



htw saar

**Hochschule für
Technik und Wirtschaft
des Saarlandes**
University of
Applied Sciences

Online Orientation Session International Office htw saar

18.08.2026, 01:30 PM

**Living in Saarbrücken & Germany's
Bureaucracy for Beginners**

Your International Support Team



Student Buddies

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Online Orientation Sessions International Office Summer Semester 2026

Dates:

- 18.08.2026: Living in Saarbrücken & Germany's Bureaucracy for Beginners
 - *01:30 PM in English*
- 25.08.2026: Studying at htw saar & Health Care In Germany
 - *01:30 PM in English*
- 01.09.2026: Q&A Session: Ask your Questions
 - *01:30 PM in English*

Direct link to the meetings: click [here](#)

**Save the Date:
September 21, 2026**

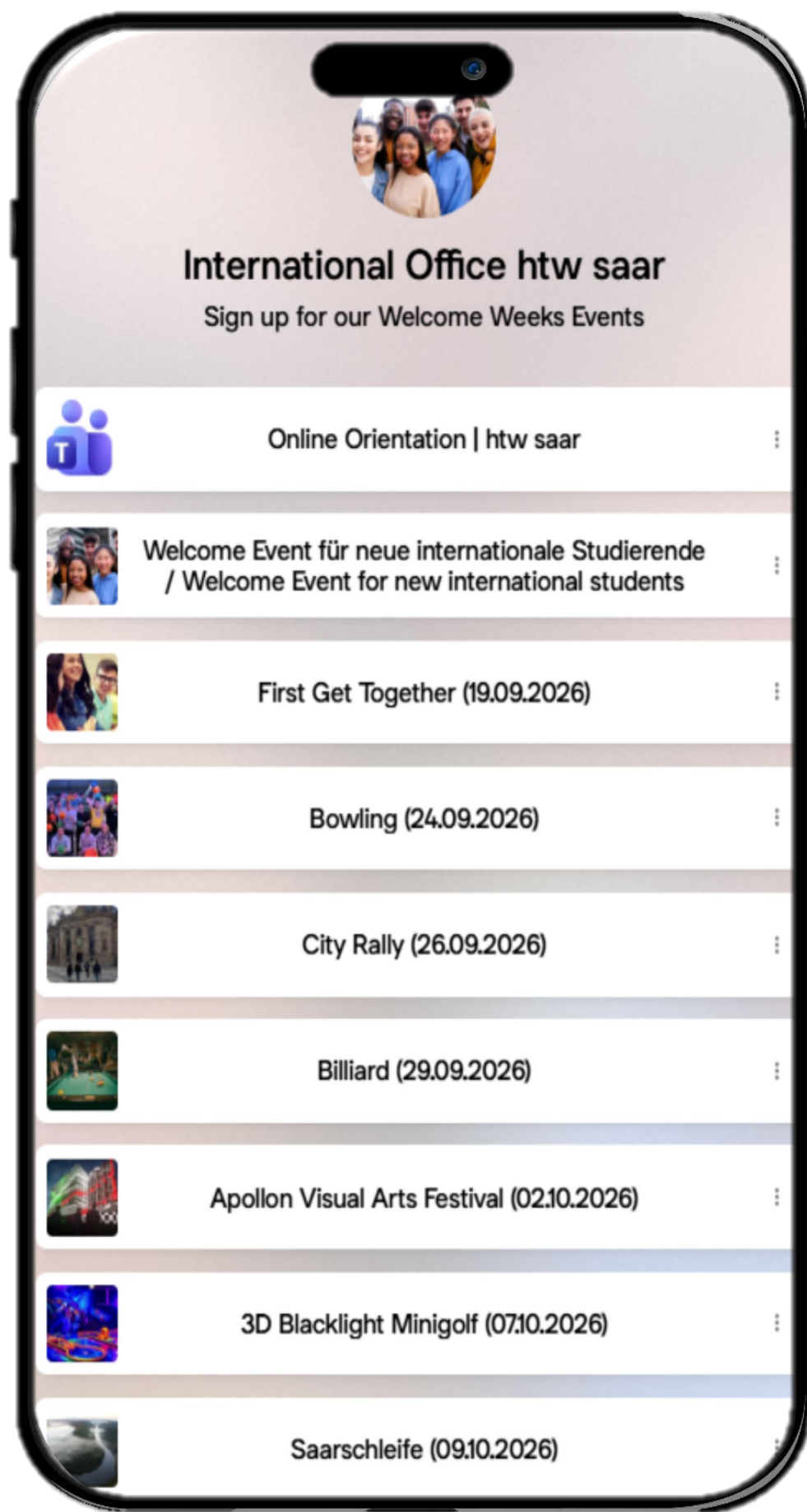
Welcome Event for new international students

Meet the International Office team, your student buddies and other new international students during our official introduction to your new university. Also, find out all about our Welcome Weeks we have planned for you!

Attendance and registration is mandatory for all students that are already in Germany.

[> Register here <](#)





Sign up for your Welcome Weeks!

All important information at a glance:

- [Linktree](#)
- [Welcome Weeks Website](#)
 - Download the Orientation Session slides
 - Important links, information and changes
 - Contacts of the International Office
- [Welcome Event](#): Mandatory registration and participation!
- Welcome Weeks social Events

Today's Topics:

Living in Saarbrücken

&

Germany's Bureaucracy for Beginners



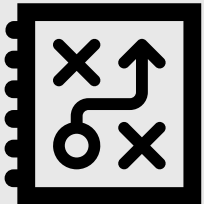
01

SAARBRÜCKEN

- Get to know Saarbrücken
- Arriving and moving in – what to take care of
- Public transport

02

Bureaucracy



- Citizen's Office
- Tax ID
- Immigration Office
- Bank Account
- Social Security Number
- Working in Germany



Living in Saarbrücken



WEATHER & CULTURE

- Pack a multipurpose jacket
- Summers: avg. 24°C · Winters: avg. 0–5°C
- 6 universities, ~31,500 students
- Individualistic, yet international & supportive



STUDENT LIFE

- Ask fellow students for personal recommendations – the best spots are often found through word of mouth
- Always carry your student ID for discounts at museums, theatres, cinemas and cultural institutions



MONEY & PAYMENTS

IMPORTANT

- Cards are widely accepted, but smaller shops, cafés, kiosks and restaurants may prefer cash – always carry a small amount with you.



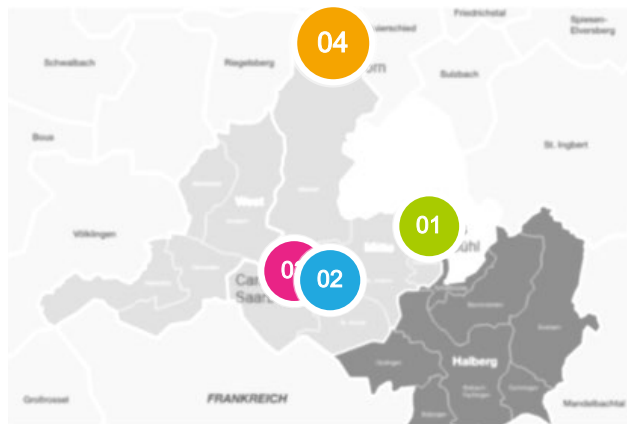
PFAND

- Pfand: €0.08–€0.25 on many bottles and cans
- Return items at supermarket machines

Getting Around Saarbrücken

Four key locations for your first days at htw saar

CITY + REGION



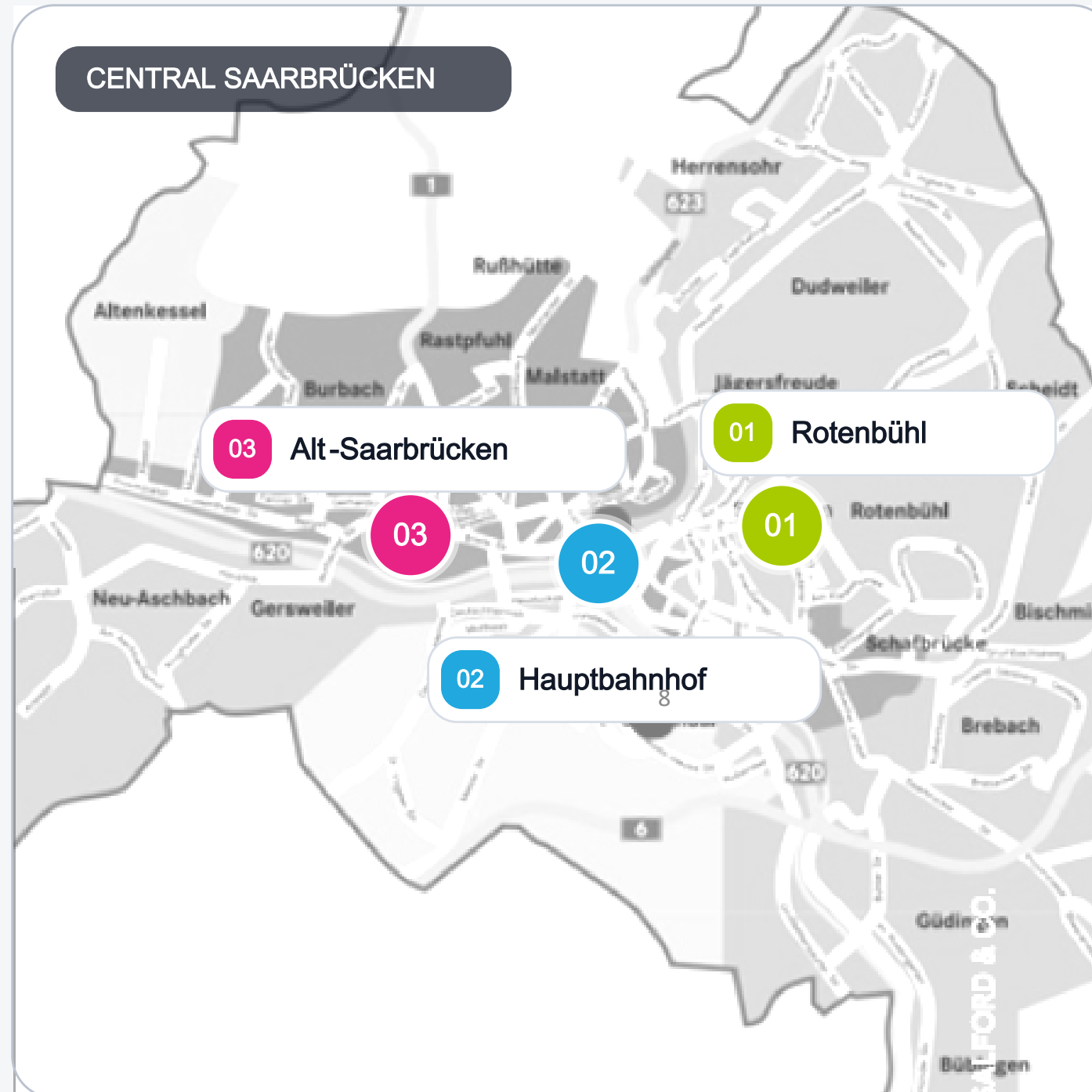
A compact city

Most central locations are easy to reach by bus, bike or on foot. Plan a little extra time when moving around the city.

04

Götterborn is outside the city centre — allow extra travel time.

CENTRAL SAARBRÜCKEN



01

Campus Rotenbühl

Business School · Summer School hub
ESG student residence next to campus

Waldhausweg 14 · 66123 Saarbrücken

02

Saarbrücken Hauptbahnhof

Central railway station
Main arrival point by train

Am Hauptbahnhof 6–12 · 66111 Saarbrücken

03

Campus Alt -Saarbrücken

International Office · Student Services
Library · canteen

Goebenstraße 40 · 66117 Saarbrücken

04

Campus Götterborn

Architecture department
North-east of central Saarbrücken

Am Campus 4 –5 · 66287 Quierschied

CENTRAL TRIPS

BUS · BIKE · FOOT

Settle In & Feel at Home

Community, student life and familiar flavours in Saarbrücken

Meet People & Connect



01 [ESN Saarbrücken](#)
EVENTS · TRIPS · COMMUNITY

02 [Semester Programme](#)
EXCURSIONS · ACTIVITIES

03 [Student Life](#)
CULTURE · CAFÉS · NIGHTLIFE

Shopping for Home Flavours

ASIAN

Go Asia · Bahnhofstraße 39

AFRICAN

Josy Afro Shop · Dudweilerstraße 58

POLISH & SILESIAN

Polski Sklep · Dudweilerstraße 79

LATIN AMERICAN

Cristina's Colmado Latino · Blumenstraße 13

HALAL

Turkish & Oriental grocery shops · Malstatt

Try a Saarland classic:



Dibbelabbes



Fleischkäsweck



Rigatoni rot -weiß



Maggi

Arriving & Moving In

A simple checklist for your first days in Saarbrücken

01

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Plan Ahead

- Check public transportation
- Book internet for you phone
- Save important contacts
- Arrange your key handover

[DB Navigator](#)

[Saarfahrplan](#)

02

MOVE-IN DAY

Get Settled

- Put your name on the mailbox or ask the landlord/caretaker for it
- Introduce yourself
- Check house rules and cleaning duties

03

AFTER REGISTRATION AT THE
CITIZEN'S OFFICE

Broadcasting Fee

€18.36

- Per month
- One payment per household
- Wait for the letter of the “ARD ZDF Deutschlandradio Beitragsservice”

[More information](#)

04

EVERYDAY

Care for Your Home

- Air rooms regularly
- Be economical with resources
- Separate waste correctly

[Ventilation guide](#)

[Waste guide](#)

IMPORTANT

Germany still sends many official letters by post — make sure that your name is on the mailbox from the 1st day!

If you share a household, check whether somebody is already paying the broadcasting fee before registering again.

Public Transport

Your semester ticket and the two apps you need

DEUTSCHLAND-/SEMESTERTICKET

Free regional travel across Germany

Included in your semester contribution

INCLUDED

BUS

TRAM

S (U)

RB / RE

Winter 2026

01 OCT

31 MAR

AFTER ENROLMENT:

[Activate semester ticket](#)
See the [video guide](#)

Carry the digital ticket together with an official photo ID.

Plan your journey

Download both apps before you arrive.

SAARLAND

SaarVV

Local routes, live connections and saarVV tickets.

[Open website](#)
Download app:
[Android](#) / [Apple](#)

GERMANY

DB Navigator

German wide routes, live connections and train tickets.

[Open website](#)
Download app:
[Android](#) / [Apple](#)

Before the semesterticket starts: ask the International Office about a discounted saarVV weekly ticket.



Intercity Express trains are not included:

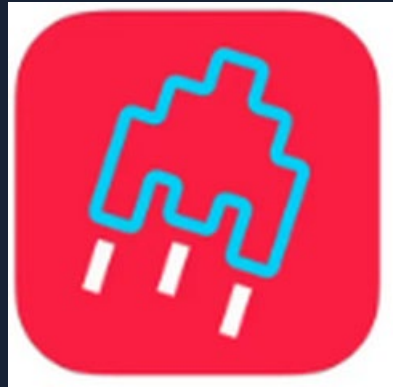
ICE · IC · EC require a separate ticket.

In DB Navigator under options: choose “D -Ticket services only”

Bridge September with a Deutschlandticket

For arrivals before the winter semester starts on 1 October

ARRIVAL MONTH · SEPTEMBER



HVV Switch App:

- [Android](#)
- [Apple](#)

Download · register · buy

63€

for the calendar month

01

Download the app and register

Use your personal email address.

02

Choose the Deutschlandticket

Select September as your start date and add payment method (credit card)

03

Cancel the subscription before 10 September

It remains valid until 30 September — no October renewal.

WINTER SEMESTER

01 OCT

Your semester ticket begins

Activate it after enrolment. It is included in your semester contribution.

[Ticket information](#) →



Do not miss 10 September

Cancel later and the subscription continues into October — even though your semester ticket already starts then.



Germanys Buerocracy for Beginners

- Can be hard... But we are here to support you
- Many rules
- Digitisation vs. data protection: communication via physical mail -> have your name on your mailbox!
- Deadlines are quite fix, missed deadlines mostly have consequences
- Appointments may take long but are mandatory!
- Your responsibility! Mostly no one reminds you
- Forms are often written in complicated „official“ German -> ask for help!

Good to know

What to do after moving to Saarbrücken

01

WITHIN 2 WEEKS OF MOVING IN

Register your address

Bring your passport/ID, Visa, rental contact and confirmation of landlord, the so-called Wohnungsgeberbestätigung. Book your appointment online, or use Wednesday walk-in hours 07:30–11:30. More info here. **NEW:** A few Friday walk-in dates for students only, see here.

02

BEFORE YOUR VISA / PERMIT EXPIRES (if applicable)

Contact the immigration office (if applicable)

Make an appointment via Email (zab@lava.saarland.de) BEFORE your visa expires. A long waiting time is normal. Appointments are communicated via physical mail, more info.

03

AFTER ADDRESS REGISTRATION

Keep your tax ID and social security number

Your Tax ID arrives automatically by post: forward it to your employer and if you hold a statutory German student health insurance, also to your health insurance. Your social security number is provided by your health insurance provider as soon as they have all needed info.

04

GETTING READY TO WORK

Check all about work and bank accounts

Work conditions (also for students with a residence permit); the htw saar Career Service supports you for your job search!! What's good to know about bank accounts.

Important! Keep every official letter and save digital copies of all documents!

Digital helpers

Useful websites and one official app

ONLINE SERVICE

Saarbrücken services

Register your address online or book a Bürgeramt appointment.

ACCOUNT

BundID

One login for many digital public services and official messages.

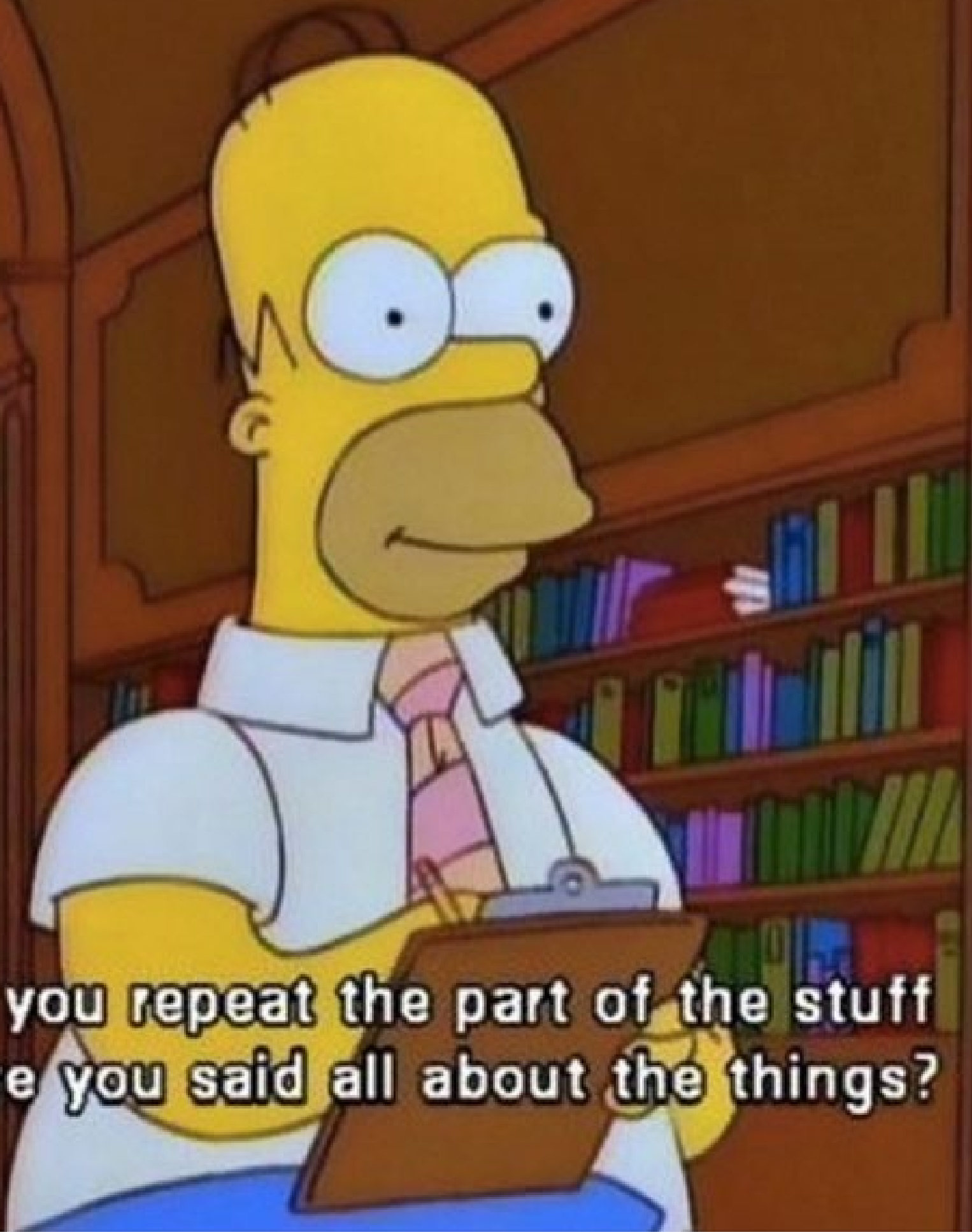
OFFICIAL APP

AusweisApp

Use an activated eID or electronic residence permit with its PIN.

Digital tools do not replace deadlines or required appointments.

Questions?

A cartoon illustration of Homer Simpson dressed as a teacher. He is standing in a library, holding a clipboard and a pen. He has a slightly smug or questioning expression on his face. Behind him are wooden bookshelves filled with books of various colors. The background is a warm, brownish-orange color.

Can you repeat the part of the stuff
where you said all about the things?

Contact us !



<https://chat.whatsapp.com/FKg74WEbo9w0mRV2z0nEFq>



<https://www.instagram.com/internationalstudents.htwsaar/>



<https://linktr.ee/internationalstudentshtwsaar>



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuq7za9GIgZ8iO2AehDLe3A>



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Next Online Orientation Session:

25.08.2026

**Studying at htw saar &
Health care in Germany**

01:30 PM in English