Housing Guide for International Researchers
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Welcome to RWTH Aachen University

We are pleased that you have chosen RWTH Aachen University for your PhD studies, post-doctoral research or guest research stay and hope to welcome you in Aachen soon.

One of the biggest challenges during the preparation for your stay might be finding accommodation. However, various administrative processes surrounding your stay require a permanent address and having a suitable place of your own contributes to you feeling at home in Aachen. To assist you with this central aspect of your preparation, the Welcome Center for international researchers at RWTH Aachen University offers you relevant information for your housing search. This guide provides helpful tips and answers to the most frequent questions surrounding the search for accommodation.
Looking for Accommodation

How do I start?

Most accommodation is offered on the private housing market which can be searched on various websites. If a housing offer is of interest to you, you may contact the property owner via telephone, e-mail or directly via the respective add on the website in order to request a viewing appointment. Property owners often receive many inquiries on newly advertised housing quickly. Therefore, it is very important to make a serious impression in your first contact. Express your interest in the apartment, inform the property owner about the reason for your stay in Aachen as well as how you are financing your stay. An appropriate first contact can increase your chances for a viewing appointment.

Property owners are usually not willing to rent out their property to individuals who they have not met in person. Likewise, it is advisable to only rent an apartment which you have seen in person. Should you encounter a language barrier with a potential lessor, ask for support from a colleague at your RWTH Aachen University institute in communicating and in setting up an appointment. Alternatively, the Welcome Center for international researchers may assist you.

Most apartments which are rented out on a long-term basis are offered unfurnished. However, a kitchen unit is often built into apartments and sometimes tenants moving out are interested in selling parts of their furniture. Check the available offers accordingly and use search portals by entering your preferences, e.g. furnished/unfurnished or time-limited/unlimited contract.

Where can I search for Accommodation?

Most property owner offer their rooms or apartments in various real estate portals on the internet. The search for suitable accommodation can be refined by entering various criteria, e.g. location, amenities, size or price. If you search for accommodation that way, save your search criteria and set up e-mail updates to be informed about newly registered offers.

Links to the private housing market on real estate portals

- https://www.meinestadt.de/aachen/immobilien
- https://www.wg-gesucht.de/
- https://www.housinganywhere.com/de/
- https://www.hc24.de/
- https://www.immobilienscout24.de/
- https://www.extraraum-aachen.de/
- https://www.immonet.de/
- https://www.immowelt.de/

Photo: Martin Braun
Furnished apartments on the private housing market

**Fastrada Apartments**
- rental price on request via verwaltung@fastrada-ac.de
- Frankenberger Viertel
- fully furnished
- size: 20m² to 45m²

**MILESTONE Aachen West**
- rental price: € 559-1,995 per month
- Aachen West
- fully furnished
- size: 19m² to 116m²

**THE FIZZ**
- rental price: € 539-1,099 per month
- Aachen center
- fully furnished
- size: 18m² to 30m²

**i Live Campus Living**
- rental price: € 525 to 835 per month
- near Campus Melaten
- fully furnished
- size: 21m² to 41m²

**Guesthouses in Frankenberger Viertel & Lousberg**
- rental prices on request
- fully furnished
- contact: Dr. Dana Anzuck, phone. +49 241 153058, dr.anzuck@t-online.de
International student associations at RWTH Aachen University

Many students at RWTH Aachen University become involved in various student associations, which can sometimes offer support during apartment search or when looking for accommodation for the first few days after arrival. Find a list of international student associations here: International student associations in Aachen

Apartment search on Facebook

Facebook groups can be another resource when looking for a room or apartment for rent or for sublease. If you have a Facebook account, search for (German) keywords such as Wohnen in Aachen, Wohnungssuche Aachen, WG Zimmer gesucht etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Price/month</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haarener Gracht</td>
<td>Haarener Gracht 7</td>
<td>16-30 m²</td>
<td>€ 339-398</td>
<td>e-mail: <a href="mailto:f.beer@gemak.de">f.beer@gemak.de</a> phone: +49 (0)241-932 6471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C13</td>
<td>Claßenstraße 13</td>
<td>24-30 m²</td>
<td>€ 550-630</td>
<td>e-mail: <a href="mailto:kontakt@c13-aachen.de">kontakt@c13-aachen.de</a> phone: +49 (0)241-914 26950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r10.uni-ac.de</td>
<td>Roermonderstraße 10</td>
<td>from 18 m²</td>
<td>from € 475</td>
<td>e-mail: <a href="mailto:vermietung@uni-ac.de">vermietung@uni-ac.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Germanusstr. 5</td>
<td>from 8 m²</td>
<td>from € 170</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Any special needs?

**Accessible accommodation for people with disabilities**

There are many landmarked buildings in Aachen which sometimes are not equipped with an elevator and therefore would not be suitable for e.g. walking-impaired individuals. Should you require specially designed housing, use the search term *barrierefrei* when looking in an internet portal.

**Aspects to consider when moving with your family**

Will you be bringing your partner and/or family with you to Aachen? When applying for residence permits for yourself and your family members, you will need to provide proof of an appropriately sized accommodation. The required living area is 12 m² for any family member above the age of 6 years (age < 6 years: 10 m²). Further information can be found here.
How do I apply for an apartment?

Your future lessor most likely wants to be assured that you will be able to pay your rent. Thus they may request a proof of your financial resources or income. Ask the which documents they would already like to see at the apartment viewing.

**Examples for proof of financial resources**

- Salary, e.g. earnings statement, payroll
- Scholarship, e.g. scholarship statement
- Self-funding, e.g. blocked account statement
- Declaration of commitment, e.g. official document stating that your means of subsistence are secured for the duration of your stay in Germany by a host, in this case meaning that the host pledges to cover e.g. your rental payments
- SCHUFA information (Germany’s main credit rating bureau)
- Proof of a private liability insurance

**CAUTION:** Unfortunately, there have been scams on the Aachen housing market in the last years. Therefore always check offers for their trustworthiness. Do not give out account data and do not transfer any money before viewing an apartment. If you are uncertain, feel free to contact us for advice.

Apartment viewing

Understandably, property owner like to rent out their properties to persons whom they deem trustworthy. Therefore, it is important to make a good first impression, by:

- arriving punctually for the viewing
- offering to remove your shoes if the apartment is still occupied
- not making phone calls during the appointment
- being attentive and addressing the property owner respectfully

Use this opportunity to inspect the apartment, get to know the property owner and, if possible, ask any questions you may already have. If you notice defects in the apartment while viewing the apartment, point them out in a friendly manner and enquire when and how they may be corrected. Should you like the apartment, express your interest openly.
Important information about rental contracts

The rental contract

If you have been accepted as tenant for an apartment, you and your lessor will agree on signing the rental contract. It is important that you understand the rental terms and conditions. We urgently advise you to read the contract carefully and not to sign immediately. If possible, ask for a copy of the contract to read before the contract signing date, so that you can review the individual parts of the contract with the help of another person (StaffMentor, colleague, lawyer ...) if necessary.

Special contractual obligations

Some rental contracts contain specific duties the tenant needs to fulfill, such as an obligation to clean the stairway regularly, rules pertaining to the use of a garden, payment terms, and costs (water, heating, electricity, wireless network, renovation when moving out etc.). Ensure that you have understood all terms of the contract.

After signing a rental contract

After both parties signed the contract, it becomes legally binding. The property owner needs to hand you all keys to the apartment no later than the official start date of the contract and should provide you with the so-called Wohnungsgeberbestätigung (or: Einzugsbestätigung). This form proves that you moved into your apartment and is needed for the registration of your address at the Citizens’ Services Office. A rental contract is not sufficient proof of your new residence.

Apartment handover

All planned and promised renovations in the apartment should be finished at the time of the handover. Check if you have received the agreed-upon number of keys for the building, apartment, mailbox, attic, or basement. Take note of the current readings of all electricity, water, or gas meters. Ask the property owner who is in charge of labeling the mailbox and bell. If you notice defects during the handover or when you move in, point them out to your property owner, take photos and make a list. Immediately, politely inform the property owner that these defects were present at the time of your moving in and that they were not caused by you. It is recommendable that you are accompanied by a second person during the handover, who could function as a witness. Alternatively, the condition of the apartment can be recorded in a handover protocol, which is signed by both parties. Templates can be found on the internet.

Deposit

When you are renting an apartment, you will likely have to pay a deposit before moving in. It is possible that the property owner charges one or two monthly rental payments for this. The deposit serves as a security for the property owner, e.g. for outstanding rental payments or damages in the apartment. Request a written receipt of your deposit payment and a confirmation under which conditions the deposit will be returned to you upon moving out.
**Liability insurance**

In case you cause accidental damages to the apartment, we strongly recommend you take out a private liability insurance at the latest upon moving in. It compensates the property owner or other individuals for accidental damage caused by you. This type of insurance is advised in particular when renting furnished apartments. In any case, inform the property owner immediately, if you have caused damage to your apartment.

**Monthly rental payment**

In Germany, rental payments are normally made once a month in advance. There is a distinction between basic rent (Kaltmiete) and rent including heating and additional ancillary costs (Warmmiete), e.g. for water consumption or waste disposal. All ancillary costs to be paid in addition to the basic rent should be mentioned in the rental contract. The payment date is usually also specified in the rental contract. In order to ensure your punctual rental payment you may want to set up a standing order or direct debit from your bank account.

**Electricity providers**

If you do not choose an electricity provider for your new residence, you will automatically be registered with STAWAG, the local electricity provider. You have the option to switch to a different provider, and can make use of various web portals to compare offers, e.g. Check24, Wechselpiraten, tarifo, or Verivox. Some of these websites are available in English.

**Internet**

It is possible that an apartment does not automatically come with an internet connection. Therefore, be sure to ask the property owner at the viewing. If a connection is available, you will need to choose an internet provider. Again, it is useful to compare rates and minimum contract periods. These web portals can be of use when trying to find the best provider for your needs: Verivox, Check24, Wechselpiraten, or Idealo.

**Receiving visitors & subletting rooms**

As a tenant, you can receive guests both during the day and for overnight stays. If you receive visitors for an extended period of time, make sure not to disturb your neighbors with increased noise levels. If you receive visitors for more than six weeks, the property owner can, under certain conditions, increase the operating costs. “Visiting” is to be separated from commercial renting out or subletting of rooms, where you as a tenant receive rental income from your guests. The subletting of rooms generally requires the property owner consent. Pay attention to the corresponding clauses in your rental agreement. In the event of subletting, the property owner can, under certain circumstances, claim a share of the rental income you have earned. Remember that you are liable for any damages caused in the apartment.
Living in a shared apartment

Moving into a shared apartment (Wohngemeinschaft, or short WG) can be advantageous for a variety of reasons. You quickly get to know new people and usually pay comparatively cheaper rental prices, for instance. Depending on the contractual relationship, a distinction is made between different models of apartment sharing.

Version 1:

All residents are named in a rental contract and conclude the agreement together with the property owner. The monthly rent is then usually collected by one resident or transferred individually to the property owner.

Version 2:

One of the tenants is the main tenant while the other residents are sub-tenants. In this case, the main tenant receives monthly rent payments from the sub-tenants and makes monthly transfers to the property owner.

Version 3:

The property owner can also choose to rent out rooms individually. Each tenant in the shared apartment concludes their own rental agreement with the property owner. In any case, find out what rights and obligations may arise for you as a (sub-)tenant towards the main tenant or property owner respectively.

Registration of residence with the Citizens’ Services Office

Registration

After moving into your new accommodation, you need to register your address with the Citizens’ Services Office within 14 days.

The registration with the Citizens’ Services Office is a pre-condition for several administrative steps:

- Applying for a tax identification number (tax ID, required for the calculation of the income tax for employees of RWTH Aachen University)
- Applying for a certificate of good conduct (necessary for employees of RWTH Aachen University)
- Registration with the GEZ (Gebühreneinzugszentrale, responsible for the collection of the fees to finance the public broadcasting services (TV, radio, internet…) – Your data is forwarded automatically, please find further information here.)
- Opening a German bank account (recommended e.g. if you receive monthly salary transfers, you will need your tax ID and the address registration certificate)
- Applying for a residence permit at the immigration office (earliest one day after registration of residence)

You need to provide the following documents during the registration process:

- ID / Passport of all persons to be registered
- Proof of your moving into the accommodation (Wohnungsgeberbestätigung / Einzugsbestätigung completed and signed by the lessor. Important: All persons to be registered need to be listed in the document)
- Birth certificate (only for minors, please check the following paragraph for more information)

Dealing with problems

The tenancy and the resulting rights and obligations are regulated by German law in order to provide clarity in a wide variety of situations. If you have any questions or problems, you should always first communicate them directly to the property owner, as many issues can be solved this way. Should there still be discrepancies with the property owner that cannot be resolved through communication, you may consider seeking the support of the Mieterschutzverein Aachen (tenant rights association).
Important information on the registration of children and spouses:

- If the birth certificate is required for registration, an international birth certificate or the original certificate together with a translation must be brought to the appointment. Only translations by officially sworn-in translators are accepted.*
- If you are employed in Germany, registering as “married” can bring tax advantages. Married couples should therefore, if possible, bring their international marriage certificate or the original certificate together with a translation. Here too, only translations by officially sworn-in translators are accepted.*

*Depending on the country where the certificate was issued, an authentication of the birth or marriage certificate may be required. Please find more information on foreign public documents for use in Germany on the website of the Federal Office.

After the registration of your residence, you will receive a certificate of address registration. You need to provide the certificate when applying for a residence permit or opening a bank account, for instance.

Moving out

If you want to move out, be sure to observe the notice period stated in the rental agreement and submit your termination in writing to the property owner. Since a deposit was paid when moving into the apartment in most cases, it is recommended to get a confirmation by the property owner on site that everything is in order and to clarify when and how the deposit will be paid back to you.

Deregistration and change of address

If you move within Germany, you need to register your new address in person with the Citizens’ Services Office at your new place of residence. A deregistration at your previous place of residence is not necessary, as data is exchanged between the individual offices. Should you leave Germany for more than six months, a deregistration at your last (German) place of residence is required. The deregistration can be done earliest one week before moving out, either in person or online.

Accommodation for the first days after arrival

The following providers offer inexpensive rooms or furnished apartments for short-term periods. This can be a good option during your first days in Aachen, if you have not found suitable accommodation yet or prefer checking out apartments in person. Please note that these rooms or apartments cannot be registered as a permanent address with the Citizens’ Services Office. This can delay your application for a residence permit, the signing of your employment contract and the opening of a German bank account (further information on p. 21). Therefore, the following offers usually only provide temporary alternatives:

A&O Hostel
- from 10€ p.P./ night
- near “Aachen Central Train Station”
- single, double and shared rooms
- free WIFI

Hostel Aachen
- from 20€ p.P./ night
- near train station “Aachen Schanz”
- single, double and shared rooms
- free WIFI

Youth Hostel Aachen
- from 25.40€ p.P./ night
- located in the south of Aachen (bus stop: “Aachen Ronheide”)
- single, double, shared and family rooms
- discounts for guests < 26 years
- breakfast, lunch and dinner options available
- wheelchair accessible rooms available
- free WIFI in common rooms
Klenkes Apartments

- from 25€ p.P./ night
- located between Hansemannplatz and Kaiserplatz
- single and shared rooms
- fully furnished
- discounts for long-term rental
- WIFI available on request

Apartments Zeidler

- from 31€ p.P./ night
- near train station “Aachen Schanz”
- for up to 4 persons
- fully furnished
- free WiFi
- suitable for persons with allergies

All prices are without guarantee! Current prices can be found on the websites of the providers.

The City of Aachen and its districts - Rental costs per sqm

- under € 7,00 pro sqm
- € 7,00 to € 7,50 per sqm
- € 7,51 to € 8,00 per sqm
- € 8,01 to € 8,50 per sqm
- over 8,50 per sqm
In Germany, you should expect to spend an average of 40-50% of your net salary on accommodation. The following table provides an overview of average rental costs for unfurnished apartments in the center of Aachen.

The operating costs include e.g. electricity and water consumption, waste disposal, stairwell cleaning, etc. Additional surcharges may apply for the use of a garden, balcony, terrace or a fitted kitchen, for accessibility or other special features. Price surcharges are also to be expected for furnished or partially furnished apartments. Housing prices are often lower outside the city center.

### Living in Aachen and the surrounding districts

The city center of Aachen and the surrounding districts have a lot to offer. In most districts you can find everything for your daily needs: bakeries, supermarkets, pharmacies, drugstores, etc. Schools and kindergartens provide the necessary infrastructure for families with children. In addition, many of the outer city districts are in close proximity to popular nature reserves, hiking trails, forests and cycling routes. And you can quickly reach the city center and the various locations of RWTH Aachen University from here – even without a car. If you are drawn to the countryside or if you are looking for accommodation with a larger living space or a small garden, you will find it here. In order to offer you an orientation when searching for a place to live, we will briefly introduce the different parts and districts of Aachen to you:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Rent</th>
<th>Operating costs</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 room</td>
<td>approx. 20-30 m²</td>
<td>approx. € 250-450</td>
<td>approx. € 70-120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 rooms</td>
<td>approx. 30-60 m²</td>
<td>approx. € 450-750</td>
<td>approx. € 120-150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 rooms</td>
<td>approx. 60-100 m²</td>
<td>approx. € 750-1250</td>
<td>approx. € 170-200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Burtscheid**
*Distance to city center of Aachen: approx. 1.5 - 2 km*

With its two rehabilitation and spa clinics, Burtscheid is considered the spa district of Aachen. The pretty quarter with its own little pedestrian zone, many cafés, a weekly farmers’ market and different parks is a place with a high quality of living. In spring, the residents of Burtscheid organize their own wine festival, in winter there is a small Christmas market and during February and March Burtscheid traditionally celebrates Carnival. The city center of Aachen is within walking distance from Burtscheid.

**Frankenberger Viertel**
*Distance to city center of Aachen: approx. 1.5 - 2 km*

Aachen’s most beautiful district – at least according to its residents. But there is some truth to it: along the streets of Bismarckstrasse and Oppenhoffallee, fascinating Wilhelminian-style houses are lined up. In summer there is a lot going on in the quarter: families meet at Neumarkt square, students enjoy the sun in the park by the Franken Castle and long queues form in front of the ice cream parlors that still make their own ice cream. The Aachen zoo with around 1,000 animals is located in the immediate vicinity of the Frankenberg district and the city center of Aachen can be reached by bike in about 10 minutes.
Haaren & Verlautenheide
Distance to city center of Aachen: approx. 5 - 7.5 km

Haaren is located four kilometers northeast of the city center of Aachen at the confluence of the Haarbach stream into the river Wurm. Two kilometers to the east is the rural district of Verlautenheide with around 3,500 inhabitants.

Vaalserquartier
Distance to city center of Aachen: approx. 3.5 km

In the district Vaalserquartier, Aachen merges with the Netherlands. The Senserbach creek has always separated the idyllic little village into a German and a Dutch part. About 1.5 km to the southwest, there is an extensive network of hiking and cycling trails through the Aachen Forest and around the borders of Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium. The cafes, bars, supermarkets and boutiques on the Dutch side along the main street also invite you to shop and enjoy a coffee on Sundays. EU citizens may also consider settling on the Dutch side of Vaals. If you are interested in moving to the Netherlands, please carefully check the information on living in Belgium and the Netherlands on page 42.
**Eilendorf**
Distance to city center of Aachen: approx. 8.5 - 9 km

Eilendorf is located in the east of Aachen and is largely made up of fields and surrounded by a nature reserve. Nearly all shops are situated on the main street (Von-Co- els-Straße). In the west, Eilendorf borders Aachen’s Rothe Erde district. From the Eilendorf train station, you can get to the city center of Aachen in less than 10 minutes.

**Brand & Rothe Erde**
Distance to city center of Aachen: approx. 7 and 3 km

Brand is located in the southeast of Aachen. Between Brand and the neighboring city Stol- berg you find the 165ha nature reserve Brander Wald. Brand has direct access to the popular Vennbahnweg, a former railway line that has been transformed into a popular cycle and hiking path. The bordering quarter Rothe Erde forms part of the Aachen East district, characterized by multicultural neighbourhoods with many international shops, affordable housing and access to the Kennedy Park.

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**Bus lines and stops**

- **Eilendorf**
  - Euregiobahn: 2, 7, 12, 27, 37, N8 to Aachen city center, line 12, 22 to Campus Melaten
  - Approx. 30 min to Aachen city center
  - Car sharing station at Heinrich-Thomas-Platz
  - Bus stop “Eilendorf” of the regional train “Euregiobahn” (every 30 min) 7 min to Aachen Central Train Station and 15 min to train station “Aachen West”

- **Brand & Rothe Erde**
  - Approx. 30 min to Aachen Campus Melaten and RWTH University Hospital.
  - Line 15, 25, 27, 35, 37, 47, 55, 65, 66, 125, 135 to Aachen city center, line 5, 45 to RWTH University Hospital, line 173 to Campus Melaten
**Richterich**  
*Distance to city center of Aachen: approx. 5.5 km*

Richterich is located in the northwest of Aachen and borders the city of Herzogenrath and the Netherlands. Richterich is one of the family-friendly districts of Aachen with little traffic and a wide range of retail shops for daily needs. The surrounding fields invite you to go on bike tours and hikes. On Wednesdays, a farmers’ market takes place on the main square Rathausplatz.

**Kornelimünster**  
*Distance to city center of Aachen: approx. 11 km*

Kornelimünster is located in the valley of the small river Inde and is Aachen’s most picturesque district. In addition to the beautiful and historic city center, Kornelimünster is the starting point for a variety of excursions in the area. The nearby Klauservräldchen / Frankenväldchen nature reserve is Aachen’s oldest designated nature reserve. Whether cycling on the Vennbahn, mountain bike tours in the forest or hiking on the Eifelsteig – Kornelimünster offers something for everyone!
Laurensberg
Distance to city center of Aachen: approx. 3.5 km

The district Laurensberg is located in the north-west of Aachen, right on the border with the Netherlands and at the foot of the Lousberg, surrounded by many fields, meadows and hills. From the pretty center with its many shops and cafés, RWTH’s Melaten Campus and the University Hospital as well as the city center of Aachen can be reached quickly by bus and bike.

line 7, 16, 17, 27, 37, 44, 47 to Aachen city center, line 70, 80 to Campus Melaten and to RWTH University Hospital

approx. 10 min to Campus Melaten, approx. 15 min to RWTH University Hospital, approx. 15 min to Aachen city center

stations at Schlossparkstraße and Schurzelter Straße
The City Region Aachen is an innovative association of the cities of Aachen, Alsdorf, Baesweiler, Eschweiler, Herzogenrath, Monschau, Stolberg and Würselen as well as the communities of Simmerath and Roetgen.

The region around Aachen offers an interesting and inexpensive alternative to living in the city of Aachen. The cities of Würselen, Herzogenrath, Stolberg, Eschweiler and Alsdorf in particular are very well connected to Aachen by public transport. The Eifel communities of Roetgen, Simmerath and Monschau are idyllically situated, but require a slightly longer journey by public transport.

The unique natural landscape in the entire city region, which extends from lakes such as Rursee, Obersee and Blausteinsee, through forests to the Venn landscape, also offers a unique local recreation area.
Public transport connections

By train

From Stolberg, Eschweiler, Alsdorf and Herzogenrath, you can get to Aachen quickly and easily by train. Regional trains and regional express trains run regularly (approx. 10-30 minutes travel time to the stations “Aachen central train station” or “Aachen West”).

By bus to Aachen central bus station

**Herzogenrath:** lines 34 + 47 + SB147 + 54 approx. 15-25 min

**Würselen:** lines 21 + 51 approx. 20-25 min

**Stolberg:** lines 1 + 12 + 22 + 25 approx. 25-35 min

**Eschweiler:** lines 52 approx. 25 min

**Alsdorf:** lines 51 approx. 25 min

**Roetgen:** lines SB63 + SB66 approx. 20 min

**Simmerath:** lines SB63 approx. 60 min

**Monschau:** lines SB66 approx. 60 min

Use of Public Transport

**Job Ticket for RWTH Employees**

RWTH Aachen University employees can subscribe to a discounted season ticket called “Job Ticket,” which can be used in all public buses and regional trains in the entire network of the Aachen Transport Association (AVV). The monthly fee is determined by your place of residence. More information can be found [here](#).

**Semester Ticket for PhD students**

If you are enrolled as a student at RWTH Aachen University, you receive the “Semesterticket” for public transport after paying the semester fee. It allows you to use all regional trains, busses, trams and metros in the entire federal district of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) free of charge. Please find more information [here](#).

**AVV Season Tickets**

If you regularly use buses and trains but are not entitled to the Job Ticket or Semester Ticket (e.g. postdocs with fellowships), you can subscribe to the weekly and monthly tickets offered by the Aachen Transport Association (AVV) to travel more cheaply than with individual tickets. Further information on the AVV offers can be found [here](#).
Living in the Netherlands/Belgium

As an EU citizen, you can also reside in Belgium or the Netherlands (or any other EU member state) while studying or working at RWTH Aachen University.

As Aachen is located near the Dutch and Belgian borders, it may be interesting for you to settle in Belgium or the Netherlands. However, some aspects need consideration, for example taxation, in case of employment with RWTH Aachen University.

If you are employed at RWTH Aachen University, you must pay your salary tax in Germany even if you are not a resident in Germany. Please note that you have to apply for limited or unlimited tax liability separately if you are not registered as resident in Germany.

Please find more information on applying for limited unrestricted tax liability and the relevant application forms, here:

Living in the Netherlands / working in Germany

Living in Belgium / working in Germany

For non-EU nationals, it is usually not possible to live outside Germany while studying or working at RWTH Aachen University. This does not apply to citizens from third countries who are married to an EU citizen. They can live in other EU countries and apply for a “cross-border commuter card,” which allows them to take up employment in Germany. Further information on the cross-border commuter card is available here.

Understanding housing advertisements

Many property owners use abbreviations to describe the features of the places advertised. The most frequently used abbreviations as well as a list of further important terms often used in housing advertisements can be found below.

Abbreviations frequently used in housing advertisements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>German</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abl.</td>
<td>Ablöse</td>
<td>Key money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>App.</td>
<td>Appartment</td>
<td>Apartment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/Bd.</td>
<td>Bad</td>
<td>Bathroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bes.</td>
<td>Besichtigung</td>
<td>Apartment viewing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bezugsf.</td>
<td>bezugsfertig</td>
<td>Ready for occupation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bj</td>
<td>Baujahr</td>
<td>Year of construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BK</td>
<td>Betriebskosten</td>
<td>Operating costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blk/Balk</td>
<td>Balkon</td>
<td>Balcony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BW/BaWa</td>
<td>Badewanne</td>
<td>Bathtub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Diele</td>
<td>Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DG</td>
<td>Dachgeschoss</td>
<td>Top floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DT</td>
<td>Dachterrasse</td>
<td>Rooftop terrace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Du.</td>
<td>Dusche</td>
<td>Shower</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>German</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB</td>
<td>Erstbezug</td>
<td>First-time occupancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EBK</td>
<td>Einbauküche</td>
<td>Fitted kitchen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EG</td>
<td>Erdgeschoss</td>
<td>Ground floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etg.</td>
<td>Etage</td>
<td>Floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gartant.</td>
<td>Gartenanteil</td>
<td>Share of garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-WC</td>
<td>Gäste-WC</td>
<td>Separate guest toilet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HK</td>
<td>Heizkosten</td>
<td>Heating costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMS</td>
<td>Hausmeisterservice</td>
<td>Janitor service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hs.</td>
<td>Haus</td>
<td>House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KDB</td>
<td>Küche, Diele und Bad</td>
<td>Kitchen, hall and bathroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kel./KR</td>
<td>Keller/Kellerraum</td>
<td>Basement room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KM</td>
<td>Kaltmiete</td>
<td>Rent excl. incidental rental costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KoNi/KN</td>
<td>Kochnische</td>
<td>Kitchenette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KT</td>
<td>Kaution</td>
<td>Deposit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kü.</td>
<td>Küche</td>
<td>Kitchen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kühl.</td>
<td>Kühlschrank</td>
<td>Refrigerator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MKM</td>
<td>Monatskaltmiete</td>
<td>Monthly rent excl. incidental rental costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM</td>
<td>Monatsmiete</td>
<td>Monthly rent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>möbl.</td>
<td>möbliert</td>
<td>Furnished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mtl.</td>
<td>monatlich</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MV</td>
<td>Mietvertrag</td>
<td>Rental contract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NK</td>
<td>Nebenkosten</td>
<td>Incidental rental costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NKM</td>
<td>Nettokaltmiete</td>
<td>Net rent excl. incidental rental costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NR</td>
<td>Nichtraucher</td>
<td>Non smoker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG</td>
<td>Obergeschoss</td>
<td>Upper floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part.</td>
<td>Parterre</td>
<td>First floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prov.</td>
<td>Provision</td>
<td>Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ren.</td>
<td>renoviert</td>
<td>Renovated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rep.-bed</td>
<td>reparaturbedürftig</td>
<td>In need of repair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sof. frei</td>
<td>sofort frei</td>
<td>Immediately available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP/Stpl.</td>
<td>Autostellplatz</td>
<td>Parking space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SZ</td>
<td>Schlafzimmer</td>
<td>Bedroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>teilmbl.</td>
<td>teilmöbliert</td>
<td>Partly furnished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terr.</td>
<td>Terrasse</td>
<td>Patio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UG</td>
<td>Untergeschoss</td>
<td>Basement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Terms frequently used in housing advertisements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>German</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wfl./Wohnfl.</td>
<td>Wohnfläche</td>
<td>Living space (incl. kitchen and bathrooms)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WG</td>
<td>Wohngemeinschaft</td>
<td>Shared accommodation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whg.</td>
<td>Wohnung</td>
<td>Flat/Apartment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WM</td>
<td>Warmmiete</td>
<td>Rent incl. incidental rental costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WoKü/WK</td>
<td>Wohnküche</td>
<td>Combined kitchen and living room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zi</td>
<td>Zimmer</td>
<td>Room (n.b.: the indicated number of rooms usually includes the living room)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZH</td>
<td>Zentralheizung</td>
<td>Central heating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZKB</td>
<td>Zimmer, Küche und Bad</td>
<td>Room, kitchen and bathroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZKD</td>
<td>Zimmer, Küche und Dusche</td>
<td>Room, kitchen and shower</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>German</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abstellkammer</td>
<td>Broom closet/Pantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dachboden/Keller</td>
<td>Attic/Basement/Cellar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garten/Balkon</td>
<td>Garden/Balcony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heizung</td>
<td>Heating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herd/Backofen</td>
<td>Stove/Oven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keine Haustiere</td>
<td>No pets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kühlschrank</td>
<td>Refrigerator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spülmaschine</td>
<td>Dishwasher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAWAG</td>
<td>Electricity and gas provider in Aachen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strom</td>
<td>Electricity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teppich/Laminat/Parkett</td>
<td>Carpet/Laminate/Parquet flooring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trockner</td>
<td>Dryer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmöbliert/möbliert</td>
<td>Unfurnished/furnished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waschmaschine/Waschkeller</td>
<td>Washing machine/Laundry room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wasser</td>
<td>Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zwischenmiete</td>
<td>Sublease</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>