Housing Guide
for international students
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Congratulations on being accepted to study at RWTH Aachen University!
You have chosen Germany as the country to pursue your degree or your exchange stay. We
are very happy that you will be coming to Aachen soon and that you will learn more about
the German culture, university system and the way of life in general.

One of the things that might appear to be the biggest challenge for you as a foreign student
will be finding accommodation. In Germany in general, but especially in Aachen, the number
of students (German and Internationals) as well as the rental prices increase every year,
whereas the number of rooms and dorms is increasing at a much slower pace.
The competition for student rooms is particularly tough.

It might be very frustrating, but remember that you are not alone. A lot of students are in your
situation and we have gathered the most important facts and tips about housing in Aachen to
prepare you for this tough task!

Do not hesitate to ask for help but also prepare to get active in your housing search. It might
take time, but we are sure you will eventually find a place that you can call home. We wish you
a nice stay here in Aachen and a successful start to your studies at RWTH Aachen University!

Your Housing Advisors
Living in Germany, what does that mean?

1. The University does not provide accommodation
   Unlike in other countries, you do not automatically get a place to live when you come to Germany to study. You must actively look for housing and independently apply for a room in a dorm. RWTH Aachen does not own or manage any dorms and thus cannot provide nor guarantee you housing.

2. Consider other options
   Every student wishes a cheap single apartment in the city center and close to campus. In Aachen, you should definitely consider other options. Not only are the apartments in the inner city extremely expensive but the RWTH campus is also spread all over town. Aachen is a small city where every place is easily reachable by foot, bike or bus. If you have a small budget, we strongly recommend you consider including the outer districts of Aachen in your search. This would significantly increase your chances of finding an affordable apartment.

3. Don’t get stuck on one offer
   We cannot stress enough how quickly accommodations in Aachen get allocated. You might find a place that seems perfect for you but you should not get stuck on one offer. Increase your chances of getting a room by applying everywhere possible and by sending a personalized application each time. For more tips about application, check the chapter „How do I apply?“.

4. Patience is the key word
   Since the competition at the beginning of the semester is tough, you will need to start searching for accommodation early and you will need tons of patience. If you apply for a room in a student dorm, expect at least six months up to one year to get a good spot on the waiting list(s). On the private market, you might have to apply to fifty different places without getting any reply. Keep in mind that the landlords or main tenants receive sometimes hundreds of applications.

5. Preparation, preparation, preparation...
   In Germany, you need a registered address to open a bank account, therefore make sure to have enough cash for the first month (we recommend 1000€) in order to settle down smoothly. If necessary, book a temporary accommodation! You will find further tips under „How do I find a place to stay?“.

6. Do not give up!
   A simple but very important tip: do not give up! Nevertheless, prepare to get active. But do not hesitate to ask us or your Buddy for help. Heads up, you are gonna make it!
High rental prices

When searching for a place to live in Aachen, you should have appropriate expectations when it comes to the rental price. Expect costs according to the following range of rent depending on the provider. Please note that these are only indications and that the price may vary depending on the individual housing offers or dorms.

Studierendenwerk Aachen
- Single room: 230€ – 360€
- Room in shared flat: 230€ – 480€
- Apartment: 320€ – 660€

Private market
- Room in shared flat: 450€ – 550€
- Apartment: 450€ – 600€

Private dorms
- Single room: 200€ – 350€
- Room in shared flat: 450€ – 550€
- Apartment: 400€ – 900€

Using Aachen’s full potential

Aachen is more than just its city center and actually consists of many districts. Logically, housing in the core center will be way more expensive than in the outskirts. The transport connections between the districts and to the city center are excellent and thanks to your Semesterticket, you can take the bus and the regional trains in NRW for free.

Thus, it is especially recommended to look for housing in the blue areas below (note: the indicated prices are from 2020), as the rental prices tend to be lower there, e.g. Forst, Herzogenrath, Horbach, Brand, Kornelimünster...
Administrative steps and paperwork

Registration at Citizens’ Office

If you are staying longer than three months in Aachen, you need to register your address at the Bürgeramt Aachen (Citizens’ Office) at the latest two weeks after the start of your lease contract. It is also possible to register as a resident if you are subrenting a room or apartment. For the registration, you will need a so-called “Wohnungsgeberbestätigung” that you can download from the Bürgeramt website. It is a confirmation from your landlord or from the main tenant that you actually moved into the apartment or room. You can book an appointment at any Citizens’ Office of Städteregion Aachen.

Registration at Immigration Office (non-EU students)

If you are a non-EU student, you will need to register additionally at the Immigration Office. There is an RWTH branch of the Immigration Office in the Super C building. You can find further information about their office hours and contact data on their website.

GEZ (Gebühreneinzugszentrale)

GEZ (also called “Radio fee”) is a fee for public service broadcasting offers that amounts to €18.36 per month and that has to be paid by every household in Germany, regardless of how many people live there, of how many devices they use or of the nationality. Even if you do not have any television, radio or computer, you will have to pay GEZ anyway. The registration to GEZ happens automatically upon your registration at the Bürgeramt. If you live in a shared flat, you will share this monthly fee with your flat mates. If you live in a student hall of residence, the GEZ fee must be paid completely by each resident. Additional information is available at www.rundfunkbeitrag.de/welcome or at the Bürgeramt itself.

Bank account

If you need to unblock your blocked account (Sperrkonto), you need to have an address registered in Germany. Many students who have not found long-term accommodation register while subrenting an apartment or a room for the first month(s). If you would like to open a regular bank account once in Germany, you will need to show proof of your address registration as well as your tax number, which you will receive automatically by regular mail upon your registration at Bürgeramt. If you need it sooner, you can just request it at Bürgeramt shortly after your registration.

Health insurance

Health insurance is compulsory in Germany. In order to enroll for your course of studies and to apply for your residence permit, you will have to show proof of health insurance. If your stay is not fully covered by insurance from your home country, you are obliged to take out a policy with a German insurance company.

The German health insurance system has two tracks:

- Public health insurance (gesetzliche Krankenkasse) - basic coverage for all indispensable medical costs
- Private health insurance (Private Krankenversicherung) - several coverage options.

Further information is to be found in our information sheet for exchange students and international degree students available at www.rwth-aachen.de/io-faq.

The Indian student association AISA can help you get your public health insurance faster. You will find their contact data at the Chapter „whom can I contact?“.

European students with a European Health insurance Card (EHIC) and Turkish students will only need a waiver from a German public health insurance company such as TK, DAK, AOK or Actimonda.
Finding an Internet Connection

After your enrollment to RWTH Aachen, you will be able to access the internet network Eduroam\(^1\). Before that, you will have to search for other ways to access the internet, which you will need for your housing search. Here are some tips:

1. www.itc.rwth-aachen.de. You can also use the RWTH-Guest WiFi on campus until you are enrolled.
2. Please note that open WiFi are usually not secure connections and therefore, you should not access sensitive websites or do online banking while logged into open WiFi.

### Finding an Internet Connection

#### Aachen City-WiFi

You can access internet everywhere and anytime near the Cathedral, City hall and Elisenorbrunnen. For that, choose “AACHEN WiFi” out of the list of WLAN connections.

#### Hotels

Hotels usually have internet connection or even at least one computer for free use. If you are staying at one, just ask the receptionist.

#### The Library of Aachen

The Library of Aachen offers internet access for €1.50/hour if you are not a library member.

#### Eduroam

If you are enrolled in another university using Eduroam network, you might try to log in directly. Find out here whether your home country is part of the Eduroam network.

### How do I find a place to stay?

**Step 1: Find a place for the first nights**

If you will be coming to Aachen soon and you have not found any permanent place to stay or you cannot directly move in, you should definitely book temporary accommodation for the first days or even weeks. Please note that you cannot register your address with the following temporary accommodation.

#### Stay with locals for a few days using...

- **Couchsurfing** (free of charge)
  - Create a profile
  - Find a host
  - Have a backup plan
  - Check safety basics
  - Participate in community meetings

- **AirBnB**
  - Create a profile
  - Check reviews and safety tips
  - Book a place to stay early enough
  - Get to know locals through AirBnB network

- **AISA HomeBuddy Program**
  - Registration ≥ one month prior to arrival
  - Stay up to 10 days
  - Price: up to 5€/night
  - Matching between hosts through AISA (Association of Indian Students in Aachen)

  **Important:** AISA takes no responsibility in case of issues such as inappropriate behavior or damage to property.

- **KHG “Nachtlager”**
  - Emergency shelter (October to December)
  - Organized by private student dorm
  - Registration ≥ 3 days prior to arrival
  - Deposit of 40€ for the key
  - Breakfast in Café Chico Mendes
  - Bring your sleeping bag

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1. www.itc.rwth-aachen.de. You can also use the RWTH-Guest WiFi on campus until you are enrolled.
2. Please note that open WiFi are usually not secure connections and therefore, you should not access sensitive websites or do online banking while logged into open WiFi.
Stay at a hostel, hotel or boarding house...

A&O Hostel
- From €10/night
- Located next to main train station
- Single and twin rooms, mixed dorm and female dorm
- Free Wi-Fi

Aachen Youth Hostel
- From €37.40/night incl. breakfast
- Located in Aachen south (Bus stop: Aachen Ronheide)
- Single, double and dorm rooms
- Price reduction for up to 26 year old guests
- Accessible for people with disability

Elisabethstraße Boarding Rooms
- From €40/night
- Located in Aachen Old Town
- Offered by RWTH International Academy
- Furnished double boarding rooms
- Monthly rent possible up to six months (monthly price from three months)

Hostel Aachen
- From €25/night
- Located next to train station “Schanz”
- Single, twin and dorm rooms
- Offer for “permanent residents”: approx. 15€ per night
- Free Wi-Fi

myBoardinghouse
- From €399/month
- Located in Alsdorf and Herzogenrath
- Furnished single and couple apartment
- Minimum rental period: one month
- Price all inclusive
- Guarantor required

Fastrada Apartments
- Price available on request at verwaltung@fastrada-ac.de
- Located in Frankenberger district
- Fully furnished apartments
- Apartments available for long-term stays

HESTIA Host Family
- Approx. €745/month
- For single students below 30 years old
- Min. one month, max. three months
- Price including at least breakfast and dinner, in some cases also lunch, single furnished room, access to internet and washing machine

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3 Price may increase on peak season.
4 We cannot guarantee that the list is complete or up-to-date.
Step 2: Choose the right kind of accommodation…

Now that you have a roof over your head, you will be able to start house hunting!

We recommend looking preferably at offers with a phone number, as you will get an answer faster than by email. If need be, ask a native speaker (e.g. your Buddy!) to help you search or for the first contact with the potential landlord or landlady.

In Germany there are basically two kinds of accommodation that you will have to consider. For that you will have to ask yourself: Do I want to share my place or not?

**YES**
If you would like to live with other students, you should consider applying for a room in a **WG (Wohngemeinschaft = shared flat)**. It is a great way to meet people quickly, to learn German and to experience life in a community. Also, the rent is usually lower and you share costs such as GEZ or utilities with your flat mates. While living in a WG, you need to be considerate of your flat mates needs and you might need to adapt to new rules. When applying for a room in a WG, you might have to go through a selection process including an interview with your prospective flat mates. In most WGs, the students sharing the flat are interested in sharing everyday life together, by cooking, playing games, going out together. If you read “Zweck-WG” in an ad, the social aspect might not be as important, as the purpose of flat sharing is purely financial.

In a student dorm, you might also have a **single room with a kitchen (and sometimes also bathroom) shared** by the students living on the same floor. This might be a good compromise if you like to socialize but also need a quiet retreat place.

**NO**
If you prefer living alone, apply preferably for a **single apartment**. The advantage is that you do not have to share your space and you can have tranquility whenever you need it. But a single apartment will be more expensive and you will not be able to share the costs (i.e. GEZ, utilities). If you apply for an apartment, you may have to go through an interview with your prospective landlord or landlady.
Step 3: Start the hunt...

To start your search on the private market, we recommend looking at the following websites:

- www.wg-gesucht.de
- www.immobilienscout24.de
- www.ebay-kleinanzeigen.de
- www.wg-suche.de
- www.immonet.de
- www.immowelt.de
- www.feline-holidays.de
- www.housinganywhere.com
- www.meinestadt.de/aachen/immobilien
- www.wg-liste.de
- www.hc24.de
- www.wunderflats.com
- erasmusplay.com/en/

If you have a Facebook account, you should definitely follow the groups below, as students often post ads for their apartment or room in a shared flat:

- INCAS Aachen
- AISA (Association of Indian Students in Aachen)
- Suche Wohnung in Aachen
- WG & Wohnung Aachen gesucht
- Wohnungsangebote und -suche in Aachen
- Aachen Housing, Rooms, Apartments, Sublets
- RWTH Aachen WG Börse

“Schwarzes Brett” is the German name for notice boards where long and short term offers are published. You can find them at the following addresses to name a few:

- KHG (Katholische Hochschulgemeinde), Pontstraße 74
- Cafeterias and lecture buildings (e.g. Foyer Ahornstraße 55, Audimax, Kármán-Auditorium or C.A.R.L. Building)
- Pubs and bars in Pontstraße
- Supermarkets

You can also buy some local newspapers (Aachener Zeitung or Aachener Nachrichten) and look through the classifieds. You should do this early in the morning!

RWTH student associations are kind of families away from home and usually have a good network. You can turn to them for help and with a bit of luck, they will know someone who knows someone who is searching for a next tenant. You can find the list of international student associations here.
Beware of Scams!

Sadly, more and more international students have been victims of housing scams when looking for a place to stay in Aachen lately. It is not only frustrating because it slows down your search for a new home but it can be very expensive. Here are some tips to help you recognize scammers and avoid getting scammed in Germany:

5 ways to recognize scams when house-hunting (by iamexpat.de)

1. If it looks too good to be true, it probably is!
2. Don’t sign any contract before you’ve seen the place in real life
3. Don’t pay a deposit to "secure" the room/flat
4. Don’t trust a copy of a passport and don’t send yours
5. If they can’t prove they are the owner, they probably aren’t

5 typical tricks from scammers:

1. First contact and offer made by landlord without previous inquiry
2. Contact via WhatsApp or email only
3. The landlord/main tenant is abroad and/or a foreign bank account is provided
4. The security deposit should be paid without visit option
5. "I will be happy to have someone like you as my tenant"

Further platforms, further scams:

- On social media: the person posting the ad has a rather empty/impersonal profile and posts the same ad or different ads regularly
- On Booking.com/Airbnb: the booking payment should be made outside the platform by bank transfer, not via the secure and official payment track

Remember: if you are not sure whether it is a scam, contact us at housing@rwth-aachen.de and don’t let anyone pressure you into paying anything before being certain of its legitimacy.
My Home is your Castle

The project „My Home is your Castle“ is offered and managed by RWTH International Office and works simply: once per semester, the International Office asks all RWTH students going abroad for the next semester: how about subletting your room to an international student?

The submitted sublease or long-term offers are registered in a list sent regularly via our international housing Newsletter. Any international student, regardless of the period of stay, is welcome to subscribe to this Newsletter and check the current availability and range of offers.

Some offers caught your attention? Contact the main tenant (introduction of yourself, further information, house rules, lease contract…). If the main tenant chooses you as his or her subtenant, congratulations! Make sure to get a legal document (e.g. sublease contract) from the lessor.

! IMPORTANT: The International Office takes responsibility neither for the condition of the room, nor for the lease contract conditions or any issue that might arise between the main tenant and the subtenant.
Private dormitories

There are several private dorms in Aachen which are not managed by Studierendewerk Aachen. The application procedure is therefore different from dorm to dorm. We have prepared a list of all private dorms and their key information. Please note that the list might not be complete or up-to-date.

n.s. = not specified

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of dorm</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Roomsize</th>
<th>Roomtypes</th>
<th>Application via</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESG Hermannstraße</td>
<td>Hermannstr. 15 52062 Aachen</td>
<td>200€ - 305€</td>
<td>12-14 sqm</td>
<td>single rooms with shared kitchen and either shared or own bathroom</td>
<td>Website CV, Photo, RWTH study certificate required</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bewerbung@hermann.rwth-aachen.de">bewerbung@hermann.rwth-aachen.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESG Nizzaallee</td>
<td>Nizzaallee 20 52072 Aachen</td>
<td>309€ - 410€</td>
<td>9-18 sqm</td>
<td>single and double rooms with shared bathroom and shared kitchen</td>
<td>Application form in German</td>
<td><a href="mailto:esg-wohnheim@rwth-aachen.de">esg-wohnheim@rwth-aachen.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>G5</td>
<td>Germanusstraße 5 52080 Aachen</td>
<td>280€ - 350€</td>
<td>17-35 sqm</td>
<td>rooms in shared flat (3-8 persons)</td>
<td>Website G5</td>
<td><a href="mailto:G5@uni-ac.de">G5@uni-ac.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R10</td>
<td>Roermonderstraße 10 52062 Aachen</td>
<td>495 - 545€</td>
<td>23-35 sqm</td>
<td>single apartments</td>
<td>Website R10</td>
<td><a href="mailto:R10@uni-ac.de">R10@uni-ac.de</a></td>
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<td>n.s.</td>
<td>17-46 sqm</td>
<td>single apartments</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rolfeverding_hve@hotmail.com">rolfeverding_hve@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Haarener Gracht</td>
<td>Haarener Gracht 7 a/b 52080 Aachen</td>
<td>339€ - 389€</td>
<td>16-30 sqm</td>
<td>single furnished apartments</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:j.beer@gemak.de">j.beer@gemak.de</a></td>
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<td>Kolleg Heristal</td>
<td>Pontstr. 152 52062 Aachen</td>
<td>half-board: 500€</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
<td>female dorm with 10 single rooms</td>
<td>Website application form in German</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mail.info@heristal.de">mail.info@heristal.de</a></td>
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<td>Campus Living</td>
<td>Valserstr. 257 52074 Aachen</td>
<td>403€</td>
<td>20-25 sqm</td>
<td>single rooms</td>
<td>Website application form in German</td>
<td><a href="mailto:campus-living@m1-immo.de">campus-living@m1-immo.de</a></td>
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<td>ESG Merowinger</td>
<td>Templergraben 39 52002 Aachen</td>
<td>90€ - 160€</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
<td>single rooms without janitor</td>
<td>Application form in German</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hv@t39.rwth-aachen.de">hv@t39.rwth-aachen.de</a></td>
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<td>ESG Pontstraße</td>
<td>Pontstr. 74-76 52062 Aachen</td>
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<td>n.s.</td>
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<td>Website CV, Photo, RWTH study certificate required</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@studentenwerk-khg-aachen.de">info@studentenwerk-khg-aachen.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>ESG Eckertweg</td>
<td>Eckertweg 3-5 52074 Aachen</td>
<td>approx. 200€</td>
<td>11-13 sqm</td>
<td>single rooms (sometimes partly furnished)</td>
<td>Website CV, Photo, RWTH study certificate required</td>
<td><a href="mailto:eckert@studentenwerk-khg-aachen.de">eckert@studentenwerk-khg-aachen.de</a></td>
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*How do I find a place to stay?*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of dorm</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Room size</th>
<th>Room types</th>
<th>Application via</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<td>529€</td>
<td>25sqm</td>
<td>- Furnished apartments</td>
<td>Website application form in German</td>
<td><a href="mailto:campus-living@m1-immo.de">campus-living@m1-immo.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Plug and Study</td>
<td>Nizzaallee 34, 52072 Aachen</td>
<td>460€ (all inclusive)</td>
<td>22-58sqm</td>
<td>- Furnished single or shared apartments (2 rooms) with balcony</td>
<td>Website application form in German</td>
<td>per telephone only: 02216700467</td>
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<td>The Fizz</td>
<td>Kasernenstraße 16-20, 52064 Aachen</td>
<td>539€ - 999€ (all inclusive)</td>
<td>18-32sqm</td>
<td>- Furnished single or double apartments</td>
<td>Website in English</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@lic-campus.com">info@lic-campus.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campusflats Aachen</td>
<td>Bismarckstraße 147, 52066 Aachen</td>
<td>595€ - 1,300€ (all inclusive)</td>
<td>21-48sqm</td>
<td>- Furnished single and shared apartments</td>
<td>Contact form on website in German</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@vivawest.de">info@vivawest.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viv-Aachen</td>
<td>Roermonder Str. 112, 52072 Aachen</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
<td>- Information about income required</td>
<td>Application form in German</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@viv-aachen.de">info@viv-aachen.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C13</td>
<td>Claßenstr. 13, 52072 Aachen</td>
<td>550€ - 620€ (all inclusive)</td>
<td>24-30sqm</td>
<td>- Partly furnished single apartments</td>
<td>Website</td>
<td><a href="http://www.c13-aachen.de">www.c13-aachen.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studentenheim Erk</td>
<td>Oppenhoffallee 6, 52066 Aachen</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
<td>n.s.</td>
<td>- Involvement in charity activities requested during rental period</td>
<td>Application form in German</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@bildungszentrum-erk.de">info@bildungszentrum-erk.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Live Campus Living Aachen</td>
<td>Am guten Hirten 5, 52072 Aachen</td>
<td>583€ - 870€ (all inclusive)</td>
<td>21-41sqm</td>
<td>- Fully furnished single apartments</td>
<td>Website in English: study certificate + copy of ID card</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@i-live-aachen.de">info@i-live-aachen.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILESTONE Aachen West</td>
<td>Am guten Hirten 4, 52072 Aachen</td>
<td>600€ - 1,995€ (all inclusive)</td>
<td>19-112sqm</td>
<td>- Apartments (some furnished)</td>
<td>Website (Denkmal)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:connect@milestone.net">connect@milestone.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Süsterfeldstraße 93, 52072 Aachen</td>
<td>592 - 663€ (all inclusive)</td>
<td>20-35sqm</td>
<td>- Furnished apartments and shared flats</td>
<td>Website (Neubau)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student Housing. Just better.
Since 2012.

Live, learn and relax: all of this works extremely well in THE FIZZ Aachen. It offers 165 fully furnished apartments and is perfectly located between the city center and one of Germany’s top universities, with every necessity you need close by.

Live Fully

- Fully furnished
- Community areas
- Washing & drying
- Exclusive partner deals
- THE FIZZ Membercard
- Internet included
- House Manager
- Events
- Free items for rent

Click. Book. Live.
www.the-fizz.com/aachen
THE FIZZ Aachen
Kasernstraße 16-20, 52064
+49 89 - 88 96 90 - 300
email@the-fizz.com
Any special needs?

Students with disability

If you have physical disabilities, you will probably need your apartment to be particularly accessible. While searching on the private market, always use the filter “handicapped accessible” (barrierefrei), if available.

You will need to inform yourself about the facilities:
- Is there a lift in the building?
- Are the entrances broad enough for wheel chair users?
- Is the bathroom adapted to tenants with disabilities?
- How far is the next supermarket / pharmacy / bus station...?

Studierendenwerk Aachen also offers a few rooms accessible for students with disability in several dorms. During the application, you will need to indicate your degree of disability so that the allocation priority can be adjusted.

Generally, we recommend that students with a disability contact ASTA’s representative for disabled students. They can inform you about additional services adapted to your personal situation and might support you in finding accommodation.

Couples and families

Finding a place for you and your partner might not be so difficult on the private market, since the budgets combined are higher than for single students and you will be eligible for both single apartments and shared flats. If you are Bachelor or Master students below 30 years old, you should apply together for a so-called “Doppelapartment” at Studierendenwerk. With two different applications for rooms in a shared flat, you cannot have the guarantee that you will both be accepted in the same flat since the rooms get allocated separately.

The following private dorms also offer accommodation for couples:
- **Neupforte**: 47sqm apartments. Contact: KHG Aachen
- **Herrmannstraße**: 50-75sqm apartments (420€). Contact: Email or website
- **The Fizz**: 30-32 sqm apartments (539-999€). Contact: Email
- **Plug and Study**: 45-58sqm apartments (460€ per person). Contact: website

Furthermore, the International Office sometimes receives private offers for larger apartments and housing adapted to student couples and families. Just contact the International Office Housing Advice Service and check the current availability and range of offers.

And what about... Living for help?

The Studierendenwerk manages a special program called WohnDuo that allows students to live with older persons – either a senior or a family. In exchange for help with completing everyday chores, you get a rent reduction. The amount of support required depends on the size of the room available. Further information can be found on www.studierendenwerk-aachen.de/en/housing/wohnduo.html.

N.B.: The application form is only available in German.
... Living in the Netherlands?

At first glance it may seem counterintuitive to study in Aachen and live in the Netherlands. At second glance though, this is clearly a good alternative for students with EU Citizenship! Aachen is located in the three-country corner and is just a few kilometers from Vaals, Kerkrade or Heerlen and EU citizens can easily commute between countries. The connection with public transportation is very good and you can even cover parts of the route by bike. Furthermore, RWTH students can travel in the region of Limburg with their Semesterticket!

Katzensprung
You might be interested in having a look at Vaals, which is a stone’s throw away from Aachen and especially from Campus Melaten, where you will find the private student dorm „Katzensprung“ and its fully furnished single apartments. The dorm has common and recreation rooms on each floor to help you integrate as part of the dorm community. The city also provides advantageous offers for students. Further information is available at www.wohneninkatzensprung.de/en/.

Price: 22sqm for €419 incl. Internet
... Living in an international dormitory?

The RWTH International Academy owns a private student dorm with shared flats in the very popular Frankenberger district of Aachen. The rooms are fully furnished and are reserved especially for international students. With up to 15sqm living space and modern facilities, this flat share community will quickly make you feel at home. The flats are shared either by three or five students and can be rented for at least a year with renewable contract.

Additionally, the RWTH International Academy owns a residential building in the very central Elizabethstraße. This complex offers long term furnished single and double apartments available from six months stay, as well as furnished boarding house apartments for up to two residents available from one night up to six months.

Further information (price, application form) can be found at https://housing-aachen.de/.

How do I apply for housing?

Applying for a room at Studierendenwerk Aachen

Regular vs. Quota rooms

The Studierendenwerk Aachen is the institution managing most of the student dorms in Aachen, as well as the university canteen and further student welfare services. Depending on your eligibility, there are two ways to apply for a room in a Studierendenwerk student dorm.

Regular application with Studierendenwerk Aachen

Characteristics:

- As RWTH or FH applicant or enrolled student under 30 years old, you can apply for up to six specific dorms or rooms any time of the year.
- The waiting lists are very long and you should expect at least 6 months up to one year until you get a good spot on the waiting list(s).
- The application and allocation process is not linked to the International Office.
- Depending on the dorm, the rooms are usually partly furnished with a desk, cupboard and closet, but without bed or mattress.
- The rooms cost between €230 and €660 and are available for up to three years and six months (unlimited contract)
- Website Studierendenwerk www.studierendenwerk-aachen.de/
Quota rooms for exchange students, program students and visiting students

Characteristics:
- Cooperation between Studierendenwerk Aachen and RWTH International Office
- Limited allotment of furnished rooms reserved for exchange students, program students and visiting students only (degree students are not eligible)
- Different application portal with access provided only by International Office
- Application for up to four room types (not to specific dorms), available for max. two semesters (limited lease contract)
- Application periods (01.12. - 15.02. for summer term; 01.05. - 15.07. for winter term)
- Location and exact rental price provided in room offer sent by Studierendenwerk Aachen
- Contact housing@rwth-aachen.de to check eligibility.

! IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR EXCHANGE/VISITING STUDENTS:
You can both apply for a regular room at Studierendenwerk and for a quota room via the International Office to higher your chances of getting a room offer. Your application for a quota room has no impact on your application at Studierendenwerk (vice versa). If however you accept an offer (quota room or regular room), please note the first accepted offer is binding and you commit yourself to pay for the deposit and first rent of the first room you have accepted. Please note that any further offer for a quota or regular room will be deleted automatically by Studierendenwerk Aachen.

Application steps and material

First contact with potential flatmates, landlord, landlady or dorm comitee:
- Write a good and personal description of yourself, your current situation, your interests…
- Explain your motivation for living in this flat/dorm, describe your idea of living in shared flat or student dorm, the important aspects of cohabitation for you, etc.
- Write in German if possible.

In case of WG/dorm:
- Check the flat mates’ requirements in the ad.
- Humor and friendliness are the key to success!
- Be creative: a short introduction video can be more entertaining than a traditional text.

Further relevant information and documents:
- Include information about financial resources (Hiwi-Job, Bafög, Verpflichtungserklärung; blocked account, scholarship…) and offer to provide official proof during a personal meeting or the flat visit
- Sometimes CV and motivation letter are required.
- Liability insurance may be required.

Application checking:
- Do not hesitate to ask your Buddy or your Housing Advisors if you are unsure.
- Further tips can also be found on www.wg-gesucht.de/info/wg-suche.

! Important: do not send sensible documents like your passport or ID to anyone without proof of their legitimacy!

5 letter of financial commitment from guarantor
The interview

- During the visit of the flat, make a good impression, for example by not using your phone, being respectful, being yourself, talking about your qualities and not emphasizing your flaws.
- Find out for yourself whether you really fit in this shared flat / apartment.
- If necessary: show official proof of financial resources or even include them in a “Bewerbungsmappe” (application file) along with a CV, motivation letter and study certificate/letter of acceptance at university.

Renting a place

The contract

- If you are the lucky one, you will probably be handed the rental contract.
- Make sure to read it calmly and if necessary with the help of your Buddy, a native speaker or even a legal consultant of AV.6
- Never sign anything if you have not seen the room or if you do not understand the conditions.
- Make sure to get the “Wohnungsgeberbestätigung” you will need for your registration at citizen office (see Chapter „Administrative steps and paperwork“)
- Bring the contract back signed and get the key.

Paying the deposit

Usually, there are four ways of making deposit. Either:
- Direct bank transfer to the landlord/landlady or real estate company. The bank details are indicated in the lease contract.
- Cash payment: to avoid if possible. If not, make sure to get a receipt which states clearly the amount!
- Deposit Account (Mietkautionskonto): just visit the bank to get help though the process.
- Verpflichtungserklärung: Formal obligation from a guarantor in case of insufficient funds. Check the criteria for a valid Verpflichtungserklärung ahead!

Extra: WG-Casting

Students usually invite potential flat mates to an interview to get to know each other and eventually decide which applicant they would like to offer the room to. The interview can take various forms and be very different from one flat share to another. Some will have a very strict questionnaire; others will have planned games to test your “team spirit” or ability to integrate quickly. Nevertheless, be yourself, open-minded and if you do not feel it, do not force yourself.

FAQ in WG-Castings

- Do you smoke? Do you drink?
- Do you like to have friends over? How often?
- What does your daily routine look like?
- What are your expectations regarding cleaning?
- Do you have any special house rules or habits they should know about?
- Do you like to cook with other people and participate in evening activities (i.e. party)?
- How are you going to finance your life in the flat?
- Do you have experience in flat sharing?
- If so, what was your best/worst experience sharing a flat with someone?

6 Appointment available after approx. two weeks by contacting asta@asta.rwth-aachen.de or av@asta.rwth-aachen.de
Moving in

- Check the apartment or room for possible damages during the handover and take pictures as proof.
- If you find any, notify the janitor, landlord or landlady immediately, otherwise the reparation costs could be deducted from your deposit later on.
- In case of damages that prevent you from living in the flat or room (vermin, major defects), notify the janitor, landlord or landlady immediately and inform yourself about the procedure to follow. In case you need to sleep somewhere else for a few nights, keep all the bills and check whether a reimbursement or compensation is possible.
- If you must leave your room on short notice, make sure to get a confirmation that the circumstances allow an extraordinary termination of the contract.
- For all these cases, AV legal consultation can be of great help. Do not hesitate to make an appointment at av@asta.rwth-aachen.de.

Choosing an Electricity Provider

When moving into your new home, you will need to take care of finding an electricity provider. If you do not choose any in particular, you will be automatically registered at STAWAG, Aachen’s main electricity provider. If you would like to find a cheaper provider or in the field of sustainable energies, you have the possibility to compare them on different online portals, such as Check24, Yello, Stromvergleich or Verivox. Most portals are not available in English. Therefore do not hesitate to ask your Buddy to help you find a suitable provider!

Finding suitable Insurances

Housing providers may ask for further insurance documents upon choosing their tenants. Most of them require their tenants to have a liability insurance (in German Haftpflichtversicherung) to cover damages in the apartment or room caused by the tenant or persons visiting the tenant. Furthermore, you may want to take on an additional household insurance (in German Hausratsversicherung), which covers damages caused by external circumstances (e.g. water damage, break in, etc.).

To find a suitable insurance provider, you should compare them on different online portals, such as Check24, Yello, Stromvergleich or Verivox. Most portals are not available in English. Here your Buddy can also be of great help!
### Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>German</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mietvarianten / Kinds of rent:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miete</td>
<td>Rent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zwischenmiete</td>
<td>Temporary apartment / room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Untermiete</td>
<td>Subrent / sublease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wohngemeinschaft (WG)</td>
<td>Flat share</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wohnung</td>
<td>Flat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zimmer / Raum (Zi)</td>
<td>Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dachgeschoss (DG)</td>
<td>Top Floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erdgeschoss (EG)</td>
<td>First Floor / Ground Floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kosten / costs:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalmtiete (KM)</td>
<td>Rent without utilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warmmiete (WM)</td>
<td>Rent including utilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nebenkosten (zzgl. NK)</td>
<td>Utilities</td>
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<td>Strom</td>
<td>Electricity</td>
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<td>Wasser</td>
<td>Water</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heizung</td>
<td>Heating</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zentralheizung (ZH)</td>
<td>Central Heating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAWAG</td>
<td>Electricity and gas provider in Aachen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision (Prov.)</td>
<td>Commission</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>German</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Angaben zur Wohnung / Details about flat:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kochnische (KN)</td>
<td>Kitchen unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Küche</td>
<td>Kitchen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badezimmer</td>
<td>Bathroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balkon</td>
<td>Balcony</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keller</td>
<td>Cellar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dachboden</td>
<td>Attic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garten</td>
<td>Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dachterrasse</td>
<td>Roof-deck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parkplatz</td>
<td>Parking space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstellkammer</td>
<td>Storage cupboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etage</td>
<td>Floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Austattung und sonstiges / Furniture and other:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waschmaschine</td>
<td>Washing machine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trockner</td>
<td>Dryer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herd</td>
<td>Stove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kühlschrank</td>
<td>Refrigerator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teppich</td>
<td>Carpet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nichtraucher</td>
<td>Non smoker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Möbliert / unmöbliert</td>
<td>furnished / unfurnished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keine Haustiere</td>
<td>No pets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
International Office
Housing Advice Service

The International Office coordinates RWTH Aachen's international relationships, develops programs with partner universities abroad, and advises and supports international students, and students wishing to spend time abroad.

The International Office Housing Advice Service supports international Bachelor and Master exchange and degree students and scholarship holders in finding accommodation.

International researchers (PhD students and higher academic levels) are taken care of by the Welcome Center for international researchers.

Services:
- Guidance in quota rooms application process for our exchange and visiting students
- Virtual and personal consultation during regular office hours - Check website for links and dates
- Newsletter with regular update about incoming private offers, upcoming events, etc.
- My home is your Castle

Contact:
- Email housing@rwth-aachen.de
- Phone 0241 80 90681
- Website www.rwth-aachen.de/housing
- International Housing Newsletter
- Instagram www.instagram.com/rwthinternationaloffice

Studierendenwerk Aachen

Attending to student welfare is Studierendenwerk's main task by creating a perfect social environment for successful studies. As social service provider, Studierendenwerk manages the University dining halls, provides student housing in many dorms in Aachen and Jülich, takes care of financial support (Bafög) and offers childcare centers.

Studierendenwerk Aachen is in charge of the offers and allocations of rooms and is the right contact office for questions regarding the rent and deposit payment or refund in their dorms.

Services:
- application, allocation and questions about student housing in their dorms
- University canteens (Mensen)
- Bafög applications
- childcare facilities

Contact:
- Application portal housing: bewerberportal. stw.rwth-aachen.de/app.php/en/
- E-mail info@stw.rwth-aachen.de
- Phone 0241 80 93200
- Website www.studierendenwerk-aachen.de
- Facebook www.facebook.com/StudierenwerkAC
- Instagram www.instagram.com/studierenwerkAachen

Students Representation
RWTH ASStA

The students’ union executive committee (ASStA) is the university-wide representation of students’ interests at RWTH. Their tasks consist of the university-political representation of the students to the university, the land and the public, of the administration of the student body’s finances, of the organization of a cultural program and in political education. We offer consultation in various topics, such as finance, jobs and also housing.

Services:
- Consultation and advising via email and personally during office hours
- Tenancy law and housing benefits consultation

Contact:
- Email wohnen@asta.rwth-aachen.de
- Phone 0241 80 93792
- Website www.asta.rwth-aachen.de/en/housing
- Information about office hours at www.asta.rwth-aachen.de/en/consultation-general
- Facebook www.facebook.com/ASStA.RWTH
- Instagram www.instagram.com/astarwth

Foreign Students Representation AV

The AusländerinnnenVertretung (AV) or elected Representation of Foreign Students at RWTH is a group of international students, who represents the interests of other foreign students at RWTH Aachen University. Their overall goal is to help international students in whatever way possible to ensure they have a fun time while studying at the RWTH.

Services:
- Peer to peer housing advice
- Legal Consultation (alien laws, housing...)
- Language courses, IT Workshops
- Parties, Get together evenings

Contact:
- Email av@av.rwth-aachen.de
- Phone 0241 8099153
- Website www.av.rwth-aachen.de
- Consultation available at website
- Address: Humboldt-Haus, Pontstrasse 41, 1st Floor
- Facebook www.facebook.com/avrwth
- Instagram www.instagram.com/avrwth
INCAS Housing Service

INCAS stands for Intercultural Center of Aachen Students and is a student association which mainly supports international students and interns or students taking a German class in Aachen.

The students responsible for the INCAS Housing Service try their best to help you find accommodation in Aachen quickly. Their aim is to show you how to find a flat in Aachen. However, please note that they do not own any flats, so in the end it is up to you!

**Services:**
- Consultation and advising via email and personal office hours
- Support in contacting the owner / landlord / flat mates and arranging a flat / room viewing
- Facebook group with offers posted regularly from students for students

**Contact:**
- Email wohnungssuche.incas@rwth-aachen.de
- Phone 0241 80 98184
- Website www.incas.rwth-aachen.de/
- See office hours here
- Facebook www.facebook.com/INCAS-Aachen
- Instagram www.instagram.com/incasaachen

Association of Indian student in Aachen AISA

AISA represents the growing community of Indian students in Aachen and has been established primarily to preserve and increase awareness of Indian heritage, not only through cultural and social activities, but also by providing community services to international students.

They have implemented a system similar to Couchsurfing for international students called “Home Buddy” program through which you can stay up to ten days at a local student’s place and search for new accommodation more easily. You should register at least one month before arriving to have a chance to get matched in time with a host in Aachen.

**Service offers:**
- Provide general information and tips about housing
- Home buddy program
- Support in finalizing public health insurance affiliation

**Contact:**
- Email accommodation.aisa@gmail.com
- Website www.aisa.rwth-aachen.de/
- For further information regarding health insurance or the Home Buddy program, please contact accommodation.aisa@gmail.com
- Facebook www.facebook.com/aisaaachen
- Instagram www.instagram.com/aisaaachen
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for international students
Aachen, January 2023

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