INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Accommodation
- How to find a room/flat in Hamburg -
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Welcome at TUHH
Welcome to Technische Universität Hamburg

Moving away from home for the first time, is a new experience.

The Accommodation Office of Technische Universität Hamburg helps international exchange students from partner universities and international Degree Students to find an accommodation. We give advices how to search for an accommodation. International students also can ask us regarding the rent, the housing market in and nearby Hamburg and everything else due to their accommodation.

In this brochure, you will find more information about the housing market in Hamburg, how you can search for an accommodation, what you have to keep in mind, and a list with private student halls.

Please note that the Accommodation Office is no agency and that we only offer a limited amount of private rooms due to the housing shortage in Hamburg. Therefore we recommend you to search for a room by yourself, too.
I. Living costs in Hamburg

In order to give international students a better overview of life in Hamburg and its costs, we have created a table that shows the monthly expense of a students life. These data only reflect approximately what a student spends in a month, at the end it varies on each person. The highest output is the rent. In general it is very difficult to find cheap flats/ rooms in Hamburg, also for German students. It is also not easy to get a room in a student residence hall, because of the high request and a long waiting list. That is why students in Hamburg usually live in a shared flat. How to write an application for a shared flat correctly you will find on page 16 to 17.

II. Costs of a Furnished Room

Depending on where you want to live, the average all-inclusive prices range from 370 € to 650 € for a furnished room, sometimes even higher in Hamburg. In Hamburg, the average prices range from 350 € up. In the surrounding country communities the prices are usually lower.

III. Room or Flat?

Rooms in WGs (German = Wohngemeinschaft, i.e. communes) are very popular for students. Some WGs have a kind of "casting" when looking for a new tenant. It is more economically to live in a shared flat.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students monthly expenses in Hamburg</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Example: rent and utilities</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rent and utilities</td>
<td>€450.00</td>
<td>Room in a student hall of residence</td>
<td>from €325.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groceries</td>
<td>€168.00</td>
<td>Room in a shared flat</td>
<td>€370-480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing</td>
<td>€42.00</td>
<td>Own apartment</td>
<td>€530-1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning materials</td>
<td>€20.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health insurance</td>
<td>€106.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>medical costs, medicine</td>
<td>€15.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication (Telephone, internet)</td>
<td>€31.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadcastfee</td>
<td>€17.50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation, culture, sport</td>
<td>€61.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>€910.50</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Room Hunting in Hamburg

Especially at the beginning of the winter semester (from August until December) it is extremely difficult to find affordable accommodation. Therefore you should be prepared to stay in a temporary accommodation before you can find a permanent place to stay. Rent for WG room: often an „all-in-rent“ (with electricity, water, heating, internet ) Rent for a flat: often „Warmmiete“ (see below)

IV. Important Terms

1. „Nebenkosten“ (short: „NK“)
   ... means: ancillary costs
   ... could be the costs of electricity, heating, water, sewage, and refuse collection.
   ... (in a WG usually all) are normally payed as a sum to your landlord or landlady
   NOTE: Often, NK do NOT include electricity and very seldom even internet. When viewing accommodation, you should ask the landlord/landlady whether the monthly rent includes the “Nebenkosten”.

2. „Miete“
   ... is the German word for rent.
   ... inkl. (NK) is the rent plus the above-mentioned „Nebenkosten“ (= „Warmmiete“)
   ... exkl. (NK) is the basic rent - you still have to pay the “Nebenkosten“ (= „Kaltmiete“)

3. „Mindestmietzeit“
   ... means a minimal rental period

NOTE: If there is a minimal rental period agreed in the contract you can't cancel the rental contract prematurely!

V. Rental Contract and „Wohnungsgeberbestätigung“

Once you have found an appropriate accommodation, the landlord/landlady should give you the rental contract. We advise you to read this contract thoroughly before signing. The rental contract is a very important document. It is legally binding for the tenant and the landlord/landlady. You also need the rental contract to register as a resident of the city. To do the city registration, you also need the “Wohnungsgeberbestätigung”. It must be handed to you by your landlord/landlady when you move in.

VI. What is a „Kaution“?

“Kaution” is the German word for deposit. In Germany, it is usual to pay a deposit before you move into accommodation. The landlord/landlady takes this sum (usually 1 to 3 months’ rent) to pay for any damage that you might cause. If there is no damage, the deposit will be returned.
A Room for the First Couple of Nights

Don’t be Shy!
Have you already make new friends, or do you already know someone here in Hamburg? Don’t be shy and ask them for a place to sleep. Perhaps someone can offer you a couch for a few nights, or maybe he or she knows someone who can offer you a place to sleep. It is not easy to find an accommodation in Hamburg!

Please start to look for accommodation as soon as it is possible!!

If you can’t find a place to sleep you will find a few cheap options down below.

**I. Youth Hostels:**
https://www.jugendherberge.de/en/
Collection of youth Hostels

**II. a&o Hostels:**
Depending on room and day. There are 1- or 2-person private rooms and dormitories (4, 6 or 8 persons, female dorm): from 18 € per person/night up

**III. Generator Hostels:**
Depending on room and day. There are 1- or 2-person private rooms and dormitories (4, 6 or 8 persons, female dorm): 25 € – 100 € per person/night

**IV. B&B Hamburg:**
https://www.hotelbb.de/
Depending on room, day and number of persons. There are 1-, 2- or 3-person private rooms: 60 € – 100 € per room/night

**V. MAC City Hostel**
http://mac-city-hostel.gethamburghotels.com/de/
Depending on room and day. There are 1- or 2-person private rooms and dormitories (4, 6 or 8 persons, female dorm): Private rooms: from 47€ per person/night up

**VI. Jugendherberge Hamburg Auf Dem Stintfang**
http://jugendherberge-auf-dem-stintfang.gethamburghotels.com/de/
Depending on room and day. There are 1- or 2-person private rooms and dormitories (4, 6 or 8 persons, female dorm): from 27€ per person/night up
Check the link down below for the studyportal for studying in Hamburg from Studierendenwerk Hamburg:
https://www.studierendenwerk-hamburg.de/studierendenwerk/en/home/
-> Accommodation

I. Freshmen Program
This program is a cooperation between TUHH and Studierendenwerk Hamburg; but there is only a certain amount of rooms for TUHH international students available. These rooms will be reallocated by the mobility online platform.
https://www.tuhh.de/alt/tuhh/international/incoming-international-students/accommodation-office.html

II. General low-cost Accommodation for Students
Applications can be filled out online at the Studierendenwerk Hamburg website. You can already apply 4 months before you start to study. After your application you will be on the waiting list.

III. Short Term Rooms of Studierendenwerk
Those rooms are only for a few month. Check out:

IV. Further Questions – Counselling Centre
If you need help with your application you can contact the “Counselling Centre Accommodation” of Studierendenwerk Hamburg:

Counselling Centre Accommodation (Studierendenwerk Hamburg)
Grindelallee 9, 2. OG, 20146 Hamburg
Telefon: +49 / 40 / 41 902 – 268
Email: wohnenberatungszentrum@studierendenwerk-hamburg.de

Office hours:
Mo, Tue, Thu, Fri 9.30 am - 12.00 pm and Tue, Thu 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Private Student Halls

I. Privatbau GmbH:
https://www.privatbau.de/vermietung
Lüneburger Str. 7,
21073 Hamburg Harburg
All-in rent: 349€

II. VivoPhoenix:
https://www.vivophoenix-vermietung.de/
- Harburg: 5 min to the TUHH; all-in rent: 380 €- 900 € (“warm”)
- minimal rental period 3 months
- 1- or 2-room student apartments: 16 m² - 35 m²

III. Woodie:
https://www.woodie.hamburg/en/
- Wilhelmsburg: all-in rent 519 € - 659 € (“warm”)
- home textiles (mattress, bedsheets, towels) are brought by the tenant
- 1-room student apartments

IV. Smartments:
https://www.smartments-student.de/en/start/
- Hammerbrook: all-in rent from 495 € (shared) / 510 € (single)
- minimal rental period 6 months
- Laundry lounge: washing machines (€2 per washing cycle) and tumble dryers (€1 per drying cycle)

V. Marienbunker:
https://www.marienbunker.de/index.html
- Eilbek/Wandsbek: warm: 479 € - 584€ (inkl. NK TV, electricity, water, heating)
  (without Internet or telephone - do it on your own)
  - NOT furnished!
  - Laundry lounge
  - 1-room student apartments:
    - 22 m² - 37 m²

VI. Eisenbahnbauverein Harburg:  
http://www.ebv-harburg.de/wohnungen/studentenwohnungen/
- Harburg: 5 min to the TUHH; all-in rent: 290 €/room (“warm”)
- minimal rental period 6 months
- 2-room student apartments for normally 2 students

VII. Salzburger Häuser
Am Centrumshaus 2,
21073 Hamburg-Harburg
Verwaltung: Jens W. Ehlers Hausverwaltung GmbH
Kleine Reichstr. 1, 20457 Hamburg; Tel.: 040 - 32 32 96 63
Private Student Halls

VIII. Schellerdamm 1
Schellerdamm 1,
21079 Hamburg-Harburg
Aurelius Immobilien AG: Heußweg 35,
20255 Hamburg
http://channel-hamburg.de/wohnungen/
wohnungen-zur-miete/
E-Mail: info@aurelius-immobilien.com
Tel.: 040 - 40 19 38 29

IX. Studentenwohnungen
Rastädter CR_Hausverwaltung
Schwarzenbergstr. 33,
21073 Hamburg-Harburg
Contact: CR_Hausverwaltung (Cornelia Rastädter): Schwarzenbergstr. 32, II.floor
Office hours: Mon - Fri 9-12
Tel.: 040 - 767331-0
E-Mail: info@rastaedter.com

X. Ökumenisches Studenten-wohnheim Carl – Malsch – Haus
Othmarscher Kirchenweg 103a-10
22763 Hamburg
www.studentenwohnheime-hamburg.de

XI. Hermann-Ehlers-Haus
Internationales Studentenwohnheim
Fibiger Straße 163, 22419 Hamburg
info@studentenwohnheimhamburg.de
www.studentenwohnheimhamburg.de

XII. NIT:
https://www.nithh.de/nit/nit-rental/apartment/
- On the TUHH campus
- Laundry facilities
- minimal rental period 4 weeks
- Apartment: 20 m²

XII. Christophorus-Haus e.V.
http://christophorus-haus-ev.de/
I. General Websites for WGs or Flats:
On these websites everyone (private persons, associations, agents) can place offers for rooms, apartments or flats. So be very careful of which offer is a serious one and which is not. Please read the the next pages about rental scams (page 14 to 15)!

3. https://housinganywhere.com/
4. https://www.immonet.de/
5. https://www.immowelt.de/
7. https://www.vermietung-online.de/wohnungsbaugesellschaft_hamburg.html
8. https://wohn-hh.de
9. https://www.ebay-kleinanzeigen.de/
10. https://www.wg-gesucht.de/

II. Facebook Pages and Groups:
1. Wohnung und WG in Hamburg gesucht oder frei?:
   https://www.facebook.com/groups/wg.und.wohnung.hamburg/?ref=group_browse_new
2. WG & Wohnung Hamburg gesucht:
   https://www.facebook.com/groups/wg.wohnung.hamburg/?ref=group_browse_new
3. Wohnungsbörse Hamburg:
   https://www.facebook.com/groups/531949460209019/?ref=group_browse_new

III. Accommodation Information at TUHH:
The notice boards
1. Cafeteria/Mensa: Denickestr. 22 / Building H: ground and upper floor
2. Technikum: Eißendorferstr. 38 / Building O
3. ASTA Wohnungsbörse: Am Schwarzenberg-Campus 3 / Building E: Room 0.069
I. Living Outside of Hamburg

In the south of Hamburg there are smaller cities, which have shopping opportunities as well. So if you are interested in living on the countryside of Hamburg, please check accommodations in those cities:

**Neugraben** (7 min by city train S3 to S Heimfeld):  
https://www.hamburg.de/sehenswertes-neugraben-fischbek/  
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neugraben-Fischbek

**Buxtehude** (22 min by city train S3 to S Heimfeld):  
https://www.buxtehude.de/stadt-verwaltung/ueber-buxtehude/  
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buxtehude

**Neu Wulmstorf** (17 min by city train S3 to S Heimfeld):  
https://www.neu-wulmstorf.de/buergerservice/ueber-neu-wulmstorf/

**Buchholz i. d. N.** (11 min by RE4 or 14 min RB41 to Harburg / 23-25 min to Hamburg):  
https://www.buchholz.de/stadt/  
Important Notes

I. Is it the Right Accommodation?

1. Before you sign a contract, examine the accommodation:
   - Is it clean (no dirt, tidy, no mould)?
   - Do the electrical appliances (e.g. frige or stove) work?
   - Are there any inconsistencies?
   - Is the location of the flat as described?

2. Clarify who the landlord/landlady is. Do you rent from the landlord/landlady or by a third person (sublease agreement!)?

3. Clarify if there's a minimal rental period (German: Mindestmietzeit). You won't be able to end the rental contract before the deadline!

4. Clarify the height of the deposit (according to the law not more than 3 monthly rentals). The deposit will be paid back in the end of the rental period if the accommodation is in an agreed and tidy condition.

II. Is the Rental Contract Alright?

1. Insist on a rental contract! If the landlord/landlady doesn't have one right from the beginning, be careful!

2. Read the rental contract!
   If it is possible and necessary, take someone with you, who can explain the (most in German written) rental contract to you. It would be legitimate if you need some time to read the rental contract. Maybe the landlord/landlady could send you the contract in advance.

3. Very often there are house rules. Read them because a contravention of the agreement will be punished and can cause the termination of your rental contract.

4. Particularly important in the rental contract
   - The landlord/landlady should be named with his/her address.
   - Which rooms are part of the rent? E.g. Is there a basement?
   - Which rooms are maybe shared (kitchen, bathroom)?
   - Which kind of the rent will be agreed? "Kaltmiete" - "Warmmiete" - overall rent, all-in rent, etc.

5. Clarify the ancillary costs ("Nebenkosten")!
   - Are they included to the rent ("Warmmiete", all-in rent)
   Do you need your own contract e.g. for electricity?
Important Notes

III. After Signing the Contract

1. For your own safety (regarding particular to the deposit):
Make pictures of the accommodation when moving in.

2. If you find defects - claim them immediately in written form.

3. The landlord/landlady is not allowed to have a key to your rented flat; he/she is not allowed to enter the flat without announcement and a good reason.

4. In the end of the contract, make a handover certificate ("Übergabeprotokoll") signed by you and the landlord/landlady. If you and the landlord/landlady agree that there are no defects, he/she has no right to hold the deposit back.

b.) never pay any rent, deposit or fee and especially never ever transfer your money to a Western Union bank account in advance or any time for security deposit or other deposits! Make sure, the bank account is from a German bank.

2. Make sure, you get the correct keys for the flat/accommodation. The handover of the keys has to take place in the rented flat. Please check immediately, whether the keys fit to the lock of the flat or not, if the landlord does not show it on his own. Sometimes the landlord will bring a new lock with two or three keys. Beside, as already mentioned the landlord is not allowed to keep a key to your rented flat!

IV. Warnings!

Be aware of RENTAL SCAMS

1. Before you have seen the flat and talked to the landlord/landlady, the agent or the flatmate, who is the main renter:

   a.) never sign a rental contract
I. Tips

Be open minded and - most of all - honest in your cover letter! It should be personal, detailed, clear and structured. Read the ad and refer to important points in the ad.

What should you write?
Particularly important at the beginning is your name, your age, where you come from, what your course of studies is and why you are moving.

Try to mention the standards of your cleanliness and if you are a smoker or non-smoker. You could also mention some things that you like to do in your free time e.g. your hobbies or leisure activities. It is all about getting to know you a little better and finding out if you would fit in.

Write your contact details at the end; your Name, your E-Mail, your phone number, and if you don’t mind maybe your Facebook page. This doesn't have to be added but sometimes it helps to show a bit of yourself.

Note:
- Not all WGs are furnished.
- If you are still abroad you can offer the WG a conversation via Whatsapp or even Skype.
- It could be possible that the landlady/landlord won’t answer you immediately or perhaps because of the high amount of applicants.

II. Second Hand Furniture

Stilbruch Harburg
Lüneburger Straße 39
21073 Hamburg

Stilbruch Altona
Ruhrstraße 51
22761 Hamburg

Online:
https://www.ebay-kleinanzeigen.de/
Hello Marc,
How are you?

My name is Gayatri. I read your ad for the WG-room in Harburg at the website www.wg-gesucht.de. I am from India and I just have started to learn German, so I prefer to write in English.

About me: as I already mentioned, I am from India and I am 22 years old. I will study Mechanical Engineering (Master) at TUHH. Therefore, I am searching for a nice place to stay. I will arrive in Germany on the XXX.

As requested I am a non smoker. I am a very open minded person. I would be very interested in cooking evenings, I could show you some of my favourite Indian dishes. Of course I will clean up my mess and a cleaning plan for the whole WG wouldn't bother me either.

In my free time, I like cooking, to meet friends, to cook with my friends and doing sport.

Unfortunately, I can’t get to know you in person because I am still in India. But we can talk via Whatsapp or Skype, my phone number is down below.

My contact details
Name: Gayatri Singh
E-Mail: xxxx@gmail.com
Phone: 0000 – 00000000
Facebook: https://xxxxx/

I look forward to getting to know you.

Best wishes
Gayatri
Contact
International Office
Accommodation Office
Am Schwarzenberg Campus 3
Building E
21073 Hamburg

Room: 0.055a
Tel. +49 40 428 78 - 2707
Fax +49 40 427 31 - 3287
Email: accommodation@tuhh.de
Webpage: https://www.tuhh.de/alt/tuhh/international/incoming-international-students/accommodation-office.html