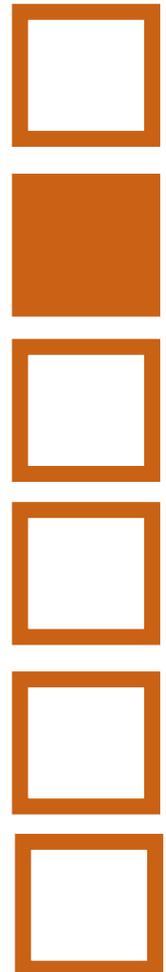


# Finding a place to live

Information for  
international students  
at Goethe University



# 1. Accommodation in Frankfurt

## 1.1. Halls of residence / student dorms

**Type of accommodation:** **single room** in shared accommodation (in German *Wohngemeinschaft* or just *WG*) or **one-room apartments** (including bathroom and cooking corner) between 10 and 20 m<sup>2</sup>, furnished and unfurnished rooms, additional communal room for leisure activities.

**Apply as early as possible**, as applications are handled on a first-come, first-serve basis. (It is possible to apply even if you haven't received your letter of admission yet; it's best to fill in the application for halls online at the same time as applying to study at Goethe University)

**Cost:** approx. €125 - €500, depending on size, equipment, and whether it's a single room or an apartment. In addition, you pay a one-time **deposit** equivalent to (as a rule) double your monthly rent; this deposit is returned upon moving out if there is no damage to the accommodation.

**Rental period: maximum 4 years.**

### ***Halls of residence /student dorms in Frankfurt and surroundings***

#### **Studentenwerk (student services):**

*Abteilung Wohnen*, Bockenheimer Landstraße 133, 3rd floor of the *Sozialzentrum*, room 319/320, consultation hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays 10:00-12:00; Mondays, Thursdays 13:00-15:00

**Email:** [wohnen@studentenwerkfrankfurt.de](mailto:wohnen@studentenwerkfrankfurt.de)

**Further information:** [www.studentenwerkfrankfurt.de/wohnen](http://www.studentenwerkfrankfurt.de/wohnen)

#### **Protestant students community, ESG: *Susanna von Klettenberg Haus***

Campus Westend of Goethe-University

Siolistraße 7, 60323 Frankfurt/Main

Consultation hours: Mondays-Thursdays, 8:00-11:00, Tel: 069-915068-79-11

**Contact:** Andrea Bettermann ([andrea.bettermann@evstudwh.de](mailto:andrea.bettermann@evstudwh.de))

**Further information:** [www.esg-frankfurt.de/de/wohnheim/index.php](http://www.esg-frankfurt.de/de/wohnheim/index.php)

#### **Catholic students community, KHG: *Bauverein katholische Studentenwohnheime e.V.***

Further information: [www.khg-frankfurt.de/wohnheime/](http://www.khg-frankfurt.de/wohnheime/)

- **Alfred Delp-Haus (Campus Westend):** Contact: Claudia Wanner ([c.wanner@bauverein-frankfurt.de](mailto:c.wanner@bauverein-frankfurt.de)) Opening hours: Mondays 14:00-16:00; Thursdays 9:00-12:00, Tel. 069-78988-29-40  
Further information: [www.adh-studentenhaus.de](http://www.adh-studentenhaus.de)
- **Friedrich Dessauer-Haus:** Contact: Simone Geiß, Janina Rosenhahn, Sabine Thiel ([anfrage@bauverein-frankfurt.de](mailto:anfrage@bauverein-frankfurt.de)) Consultation hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 8:00-12:00; Tuesdays, Thursdays 14:00-16:00, Tel. 069-78988-29-0  
Further information: [www.fdh-studentenhaus.de](http://www.fdh-studentenhaus.de)

**The Studentenwerk (student services) has compiled a list of halls operated by other providers:**  
[www.studentenwerkfrankfurt.de/wohnen/andere-anbieter.html](http://www.studentenwerkfrankfurt.de/wohnen/andere-anbieter.html)

## ***Private student residences***

In Frankfurt, as well as in numerous other cities in Germany, various private student residences have opened up in recent years. Flats are furnished and usually a little more expensive than flats in halls of residence by the Studentenwerk. But they offer special services such as a concierge, study rooms, private cinemas, rooftop gardens etc. In Frankfurt there are currently six different residences:

- The Fizz - Frankfurt Gallus - [www.the-fizz.com](http://www.the-fizz.com)
- Bed & Brains (close to Campus Riedberg) - [www.bed-and-brains.de](http://www.bed-and-brains.de)
- Uninest Student Residences (Frankfurt Bockenheim & Gallus) - [www.unineststudents.de](http://www.unineststudents.de)
- The Flag (Bockenheim and Adickes-Allee) - [www.the-flag.de](http://www.the-flag.de)
- Youniq (Altenhöferallee) - [www.youniq.de](http://www.youniq.de)
- Schneider Bau (Riedberg) - [www.schneider-bau.com/studentisches-wohnen](http://www.schneider-bau.com/studentisches-wohnen)

## **1.2. Wohngemeinschaften (WG) – flat-shares**

**Type of accommodation:** You share a flat with other students / people, you have your own room and share bathroom, kitchen etc.

**Cost:** usually quite cheap, starting at €250 depending on size, facilities and neighbourhood.

Further tips and advice on finding accommodation is offered below!

### **Online portals for finding flat-shares (examples):**

- [www.studenten-wg.de](http://www.studenten-wg.de)
- [www.wg-gesucht.de](http://www.wg-gesucht.de)
- [www.wohngemeinschaft.de](http://www.wohngemeinschaft.de)
- [www.wg-suche.de](http://www.wg-suche.de)

**Tip:** There are various Facebook groups where you can find offers for flat-shares and student flats – they are worth checking out! Just go to Facebook and search for "*WG Frankfurt*" or "*Wohnung Frankfurt*".

### 1.3. Flats for rent

**Type of accommodation:** an entire flat (including bathroom and kitchen) let by the owner. As a rule, these flats are not furnished.

**Costs:** On average, these are more expensive than halls of residence or *Wohngemeinschaften* (flat shares) – as of €400.

**Be aware that** the rent that is quoted is usually just the **basic rent** (in German *Kaltmiete*). On top of this, you will have to pay **utilities and charges** such as heating, water etc., resulting in the so-called **Warmmiete**. For further tips and advice on finding accommodation see below!

**Cheaper neighbourhoods in Frankfurt:** e.g. Fechenheim, Griesheim, Nied, Riederwald and Höchst. Do also look for places to live outside Frankfurt – flats tend to be cheaper here. But make sure they are easy to reach by S-Bahn or local trains (which you can use free of charge in all of Hessen with your Goethe Card).

**Online portals / hubs for finding a place to live:**

**Initiative of the *Studentenwerk Frankfurt*:** [www.wohnraum-gesucht.de](http://www.wohnraum-gesucht.de)

**Real estate portals:**

- [www.immobilienscout24.de](http://www.immobilienscout24.de)
- [immonet.de](http://immonet.de)
- [www.immowelt.de](http://www.immowelt.de)
- [www.kalaydo.de](http://www.kalaydo.de)
- [www.meinestadt.de](http://www.meinestadt.de)

**Notice boards:** You can find these in various central spots throughout Goethe University, usually on the ground floor of the larger buildings. Students can put up notices if they are looking to rent or to let a place; the notices are usually taken down by the university after a few weeks to make room for new ads. In addition, the *Studentenwerk* advertises offers for privately let rooms or flats in display cases or on notice boards in their consultation centre on the Westend Campus, in the main lecture hall building (*Hörsaalzentrum*). You can also find such ads in the *Studierendenhaus* in Mertonstraße 26-28.

**Classified ads in newspapers:** Daily and weekly newspapers in Frankfurt: *Frankfurter Neue Presse*, *Frankfurter Rundschau*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* (Fridays & Sundays), *Welt Kompakt*, *Höchster Kreisblatt*. In some of these papers you can place your own ad.

**Facebook:** It's well worth looking for Facebook groups posting accommodation vacancies.

## 2. Help finding housing and special housing projects

### ***Wohnrauminitiative Frankfurt e.V.***

Association for the promotion of housing initiatives and for new housing. Offers single rooms and flats. This initiative places a focus on helping international students find accommodation – an important address for international students to know!

**Further information:** [wif-ev.org](http://wif-ev.org)

### ***Rent for help***

This is a form of flat-share between young and old. If you are someone who likes to get engaged in social or community work, you should check this out. Instead of paying rent, you pay by helping in the house; your tasks are agreed upon in advance. You help for one hour per square metre of your living space per month. On top of this, you pay a flat-sum as share in the utilities and other charges (heating, water, electricity etc). These housing partnerships are arranged via the ***Bürgerinstitut***.

**Contact:** Henning Knapheide ([knapheide@buergerinstitut.de](mailto:knapheide@buergerinstitut.de))  
Oberlindau 20, 60323 Frankfurt am Main; telephone: 069 / 972 017 42

**Internet:** [www.buergerinstitut.de/Unsere-Angebote/Wohnen-fuer-Hilfe](http://www.buergerinstitut.de/Unsere-Angebote/Wohnen-fuer-Hilfe)

**Further information:** [www.wohnenfuerhilfe.info](http://www.wohnenfuerhilfe.info)

### ***Frankfurt Holding for rented accommodation and real estate***

Rental of flats owned by the real estate companies that are part of this holding.

**Further information:** [www.abg-fh.com/wohnen/](http://www.abg-fh.com/wohnen/)

## 3. Temporary accomodation

### 3.1. Hostels, youth hostels and couch surfing

If you need a place to stay for just a few days or weeks (while you are looking for a permanent home), a hostel or a youth hostel is a good solution (prices for a place in a dormitory as of €17 per night).

**There are portals for comparing availability, price and user reviews for the different youth hostels:**

- Hostelbookers - [de.hostelbookers.com/hostels/deutschland/frankfurt/](https://de.hostelbookers.com/hostels/deutschland/frankfurt/)
- Hostelworld - [www.german.hostelworld.com](https://www.german.hostelworld.com)

#### Hostels in Frankfurt:

- Five Elements Hostel - [www.5elementshostel.de](https://www.5elementshostel.de)
- Frankfurt Hostel - [www.frankfurt-hostel.com/](https://www.frankfurt-hostel.com/)
- Jugendherberge "Haus der Jugend" Frankfurt  
[www.jugendherberge.de/de-de/jugendherbergen/frankfurt479/portraet](https://www.jugendherberge.de/de-de/jugendherbergen/frankfurt479/portraet)
- Jugendherberge Frankfurt a.M. - [www.jugendherberge-frankfurt.de](https://www.jugendherberge-frankfurt.de)
- United Hostel Frankfurt City Center - [www.united-hostel-frankfurt.com](https://www.united-hostel-frankfurt.com)
- Smart Stay Hostel Frankfurt - [www.hotel-frankfurt.smart-stay.de](https://www.hotel-frankfurt.smart-stay.de)
- Meininger Frankfurt Main Messe - [www.meininger-hotels.com/de/hotels/frankfurt-main/messe/](https://www.meininger-hotels.com/de/hotels/frankfurt-main/messe/)
- Couchsurfing (short-term stay with a friendly Frankfurt host) - [www.couchsurfing.com](https://www.couchsurfing.com)
- Hospitality Club (host network) - [deutsch.hospitalityclub.org/indexdeu.htm](https://deutsch.hospitalityclub.org/indexdeu.htm)
- Airbnb (holiday apartments and guest rooms, non-commercial hosts) - [www.airbnb.de](https://www.airbnb.de)

### 3.2. For emergencies

If you just can't find a flat or a place to stay and the semester is about to begin, you can usually find emergency shelter with the AStA, the students' representative body. During the first week of the lecture period in the winter semester, there are cots available for students, as well as Internet access, a simple kitchen and a shower. The AStA also offers a programme of events with further information about this special week and the conditions: <https://mietenjawatdenn.wordpress.com/>

**Registration:** [mietenjawatdenn@asta.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:mietenjawatdenn@asta.uni-frankfurt.de)

**How to contact the AStA in general – Studierendenhaus**

Mondays - Saturdays 8:00-00:30, Sundays 12:00-19:30

Mertonstraße 26-28, Frankfurt am Main; telephone: 069-798-23181, fax: 069-7020-39

**Email:** [info@asta.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:info@asta.uni-frankfurt.de)

**Further information:** [asta-frankfurt.de/kontakt](https://asta-frankfurt.de/kontakt)

## 4. Tips and advice for finding accommodation

### 4.1. Viewings (*Besichtigung*)

If you are looking for accommodation in Frankfurt, it makes sense to be there. Landlords are more likely to agree to let a room in a flat-share (*WG*) or a flat if they have met the prospective tenants. Given the sheer numbers of applicants for a room or a flat-share in Frankfurt, it is very important to show up in person. It is best to arrive as early as possible and arrange temporary accommodation for the first two to three weeks. This enables you to look for permanent accommodation once you have arrived.

If you are looking for a flat or a flat-share, there are often **viewings**. If possible, go there with someone who speaks German well and can support you. Should you notice any damage to the flat during the viewing, you must ask the landlord what will be done about it – and when you are handed the keys to the flat, this must be included in the **hand-over protocol**. Otherwise you might be facing unnecessary costs when moving out.

**Real estate agent's fee (*Maklerprovision*):** In Germany, the real estate agent's fee is borne by the landlord if the landlord has commissioned the agent. If you are asked to pay a fee or commission to a real estate agent, you should ask about this.

### 4.2. Utilities and other charges (*Nebenkosten*)

Every month, you have to pay **utilities and other charges** on top of the basic rent (*Kaltmiete*) for a flat. Both together make up the full rent (*Warmmiete*). When you view a flat or a room, you should definitely ask the landlord about the amount of these charges and what exactly is included. Above all, this concerns water and heating; **electricity** is often charged extra. **Caution:** these charges are charged as a flat sum; the actual costs are calculated once a year, which often results in the tenant having to pay **more**.

When you move into a room or join a flat-share, it is likely that electricity, a TV licence and Internet connection are already arranged for. Ask how the costs will be shared. If you move into your own flat, you will have to arrange this yourself. In Germany there are various providers for Internet and telephony for you to choose from. You must pay a **fee for public broadcasters** (ARD, ZDF and regional broadcasters); for details go here: [www.rundfunkbeitrag.de](http://www.rundfunkbeitrag.de)

### 4.3. Deposit (*Kaution*)

When you sign a rental contract, landlords will normally ask for a deposit amounting to one to two monthly rent payments. It is not permitted to ask for more than three months' rent. Payment of the deposit may take various forms, including installments. If you pay in cash you **must** ask for a receipt. The money is deposited in an account. When you move out and there is no damage to the flat, the deposit is usually repaid. **Caution:** Only transfer the deposit or other costs once the contract is signed and you have seen the flat. There are many incidences where fraudsters try to get people to transfer the deposit in advance.

**Further information on deposits:** [www.uni-frankfurt.de/45504406/Mietkaution](http://www.uni-frankfurt.de/45504406/Mietkaution)

## 4.4. Rental contracts

Rental contracts are usually templates containing standard phrases. As a rule, you should read the agreement very carefully, especially if it has been drafted by the landlord himself. A rental contract should contain the following:

- monthly rent excluding any charges, the so-called **Kaltmiete** (cold rent)
- monthly **charges** such as water, taxes, heating, warm water and garbage collection
- **beginning and term** of the tenancy (in case of fixed-term rental agreements)
- **notice period** in the case of unlimited rental agreements (as a rule, this is 3 months)
- the tenant's **rights of use** (cellar, communal rooms, garden etc)
- agreements regarding **renovation** when moving out

**Be aware that** once the rental contract is signed, there is no right of withdrawal! It's best to have someone else read the contract, if possible someone local. If you can't find help among your acquaintances, you can also avail yourself of the legal advice offered by the *Studententwerk*:

[www.studentenwerkfrankfurt.de/beratung-service/rechtsberatung.html](http://www.studentenwerkfrankfurt.de/beratung-service/rechtsberatung.html)

**Further information on rental contracts:** [www.uni-frankfurt.de/45504155/Mietvertrag](http://www.uni-frankfurt.de/45504155/Mietvertrag)

## 4.5. Moving and Furniture

You can **hire vans** and other useful items for your move with the KFZ-Referat at good rates.

**Further information:** [www.kfz-referat.de](http://www.kfz-referat.de)

In Germany, flats and rooms are usually let unfurnished. So you will probably have to buy some furniture and accessories. **You can find affordable furniture and accessories here:**

- Frankfurt flea market on the Schaumainkai and Osthafen  
[www.frankfurt.de/sixcms/detail.php?id=4624](http://www.frankfurt.de/sixcms/detail.php?id=4624)
- Second-hand furniture shop in Frankfurt: [www.neufundland-frankfurt.de](http://www.neufundland-frankfurt.de)
- *Familienmarkt of Diakonie Frankfurt* (second-hand shop run by the Diakonie, a protestant charity - you must show your student ID): [www.familienmarkt-frankfurt.de](http://www.familienmarkt-frankfurt.de)
- Ebay: [www.ebay-kleinanzeigen.de](http://www.ebay-kleinanzeigen.de)
- Shpock flea market App: [www.shpock.com](http://www.shpock.com)
- Quoka: [www.quoka.de](http://www.quoka.de)
- Oxfam Frankfurt-Bornheim (household goods and fabrics):  
[shops.oxfam.de/shops/frankfurt-bornheim](http://shops.oxfam.de/shops/frankfurt-bornheim)

## 4.6. Registering your residence

You must register in person within one week of moving into your room or flat with the relevant *Bürgeramt*, or local residence authority. You only need your passport for this.

**Further information:**

[http://www.frankfurt.de/sixcms/detail.php?id=703665&ffmpar%5B\\_id\\_inhalt%5D=58132](http://www.frankfurt.de/sixcms/detail.php?id=703665&ffmpar%5B_id_inhalt%5D=58132)