proficiency. Minimum test results required by the German universities are usually

TOEFL: 80 (Internet-based Test)
or
IELTS: 5,5

Note: Some German universities may require better results!

German

Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang (DSH) can only be taken at the universities in Germany while **Test Deutsch als Fremdsprache (TestDaF)** can be taken in both Germany and Hong Kong. TestDaF is currently held four times a year at the Hong Kong Baptist University. The Goethe Institut offers preparatory courses for TestDaF. Test results required by the German universities are usually

DSH Level 2 (67% - 81%)
or
DSH Level 1 (lowest possible entrance level, only accepted according to specific university regulations)
or
TestDaF: 4.0

Note: Some German universities may require better results!

For more information on TestDaF in Hong Kong see:
www.testdaf.de

Application

International students can apply either directly to the International Office at the university of their choice or they have to send their application to UNI-ASSIST.

Higher education institutions expect applicants to enclose certain documents with their application. As a rule, the application documents include an officially certified copy of their school leaving certificate plus language certificates.

The application deadline generally ends several months before the semester starts.

Please contact the International Office in time for more detailed information.

Application via UNI-ASSIST

Currently more than 100 German institutions of higher education participate in the programme called “**Application Services for International Students**” (UNI-ASSIST). If you choose a university which is a participant of UNI-ASSIST, you are required to apply via UNI-ASSIST.

With one application submitted you can apply for several UNI-ASSIST universities at one time.

There is currently a charge of 55 euro for the first application and of 15 euro for any subsequent application.

For more information on UNI-ASSIST see:
www.uni-assist.de

Direct Application at University

Applications for universities that do not require the UNI-ASSIST procedure have to be sent to the universities directly.

The application form can be obtained from the institution or downloaded from the DAAD website for most of the courses.
www.daad.de/en/form



Learning German

One of the advantages of studying in Germany is the fact that it will give you the opportunity to acquire an important world language together with your degree.

Currently there are more than 550 German companies operating in Hong Kong and with Germany being Hong Kong's and China's most important trade partner in Europe - a good command in German will open up a lot of employment opportunities in Hong Kong and abroad.

In Hong Kong

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural institution operating worldwide.

Goethe-Institut Hong Kong offers all levels of German classes throughout the year. The Goethe-Institut also offers preparatory courses for the German language proficiency test "TestDaF".

For further information, please contact:

Goethe Institut Hong Kong
14/F Hong Kong Arts Centre
2, Harbour Road
Wanchai
Hong Kong
Tel: +852 2802 0088
www.goethe.de/hongkong



Universities

Language centres at most universities in Hong Kong and at the University of Macau offer German courses for beginners, some universities (e.g. HKU, CU, BU) offer intermediate and advanced levels. Besides,

the following universities offer degree programmes, in which German forms a major component.

The University of Hong Kong
 ■ B.A. German (Major, Minor)
 ■ B.A. European Studies (Major, Minor)

Hong Kong Baptist University
 ■ BSocSc European Studies

Chinese University of Hong Kong
 ■ B.A., Linguistics and Modern Languages

In Germany

The best way to learn a language is to learn it in the country where the language is being spoken. There are numerous language courses available at universities and private institutions in Germany.

Once you have been admitted to a German university, you are then eligible to join the university language courses.

More information about where to learn German can be obtained at:
www.learn-german.net

Summer Courses at German Universities

Summer courses are a great opportunity for you to learn German and to get better acquainted with the country and its study system.

They generally take place during the university summer break (June to September). There are a wide range of different language courses available.
www.summerschools-in-germany.de



Visa Application

Visa for students and researchers are issued by the German Consulate General Hong Kong.

HKSAR and Macau SAR passport holders enjoy 90-day visa-free travel privilege in the European Union. If you plan to stay longer than 90 days, you are required to apply for a visa.

If you have already received your notification of admission from a German University, you should apply for a **Student Visa**. If you have not yet received notification of admission to a university, you should apply for a **Study Applicant's Visa**.

Note: A tourist visa cannot be converted in Germany to a student or applicant's visa.

Student and Study Applicant's Visa applications can on average be processed within 4 to 6 weeks.

Visa applications for Guest Scientists or Visiting Scholars shall be processed in three working days.

The German **Working Holiday Visa** allows young citizens of Hong Kong to travel to Germany for a stay up to twelve month. Short term employments and enrolment in training or study courses are allowed for Working Holiday Visa holders. Currently there are 100 places available per year.

For further information and a detailed list of visa application requirements, please contact:

Consulate General of the
Federal Republic of Germany
Hong Kong / Macao

21/F, United Centre,
95 Queensway, Central
Hong Kong
Tel: +852 2105 8788
Fax: +852 2865 2033



E-mail: germancg@netvigator.com
Website: www.hongkong.diplo.de

Visa Office Hours:

Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Working in Germany

Students are allowed to work for a maximum of 90 full days or 180 half days per year in Germany. If you have a student job on campus or work as a research assistant, it's usually no problem to exceed the 90-day limit. However, you must notify the Aliens' Registration Office if you do.

After successfully graduating in Germany you can apply for a one-year extension of your residence permit in order to look for work. This application must entail proof that you can finance your stay and that you are seriously trying to find a job which corresponds with your qualifications.

Life in Germany

Food

Although sausages and beer are very popular in Germany there are of course a lot of other typical foods and drinks to discover. Every part of Germany has its own specialities such as Spätzle (egg noodles), Maultaschen (similar to ravioli), Schweinshaxe (pork knuckle), Knödel (dumplings), Schnitzel (cutlet), Brezel (popular German bread), Sauerkraut (fermented cabbage), Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte (black forest cake), Apfelschorle (apple juice mixed with sparkling mineral water), Radler (beer mixed with lemon-lime soda), Kaffee (coffee) etc.

If you like Asian cuisines, Asian supermarkets and restaurants can be found in nearly every German city, offering Chinese, Indian, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Thai and Vietnamese food and products.

Eating out in restaurants can be quite expensive, therefore students usually eat at the Mensa (university canteen), which offers meals at low prices and provides good opportunities for students to connect with other people.

It is also very popular among German students to cook their own food at home and invite friends to share the food and the cooking experience.



Accommodation

Most students in Germany either live in a single room in a student hall or in private accommodation.

A shared flat (called 'Wohngemeinschaft' or WG) is a very popular form of accommodation among students. Each flatmate has a room of his/her own and shares the kitchen, bathroom and sometimes the living room.

Please get in contact with the International Office at the university of your choice to get more information on how to apply for a room in a student hall or how to find private and shared flats.

www.study-in.de

Transportation

Public Transport is well-developed in Germany.

For local travel, there are buses, S-Bahn (commuter train), U-Bahn (underground) and Straßenbahn (tram). Travelling by taxi is not as common as in Hong Kong and the fare can be quite pricey.

For inter-city travel, the most popular means of transportation is to travel by the Deutsche Bahn / DB (German Rail), which is by train. Different types of trains are available to travel from one city to another including the high speed ICE (Inter-city express).

According to different needs, there is a variety of discount train fare offers and packages such as the Schönes-Wochenende-Ticket (Happy-Weekend-Ticket), the Bahn Card 25, 50 and 100, the German Rail Pass (suitable for travellers to travel for 4 to 10 days within a four-week period), Group discount ticket and more.

More information on Deutsche Bahn www.bahn.de

Budget flights are as popular as trains. In some occasions, flight tickets can be even lower than train tickets.

Low-cost Airlines ic.daad.de/hongkong/2.4.5.php

Bicycle is a popular and convenient means of transportation among the Germans, in small towns as well as in big cities. By all means it is not a bad idea to get hold of a second-hand bicycle during your study there.



The DAAD – Goals and Roles

The DAAD is a joint organisation of Germany's higher education institutions and is responsible for promoting international academic relations, primarily through the exchange of students, academics and researchers.

The DAAD also supports the international activities of Germany's higher education institutions by providing a number of services that serve to raise the international profile and worldwide appeal of Germany's higher education.

And finally, the DAAD advises the German government on the formation of its policies in the fields of international cultural and academic relations at European and international level, as well as on questions of national higher education cooperation.

Five strategic objectives give the various DAAD programmes their long-term orientation:

- Scholarships for foreigners:** to promote studies and research by outstanding young foreign students and academics at German universities and research institutes.
- Scholarships for Germans:** to promote young German professionals in their studies and research abroad.
- Internationalising the higher education institutions:** to raise the appeal of Germany's higher education institutions.
- Supporting German studies and the German language abroad:** to promote German language and culture and encourage a knowledge of and interest in Germany as part of the process of global cultural exchange.

- Educational cooperation with developing countries:** to promote higher education development in developing and reforming countries as means of supporting their economic and democratic reform process.

The DAAD in Hong Kong

The DAAD Information Centre Hong Kong & Macau, which is part of the world-wide network, has been in existence since 2001. The centre dispenses advice to prospective students, academic staff and researchers interested in study and research opportunities in Germany. The DAAD Information Centre operates as a liaison office for Hong Kong and Macau institutes of higher education wishing to establish contact with German counterparts. It also serves as a first port-of-call for German higher education institutions seeking cooperation partners in Hong Kong and Macau.

DAAD funding programmes

The DAAD offers the following funding programmes in Hong Kong and Macau:

- Research Grants for Doctoral Candidates and Young Academics and Scientists (Long Term)
- Research Grants for Doctoral Candidates and Young Academics and Scientists (Short Term)
- Research Stays for University Academics and Scientists
- Re-invitation Programme for Former Scholarship Holders
- Germany/ Hong Kong Joint Research Scheme (Joint Programme with UGC)

- The Croucher Foundation Programme (in the fields of Science, Medicine and Technology)
- Study Visits to Germany for Groups of Students
- Scholarships for Artists

For detailed information please visit our website at:
<http://ic.daad.de/hongkong/2.3.1.php>
 or contact us directly.

Contact Us

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Office Hours:
 Monday to Friday, 10a.m. – 6p.m.

Weekly Consultation Hours:
 (No booking required)
 Monday, 5p.m. – 8p.m.
 Tuesday, 10a.m. – 12 noon

Useful Web Links

General Information on the German Higher Education System
www.daad.de
www.higher-education-compass.de
www.university-ranking.de

Admission:
www.uni-assist.de
www.inobis.de

Summer Schools
www.summerschools-in-germany.de

International Degree Programmes
www.daad.de/international-programmes

Research in Germany
www.research-in-germany.de
www.daad.de/promotion

Funding
www.funding-guide.de

Culture, life and study in Germany
www.study-in.de
www.young-germany.de
www.daad.de

Language
www.testdaf.de
www.deutsch-uni.com
www.learn-german.net

Learning German in Hong Kong
www.goethe.de/hongkong

