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By **Ingolf Jungmann**

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As far as Europe is concerned, Germany not only has one of the most stable economies, but is also the largest European national economy. It is known for its excellence in technology and innovation. Further, it is one of the world's largest exporters.

Besides, the subsidised rates offered by German universities make it even more attractive for students. But, surprisingly, not enough students end up going to Germany. Why is that?

Language continues to be one of the most important issues. While 90% of Bachelor's degrees are offered in German, only 30% of Master's programmes are offered in English.

Also, in a new trend, students no longer choose a country. Instead, they go by specific programmes

GERMAN UNIVERSITIES, LIKE THEIR GLOBAL PEERS, NEED TO DIVERSIFY HIGH BENCHMARK

and its strengths along with industry trends. So German universities, like universities across the world, have to diversify their programmes.

An international faculty is another problem. Most faculty members, used to teaching in German, are resistant to the idea of teaching in a foreign language. Apart from this, in Germany, universities belong to counties and states and hence, they are independent. Because of this the German government, earlier, did not feel responsible to promote universities. In recent times, realising this, the government is trying to promote itself as an academic destination in its entirety.

It is only since the last 10 years that Germany has been taking initiatives to promote German universities and research internationally. We were complacent to export our machines, technologies and our cars, but we never thought of exporting our universities. However, while on the one hand it is important that Germany adapts itself to the changing needs of the world, it is also important to remember that students need to have a basic knowledge of the German language to be able to work in the country after completion of their degree.

Without a basic German language skill, job

opportunities could narrow down. Ideally, employers would opt for a candidate who knows both German and English. A job experience in Germany could be a learning experience, considering the fact it would give young professionals an insight into the dynamics of a liberal economy. Another reason for the less number of students is the high benchmark. Germany looks for high-calibre students and certainly not at any score below 75%.

However, considering its strength as a service sector (around 70% of total GDP), and the Indian service sector growing exponentially, this is the right time for international students to look for opportunities in Germany. Considering Germany's population demography, it needs by far more academics in Germany. The country does not have enough experts for the different sectors of the economy.

Lastly, Indian students who want to study in Germany, need to be more self-confident and proactive. They are usually shy and silent, but the academic ambience in Germany has a liberal atmosphere to the extent that students even criticise professors. So Indian students should be aware of this classroom culture.

– As told to Tirna Ray



dents enrolled in German universities, a rise of approximately 24% over the previous year.

There are a number of reasons that make Germany popular, which include an international study environment, state-of-the-art equipment in its higher education institutes, low tuition and living costs, and several scholarships on offer. In fact, about 15-20% of Indian students in Germany receive funding every year. Also, Germany offers more

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

By **Cord Meier-Klodt**

Germany's Acting Ambassador to India

According to a British Council survey, which compared the higher education systems in 12 countries in 2011, Germany topped the list of the most internationalised countries in the higher education arena. Indian students have always taken a keen interest in Germany. In the academic year 2010-11, 5,038 stu-

than a thousand Bachelor's and Master's courses in English language and serves as a stepping stone for students to enter Europe. The German government recently adopted a bill that will introduce the EU Blue Card as a new work and residence permit. Once it becomes a law, the legislation will grant foreign graduates of German universities unrestricted access to the job market in their search for a post that fits their qualifications. After completing

▶ Continued on page 4

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