

# Studying with a child at the University of Bremen





Cooperation partner:











# Dear students of the University of Bremen,

welcome to our family-friendly university!

I am aware that students with family responsibilities face particular challenges in successfully completing their studies. For this reason, it is important to me to provide these students with the best possible support.

I am therefore particularly pleased to present the brochure "Studying with a child at the University of Bremen". This guide informs you about our family-friendly places and advice centers on the university campus. From childcare to caring for relatives, from reporting pregnancy to family-oriented events, we are committed to helping you balance your studies and family life.

Since 2007, the University of Bremen has had evaluated its measures and strategies for more family-friendliness evaluated as part of the family-friendly university audit. Since then, the University of Bremen has been awarded the quality seal "family-friendly university".

I hope this brochure is useful for you and makes our measures for more family justice at the university visible.

With best regards,

Frauke Meyer, Director of Finance and Administration



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# Studying with a child

Insights into everyday life: Three students report on experiences, hurdles and help.

# Kristin: Challenges in balancing studies and family

"I actively decided against taking a semester off (parental leave) because at the time my child was born, online-only semesters were still being conducted (due to the covid-related pandemic). This was very convenient for balancing my studies and family. However, by switching back to face-toface lectures, I was confronted with the challenge of finding courses that were compatible with my partner's care hours or the regular hours of the childcare facilities. Unfortunately, this proved to be very difficult, as the range of block seminars or evening events was limited and the use of hybrid courses was/is also very rare. Therefore, one should take care of the timetable early on when resuming studies. Furthermore, networking with other students was helpful for me, especially during the semester when I could only attend a course irregularly . Another solution can be the childcare offered at the university, e.g. the Kinderland. It should be noted, however, that you have to take care of a place in time, since the places are usually in great demand."

### Karlotta:

Breaking out of the daily student routine - motivational aids

"During my prenancy I was in my internship (Master of Ed.) and I was able to attend all of the scheduled lectures and seminars at the end of my pregnancy. Unfortunately, due to health restrictions, it was not possible for me to complete all the corresponding examinations. After the pregnancy and maternity leave, I lacked motivation and the necessary daily study routine. The free psychological counseling and the social counseling of the Studierendenwerk Bremen are there to manage such crisis situations. I became aware of the wide-ranging offer through the events of the "Study Work Life Week", which deals with precisely such focal points and organizes lectures on interesting topics. The regular meetings in the form of the Parents' Café (offered by the AG FFS) have been very helpful in rebuilding my relationship with the university. The exchange with other students who do care work also encourages me to reorganize and structure my everyday life."



# Finja: Pregnant during your studies – and then?

"At the beginning of my pregnancy, I contacted the family care office on campus relatively quickly for advice. That was a great help, as I had not previously been involved with the family services at the university. That's were I learned about the Working Group: Family Friendly University and the family room, which I have now also used a few times for work. However, I did imagine that studying with a child would be a little easier. For this reason, after the birth of my child, I decided to take two semesters off (parental leave) to take some of the pressure off myself. The good about parental leave is

that you can still take exams if you want to. For me, it was also very challenging to adjust my schedule to the times of childcare – because many seminars and courses take place in the afternoon. Some teachers were very cooperative in this regard and offered me alternative options so that I could still attend. From others, I would have liked a little more flexibility. The online offer during Corona was very helpful to me in my situation. It would be great if this opportunity for digital teaching were to continue to be used in the future, because this would make seminars and lectures."



# Being on the campus with children

You will find a large wooden playpen in the cafeteria. This is a great place to meet other parents and socialize while your children can play and have fun. Toys can be borrowed for free from the Family Care Office. A microwave is provided as well.

# University canteen on the university boulevard

The Studierendenwerk offers free lunch in the cafeteria for children of students up to the age of six. In order to take advantage of this offer, a one-time registration is required at the service point of the University canteen. Needed documents:

- a Copy of the child's birth certificate
- the Certificate of enrollment from a parent or legal guardian

# Family area with space to play

In the lower area of the cafeteria (with a lakeside view) is a large, versatile children's play island. Here, small and large children will find physical "challenges" appropriate to their age. In addition to the play area, high chairs are available. There is also a large information board with current dates and further information for student parents.

## Cafeteria in GW 2

In the cafeteria there is a large wooden playpen with toys. This is where parents with children meet to play and chat. There is also a microwave for heating baby and toddler food.

The Working Group: Family Friendly University (AG FFS) offers two different rooms that are particularly childfriendly.

# The family room:

Is intended for all who need a suitable place to work in peace with or without children. You can enter ist through the floor of the campus kids (childcare facility). Available are, among others, a sofa corner, a kitchenette with microwave, a baby crib and a desk for work.

# The AG room:

Is at the same time office and recreation room and it can be visited for short-term use. It is also a place for meeting and exchange.

Among other things, a ball bath, children's books, craft materials, toys, a sofa corner, tables, a kettle and a changing table are available.

**Opening hours:** By arrangement **Contact:** agffs@uni-bremen.de

Both rooms are located at University Boulevard No. 10, diagonally opposite from the Mensa.





# Students with young children are welcome in the University Library.

A family room (3290) is available on level 3. You will also find a small book box with picture books on level 1, which your children are welcome to use during their visit to the library. A changing table is available in the handicap restroom on Level 1. Strollers can be taken into the library.

### Parent-child workstation in GW 1

On the 2nd floor of GW1, there is a freely accessible parent-child room in room B2090. This room can be reached by elevator. The parent-child room is equipped with a desk and chair as well as a children's table with children's chairs.

You will also find a changing mat, various toys and a play sofa in the room. A kitchen for heating meals is located in the hallway.

## More information at:

www.uni-bremen.de/en/familie/university-staff/children-on-campus

# Currently, the following breastfeeding and diapering facilities are available:

The most frequented places at the university are listed below. However, there is a diaper-changing facility in almost every building on the campus – these are located in the restrooms for people with disabilities whenever possible. Alternatively they can usually be found in the ladies' toilets.

For more information about buildings not listed here, please contact the administration of the respective departments.

# Diaper changing rooms

- Earth Sciences (GEO 2)
   Klagenfurterstr. 2 & 4 at the main entrance room 1530
- Administration building (VWG)
   Bibliothekstr. 1, first floor room 0460
- State & University Library (SuUB)
   on University Boulevard Level 1 room 1410
- Lecture Hall Building (HS) at the university boulevard, upper level – room 1020
- Mehrzweckhochhaus (MZH)
   Bibliothekstr. 5 room 4030 (4th floor) and room 3030 (3rd floor)
- Natural Sciences 2 (NW2)
   Leobener Str. / University Boulevard room 1220
- Seminar and Research Building (SFG)
   Enrique-Schmidt-Str.7 room 0190
- Sports halls
   on the university boulevard via the main entrance
   from the sports tower Changing room ladies
   A1460 / changing room men A1420
- Sports Tower
   at University Boulevard No. 18 room 1142
- University canteenat University Boulevard room B 0530
- Study House
   at University Boulevard room 1024



# First aid rooms can also be used as breastfeeding rooms.

**Humanities 2 (GW 2)** at University Boulevard Block B – Level 1 – room B1065

# Please note:

You can get the needed key to enter the room from the event office or in the GW2 cafeteria during the public opening hours, which you can request from the events office or the refectory of this building. The key is available as long as these two locations are open to the public.

Mehrzweckhochhaus (MZH) Bibliothekstr. 5 – Level 1 – room 1170



# Game boxes / game bags

Daycare strike? Closed school? Childcare cancelled? There are many reasons why students at the University of Bremen have to spontaneously take their child with them to campus. The Family Care Office provides various toys that can be borrowed by students with family responsibilities. They are equipped with different toys such as crayons, picture books and wooden toys and can be requested for different age groups. We pay attention to diversity and gender-sensitive materials for the children. The toys can be ordered and borrowed from the Family Care Office.

**Contact:** familien@vw.uni-bremen.de **Tel.** 0421 218 – 60850 | 0421 218 – 60860



# Childcare facilities on campus

Various childcare options are offered on the campus of the University of Bremen. Parents should consider in advance whether care closer to home or campus is more appropriate for their living situation and the level of care to be offered. After researching on the Internet, parents can get an impression of the childcare facility and arrange a visit.

Unfortunately, the following applies to the state of Bremen and to the childcare services on campus: the demand is greater than the supply! It is therefore advisable to look for a childcare place as early as possible.

You can find more information here: www.uni-bremen.de/en/familie/students-1/childcare-services

### **Childcare costs**

The amount of the parental contribution depends on your family income and the daily duration of care. You can find a contribution calculator at: www.kinderbetreuungskompass.de/informieren.html



# Kinderland

Kinderland provides reliable childcare in a safe and friendly environment for children to develop and grow. It is organized by student assistants who are responsible for the care and supervision of the children while their parents attend lectures or other university activities. This facility is financed by the AStA, the university and the Studierendenwerk and offers a wide range of toys and playground equipment for children of different ages. Kinderland also has an outdoor area where children can play in a protected environment.

## Age of children:

Children are cared for in mixed-age groups, starting at 6 months.

### Care hours:

The care period is from Monday – Friday, 8 a.m.– 6 p.m., the children of studying parents can be cared for up to nine hours a week. In exceptional cases, such as block seminars on weekends, Saturday care can also be arranged.

**Location:** Sports Tower, Level 1 **Contact:** kinderland@uni-bremen.de

# campus kids

The concept of campus kids aims to enable children to have a variety of experiences and to be active in a self-determined way. Children learn and discover through their senses. To do this, children need a safe, protected environment in which they can experiment. This is exactly what campus kids offers. Two educators take care of the children every day and are therefore permanent reference persons. In addition, two other permanent staff members are part of the team to support the group activities and provide sick leave cover. Trainees who are completing a practical part of their training or studies are also firmly integrated into the group's daily routine.

# Group size:

10 children from 10 months to 3 years old

Location:

centrally located on the boulevard, opposite the university canteen

Care hours:

35/40 hours per week

**Contact:** 

campus.kids@gmx.de





# Uni-Kita e.V.

The facility is committed to a concept that focuses on the care and support of the individual child. In doing so, they primarily rely on the basics of the situational approach and make the everyday life of the children and their families the object of learning. The goal is to support each child with his or her personal biography in understanding his or her own individual environment and in shaping it in a self-determined and competent manner.

The children are seen as creators and shapers of their own living environment and are supported with emotional security and care. The different abilities of the individual child are addressed and strengthened

## Group size:

Five all-day nursery groups, each with 8 Children. For children from 1–3 years. A kindergarten group with 18 children, aged 3–6 years. Each group usually has two educators/specialists and, if necessary, one intern.

# Location:

Close to the NW1 building. By car or bicycle, access is via Otto-Hahn-Allee.

### Contact:

info@unikita-bremen.de

https://unikita-bremen.de

Emergency childcare service by the Notfallmamas for important University appointments What if there is an important exam at the university during the closing hours of your child's daycare center? This is a difficult challenge for many parents with young children. The University of Bremen offers support in such cases and provides up to a maximum of 14 hours per year for emergency childcare service by the **Notfallmamas**, available so that students can attend important events (e.g. exams) without further complications.

### Contact:

familien@vw.uni-bremen.de

www.uni-bremen.de/en/familie/ students-1/childcare-services

# Children's holiday camps

It is not always easy to reconcile children and work or children and studies, especially during the school holidays. The University of Bremen attaches great importance to strengthening the reconciling career and family life and supports a wide range of measures in this regard, both financially and organizationally. One of these is the offer of children's holiday camps. In cooperation with the sports club 1860 - the university offers a vacation care program for children between the ages of four and fourteen. During the school vacations in Bremen (except for the Christmas vacations), games, fun and exercise are the focus of the childcare concept every weekday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the premises of the Bremen 1860 Association at Baumschulenweg 6, 28213 Bremen.

www.uni-bremen.de/en/familie/family-care-of-fice/childrens-holiday-camps

The Bremen Holiday Compass provides parents with an overview of other vacation offers. You can find more information at:

https://bremer-ferienkompass.de





# Mutual support networks

In addition to the regular care of the child / children, it is also helpful to find mutual support through contacts with other parents. A good opportunity is, for example, the events of the Family Care Office on the topic of pregnancy or the guided tour through the university boulevard, where family-friendly places are shown. In addition, the annual children's event organized by the Familiy Friendly Working Group (AG FFS) is highly recommended.

www.uni-bremen.de/en/familie/ag-ffs



# Childcare facilities in Bremen

# **Bremen Childcare Compass**

The homepage of the Bremen Childcare Compass presents the various childcare options in many languages.

www.kinderbetreuungskompass.de

# Day care centers of the state of Bremen

The Kitaportal is an online platform provided by the state of Bremen that provides information about daycare facilities in Bremen and Bremerhaven. The Kitaportal offers parents the opportunity to find out about the various daycare facilities in their area, register online and express their childcare wishes. Parents are able to search according to various criteria, e.g. distance from home or the type of care they require. They can also get an impression of the facilities from provided photos and information on opening hours, the educational concept and the care options.

https://kitaportal.bremen.de/en





# Information for expectant new Moms

# Maternity protection for students

Students may through Pregnancy and parenthood do not cause any disadvantage in studies. Since 01.01.2018, these claims for mothers are also regulated by the Maternity Protection Act (MuSCHG). Please register your Pregnancy at the Family Service Office and receive advice on all topics that are important for you, your child and your studies during pregnancy.

# www.uni-bremen.de/en/ familie/family-care-office

### Course of study planning

In order to adapt your studies to the new situation of pregnancy or parenthood, the study center in your department will work with you to create a study plan that is tailored to your needs.

www.uni-bremen.de/en/ studies/starting-your-studies/ study-centers

# Center for Teachers/ Teacher Education and Educational Research (ZfLB)

The ZfLB is, among other things, a consulting, mediation, and service agency for all students in the teacher training programs. Pregnant students or students with children should contact the responsible advisors at an early stage if, for example, they have questions about the compatibility of school internships or interdisciplinary questions about study and examination issues as well as family responsibilities.

# www.uni-bremen.de/zfl

Under the heading Consulting you will find the various consulting offices in the ZfLB.

# Important addresses on campus and in Bremen

The compatibility of study and family presents parents with special challenges. Here, the University of Bremen offers various counseling services.



# **The Family Care Office**

The Family Care Office is for all university members with family responsibilities. From the notification of pregnancy for students, to childcare offers, to the care of relatives. Here you can get advice, participate in meetings or receive workshop offers. You will find us next to the large glass hall, diagonally opposite the university library.

**Contact:** familien@vw.uni-bremen.de **Tel.** 0421 218-60850 / 0421 218-60860

www.uni-bremen.de/en/familie/family-care-office

## Family Friendly University (AG FFS)

The AG FFS is the contact point for students with family responsibilities or caregiving tasks. The members of the AG FFS are also students at the University of Bremen and are happy to help with questions and problems.

Contact: agffs@uni-bremen.de

www.uni-bremen.de/en/familie/ag-ffs

# **Equal Opportunity Office**

The Equal Opportunity Unit is committed to gender equality at the university and offers students and academics a wide range of advisory services, workshops and working groups. The management of the family-friendly university audit is also located in the Equal Opportunity Office.

Contact: chancen2@vw.uni-bremen.de

www.uni-bremen.de/en/chancengleichheit

www.uni-bremen.de/chancengleichheit/hochschul-und-geschlechterpolitik/familiengerechtehochschule

# **General Student Committee (AStA)**

The AStA represents the interests of students and is open to new ideas and projects, visibly and actively advocates for the rights of s t u d e n t s a n d makes a strong contribution to political education at the university. For this purpose, rooms such as the "Café l'Astaire", the lecture hall or the painting room as well as infrastructure and material are available. With the open working groups and circles of the departments, they invite all interested parties to actively participate and help shape the political developments at the university.

www.asta.uni-bremen.de

# Central Women's Representative of the University of Bremen

Its goal is to identify and eliminate gender inequalities at the University of Bremen in cooperation with relevant actors in higher education policy, and to to achieve more gender equity in the science system. It is committed to the reduction of underrepresentation of female scientists, the reduction of segregation across the departments at the University of Bremen, gender in research and teaching, the promotion of the compatibility of families and employment as well as genderequitable diversity.

Contact: zfrauen@uni-bremen.de

www.uni-bremen.de/zentrale-frauenbeauftragte

# ADE – Arbeitsstelle gegen Diskriminierung und Gewalt – Expertise and Conflict Counseling

ADE counsels students who have experienced discrimination in the course of their studies, such as e.g. racism, sexism, sexualized discrimination, discrimination against trans\* and of people with disabilities/chronic illnesses or other forms of discrimination. The ADE also provides advice on conflicts. In a confidential conversation, there is the possibility to sort out what has been experienced (even if it is still unclear whether one's own experience is assessed as discrimination) and to develop possibilities for action. Appointments can be made by e-mail or during telephone office hours. Contact: ade@uni-bremen.de

www.uni-bremen.de/en/ade



# Study centers and academic advising

### Study centers

Study centers are the central point of contact for students with questions about study planning and examination regulations. In individual cases, the study centers are also the point of contact for subject advising and recognition of examinations. The study center also collects information that is important for studying and forwards inquiries.

# **Student Advisory Service**

As a rule, the subject advising is carried out by elected university lecturers of the study program. They advise on questions of study content, e.g. in connection with the structure of the study program, study design, examination questions, possible focus, etc. The examination committees are responsible for the recognition of study achievements. The examination committees are responsible for the recognition of academic achievements. The current contact details of the advisors can be found under "Contact and Advising" in the study program.

### Practice offices and practice officers

Practice offices support students in preparing, planning and carrying out an internship. In addition, students can find help in practice offices for their professional orientation. Internship officers usually take on the supervision of non-university internships and they decide on the recognition of the respective internships. → Practice offices and officers

www.uni-bremen.de/en/studies/starting-your-studies/study-centers

# **Center for Teacher Education and Educational Research (ZfLB)**

The ZfLB is, among other things, an advisory, placement and service facility for all students in the teacher training programs. Pregnant students or students with children should contact the relevant advisors at an early stage if, for example, they have questions about the compatibility of school internships or interdisciplinary questions about study and examination issues and family responsibilities.

Contact: zfl@uni-bremen.de

www.uni-bremen.de/zflb/das-zflb

### **International Office**

The International Office is the central contact point for all international students. The advising staff offers assistance with all specific. The International Office also provides information for those who are interested in a stay in a foreign country. The International Office also offers information for those who are interested in a stay abroad.

www.uni-bremen.de/en/university/profile/international

### **Study Workshop**

The Study Workshop helps with the handicraft organization of studies. Here you can get help with learning at the university.

Contact: stwk@uni-bremen.de

www.uni-bremen.de/en/studierwerkstatt

# Central Student Advisory Service (ZSB)

The ZSB provides information and advice to anyone with questions about studying, including students with children.

Contact: zsb@uni-bremen.de

www.uni-bremen.de/en/zsb

# **Student Secretariat (SFS)**

The Student Secretariat is your contact for all formalities concerning enrollment, re-registration, leave of absence and much more.

www.uni-bremen.de/en/sfs

## **Central Examination Office (ZPA)**

The Central Examination Office is responsible for the examination matters of the study programs of the faculties 6 to 12 as well as for all teacher training students, regardless of their faculty affiliation. Different offices are responsible for exam administration in the ZPA, depending on the subject.

www.uni-bremen.de/en/zpa



# Consulting services of the Studierendenwerk

The counselors of the Psychological and Social Counselling support you in study-related, personal and social issues. The counseling is also available in English. The advice is free of charge and confidential. For an appointment, please contact the office by phone or in person during opening hours.

# **Social Counselling**

The Social Counselling Service advises and assists with questions regarding financial security/study financing, studying with children, with a chronic illness or disability, social insurance, social benefits from the areas of housing subsidies, SGB II benefits/citizenship benefits, and social security, child allowance, health insurance, broadcasting fees, and student discounts.

www.stw-bremen.de/en/counselling-social/social-care

# Psychological Counselling Service (PBS)

The Counselling Center provides assistance with study-related or personal problems in the form of individual or online consultations, work structuring groups, groups for students with attention deficit disorder or mental illness, and through various workshops on study-specific topics such as speech and exam anxiety.

www.stw-bremen.de/en/counselling-social/ psychological-counselling



# Consulting addresses of the state of Bremen

### **Familiennetz Bremen**

The familiennetz Bremen is a neutral, independent and free-of-charge specialist office and service center on the topic of family. It advises, mediates and informs - acting as a guide in Bremen. The familiennetz is a good contact point for families in Bremen.

https://familiennetz-bremen.de

### **Pro Familia**

Pro Familia is the German Association for Family Planning, Sexual Education and Sexual Counseling. Pro familia has the vision of a democratic society based on solidarity, responsibility and equality. As an association, they stand for the right to learn about your own sexuality and reproduction, to self-determined sexual orientation and identity, the right to physical and mental integrity and thus for the right to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

www.profamilia.de/en/

# Rat&Tat - Center for queer life e.V.

Rat&Tat e.V. offers counseling and information for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans:idente, inter:gender and queer people, their relatives and friends. The topics include: childbearind and rainbow families.

www.ratundtat-bremen.de/ Beratung

# **Bremen Lawyers' Association**

The Bremen Lawyers' Association offers free legal advice under certain conditions. To these Requirements include: Net income for single persons up to 1,000 €, partner:inside 350 €, residence in Bremen, no previous legal advice in the same matter.

www.anwaltsvereinbremen.de/ index.php/buergerservice/ rechtsberatung



# Financing your studies with a child

International students have financial aid options available to them to facilitate their studies in Germany. However, it is important to note that you may not be eligible for financial aid in Germany, which may affect your residency status. We strongly recommend you become well-informed and seek individual counselling before applying for financial aid, whether in the form of scholarships, work opportunities, or government benefits. There are counseling services at our university that can help you create an individualized financial plan. The first point of contact could be the Social Counselling of the Studierendenwerk or AStA BAföG- and social counselling.

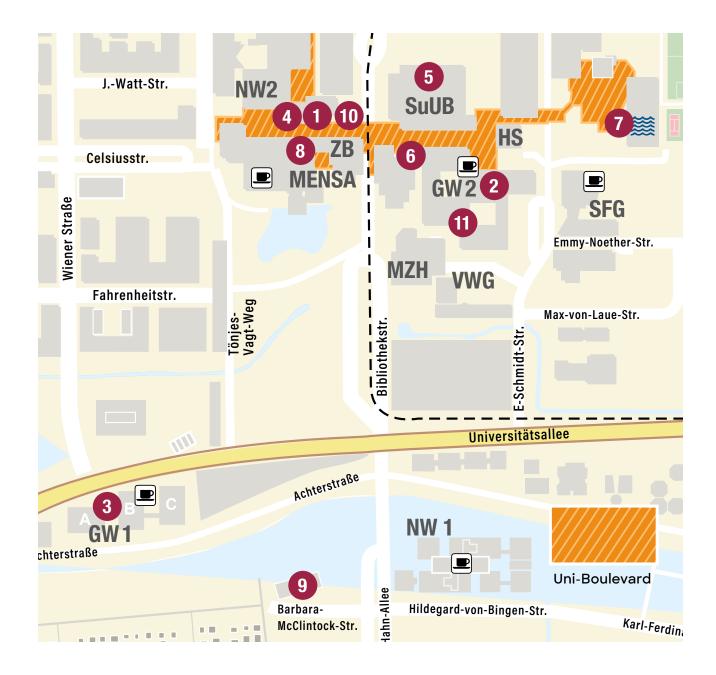
The Social Counselling Service of the Studierendenwerk

www.stw-bremen.de/en/counselling-social

The Social Counselling Service of the AStA

www.asta.uni-bremen.de/service/bafog-und-sozial-beratung/

# Family-friendly places



- 1 AG-FFS-Room | Uni-Boulevard, diagonally opposite the University canteen
- 2 Cafeteria in GW2 | Uni-Boulevard
- 3 Parent-child workstation in GW1 | 2nd floor, room B2090
- **⚠** Familiy Room | Uni-Boulevard, diagonally opposite the University canteen
- 5 Familiy Room | University Library, level 3, room 3290
- 6 Familiy Care Office | Uni-Boulevard, next to the large glass hall, diagonally across from the SuUB
- 7 Kinderland | Sports Tower, Level 1
- University canteen | Uni-Boulevard
- Uni-Kita | Barbara-McClintock-Str.
- o campus kids | Uni-Boulevard, diagonally opposite the University canteen

# First aid rooms can be used as breastfeeding rooms:

Humanities 2 (GW2) | Uni-Boulevard, Block B, Level 1, room B1065

Universität Bremen Unit 08 | Family Care Office Bibliothekstraße 1 28359 Bremen

Visiting address: You can find us on the boulevard of the university, opposite the library.

familien@vw.uni-bremen.de www.uni-bremen.de/en/familie/family-care-office

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