

# Willkommen in Deutschland!



## After Arrival in Germany

1. Get "Wohnungsgeberbescheinigung" – Confirmation from landlord.
2. Book an appointment for city registration.
3. Apply for student ID card "Chiporello)" via HIS with a German address. [www.fh-swf.de/cms/chiporello/](http://www.fh-swf.de/cms/chiporello/)
4. Get a SIM card.
5. Open a bank account (some local banks offer free accounts for students).
6. Unblock "blocked account".
7. Activate / get health insurance.
8. Apply for an appointment for residence permit (at least 3 months before Visa expiry).

## Good to know

### Daily Life

- Always carry your passport or photo ID card with you. On campus, you can use your Chiporello, e.g in Mensa or during exams.
- Call 112 in case of emergency. 110 for Police.
- Carry cash. Some (small) shops might not accept card payment.
- In Germany, last names are used during formal communication.

- In general, loud noises, e.g. music, are prohibited in Germany between 10 pm and 6 am from Mondays to Saturdays. On Sundays and public holidays, loud noises are prohibited throughout the entire day.
- As a student, you can save money and the planet by buying second hand products and supporting sustainability. “eBay Kleinanzeigen” is a very popular website/app for this.
- Drinking water is not free of charge in restaurants. When ordering, make sure to specify whether you want still or sparkling water.
- There are special red colored bicycle lanes meant only for cyclists. It’s best to not accidentally walk on or block this lane.
- In Germany/Europe the SIM card gets locked when your phone switches off. You always need the SIM PIN to unlock your phone when it restarts.
- Mostly everyone in Germany plans appointments quite in advance. Spontaneous plans might not always work. It’s best to use your calendar and plan accordingly.
- It is advisable to have at least basic German language skills to make everyday life easier.
- In winter the days are much shorter. To prevent winter blues, try to participate in various events, join some sports clubs or pick up some new hobbies.

## Supermarket

- All supermarkets and shops are closed on Sundays.
- Billing counters at German supermarkets are fast. Card payments save time.
- Carry coins. You’ll need them for shopping carts at supermarkets and for using public toilets (1 Euro coin).
- For some bottles and cans you pay a deposit "Pfand" in Germany. This means if you bring them back to the supermarket, you could get up to 25 cents back.
- For vegetarians: In Germany/Europe, eggs are considered as vegetarian.

## Public Transport

- Always carry a soft copy of your semester ticket and certificate of enrolment for the latest semester on your phone while travelling.
- Use public transport apps: VRR (only for Rhein-Ruhr region) and DB Navigation.
- DB trains might have delays up to 1 hour. Travel early and don't rely on the last train before your appointment.
- German long distance ICE trains follow dynamic pricing. The earlier you book, the cheaper it is. Please note that the semester ticket does not apply in ICE and IC trains.

## Accommodation

- Finding an accommodation is not always easy. Thus, please start searching early.
- Before renting an apartment, please look up the difference between the terms: Warmmiete (warm rent plus ancillary costs) and Kaltmiete (cold rent).
- Each household in Germany needs to pay "Rundfunkbeitrag" (broadcasting fee) regardless of their actual media use.
- As a student, you can save yourself some hassle by renting an apartment that is "möbliert" (furnished) and has a Einbauküche (furnished kitchen).

## University

- You can print on campus with your student ID card.
- Students aren't automatically registered for all exams. You need to register for each exam within particular registration periods.

**Bleiben Sie Gesund!**