

FINDING A PLACE TO LIVE

INFORMATION FOR
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
AT GOETHE UNIVERSITY



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01 ACCOMODATION IN FRANKFURT

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 m², furnished and unfurnished rooms, additional communal rooms for leisure activities.

APPLICATION: 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. 210 EUR - 500 EUR, 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.

STUDENTENWERK (STUDENT SERVICES):

Neue Mensa / Sozialzentrum, 3rd floor, Room 319/320
Bockenheimer Landstraße 133
60325 Frankfurt am Main

Email: wohnen@studentenwerkfrankfurt.de

Website: www.studentenwerkfrankfurt.de/wohnen

Other student halls: www.studentenwerkfrankfurt.de/wohnen/andere-anbieter.html

EVANGELISCHE KIRCHE IN HESSEN UND NASSAU (PROTESTANT CHURCH)

Susanna von Klettenberg Haus

Campus Westend of Goethe University
Siolistraße 7
60323 Frankfurt/Main

Consultation hours: Mon-Thu 8:00-11:00 h

Tel. +49 69 / 915 068 79 11

Contact: Andrea Bettermann (andrea.bettermann@evstudwh.de)

Website: www.ev-studentenwohnheime.de/svkh/

CATHOLIC STUDENTS COMMUNITY

Bauverein katholische Studentenwohnheime e.V.

Website: www.khg-frankfurt.de/wohnheime/

Alfred Delp-Haus (Campus Westend)

Contact: Claudia Wanner (c.wanner@bauverein-frankfurt.de)

Opening hours: Mon 14:00-16:00 h; Thu 9:00-12:00 h

Tel. +49 69 / 789 88 29 40

Website: www.adh-studentenhaus.de

Friedrich-Dessauer-Haus

Contact: Simone Geiß, Janina Rosenhahn, Sabine Thiel

Email: anfrage@bauverein-frankfurt.de

Tel. +49 69 / 789 88 290

Website: www.fdh-studentenhaus.de

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.

- The Fizz - Frankfurt Gallus: www.the-fizz.com
- Bed & Brains (close to Campus Riedberg): www.bed-and-brains.de
- Uninest Student Residences (Bockenheim & Gallus): www.unineststudents.de
- The Flag (Bockenheim and Adickes-Allee): www.the-flag.de
- Youniq (Altenhöferallee): www.youniq.de
- Schneider Bau (Riedberg): www.schneider-bau.com/studentisches-wohnen
- Wohnheim GmbH Frankfurt am Main:
https://www.abg-fh.com/unternehmen/wohnheim_gmbh/WOHNHEIM-Kontakt.php

WOHNGEMEINSCHAFTEN (WG) – FLAT-SHARES

TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION: You share a flat with other people, you have your own room and share bathroom, kitchen etc.

COST: usually quite cheap, starting at 300 EUR depending on size, facilities and neighbourhood.

WHERE TO LOOK:

- Online portals for finding flat-shares
- 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“
- 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 Studierendehaus in Mertonstraße 26-28.

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 from 500 EUR, depending on size, facilities and neighbourhood

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

CHEAPER NEIGHBOURHOODS AND AREAS IN AND AROUND FRANKFURT: e.g. Fechenheim, Griesheim, Nied, Riederwald, Höchst and Offenbach. 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 student ID).

WHERE TO LOOK:

- Initiative of the Studentenwerk Frankfurt: www.wohnraum-gesucht.de
- Online real estate portals
- 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 groups: It's well worth looking for Facebook groups posting accommodation vacancies.

02 TEMPORARY ACCOMODATION

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 start at 17 EUR per night). Online portals offer a good overview for comparing availability, prices and user reviews for the different hostels.

Selection of hostels in Frankfurt:

- Five Elements Hostel: www.5elements hostel.de
- Frankfurt Hostel: www.frankfurt-hostel.com
- Jugendherberge „Haus der Jugend“ Frankfurt: www.jugendherberge.de/de-de/jugendherbergen/frankfurt479/portraet
- Jugendherberge Frankfurt a.M.: www.jugendherberge-frankfurt.de
- United Hostel Frankfurt City Center: www.united-hostel-frankfurt.com
- Smart Stay Hostel Frankfurt: www.hotel-frankfurt.smart-stay.de
- Meininger Frankfurt Main Messe: www.meininger-hotels.com/de/hotels/frankfurt-main/messe/

Platforms such as Couchsurfing also offer opportunities for short-term accommodation with contact to locals, although just for a few days: www.couchsurfing.com

AKTIONSWOCHE (CAMPAIGN WEEK) OF THE ASTA

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 bathrooms. The AStA also offers an accompanying programme of events.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THIS SPECIAL WEEK AND THE CONDITIONS:

Website: mietenjawatdenn.wordpress.com

Email and registration: mietenjawatdenn@asta.uni-frankfurt.de

HOW TO CONTACT THE ASTA IN GENERAL

Studierendenhaus

Campus Bockenheim

Mertonstraße 26-28

60325 Frankfurt am Main

Tel. +49 / 69 798 23 181

Email: info@asta.uni-frankfurt.de

Website: asta-frankfurt.de/kontakt

03 TIPS & ADVICE FOR FINDING ACCOMODATION

VIEWINGS (BESICHTIGUNG)

If you are looking for accommodation in Frankfurt, it is best to be there. Landlords are more likely to agree to let a room in a flat-share (WG) or a whole 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.

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

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 or sometimes cost for a caretaker; 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 supplementary payment by the tenant.

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 for electricity, Internet access etc. yourself. In Germany there are various providers 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

DEPOSIT (KAUTION)

When you sign a rental contract, landlords will normally ask for a deposit. It is not permitted to ask for more than three times the month's basic rent for the deposit. 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 have been many incidences, in which fraudsters tried to get people to transfer the deposit in advance.

Further information on deposits: www.uni-frankfurt.de/45504406/Mietkaution

RENTAL CONTRACTS (MIETVERTRAG)

Rental contracts are usually templates containing standard phrases. As a rule, you should read the agreement very carefully. It is best if you have a native speaker to help you. 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! If you can't find help among your contacts with questions regarding your rental contracts and your rights and duties as a tenant, you can also avail yourself of the legal advice offered by several institutions (> 04 Service & Consultation).

Further information on rental contracts: www.uni-frankfurt.de/45504155/Mietvertrag

REGISTERING YOUR RESIDENCE

You must register in person, as a rule, within one week (sometimes two) of moving into your room or flat with the relevant Bürgeramt, or local residence authority. You will need your passport for this and a confirmation of your landlord that you have moved in (Wohnungsgeberbestätigung).

You will find further information on the website of the Bürgeramt or Einwohnermeldeamt of the respective place of residence.

MOVING AND FURNITURE

KFZ-REFERAT – VANS FOR HIRE

You can hire vans and other useful items for your move, such as boxes and handcarts, with the KFZ-Referat at good rates. Pick them up at Bockenheim Campus.

Website: www.kfz-referat.de

FURNITURE AND ACCESSORIES

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
- Second-hand furniture shop in Frankfurt: 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
- Ebay: www.ebay-kleinanzeigen.de
- Shpock flea market app: www.shpock.com
- Quoka: www.quoka.de
- Oxfam Frankfurt-Bornheim (household goods and fabrics):
shops.oxfam.de/shops/frankfurt-bornheim

04 SERVICE & CONSULTATION

If you have problems or questions concerning your rental agreement or concerning your rights and duties as a tenant, you can turn to different organizations for service and help:

MIETER HELFEN MIETERN E.V. (TENANTS HELPING TENANTS) IN COOPERATION WITH THE ASTA OF GOETHE UNIVERSITY FRANKFURT AM MAIN

Legal consultation on tenancy law issues, free of charge. Please bring with you: Student ID and completed Beratungsbogen, as well as important documents concerning your case of enquiry.

CONTACT

Campus Westend
AStA consultation office (Random White House, Bauleitgebäude)
60323 Frankfurt am Main

Open consultation hours: Thu 16:00-18:00 h

Website: asta-frankfurt.de/aktuelles/asta-mietrechtsberatung

CONSULTATION ON TENANCY LAW, HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Legal consultation on tenancy law issues by the housing department of the city of Frankfurt. Consultation free of charge but only for one person per household with a net income of up to 2150 EUR per month. Consultation only with appointment.

CONTACT

Amt für Wohnungswesen („housing department“)
Adickesallee 67-69
60322 Frankfurt a.M.

Tel. +49 69 / 212 400 46 (for making appointments)

Tel. +49 69 / 212 347 11 (service hotline)

Consultation hours: see website

Email: Mietrechtliche-Beratung@stadt-frankfurt.de

Website: www.frankfurt.de/sixcms/detail.php?id=3038

TENANTS ASSOCIATION - DEUTSCHER MIETERBUND

Tenants associations offer legal consultation on everything around tenantry. To use this service, however, you have to be a member in a local association. Membership fees are about 70-100 EUR per year.

Website: www.mieterbund.de

DMB Mieterschutzverein
Frankfurt a. Main e.V.
Eckenheimer Landstr. 339
60320 Frankfurt

Tel. +49 69 / 560 10 570
Email: info@msv-frankfurt.de

Website: www.mieterschutzverein-frankfurt.de

Mieterbund Frankfurt e.V.
Zeil 46
60313 Frankfurt

Tel. +49 69 / 28 00 50
Email: ffm-mieterverein@t-online.de

Website: www.mieterbund-frankfurt.de

FURTHER SERVICES AND CONSULTATION

FELLOW STUDENT SERVICES BY THE INTERNATIONALER STUDIENTREFF (IST)

The team of the „Internationaler Studientreff“ (IST) can match you with fellow students who accompany you on administrative appointments or when viewing an apartment and will help you to understand German paperwork. Turn to the IST via email or use their open consultation hours.

Email: studientreff.international@uni-frankfurt.de

Website: www.uni-frankfurt.de/ist

LEGAL CONSULTATION – STUDENTENWERK (STUDENT SERVICES)

Student services offer general legal consultation free of charge for students.

Website: www.studentenwerkfrankfurt.de/beratung-service/rechtsberatung/

LAW & LEGAL – LAW CLINIC

Legal consultation for students free of charge, for example when you have problems with your landlord concerning repair works etc.

Website: lawandlegal.de/standorte/frankfurt

KONTAKT

International Office
Abteilung Beratung, Betreuung und Bewertung
internationaler Studierender

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Gefördert vom DAAD aus
Mitteln des Auswärtigen Amts

DAAD



Auswärtiges Amt