

WELCOME TO WEIHENSTEPHAN INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



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INTRODUCTION

Dear International Students,

We are delighted that you have decided to study here at our university.

This information brochure is intended to support you in preparing for your stay effectively and making it a success. If you have any further questions, we will of course be happy to help – both as you prepare for your studies and after you have started.

The HSWT International Office



“Everyone at the University is extremely friendly and genuine. There are a lot of great things about the HSWT, but it’s the people who make it really special.”

Grace, USA, Landscape Architecture



“I loved the interactive teaching style in my study program and the project-focused curriculum. The instructors are very helpful, informative, respectful, and continuously encourage discussions on local and international levels. The excellent mix of international students further enhances this experience.”

Eliza, Jordan, International Master of Landscape Architecture



“I was very happy with my decision to study at HSWT. The Campus is very beautiful. Everyone was very personable and helpful. What I liked most was that the Bachelor was very hands-on and relatable to the real-world industry.”

Riley, Canada, Brewing and Beverage Technology

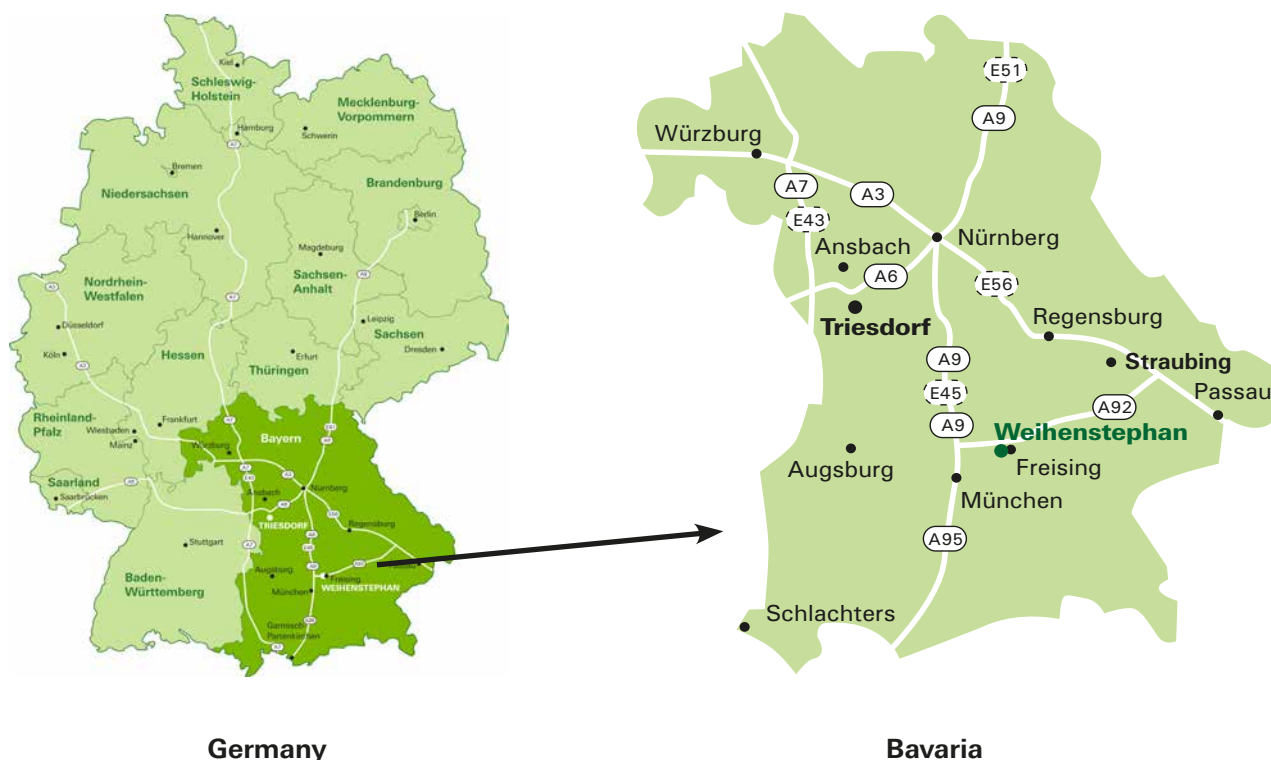
ABOUT WEIHENSTEPHAN-TRIEDSDORF UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

HSWT's roots date back to the beginning of the 19th century. Over the course of its history, HSWT has become Germany's largest 'green' university. Our degree programmes cover everything to do with nature, food, and the environment in the very broadest sense, with approaches ranging from scientific to artistic. In all of our degree programmes, the focus is on managing and using natural resources both efficiently and sustainably.

www.hswt.de/en/study/study-offer

The HSWT offers courses at the Weihenstephan and Triesdorf campus:

- » Weihenstephan/Freising campus, near Munich (approx. 3,800 students)
- » Triesdorf/Weidenbach campus, near Ansbach (approx. 2,100 students)



If you are looking for information on getting to the university or for a map of the area, go to:

www.hswt.de/en/approach

In Weihenstephan, our students live and learn on the largest green campus in Germany. Show gardens, experimental farms, laboratories, and a biotechnology centre all provide an excellent learning environment. The large student population in Freising, as well as its proximity to Munich and the mountains and lakes of the Alpine foothills, make it a wonderful place to live and spend your leisure time.

Good to Know

You will find our information brochure for international students at the Triesdorf campus here:

www.hswt.de/fileadmin/Redaktion/Englisch/Ways_to_the_HSWT/TR_Welcome_brochure.pdf



INFORMATION AND POINT OF CONTACT

On the HSWT website, you can find information about important induction events and course-specific preliminary courses under 'Freshman Info', ready for the start of your course.

www.hswt.de/en/studium/before-the-study/freshman-info

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE, FUNDING AND CAREER SERVICE – IFC

The International Office will support you in all situations, both as you prepare for your studies and during your stay. We also organise events and excursions for international students and offer advice on funding opportunities together with the Funding Department.

The Career Service will support you throughout your studies and in the transition from university to employment in all matters related to your job search, the application process and acquiring key skills. This free service is available to students in every semester. The Career Service also offers workshops and services for international students in particular.

www.hswt.de/en/international/facilities-for-international-affairs/international-office-funding-career-service

GENERAL COURSE GUIDANCE SERVICE

The General Course Guidance Service gives information and guidance on all matters concerning study that are not subject-specific – one-on-one and face-to-face, by e-mail or over the phone. If you need psychosocial counselling, they can put you in touch with a good counselling service.

www.hswt.de/en/study/during-study/service-advice/general-course-guidance-service

SUBJECT ADVISORS

Highly technical questions about the structure or content of individual degree programmes are answered by subject advisors for the relevant degree programmes.

www.hswt.de/en/study/during-study/service-advice/student-advisory-service

STUDENT.SERVICE

In the Student.Service, you can submit documents and applications, have certificates issued, obtain general information about study courses and get help with registering for exams or finding the right people to contact.

www.hswt.de/en/study/during-study/service-advice/student-service

COMPUTER CENTRE SERVICEDESK

The Servicedesk supports you with all questions related to the use of the university's IT facilities and equipment.

» **<https://servicedesk.hswt.de>**

» **servicedesk@hswt.de**

STUDIARENDEWERK MÜNCHEN OBERBAYERN (STUDENT UNION)

The responsibilities of the Studierendenwerk include providing social support to the students in Freising. It runs the student halls of residence and the canteen and cafeterias on campus where you can enjoy cheap meals. It also offers a diverse counselling network.

www.studierendenwerk-muenchen-oberbayern.de/en/



RESIDENCY-RELATED MATTERS

ENTRY / VISA

International students from an EU/EEA country or Switzerland only need a valid identification document for entry into Germany. Students from other countries should check whether they need a visa on the German Foreign Office website:

www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/-/231148

If case you need a visa, you have to apply for it at the German embassy or consulate in your home country before travelling to Germany. You can find information on German missions in your home country at:

www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen

To study at a German university, you will need a 'national visa for the purpose of a study trip' (Nationales Visum zum Zwecke des Studienaufenthalts). If you are already living in Germany with a student applicant visa, you can apply for conversion to an official residence permit for study purposes (Aufenthaltserlaubnis zum Studienaufenthalt) after you have received admission to study.

You must apply for a student visa or student applicant visa before travelling to Germany! For this, you need to prove that you have adequate health insurance cover and sufficient financial resources (see 'Health insurance' and 'Financial resources'). Please remember to submit your application early, preferably several months in advance.

Good to Know

You can also apply for a 'Schengen Visa' at the German embassy or consulate, which entitles you to stay in Germany for a maximum of three months. You will have to leave the country once your visa has expired – it cannot be extended or converted to a national visa.





RESIDENCE REGISTRATION

After moving into a new flat, you have two weeks to register at the local citizens or residents registration office of your new place of residence. You can find the address and opening times on your local authority's website.

When registering, you will need a valid identification document and a declaration from the landlord stating that you are moving in ('Wohnungsgeberbescheinigung' – proof of residence certificate). If you live in the student halls of residence, the student union will provide you with the certificate. If you are living as an interim tenant, the main tenant can issue the proof of residence certificate.

In Freising

If you live in Freising, you need to register at the local citizens registration office (Bürgerbüro) in Marienplatz. Please book an appointment online at:

www.freising.de/rathaus/buergerbuero/termin-vereinbaren (German website)

Detailed information on registration and a proof of residence certificate is available at:

www.freising.de/rathaus/buergerbuero/meldewesen (German website)

In Munich

If you live in Munich, register at the Residence Registration Office (Bürgerbüro) of the Department of Public Order (Kreisverwaltungsreferat). You can make the necessary appointment online:

www.muenchen.de/rathaus/terminvereinbarung_bb.html (German website)

For detailed information, the address of your local residence registration office, the registration form for Munich and a proof of residence certificate, go to:

www.muenchen.de/rathaus/home_en/Department-of-Public-Order/Registration-Deregistration

Good to Know

It is not possible to register your residence as long as you are staying in a hostel or hotel.

If your name does not appear on the letter box outside, write your address as 'c/o [main tenant's name]'. If you live in a student hall of residence, make sure your room number appears on the registration certificate you receive after registering. Otherwise you may not be able to receive important post.

After moving house, you have two weeks to register with your new address at the citizens' registration office responsible for you.





RESIDENCE PERMIT

If you are not from an EU/EEA country, you need to apply for a residence permit at the Immigration Office during your visa term (or your visa-free stay). You can find the address and opening times on your local authority's website.

You can only apply for the residence permit after you have registered at the citizens registration office (see 'Residence registration'). Since it takes several weeks for the residence permit to be issued, the application should be made early.

If you live in Freising, apply for the residence permit at the Immigration Office (Ausländeramt, Landshuter Straße 31, 85356 Freising). You need an appointment for this. Contact the staff member responsible for your last name to arrange an appointment:

www.kreis-freising.de/buergerservice/abteilungen-und-sachgebiete/auslaenderamt/beschaefigtteeu.html (German website)

If you live in Munich, submit your application for the residence permit online to the Foreigners' Office (Ausländerbehörde) of the Department of Public Order:

<https://service.muenchen.de/intelliform/forms/01/02/02/kontaktabhaufenthaltfuerstudienzwecke/index> (German website)

The Munich Department of Public Order has more information about the student residence permit at:

<https://stadt.muenchen.de/service/info/hauptabteilung-ii-buergerangelegenheiten-auslaenderangelegenheiten/1089339/> (German website)

The issue of a residence permit is subject to a fee of approximately € 110. The exact amount depends on the length of your stay, among other things.

In general, the following documents are required for the residence permit application:

- » Application form
- » Passport
- » Visa (if applicable)
- » Proof of financial resources
- » Health insurance certificate
- » HSWT enrolment certificate
- » Biometrical passport photo
- » Lease (if you live in Freising)



Good to Know

Inform the Immigration Office if you change your address.

If your visa or residence permit expires, you will get a 'probationary permit' (Fiktionsbescheinigung) for the interim period before you receive your new residence permit. Do not travel abroad with it without making sure you can come and go freely. Find out in advance at the diplomatic missions (embassy or consulate) of the destination country.

Even though Swiss students enjoy freedom of movement within the EU, they must apply for a purely declaratory 'Swiss residence permit' (Aufenthaltserlaubnis-Schweiz).



FINANCIAL MATTERS

We recommend that you budget between € 900 and € 950 per month for your stay (e.g. for accommodation, food, clothing, insurance, learning materials and leisure activities). The actual amount of expenses will of course depend on the individual lifestyle.

PROOF OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES

When you apply for a visa or residence permit, you will need to prove that you can afford to study and live in Germany. That is deemed proven if you have at least €934/month or €11,208/year available.

There are several ways to prove you have the financial resources:

- » Deposit the amount into a blocked account
- » Submit a declaration of commitment; i.e. somebody resident in Germany makes an obligation towards the Immigration Office to bear your living expenses
- » Provide proof of your parents' income and assets
- » Obtain a bank guarantee from a bank in Germany
- » Obtain a scholarship from a recognised scholarship provider

It is best to find out directly from a German diplomatic mission or the foreigners' registration office responsible for your place of residence which of these certificates are recognised there.

BLOCKED ACCOUNT ('SPERRKONTO')

A blocked account or 'Sperrkonto' (set up specifically for studying) is a special type of account which is not freely accessible to the account holder. The credit in this account is intended to cover all the costs of your stay in Germany. The law therefore stipulates a minimum amount to be paid into the blocked account: This currently stands at €934 for each month of your stay in Germany or for each month of validity of your visa/residence permit.

Once you have arrived in Germany, you can withdraw a maximum of €934 from the account per month, unless you paid in more than the minimum requirement.

The following providers offer blocked accounts (this list is not exhaustive and does not constitute a recommendation):

- » www.coracle.de
- » www.deutsche-bank.de
- » www.expatrio.com
- » www.fintiba.com

Some of these providers also offer health insurance for a period of study in Germany. Please read the 'Health Insurance' section before taking out insurance.



TUITION AND SEMESTER FEE

Tuition Fees

Tuition fees are only charged to students from non-EU countries in the International Master of Landscape Architecture (IMLA) at HSWT. The fees amount to €750 per semester.

www.hswt.de/en/study/study-offer/master/international-master-of-landscape-architecture

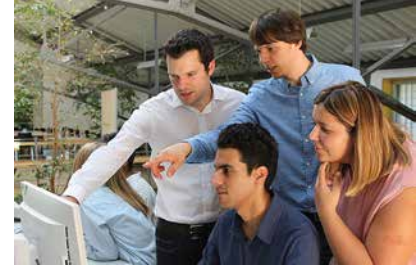
Semester Fee

All HSWT students are required to pay a semester fee (student union fee). For the winter semester 2023/24 at the Weihenstephan campus, this amounts to €85.

The fee is levied by the HSWT and passed on 100% to the respective Studierendenwerk (student union). It is an important part of the financing of services for which the Studierendenwerk does not receive any subsidies or which the Studierendenwerk must co-finance with its own funds (e.g. canteen, student halls of residence, counselling services).

More information on the semester fee can be found at:

www.hswt.de/en/study/during-study/financial/semester-fees



OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

If you have a bank account in a Eurozone country, you can participate in the SEPA scheme for cross-border bank transfers and direct debits. If not, you will need to open a German bank account. In Germany, regular payments, such as rent, electricity, etc. are often deducted directly from the bank account by direct debit.

Student bank accounts tend to be free of charge and usually come with a debit card. Please check which ATMs you can withdraw money from free of charge.

To open a bank account, you will need your personal ID or passport, registration certificate (which you received when you registered your residence) and enrolment certificate. To open a bank account, the bank will also need your tax identification number (IdNo). If you have not yet received this, ask the bank if it would be possible to provide it at a later date.

The following banks can be found in Freising (this list is not exhaustive and does not constitute a recommendation):

Commerzbank Freising
Obere Hauptstr. 10
85354 Freising
www.commerzbank.de/portal/en/englisch/english.html

Sparkasse Freising Moosburg
Untere Hauptstr. 29
85354 Freising
www.sparkasse-freising.de/en/home.html

Deutsche Bank
Untere Hauptstraße 36
85354 Freising
www.deutsche-bank.de/ms/pc/home.html

Volksbank-Raiffeisenbank
Münchner Str. 2
85354 Freising
www.fs-bank.de/service/leistungsangebot-englisch.html

Good to Know

Once you have registered as a resident in Germany, you will receive your tax identification number (IdNo) in the post from the Federal Ministry of Finance. It may take a few weeks for you to receive the letter. If you move while you are waiting, the letter does not reach you for any other reason, or you misplace your tax ID number at a later date, you may request for it to be resent.

https://www.bzst.de/EN/Private_individuals/Tax_identification_number/tax_identification_number_node.html





EMPLOYMENT

If you come from an EU/EEA country or Switzerland, you may not work for more than 20 hours per week during lecture periods. Exceptions are possible if, for example, you only work weekends, in the evenings or at night.

Students from other countries may work a maximum of 120 full days or 240 half-days per year in Germany. Working days on which more than half of the standard working hours are worked, i.e. more than 4 hours, are considered as full days. Any employment that exceeds this limit must be approved in advance by the immigration authorities.

The restriction to 120 full days / 240 half days does not apply to part-time student jobs at the university or in the vicinity of the university (e.g. as a research assistant or at the student union). For compulsory internships that are a mandatory part of studying in Germany, the approval of the Foreigners' Registration Office is also not required. The 120 work days without approval can be used additionally and independently of this.

Please also take account of the information specified in your residence permit and contact the relevant immigration office in case of doubt.

The university's Career Service provides support in all matters concerning searching for jobs and the application process. You can find job advertisements and more in our online job platform:

<https://jobboerse.hswt.de/>

SCHOLARSHIPS

International prospective students and students can apply for a scholarship from numerous organisations. However, full scholarships are rather an exception in Germany.

There are various databases to help you find suitable scholarships:

- » **www.daad.de/scholarships** (scholarships database of the German Academic Exchange Service, DAAD)
- » **www.mystipendium.de** (scholarship database with matching process, in German)
- » **<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/opportunities/individuals/students/erasmus-master-degree-loans>** (ERASMUS+ Master Degree Loans für Studieninteressierte aus der EU)

For some scholarships you can apply directly to the Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences. For example, there is limited support available as part of the 'Internationalisation of Universities' programme of the Bavarian State Ministry of Science and the Arts. You can also apply for support through the Germany Scholarship programme or a one-off grant for books and learning resources from the Oskar Karl Forster Scholarship fund.

You can find information on the HSWT scholarships at:

- » **www.hswt.de/en/study/during-study/financial/scholarships**
- » **www.hswt.de/en/international/ways-to-the-hswt/international-students**

Our university may also award scholarships from DAAD's STIBET I programme to assist with an imminent graduation and provide targeted support to particularly engaged foreign students. The departments recommend students deemed eligible for funding to the selection committee.



INSURANCES

HEALTH INSURANCE

Students in Germany are required to prove they have health insurance. This covers the costs of medical treatments and medications in the event of an accident or illness so that it doesn't have to be paid for privately.

Your insurance status can only be confirmed by a German statutory health insurance provider. They can confirm that you

- » are insured with a German statutory health insurance provider **or**
- » that you are exempt from taking out statutory health insurance in Germany, for example because you have private health insurance or have health insurance abroad.

No matter where or how you are insured - when enrolling, you should always contact a German statutory health insurance provider and ask them to inform our university of your insurance status electronically. **Enrolment is not possible without electronic notification of your insurance status.** The insurance contract or the insurance card are not sufficient for enrolment.

Applying for the proof of insurance status

1) If you come from a country with which Germany has concluded a social security agreement in the area of health insurance (including the EU/EEA and Switzerland):

In this case, you send an international health insurance certificate or a copy of the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) to a statutory health insurance company in Germany. They will inform our university electronically that you are exempt from compulsory health insurance in Germany. There are no costs involved.

The EHIC does not replace travel insurance. The EHIC grants you the medically necessary state health services. Private medical healthcare services or expenses, for example return flights home to get treatment there, are not included.

2) What about a country with which there is no social security agreement?

First you should find out whether the services provided by your health insurance provider in your home country are comparable to those of a German health insurance provider. To do so, you will need to send an English version or certified translation of your insurance contract to a statutory health insurance provider in Germany. They will tell you **whether or not your insurance cover is adequate for studying in Germany.** If so, they can inform the HSWT electronically that you are exempt from taking out statutory health insurance in Germany.

Please check with your health insurance provider how the costs of medical examinations and medication are settled. Sometimes you need to pay for it yourself first, before having the money reimbursed upon presentation of the receipts and invoices.



If the services provided by your health insurance provider in your home country are not comparable to those of a German health insurance provider, you will need to take out a new health insurance policy.

If you opt for a **statutory health insurance provider**, you may be eligible for the student rate of about €90/month. This tariff is available up to the age of 30 or the end of your 14th semester. The insurance premium varies because every health insurance provider charges small individual supplementary contributions. The health insurance can electronically inform the HSWT that you are legally insured.

Doctors settle up all standard treatments and many preventive services, such as preventive medical check-ups or vaccinations, directly with the statutory health insurance provider. Only a few services require a separate contribution, e.g. for hospital stays (€ 10/day).

The following statutory insurance providers can be found in Freising (this list is not exhaustive and does not constitute a recommendation):

AOK Freising
Wippenhauser Str. 6
85354 Freising
www.aok.de/fm/en-uk

AOK Freising – Infopoint Mensa
Ms Monika Schuhmann
Tuesday 12:00 noon - 13:00 p.m.
freising.team41@service.by.aok.de

BARMER GEK Freising
Obere Hauptstr. 48-50
85354 Freising
www.barmer.de/en

Mr Dieter Weber
Dieter.Weber@barmer.de

TK Freising
Obere Hauptstr. 36
85354 Freising
www.tk.de/en

The fee for statutory health insurance for students who are already 30 years old at the start of their course starts at approx. €170/month. For older students, insurance with a private health insurance provider may therefore be the cheaper option.

If you decide to take out **private health insurance**, you should make sure that the tariff you have chosen offers sufficient protection before signing the contract. The following insurance policies are generally recognised for study purposes (the list is not exhaustive and does not constitute a recommendation):

- » 'Student' Care Concept tariff
- » DAAD insurance (Continentale/Generali)
- » Mawista 'Student' or 'Science'
- » VELA 'Optimal' tariff

After concluding the contract, contact a statutory health provider in Germany. They can inform the HSWT electronically that you are exempt from taking out statutory health insurance in Germany.

General information on health insurance and health insurance providers is available at:
www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/plan-your-studies/health-insurance



Good to Know

Before choosing private health insurance, you should consider the possible disadvantages:

Check the insurance conditions carefully. In some cases, dental prostheses or psychotherapeutic treatments, for example, are either not covered at all or only in part; treatment costs are not reimbursed if there is suspicion of a previous illness, or in case of accidents under the influence of alcohol.

Some tariffs have a limited duration, such as 24 or 48 months. Continued insurance after that is possible only at a higher price. Before an extension, your state of health may also be checked. If you have been seriously ill during the insurance term, you may not be able to continue your insurance at the desired rate.

Do you have to pay for part of the medical treatment yourself ('excess') or is there an upper limit for the assumption of costs? Will the costs of examinations and medication be reimbursed to you only after presentation of invoices or receipts? This can lead to financial difficulties in the event of serious illnesses.

If you take out private health insurance at the start of your studies, you cannot switch to statutory health insurance until you have completed your studies at the earliest, and only after you have taken up employment that is subject to social insurance contributions. You will have to stay privately insured the entire time, even if the tariff becomes much more expensive in the course of your studies or after the end of your studies.



Care Insurance

In addition to health insurance, you also need care insurance in Germany. Your health insurance company will insure you automatically. Students with statutory health insurance pay approximately €23/month for care insurance; students with private health insurance pay approximately €17/month.

PERSONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

Personal liability insurance covers the costs of accidental damage, for example if you were to cycle into someone or drop a friend's smartphone. Accidents in which people are injured can cost several million euros. Without private liability insurance, you will have to pay for the damage yourself. **In the worst-case scenario, you may be paying off your debts for the rest of your life** – even if you return to your home country.

Private liability insurance is highly recommended and is not expensive. In some cases, it is also a prerequisite for conclusion of a tenancy agreement.

www.hswt.de/en/study/during-study/financial/insurances



ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Students are covered by accident insurance for study-related activities at the university and on their way there. For example, the insurance covers accidents that occur during lectures or at academic facilities (such as the university library), during excursions or at the university sports centre.

The insurance benefits can be claimed only if an accident occurs without outside influence, i.e. nobody else is to blame for it. If, for example, you fall and injure yourself at university, the accident insurance company will cover all costs incurred.

Notify the university management as soon as possible in the event of an accident. They will report it to the accident insurance company. Be sure to inform the attending physician that the accident occurred while you were visiting the university.

www.hswt.de/en/study/during-study/financial/insurances



ACCOMMODATION

Most students in Germany live in a shared apartment, known as a 'Wohngemeinschaft' or 'WG'. They share the apartment (bathroom, kitchen, ...) with other people but have their own room.

There is a shortage of affordable accommodation for students in Freising and the surrounding area, so start your search early.

Make contact as soon as you see an interesting offer as rooms are often allocated very quickly. Above all, if it is not possible to visit in person, tell the landlord or your potential roommates a little bit about yourself. It can be helpful to send a photograph or a short profile. Write about your motivation for coming to Germany, your interests, and yourself. Landlords also need to know that you have sufficient financial means to pay the rent. You can also suggest an alternative meeting via video call if a visit is not possible..

STUDENT HALLS OF RESIDENCE

The Studierendenwerk München Oberbayern (Student Union or "StuWerk") has four student residential buildings in Freising with rooms and apartments for students. The monthly rent ranges from €220 to €360. Unfortunately, the StuWerk cannot offer a room to all students who apply.

You should apply for a place in a hall of residence before you are admitted to your degree programme. The earlier you apply, the better your chances of getting a room. You can apply online:

- » For rooms for the winter semester (classes commence on 1 October), you can apply from 15 May;
- » For rooms for the summer semester (classes commence on 15 March), you can apply from 15 November.

You can find information on the individual student halls of residence and on how to apply at:
www.studierendenwerk-muenchen-oberbayern.de/en/accommodation

LOOKING FOR ACCOMMODATION

If you are not moving into one of the Student Union halls of residence, you can find a room on the private housing market.

Finding a Room/Apartment Online

- » **www.wg-gesucht.de/en** (Accommodation website for apartments and WG rooms)
- » **www.facebook.com/162903487151913** (Facebook group for student apartments and WG rooms)
- » **www.studierendenwerk-muenchen-oberbayern.de/en/accommodation/private-accommodation-service** (Private accommodation service of the Munich Student Union)
- » **www.meine-anzeigenzeitung.de/epaper/freising** (Weekly paper 'Forum Freising', in German)



Finding Accommodation Once you've Arrived

In Freising you will find ads for rooms/apartments to rent in the Mensa, university buildings, libraries and halls of residence. You can also post your own 'accommodation wanted' ad. You will also find apartment adverts and room offers in local newspapers.

List of Abbreviations for Housing Search

Abbreviation	Definition	Abbreviation	Definition
AB	Altbau (old building)	NK / NBK	Nebenkosten (utilities)
Bj.	Baujahr (year of construction)	NR	Nichtraucher (non-smoker)
Blk.	Balkon (balcony)	OG	Obergeschoss (upper floor)
DG	Dachgeschoss (top floor)	qm	Quadratmeter (square meters)
EBK	Einbauküche (fitted kitchen)	Wfl.	Wohnfläche (living space)
EG	Erdgeschoss (ground floor)	WG	Wohngemeinschaft (shared accommodation)
Etg.	Etage (floor)	Whg.	Wohnung (apartment)
KM / kalt	Kaltmiete (cold rent)	WM / warm	Warmmiete (warm rent)
KT	Kaution (deposit)	ZH	Zentralheizung (central heating)
MM	Monatsmiete (monthly rent)	Zi.	Zimmer (room)
mtl.	monatlich (monthly)	ZKB	Zimmer, Küche, Bad (room, kitchen, bath)

SHORT-TERM ACCOMMODATION

If you need somewhere to stay for a few days before moving in to your accommodation, or if you'll be receiving visitors during your stay, the following accommodation options are available:

- » <https://tourismus.freising.de/unterkuenfte.html> (Hotels, guest houses and guest rooms in Freising, in German)
- » www.boardinghaus-freising.de/en
- » www.airbnb.com (Private rooms and apartments in Freising and the surrounding area)
- » www.wg-gesucht.de/en (Flat-share rooms and apartments for short-term lease)

Particularly around the time of Oktoberfest (end of September/beginning of October), hotels and hostels are booked out well in advance and room rates are much higher than usual. You should not arrive during this period without having booked a room in advance!

www.oktoberfest.de/en



RENT AND HOUSING-RELATED COSTS

For a house share in Freising, you should plan between € 350 and € 550 depending on the location and furnishing. Single occupancy apartments are more expensive.

You often have to pay a deposit when you move in. You will get this back at the end of your tenancy, provided that the room and furnishings are not damaged.

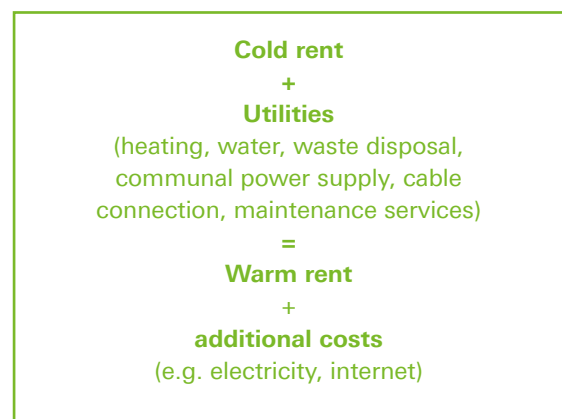
If you hire an estate agent to find an apartment or room for you, you will be charged commission if they are successful. That is non-refundable. Commission is usually two months' rent, regardless of how long you stay in the room or apartment.

Cold Rent and Warm Rent

In Germany, a distinction is made between 'Kaltmiete' (net monthly rent or 'cold rent') and 'Warmmiete' (gross monthly rent including utilities or 'warm rent').

Additional costs may be added to the warm rent. Please check before signing the lease exactly how much money you will need to budget per month. The rental prices for accommodation run by the students' union are warm rents, which include all additional costs.

A flat rate is paid every month for heating and additional utility costs as well as electricity. If it turns out that you have used more than you have paid for, you will have to pay the difference. If you have used less than you have paid for, you will get money back. They are usually only settled once a year, so you may not receive the difference until a few months after you have moved out.



TV and Radio Licence Fee

A TV and radio licence fee ('Rundfunkbeitrag') of €18.36 per month is charged for every apartment in Germany. The money collected from this fee is used to fund public radio and TV channels. The licence fee is not included in accommodation rental costs.

If several people are living together (for instance, in a shared apartment), only one person is required to register to pay the licence fee. The others can be exempted from registration. You should ask your flat-mates which of them pays the licence fee. The cost is usually divided between all of the residents.

You will usually receive a letter from 'ARD ZDF Deutschlandradio Beitragsservice' with information about the licence fee soon after your registration at the local citizens registration office. Please reply to this letter in order to avoid having to make retrospective payments at a later date.

For more information, see:

- » www.rundfunkbeitrag.de/welcome/index_ger.html and
- » www.rundfunkbeitrag.de/welcome/englisch/students_and_apprentices/index_ger.html



German standard plug socket



Good to Know

Apartments are usually let unfurnished (sometimes even without a kitchen). For rooms, please pay attention to the details given in the description.

For the first few months, temporary rent ('short-term leases') may also be worthwhile, and they are usually rented furnished.

Always check the location of the room or apartment. Some offers are located outside Freising and are difficult to reach without a car. If you are unsure, ask the landlord if the university is within walking distance, or if there are good public transport connections.

Unfortunately, fraudsters are particularly common online. For example, you should be sceptical about very cheap accommodation, if your landlord wants to send you the keys by post, if you are asked to send rent in advance via money transfer service (e.g. Western Union) or if the landlord does not respond to your enquiries. More information on how to recognize a fraud is available at:

www.wg-gesucht.de/artikel/fake-ads-what-people-searching-for-accommodation-need-to-know

Electronic devices operate at a mains voltage from 220 to 230 volts and a frequency of 50 Hz. Type C and F plug sockets are used (see photo at the top of the page). If the plugs in your home country conform to a different standard, you will need an adaptor.

Tap water in Germany is considered safe to drink and can be used for cooking and drinking without reservation.

Cooking, washing clothes and taking showers or baths cause humidity in the apartment. To prevent mould, open the windows for 5–10 minutes three or four times a day – even in winter. Please do not ventilate the apartment with the heating on. Turn the heating off before opening the windows. Once the windows are shut again, you can turn the radiators back on.

In Germany, waste is separated for environmental reasons. There are usually specially marked bins for plastics (e.g. packaging, containers, bags, plastic film, drinks cartons), kitchen waste (e.g. leftover food, tea leaves and coffee grounds, eggshells, rotten fruit and vegetables, dead flowers), paper (e.g. cardboard boxes, newspaper) and general waste (anything that does not go in any of the other bins). There are usually separate collection containers for glass outside the residential complexes. Batteries may be disposed of in designated boxes for example in drug stores or electronic stores.

A deposit is often paid for beverage bottles and cans at the time of purchase. This is usually between €0.08 and €0.25, depending on the packaging. The deposit bottles are marked with a special logo. When the empty packaging is returned to a shop, the deposit is refunded.





FREISING

Freising's history can be traced back approximately 1,300 years. It may be old, but this lively little town has a lot to offer. With an average population age of about 40 years, it is the 'youngest' city in Bavaria. Not least because many of its approximately 50,000 inhabitants are students.

Due to its manageable size, you never have far to go. For example, it is only a ten or fifteen-minute walk from the university to the student halls of residence or the city centre. It is quicker by bike, the primary means of transport for many students.

However, Freising also has a well-developed bus network:

www.freisinger-stadtwerke.de/de/Stadtbus-Parkhaeuser/Stadtbus (German website)

The combination of a modern science campus, nature, culture and leisure is what makes Freising unique. Scientific teaching and research are brought together on the Weihenstephan campus. The proximity to Munich and the mountains and lakes of the Alpine foothills make it a wonderful place to live and spend your leisure time.

Freising also offers a variety of festivals and events – including the open-air 'Kino am Rang' cinema week or the Freibierfest (summer beer festival organised by brewing students) on campus, the Altstadtfest (old town festival) and the free Uferlos festival, including concerts and a market.

You are sure to find plenty of reasons to feel at home here:

www.freising.de (German website)

GETTING THERE AND TRANSPORT CONNECTIONS

Freising is very well served by transport services and is the ideal starting point for trips in the vicinity and further afield.

- » Munich Airport (MUC), which operates international flights, is around 10 km from Freising. It can be reached in 15 minutes with the Regionalexpress (RE) regional train or in 20 minutes with the 635 public bus service.
- » From Freising train station, Munich is 25 minutes away on the RE or alex (ALX) regional trains. You can make the same journey on the S-Bahn suburban rail (S1 line) in around 40 minutes, as there are more stops along the S-Bahn route than on the train.
- » The S-Bahn will also take you to Munich's central bus station (Zentraler Omnibusbahnhof or ZOB) in Munich, which is served by national and international bus companies.
- » If you are travelling by car, please note that the university has limited parked spaces.



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© Uferlos Festival (CC BY-SA 3.0)

ACTIVITIES IN FREISING AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

There's something on offer all year round in Freising. Check out the city's event calendar for information about upcoming festivals, concerts, plays, film screenings, or exhibitions.

<https://veranstaltungen.freising.de/freising/> (German website)

During the summer, Freising's public swimming pool and the nearby lakes and ponds provide ample opportunities for relaxation. The mountains are easily accessible by train, and they offer great opportunities for hiking. During the winter, you can go ice skating, skiing or take part in indoor sports.

Gardening

The 'Knosporus' campus garden is a community garden on the Weihenstephan campus in Freising. It is open to all students and staff from the surrounding buildings and facilities. The only prerequisites are a passion for gardening and a desire to act in a sustainable manner. The garden provides space for ecological vegetable gardening, art, music and culture.

The social aspect is also important: it provides an opportunity to meet and engage with others.

<https://campusgarten-knosporus.webnode.com> (German website)

Gastronomy

Beer gardens are part of Bavaria's cultural heritage and are a much-loved meeting spot during the summer months. As a local feature, the Bavarian beer garden ordinance allows guests to bring their own snacks - only drinks must be purchased on site. In terms of going out at night, Freising also offers an array of cosy restaurants, traditional cuisine, student pubs and friendly bars.

Bräustüberl Weihenstephan on Weihenstephan hill:

www.braeustueberl-weihenstephan.de/en

Plantage beer garden in Freising State Forest:

www.plantage-freising.de

Lindenkeller serves food from breakfast to dinner in its Stadtcafé, as well as in the Stadtgarten beer garden or the Eishaus. It is also a venue for events:

www.lindenkeller-freising.de (German website)

Samma Mera; pub run by former Brewery students for students in Freising:

<https://sammamera-freising.de/> (German website)

Weißbräu Huber, traditional Bavarian/Austrian-style cooking:

www.weissbraeu-huber.de/en

Furtnerbräu, cozy pub with a varied cultural programme:

www.furtner-freising.de (German website)

Q-Bar combines an Italian espresso bar with a Cuban Havana bar:

www.facebook.com/qbarfs/info (German website)



University Sports Programme (Zentraler Hochschulsport – ZHS)

The Central University Sports Centre (ZHS) offers a wide range of sports. All participants in the ZHS need a ZHS card with valid semester authorisation (basic ticket). Depending on the course, additional tickets may be required (e.g. to use the gym) or course fees may apply. However, most offers are free of charge.

For information on the range of sports on offer and the address and opening hours of the ZHS office in Weihenstephan, go to:

www.zhs-muenchen.de/en/home

University Community (Hochschulgemeinde – HSG)

The ecumenical University Community offers activities such as hikes, tours, theme nights, film nights, meditation, and religious services to students of all faiths and nationalities. At the monthly “Global/lokal Stammtisch” get together, food from all over the world is enjoyed together and an opportunity to get to know each other, talk and laugh. There is also a language café for practising German together. The University Community building and its garden are open to everyone and provide a space for celebrations, discussions, and enjoyable times together.

www.hsg-freising.de (German website)

Making Music

New musicians are welcome to join the Weihenstephaner Blasmusik (brass band), which is made up of students from Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences and the Technical University of Munich.

www.facebook.com/blasmusikweihenstephan

If you have your own instrument, but are unable to practise at home, you are more than welcome to practise at the University Community. There is a piano available to pianists.



HELPFUL TIPS

TRAVEL OPTIONS IN GERMANY

Deutschland-Ticket / Bavarian Discount Ticket

The Deutschland-Ticket for €49 is valid throughout Germany for all journeys on local and regional transport. The Bavarian discount ticket is a discounted Deutschlandticket for students at Bavarian universities at a price of €29/month. It is ideal for students who do not live in Freising and commute regularly to university.

www.mvg.de/tickets-tarife/abonnement/deutschlandticket_29euro.html (German website)

Train and long-distance busses

There are a number of low-fare ticket options for rail travel in Bavaria, Germany, or cross-border journeys. For journeys within Bavaria, for example, you can opt for the Bayern-Ticket (Bavarian ticket) or the Bayern-Ticket Nacht (Bavarian night ticket). If several people are travelling together, they can split the cost of the journey and save money. Use Deutsche Bahn's (DB) online advisor to find the best deals:

www.bahn.de/p/view/angebot/berater.shtml (German website)

Bus journeys are often significantly cheaper than train journeys. You can compare prices for journeys within Germany and international journeys on this website:

www.busradar.com

Carpooling

Carpooling is an affordable way to travel in Germany. You can use an online portal to search for drivers who are travelling along a specific route on a specific day and will take passengers for a small fee. Sometimes people also search the portals looking for other passengers to share group tickets for train journeys.

www.blablacar.co.uk

For Motorists: Environmental Stickers

Many cities in Germany, such as Munich, have established 'Umweltzonen' (low-emission or 'environmental' zones), through which only cars with valid 'Umweltplakette' (environmental stickers) may drive. The goal is to reduce pollution from nitrogen oxide and particulate matter. Environmental stickers are not required in Freising. You can find detailed information on the low-emission zones at:

www.bmuv.de/en/topics/air-noise-mobility/air/emissions-control-sticker-low-emission-zone

SHOPPING

Official Shop Opening Hours

Please note that shops in Bavaria – whether they are supermarkets, clothes shops or stationary shops – are open until 8:00 p.m. at the latest Monday to Saturday. Smaller shops often close earlier.

All businesses are closed on Sundays and public holidays. Bakeries, which open for a few hours on Sundays, and restaurants are an exception to this rule. Pharmacies operate an emergency service on a rotating basis. You can also shop on Sundays at the airport and in Munich's main train station (Hauptbahnhof).



Buying Used Goods

The bulletin boards in the canteen or in the student halls of residence have plenty of space for advertisements and offers – whether you're looking to buy a bike, need furniture for your room, or are on the hunt for a part-time job.

Flea markets also provide a good opportunity to find reasonably priced, used items. A flea market takes place at the 'Sauwiese' car park directly in front of the campus once a month from March until October.
www.sauwiese.de

You can find out about offers online using the following websites, for example:

- » **www.kleinanzeigen.de** (German website)
- » **www.facebook.com/groups/108274865963530** (Freising student flea market)
- » **www.facebook.com/groups/169868359814484** (Flea market for Freising and the surrounding area)

MEDICAL CARE

If you are ill, you should first consult a general practitioner ('Allgemeinarzt'). Call the doctor's surgery to make an appointment and to avoid long waiting periods. However, in urgent cases, it is also possible to go to the doctor's surgery without making an appointment. Remember to bring your health insurance card with you (EHIC or another document that is valid in Germany). If necessary, your GP may refer you to a specialist ('Facharzt') or the hospital. You can find doctors in your area here:
www.gelbeseiten.de (German website)

If you get sick in the evening, at weekends or during the night, you can consult a doctor on call. You can find surgeries with doctors on call in your area at:
www.116117.de/bps/web/index.php/de/search (German website)

Doctors who speak your native language are often listed on the website of your country's embassy or consulate general.

If you have health insurance in your home country and are unsure of which medical costs will be covered in Germany, ask your health insurance provider directly.

Medication is available in pharmacies. Some medication is only issued on presentation of a doctor's prescription. If you take regular medication or nutritional supplements for your health, you should check whether these are available in Germany before leaving your home country. It is not permitted to send medicine by post to the EU.

Good to know

In the event of a **life-threatening situation**, call the **emergency number 112**. The ambulance service, police or fire brigade services will be notified depending on the emergency. In general, the staff speak several languages.

EMERGENCY NUMBER 112

You can contact the **police** directly by **calling 110**.

POLICE 110



CHECKLIST FOR PREPARING YOUR STAY

Early (at the Latest Upon Admission)

- » Start looking for somewhere to live; if applicable, apply for a place in the student halls of residence
- » Check the validity of your passport; apply for a new one if it expires in less than six months
- » Check immigration laws; if necessary, apply for a visa
- » If necessary, take out health insurance for the duration of your studies
- » If necessary, open a blocked account

Shortly Before your Programme Start Date

- » Send the documents required for enrolment by post and pay the semester fee in due time
- » Check when and where introductory events and preliminary courses are taking place

After your Arrival

- » If applicable, sign your lease agreement with the students' union and submit a certificate of enrolment
- » Register your arrival in the local citizens registration office
- » If necessary, open a bank account / release your blocked account
- » If necessary, make an appointment with the Immigration Office to apply for a residence permit
- » Register to pay your TV and radio licence fee or to notify the authorities that you are exempt
- » If necessary, update your address in the MyCampus portal

You are also welcome to join our 'HSWT International Students' Facebook group to chat with other students:
www.facebook.com/groups/1707870866200245



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