

International
Office

**RWTHAACHEN
UNIVERSITY**

“If it looks too good
to be true, it
probably is.”



Beware of housing scams!



You are unsure whether a housing offer is
legitimate?

You have been victim of a scam?

Reach out to our Housing Advice Service!



housing@rwth-aachen.de

0241 80 90681

www.rwth-aachen.de/housing

Five ways to recognize and avoid housing scams

1. If it looks too good to be true, it probably is!

Scammers usually offer furnished and renovated flats located in a convenient street or district for a seemingly low rent. They insist on the cleanliness of the flat and the high-quality furnishing

2. Every attempt to see the flat will be declined.

Scammers will not offer you to see the place per video-call or in person. A typical excuse is that they are abroad for professional reasons and are very busy.

3. Securing the flat before seeing it.

Scammers request a deposit or rent payment to secure the flat due to „the high demand“. The scammers may promise a refund in case you do not like the flat.

4. Don't trust a copy of a passport and don't send yours.

Scammers usually use a stolen identity and will request you to send a copy of your passport. However, they will decline any telephone or video call and instead communicate only via email or WhatsApp.

5. If they can't prove they are the owner, they probably aren't.

A lease contract draft does not prove the legitimacy of an offer. Scammers will usually provide foreign bank details supposedly belonging to a relative.



For tips on how to recognize and avoid scams are available in our Housing Guide at www.rwth-aachen.de/housing.