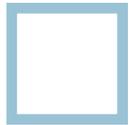


Living in Frankfurt: Information for international students



1. Different accommodation options in Frankfurt

1.1. Student residences

- Type of accommodation: Single room in shared apartments (“Wohngemeinschaft” or “WG”) or one-room apartments (with bathroom and cooking facilities) from 10 to 20 m², furnished and unfurnished rooms, additional recreational spaces.
- Application: as early as possible, the applications are processed in the same order as received (you can apply even if you still don’t have your admission letter. It is better to fill in the online application simultaneously with the application at Goethe University).
- Costs: between 125 to 500 euro, depending on the type of accommodation, size and equipment, one-time security deposit of usually two months rent (this is fully refundable at the end of the rental period if no damage has been caused to the apartment).
- Occupancy: max. 4 years.
- Providers in Frankfurt and its surrounding areas

Studentenwerk (student services)

- o Housing department, Bockenheimer Landstraße 133, 3rd floor of the Social Center, Rooms 319/320,
Office hours: Mo, Tue, Wed, Fri: 10–12 am + Mo, Thurs: 1–3 pm
Email: wohnen@studentenwerkfrankfurt.de
Website: www.studentenwerkfrankfurt.de/wohnen.html

Evangelische Hochschulgemeinde: Susanna von Klettenberg Haus

- o Campus Westend of Goethe University
Solistraße 7, 60323 Frankfurt/M
Office hours: Monday–Thursday, 8–11 am, Tel: 069 915068 79 11
Contact person: Andrea Bettermann (andrea.bettermann@evstudwh.de)
<http://www.esg-frankfurt.de/de/wohnheim/index.php>

Katholische Hochschulgemeinde: Bauverein katholische Studentenwohnheime e.V.

- <http://www.khg-frankfurt.de/wohnheime/>
- o Alfred Delp-Haus (Campus Westend)
Contact person Claudia Wanner (c.wanner@bauverein-frankfurt.de)
Office hours: Mo: 2–4 pm; Thurs: 9 am – 12 pm, Tel. 069 - 789 88 29 - 40
Website: <http://www.adh-studentenhaus.de/>
- o Friedrich Dessauer-Haus
Contact person: Simone Geiß, Janina Rosenhahn, Sabine Thiel (anfrage@bauverein-frankfurt.de)
Office hours: Mo, Wed, Fri: 8 am – 12 pm; Tue, Thurs: 2–4 pm, Tel. 069 - 789 88 29- 0
Website: <http://www.fdh-studentenhaus.de/>

- Other accommodation providers listed by the Studentenwerk:
<http://www.studentenwerkfrankfurt.de/wohnen/andere-anbieter.html>

1.2. Shared apartments (“Wohngemeinschaften” or “WG”)

- Type of accommodation: shared apartment with other students/people, your own room with shared bathroom, kitchen, etc.
- Cost: usually starting at 250 euro depending on the size, equipment and city district.
- Please check the link below for further tips and advice on shared apartments and apartment search!
- Online portals for WG-search: www.studenten-wg.de, www.wg-gesucht.de, www.wohn-gemeinschaft.de, www.wg-suche.de

1.3. Apartment rental

- Type of accommodation: Full apartment (including bathroom and kitchen) rented out by the landlord.
- Cost: usually more expensive than student residences and shared apartments (from 300-400 euro)
- Important: The first rental price given is usually the basic rent. The utility costs (for heating, water etc.) are paid in addition; together with the basic rent (Kaltmiete) they form the total rent amount (Warmmiete). Further tips and hints on renting below!
- Cheap residential districts in Frankfurt: for example Fechenheim, Griesheim, Nied, Riederwald and Höchst. Look for apartments outside of Frankfurt too, they are usually cheaper. Pay attention to locations that you can easily reach with the S-Bahn or the regional trains. You can use them for free in all of Hesse with your Goethe Card (student card).
- Online portals/contact points for apartment search:
 - Housing initiative by the Studentenwerk: <http://www.wohnraum-gesucht.de/>
 - Housing and real estate companies in Frankfurt: <http://www.abg-fh.com/index.html>
 - Private apartment providers for students: <http://www.headquarter.de/>
 - Real estate portals: <http://www.immobilienscout24.de/> / <http://immonet.de/> / www.homla.de
 - <http://www.immowelt.de/suche/frankfurt-am-main/wohnungen>
 - <http://www.kalaydo.de/immobilien/mietwohnungen/o/frankfurt-am-main/4/>
 - <http://www.meinestadt.de/frankfurt-am-main/immobilien/wohnen-studium>
- **Bulletin Boards**: They are located in various central locations of Goethe University, usually on the ground floor of the main buildings. Students can advertise their rental offers and requests on the boards; the university removes them after a few weeks in order to create space for new ones. In the counseling center of the Studentenwerk at Campus Westend, Hörsaalzentrum EG there are more bulletin boards, where the Studentenwerk advertises private room or apartment offers. Even more offers can be found at the student center in Mertonstraße 26-28.
- **Advertisements in newspapers**: daily and weekly newspapers in Frankfurt; Frankfurter Neue Presse, Frankfurter Rundschau, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (Fri & Sun), Welt Kompakt, Höchster Kreisblatt. There is the possibility of posting your own rental requests.

2. Accommodation types: pros and cons

	Student residences	Shared apartments (WG)	Private apartments
+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cheap - Usually close to the university - Mostly furnished including internet etc. - Being in touch with other students - Getting to know other nationalities and cultures - Speaking and improving your German - Doing activities together like cooking, going out etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cheap - Being in touch with other students - Getting to know other nationalities and cultures - Speaking and improving your German - Sharing objects (e.g. use of cooking utensils) - Housework distribution (e.g. cleaning, dish washing) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Having your own place - Having privacy - Sometimes furnished, but mostly unfurnished
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potentially long waiting period until getting offered a spot - Less privacy in big student residences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eventual inconsistencies with the roommates, e.g. different behaviors, disagreements over the participation in the WG-life (positive side: learning from conflict and criticism) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More expensive - Less contact with others

3. Short-term rentals

3.1 Hostels, youth hostels and couchsurfing

Short-term accommodation for a few days or weeks (while looking for a long-term accommodation) mostly hostels and youth hostels (dorms from 17 euro per night).

Online portals - Here you get an overview of availability, prices and advice on the various hostels:

<http://de.hostelbookers.com/hostels/deutschland/frankfurt/>

<http://www.german.hostelworld.com/>

Hostels in Frankfurt:

Five Elements Hostel - <http://www.5elementshostel.de/>

Frankfurt Hostel - <http://www.frankfurt-hostel.com/>

Youth hostels in Frankfurt - <http://www.jugendherberge.de/de-de/jugendherbergen/frankfurt479/portraet> <http://www.jugendherberge-frankfurt.de/>

United Hostel Frankfurt City Center - <http://united-hostel-frankfurt.com/>

Smart Stay Hostel Frankfurt - <http://hotel-frankfurt.smart-stay.de/>

Meininger Frankfurt Main Messe - <http://www.meininger-hotels.com/de/hotels/frankfurt-main/messe/>

Couchsurfing (short term stays with friendly frankfurters) - www.couchsurfing.org

Hospitality Club (Guest friendly network) - <http://deutsch.hospitalityclub.org/indexdeu.htm>

3.2 Emergency shelter

If there is no accommodation available, the student council (AStA) gives emergency shelter at the beginning of the semester. During the first lecture week of the winter semester the AStA offers students beds, internet, kitchenettes and shower facilities. As a student representative body it also offers a program of events. For more information follow this link:

<https://mietenjawatdenn.wordpress.com/>

Registration: mietenjawatdenn@asta.uni-frankfurt.de

General contact information of AStA- student house

Mon–Sat 8–12:30 am, Sun 12–7:30 pm

Mertonstraße 26-28, Frankfurt am Main; Telefon: 069/798-23181, Telefax: 069/7020-39

E-Mail: info@asta.uni-frankfurt.de Website: <http://asta-frankfurt.de/kontakt>

4. Alternative housing forms and special housing projects

Housing Initiative Frankfurt eV (Wohnrauminitiative Frankfurt e.V.):

Association for the promotion of housing initiatives and housing creation. Rents out single rooms and apartments. The initiative aims to support international students in finding accommodation, therefore it is an important contact point in Frankfurt for international students.

Homesharing: <http://www.wohnenfuerhilfe.info/>

Apartment sharing between young and elderly people. Those who love to be socially committed should be informed about this residential project. Instead of paying rent, they will pay with pre-agreed assistance. For one square meter of living space, one hour of assistance per month is offered, plus a financial package for utility costs (heating, water, electricity etc.). The placement of such housing partnerships is made via the Bürgerinstitut.

Contact person: Henning Knapheide (knapheide@buergeninstitut.de)

Oberlindau 20, 60323 Frankfurt am Main; Telefon: 069 / 972 017 42

Website: www.buergerinstitut.de/Unsere-Angebote/Wohnen-fuer-Hilfe

Housing and real estate Company in the city of Frankfurt - ABG Frankfurt holding

rental housing owned by the real estate companies. Website: www.abg-fh.com/wohnen/

5. Information and tips for apartment or room search

5.1. Apartment and room visits

For rental apartments and WG-rooms there are often appointments to see the property (Besichtigungstermine). If possible, go with someone who speaks good German to help you. If you encounter any quirks during the visit, you should ask the landlord about it- and definitely point it out during the handover protocol (Übergabeprotokoll). Otherwise you will have to pay unnecessary costs when moving in.

According to a recent law reform from June 2015, the costs of the agent (broker's commission; Maklergebühr) are taken care of by the landlord if assigned.

5.2. The additional costs (Nebenkosten)

Along with an apartment's basic rent (Kaltmiete), utility costs still have to be paid each month. Both amounts together form the monthly rent (Warmmiete). When visiting an apartment or a room you should definitely ask the landlord the total rent amount along with utility costs. These mainly include water and heating. Sometimes there can be additional electricity costs. Important: The rental charges are a fixed rate, the actual calculation of utility costs is carried out once a year. Frequently utilities must be paid subsequently.

If you chose a shared apartment most of utilities, such as electricity, TV and Internet will already be organized. You should ask how the costs are distributed. If you chose a rented apartment, you need to organize these things yourself. For Internet and phone services you can chose among different providers in Germany. For the public television in Germany (ARD, ZDF, regional stations) a broadcasting fee has to be paid for each apartment. More information can be found here: www.rundfunkbeitrag.de

5.3. The lease contract (Mietvertrag)

Lease contracts are often model contracts. They contain standard formulations. If the landlord composed the contract himself, you should read it carefully and pay attention to special clauses. Important: once the contract is signed, there is no right of withdrawal! Let a second person read the contract, ideally a local. If you cannot find any help, you can contact the legal advisors of the Studentenwerk: <http://www.studentenwerkfrankfurt.de/beratung-service/rechtsberatung.html>

For further information about the lease contract visit: <http://www.uni-frankfurt.de/45504155/Mietvertrag>

5.4. The security deposit rent (Kaution)

Landlords usually ask for a security deposit along with the lease contract. It should not be higher than three months of rent. The deposit payment can be handled in different ways, also in rates. If you pay in cash you should definitely request a receipt. When moving out the security deposit is fully refunded if the apartment is not damaged. More information about security deposits: <http://www.uni-frankfurt.de/45504406/Mietkaution>



5.5. Moving in

At the KFZ-Referat you can rent vans and buy or rent useful things for moving. For more information follow this link: <http://www.kfz-referat.de/autovermietung/>

5.6. Residence registration

If you rent an apartment in Frankfurt, you need to personally register yourself at the Bürgeramt (municipal office) within a week. You only need your passport. Further information, like applications and contact information, can be found on the website of the city of Frankfurt:

http://www.frankfurt.de/sixcms/detail.php?id=703665&_ffmpar%5B_id_inhalt%5D=58132

- We don't assume liability for the information supplied! -

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