Learning German

Language is the key to a country's culture. And even if communication in English is no problem at research institutes, the stay in Germany is not all work but also everyday life and leisure. After their stay is over, nearly all research fellows emphasize that knowledge of German contributes significantly to integrating, especially the family, into everyday life and making the stay a richer experience. It is very helpful to get a basic knowledge of German before the stay and at least grapple with the fundamentals of the language (script, grammar, etc.).

Research fellows are strongly recommended to participate in intensive courses as experience shows that they can spend more time practising the language and, on top of this, get to know other people in the same situation to whom they can talk about initial difficulties and turn to for mutual support if problems occur.
In scientific subjects, in particular, knowledge of specialized German vocabulary can facilitate communication with technicians, laboratory staff, and assistants. Thus, at the beginning of the stay at the host institute it might be helpful to attend seminars and lectures in German or to get together with a German colleague in order to learn this special vocabulary.

At Kiel University it is possible to do courses to learn German in different difficulties at the "Lektorat German as a foreign language".
Read more: Lektorat German as a Foreign Language

Additionally the International Center offers each year two summer courses.
Read more: Summer courses at Kiel University.