



# Live and Love Lingen

An Introduction to the City of Lingen (Ems)



*City of the “Kivellinge”*



STADT **LINGEN** EMS

- 
- Life-enhancing
  - Intelligent
  - Lively
  - Dynamic
  - Inquisitive



# Live and Love Lingen

## An Introduction to the City of Lingen (Ems)

Dear Reader,

Lingen is not just a city – Lingen is life. The kind of life you just can't get enough of. Whether enjoying a pleasant cup of coffee in the marketplace, going on a big shopping spree in the city centre, or getting active with a trip along the river Ems in a canoe, once you have set foot in Lingen you simply won't want to leave!

Life-enhancing and family-friendly, close to nature and culturally vibrant, traditional yet modern, competent and thirsty for new knowledge, always optimistic and dynamic that is the image that Lingen presents to visitors. The city of Lingen on the banks of the river Ems has so much to offer: as an economic driving force for the region with outstanding training and job opportunities; as a cultural metropolis and Emsland's centre for healthcare; as a great place to live, with comfortable and innovative housing surrounded by green space.

Lingen is also a cosmopolitan city, hosting many regular international cultural events and involved in town-twinning partnerships going back many years. Friendly get-togethers with people from East Staffordshire (Great Britain), Bielawa (Poland), Elbeuf sur Seine (France), Salt (Spanien), Marienberg (Saxony) and Lanivtsi (Ukraine) have paved the way for many very close friendships.

As you can see, our city has so many different facets that words are hardly adequate to summarise them all. That's why the best thing to do is to get to know and love our city for yourself. Let Lingen captivate you with her flair and charm! You'll soon come to agree with us that Lingen is life!

With best wishes

**Dieter Krone**  
Mayor of the City of Lingen (Ems)



## History



## Go back in time

The centre of Lingen has many stories to tell and oozes history from every pore. Between the pretty gables of medieval town houses, the charm of this city steeped in tradition unfolds. It has preserved its customs, such as the “Kivelingsfest”, through all the changes that have taken place down the centuries and still celebrates them today.

### **COSMOPOLITAN AND SELF-CONFIDENT**

The cosmopolitan and self-confident image that Lingen presents to visitors today has its roots in the city’s eventful history, which begins in the year 975, when first mention of “Liinga” appears. In the early 14th Century, Lingen receives its town charter. Around the same time, the “Kiveling” – young, bachelor sons of the bourgeoisie – bravely defend the fortified town while it is under siege – a heroic act that earns them the right to celebrate their “Kivelingsfest” every three years in Lingen Marketplace in future. Today thousands

of people come to this medieval festival from near and far.

In 1551, the fortified town becomes the property of Emperor Charles V. From now on, the power base in Lingen changes more often than in almost any other German city. Lingen is conquered by the Spaniards, the Dutch, the French and the Prussians, who all leave behind more or less lasting traces which can be seen in the city’s buildings, traditions and customs.



**GOLDEN AGE** The Dutch from Orange are drawn to Lingen by an economic boom, excellent education and the city's characteristic architecture. "The Golden Age" in the Netherlands extends to the city on the River Ems. As well as the Latin School built in 1680, William III of Orange also founds a university in 1697 which exists until 1820.

**THE PRUSSIANS ARRIVE** When William III of Orange dies in 1702, Lingen becomes Prussian. The territory is disputed by the French (who take over from 1806 to 1813) and the Kingdom of Hanover (which rules from 1815 to 1866).

From 1867 onwards, with the city once again in Prussian hands, Lingen becomes a county town, and this status does not change until the regional reform in 1977. During the Industrial Revolution, Lingen blossoms economically. The railway repair factory opens in 1856, and the Dortmund-Ems canal in 1899.

**THE 20TH CENTURY** Here as everywhere, the first half of the 20th Century is shaped by two devastating World Wars and the shadow of National Socialism falls over the city. The Lingen Synagogue is burnt and Jewish families are taken away and murdered.

Much of the city centre is destroyed by fighting during the final days of war. Lingen has belonged to the state of Lower Saxony since 1946. The city centre and lively urban districts of Altenlingen, Baccum, Bramsche, Brockhausen, Brögbern, Clusorth-Bramhar, Darne, Holthausen-Biene, Laxten and Schepsdorf together form the "Large Independent City of Lingen (Ems)". With around 59,500 inhabitants, it is now by far the largest city in Emsland, a strong centre of industry and energy, an attractive place to live with lots of green spaces, and the cultural hub of the region.

*Historic and self-confident – that's the image the city centre of Emsland's metropolis projects.*

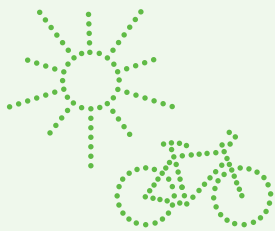


# Good for body & soul

Want to get out and about into the green spaces and recharge your physical, mental and spiritual batteries? In Lingen, recreation starts right outside your house. The city nestles in the beautiful valley of the River Ems. Broad stretches of woodland like the Lingener Wald and the Biener Busch are just minutes away. The outskirts of the city and urban districts are surrounded by fields and meadows – in Lingen you're never far from the countryside!



## Leisure & Recreation

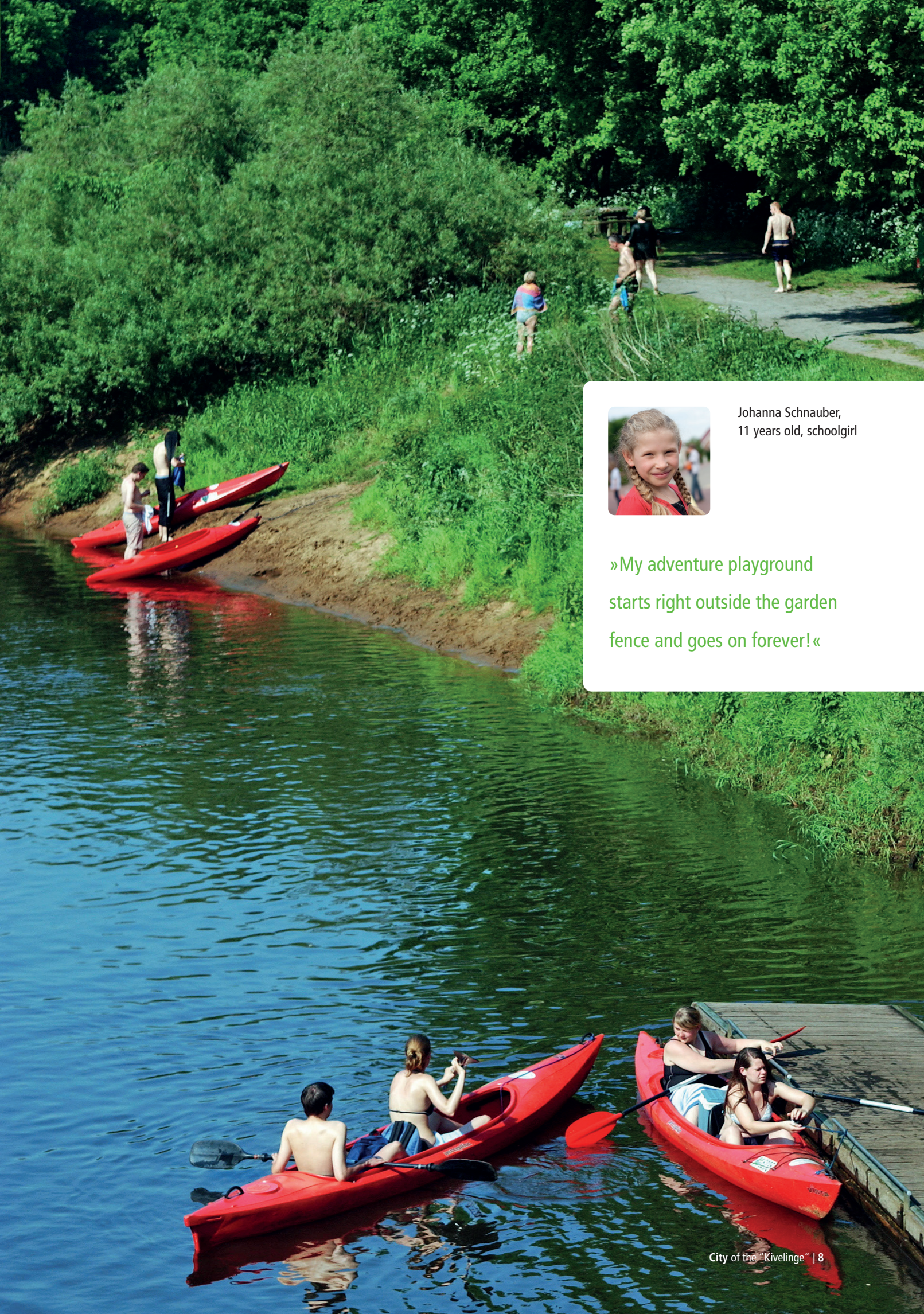


**TOURISTS WELCOME!** There's a good reason why Lingen was awarded the "Pedestrian- and Cycle-Friendly City" seal. The city centre is particularly well set up for pedestrians and cyclists. So those who want to see the sights by foot or by bike can do this safely – and not just on the moat promenade. By the way – the various city tours around Lingen, e.g. the "Historisches Spektakulum" (historical spectacular) with the "Kivellinge" are a real treat. Welcome in Lingen!

**NATURE IN THE RAW...** The possibilities for enjoying nature during your leisure time are almost unlimited. Numerous signposted cycle paths lead right into the middle of the culture-rich landscape of Emsland. Green meadows, yellow cornfields, the soft red of the heather in the Wachendorfer Wacholderhain, all linked by the blue ribbon of the Ems,

provide a picturesque backdrop for ramblers, cyclists and horse riders. You can also enjoy the landscape from the water in a canoe. On an area of 14 hectare, the Emsauenpark offers a wide range of facilities such as playground and fitness equipment, walkways, an Inline-skatepark. It is a perfect place to lay out your picnic blanket or have a cosy little chat.

**...AND LOTS MORE BESIDES!** For people who like active leisure pursuits, Lingen has even more to offer. The Linus open air swimming pool, for example, or the Kanucamp (Camp for canoeing), the 18-hole golf course on the Ems river meadows, numerous sports and fitness facilities etc. etc. ... Lingen is a great place for getting fit!



Johanna Schnauber,  
11 years old, schoolgirl

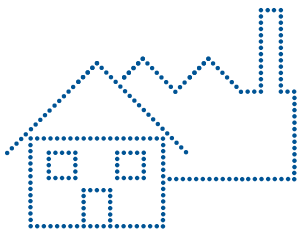
»My adventure playground  
starts right outside the garden  
fence and goes on forever!«

# ••• A life-enhancing city

Lingen is an inspiring and life-enhancing city with an eye to the future. The population is buoyant, because the region has one of the highest birth rates in Germany. Economic institutions report "above average future potential" for Emsland as a whole. Lingen wants to harness this potential. Lifestyle and work are at the heart of this. Lingen has a lot to offer in both these areas.



••• Living & Working







**INNOVATIVE LIFESTYLE ...** Private residential construction has a long and strong tradition in Lingen. The city and its urban districts offer peaceful, child-friendly residential areas with good local amenities. It sets new standards with innovative living concepts for the diverse needs of communities and sole occupants. The Emsauenpark in Reuschberge and the "Wohnen am Wasser" (Living by the Water) project offer new lifestyle options. Future-oriented building materials and techniques based on, for example, low-energy construction play an important role, as do cross-generational living concepts.

**... AND A SHORT JOURNEY TO WORK!**

Many people want to work in the town where they live. For most Lingers, this is a matter of course. Around 29,600 people in Lingen are currently employees paying social insurance contributions, and most of them work for one

of the city's 3,900 or more businesses. Lingen has a healthy mix of industrial, craft, trade and service companies, industry being the most important sector in this economic hub. The energy industry is particularly strong here. Many people are also employed in the healthcare sector, since Lingen is the region's centre for healthcare.

Lingen scores highly for quality of life, with low unemployment and outstanding, exemplary growth potential for companies. Businesses in Lingen gain inspiration from various «ideas factories» such as the it.emsland information and technology centre, the Hochschule Osnabrück (Osnabrück University of Applied Science) and in the future the IT-Campus Lingen: These instructions all ensure a continuous exchange between theory and practice, research and application.

*An attractive lifestyle with work "just around the corner" – Lingen is a multi-faceted living and working environment with an eye to the future.*





# Children are our future

“Lingen is a young city with lots of children.” They can be seen running, riding and skating round the numerous residential areas, strolling in the city centre, rampaging round the many playgrounds and sports grounds or simply making their way to school, kindergarten, sports training or music classes. It would certainly be impossible to imagine the city without them. Lingen was awarded the title of “Family-friendly City” many years ago by the Federal Ministry for Youth and Family Affairs, and in that respect, nothing has changed.



Children  
& Family





Ulli Schnauber,  
42 years old, chef

»Lingen puts family high on the agenda. Children are welcome everywhere and their needs taken seriously. Children are an integral part of life and work in Lingen.«



**FAMILY-FRIENDLY CITY** Lingen gives family with children under 18 a "Family Pass". This card entitles them to numerous reductions on municipal charges and concessions for events. In the summer holidays, around 140 "Holiday Pass" events are organised for families who stay at home, in cooperation with associations and businesses.

**IT'S FUN TO GET INVOLVED!** Lots of youth clubs and youth centres provide opportunities for leisure and meeting up near home. The "Alter Schlachthof", the city's child, youth and culture centre, has made a name for itself throughout North Germany as an event venue for high-quality youth concerts. Make your voice heard! Children and young

people in Lingen can also get politically active. The city's Children's and Young People's Parliament is involved in the youth policy decisions of the city council and manages its own budget.

**FAMILY AND WORK** For many families, reconciling family life with work depends on the available childcare. Lingen offers a closely knit network to help with this. Provision of nursery places for children over three is over 100 percent and crèche facilities are being rapidly expanded. Five family centres support parents in finding the right facility for their child. All Lingen primary schools offer all-day-care, with out-of-school care for a fee outside these hours if required.



Art &  
Culture



## Take time out

Culture – that vast realm where all facets of life are expressed through music, theatre and art. In Lingen, it really is a realm of riches. Lingen has six theatres and lots of cultural event and exhibition venues. The cultural scene in Lingen is buzzing!

*The whole city is a stage?  
Not quite. But the many  
different venues and numerous  
cultural events in the city cen-  
tre lend the cultural capital of  
Emsland a particular charm.*

**“ALL THE WORLD’S A STAGE ...”** The theatre in the Wilhelmshöhe Culture Park is a classic auditorium with 730 seats presenting operas, plays, musicals, concerts and light comedies. Its audience number around 50,000 per season, with over 2,000 season tickets per year. Young people can get a taste of the theatre too at particularly low prices with the Youth Cultural Season Ticket. In collaboration with the Emslandhallen, the multifunctional EmslandArena offers great space for all kinds of events. Whereas the Emslandhallen hold exhibitions and events, the EmslandArena with capacities from 900 up to 4,999 visitors is the ideal venue to host

concerts, sports- and show events. The theatre in the Lingener Professorenhaus seats up to 140 visitors and presents cabaret and children’s theatre productions such as the annual “Kiki und Puppis” children’s theatre series. This historic building accommodates the entertaining and exciting “Haus der Sinne” (House of the Senses) over two floors which guests of every age can visit for free during opening hours. The Professorenhaus is also home to the Theaterpädagogisches Zentrum der Emsländischen Landschaft e.V. (TPZ) (Emsland Drama Education Centre), the largest further training institution of its kind in Germany.

Lingen was also the birthplace of a key global event, the World Festival of Children's Theatre, which travels around the world but returns to Lingen every four years. The Burgtheater is affiliated to the University of Applied Sciences Osnabrück. It is a think tank, workshop and provides a platform for students to present their projects: the range of events also includes autobiographical talks, lectures, guest performances, concerts and theatre trips. The Children's-, Youth and Cultural Centre "Alter Schlachthof" is a meeting point for children, adolescents and young people interested in culture.

#### ART AND MUSIC IN TUNE WITH THE TIMES

Fine Art is strongly represented in Lingen with the Kunsthalle and Kunstschule (School of Art), both sponsored by the Kunstverein (Art Association). With regular exhibitions by contemporary German and international artists in the Kunsthalle, the art scene really has its finger on the pulse. The Kunstschule inspires young and old alike to explore forms of individual artistic expression, as does the Musikschule (School of Music), the students of which make a name for themselves every year with impressive success in regional and national competitions.

**REGIONAL CULTURE** Regional art, culture and history are documented and showcased

by a range of institutions. The Emslandmuseum regularly much-admired thematic exhibitions and the Lern- und Gedenkort Jüdische Schule (Jewish School Learning and Memorial Centre) runs a permanent exhibition on the fate of Jewish families in Lingen. No less important than the cultural life of Lingen is the role played by the Kivelinge. At the medieval Pflingstfest (Spring Festival) which takes place in Lingen every three years, the bachelor sons of the bourgeoisie celebrate the "Historisches Spektakulum" just like they first did over 600 years ago. They were awarded this right for their courage in defending Lingen, and today the festival is a gift from the "Kivelinge" to the citizens and the many visitors who come from the surrounding area.

**NATIONWIDE EVENT-HOTSPOT** Breathtaking arena-concerts of current renowned artists and home matches of the second-league team HSG Nordhorn-Lingen – the Emsland-Arena is regularly the scene of impressive events with nationwide radiance. The diverse event programme provides highlights for every kind of taste: Classic, Pop, Hip Hop or Rock, Comedy, Show or Sports. National and international artists enjoy being guests and impress their visitors. Thanks to the good situation and public transport connection the EmslandArena is also a good magnet for visitors coming from a distance.



# EMSLAND ARENA



Foto: Alfred Büttel



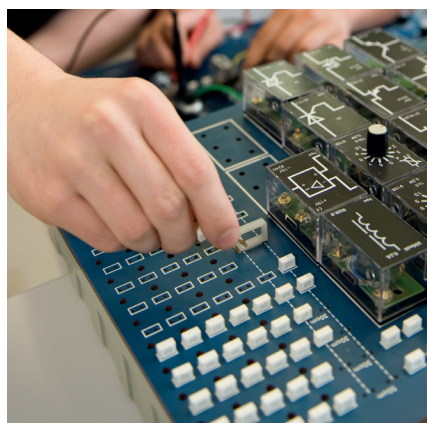
Foto: Jörg Everding

# Learning for life

Learn for life and learn lifelong – a maxim no one can afford to ignore these days. Technical progress is too fast, the half of knowledge too short, and global markets too big. Lingen therefore invests in education for young and old – from Kindergarten to university and beyond ...



Knowledge & Education





Mara Schneider,  
20 years old,  
student

»In Lingen, studying means practical and effective learning in manageable groups. We know and support each other. The builds networks for a successful future career.«

**A GOOD START IN LIFE** 30 kindergartens, a remedial kindergarten and a kindergarten for children with speech defects prepare toddlers step-by-step for their school education to come. 16 primary schools, a special school for speech and hearing difficulties, three secondary school complexes providing lower secondary education, a comprehensive school, two grammar schools providing general education at upper secondary level and three grammar schools providing vocational education at upper secondary level.

**LEARNING FOR A CAREER** Three vocational schools in Lingen qualify young people for various careers with dual courses of study. The Fachschule für Sozial und Heilpädagogik trains

educators. The Christophorus-Werk is geared to the special requirements for training citizens with disabilities. It enables young people with learning difficulties or other disabilities to gain a vocational qualification and find suitable adult employment.

**PRACTICAL STUDY** Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences is exploring new ways of dovetailing theory and practice at its Lingen campus with the "Institut für duale Studiengänge" (Institute for Dual Degree Courses) and other institutes of the Faculty of Management, Culture and Technology, which are cultivating links with local businesses and involved in continuous exchange between research and business.

**NEVER STOP LEARNING!** As well as the training institutions "Campus Handwerk Süd-West Niedersachsen", other institutions offer further training for adults. These include the Volkshochschule Lingen with integrated training centre for information technologies (b.i.t.), the Katholische Akademie, the Heimvolkshochschule Ludwig-Windthorst-Haus and various other institutions of further education.

**LEARN THROUGH READING** Reading makes you smart! The city library offers over 73,000 media including non-fiction and technical literature, DVDs, CDs and games. This represents a further investment by the City of Lingen in the education of its citizens.





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