

# Welcome at htw saar





# The International Office Team

In alphabetical order

- **Norma Dettloff** – International Degree-Seeking Students
- **Marion Hergenröther** – Erasmus+ and overseas incoming exchange students
- **Miriam Renner** – International Degree-Seeking Students & Erasmus+ and overseas incoming exchange students

- **Student Buddies:**

**International Degree-Seeking Students**

- Alona
- Chaymae
- Emgihan
- Fadi
- Mariia
- Rohan

**Incoming Exchange Students**

- Emilia
- Sulaiman



# Our Online Orientation Sessions



**25.08.2025**

**Arrive & Thrive:**

Prepare your  
stay



**01.09.2025**

**Your new daily life:**

Germany &  
Saarbrücken for  
beginners and  
students



**08.09.2025**

**Start smart:**

Your first steps  
in Saarbrücken



**15.09.2025**

**Master your studies:**

What you need to  
know studying at  
htw saar





## Arrive & Thrive: Prepare your say

- **What should I pack?** – Your packing list for German culture
- **Arrival** – How do I reach Saarbrücken?
- **Finding an accommodation** – What you should keep in mind!
- **Financing your studies** – BAföG, blocked account, part-time job and more
- **Health insurance** – how to insure yourself properly
- **Other insurance** – liability & co., what you really need
- **Visa & residence permit** – Everything you need to know

## Germany is a little different - What Should I Bring?

- **Medication** (availability / costs in Germany)
- Special **hygiene articles** (availability / costs in Germany)
- **Adapter** for power cable
- Secure **important documents** digitally (e.g. cloud or E-mail server)
- Download directions, addresses to your smartphone (e.g. Google Maps)
- Personal little things / reminders of home
- Digital copies of important documents

Sample packing list: [The Ultimate Study Abroad Packing Guide](#)



## Germany is a little different - What Should I Bring?

Yes, you'll need your passport, laptop, and bank cards, but...

- Slippers
- Multipurpose jacket
- Small supply of cash (Euros)
- Rain jacket instead of an umbrella
- Patience
- A few fun (drinking) games
- Favorite sweets from home
- Cookbook with recipes from your homeland or family
- Dictionary (digital or physical)



## Plan your arrival

### How to arrive in Saarbrücken?

- Saarbrücken has a small airport, but larger airports such as Frankfurt am Main, Luxembourg or Strasbourg are nearby - plan your onward journey to Saarbrücken in advance, for example by [train](#) or [long-distance bus](#)
- You can find more detailed information about connections to Saarbrücken on our [webseite](#)
- Find out about public transport in Saarbrücken & explore the route to your accommodation in advance, download the [saarVV-App](#) on your cell phone
- If you can't move into your final accommodation yet, temporarily book a room in the youth hostel, guesthouse or affordable hotel. You will find a list [here](#) – we are happy to give tips
- Coordinate the handover of keys for your apartment and make sure you have contact information of your landlord or property manager
- Internet connection for your cell phone for the first few days in Germany to find directions
- Save [the contact details of the International Office](#)
- Arrival form for exchange students



## Finding accommodation

Useful information, dos und don'ts, important issues regarding your rental contract

Do's	Dont's
Start the search early	Do not sign rental agreements blindly, always read them carefully! If in doubt, do not hesitate to contact us or our student buddies
Use different platforms posted on our <a href="#">Website</a> )	<b>NO</b> advance payment before signing the contract (this could be scam!) <a href="#">Info Flyer of the German Police (sorry, in German only)</a>
Use your networks for the search	Check the deposit (2-3 months' rent, no more)
Always try to go to the viewing appointments	Not asking for help! Our student tutors from the Housing Office or the International Office are always happy to help you!
Check for hidden costs (e.g. if the rent itself seems very cheap)	Forgetting the <a href="#">Broadcast contribution</a> (Every 3 months 55,08€)
Check what is included in the rent	Forgetting to ask for the <a href="#">Wohnungsgeberbescheinigung</a> when moving in (you need it for your adress registration and for applying for your residence permit)
Find more affordable contracts for ancillary costs after moving in (gas, electricity, etc.)	

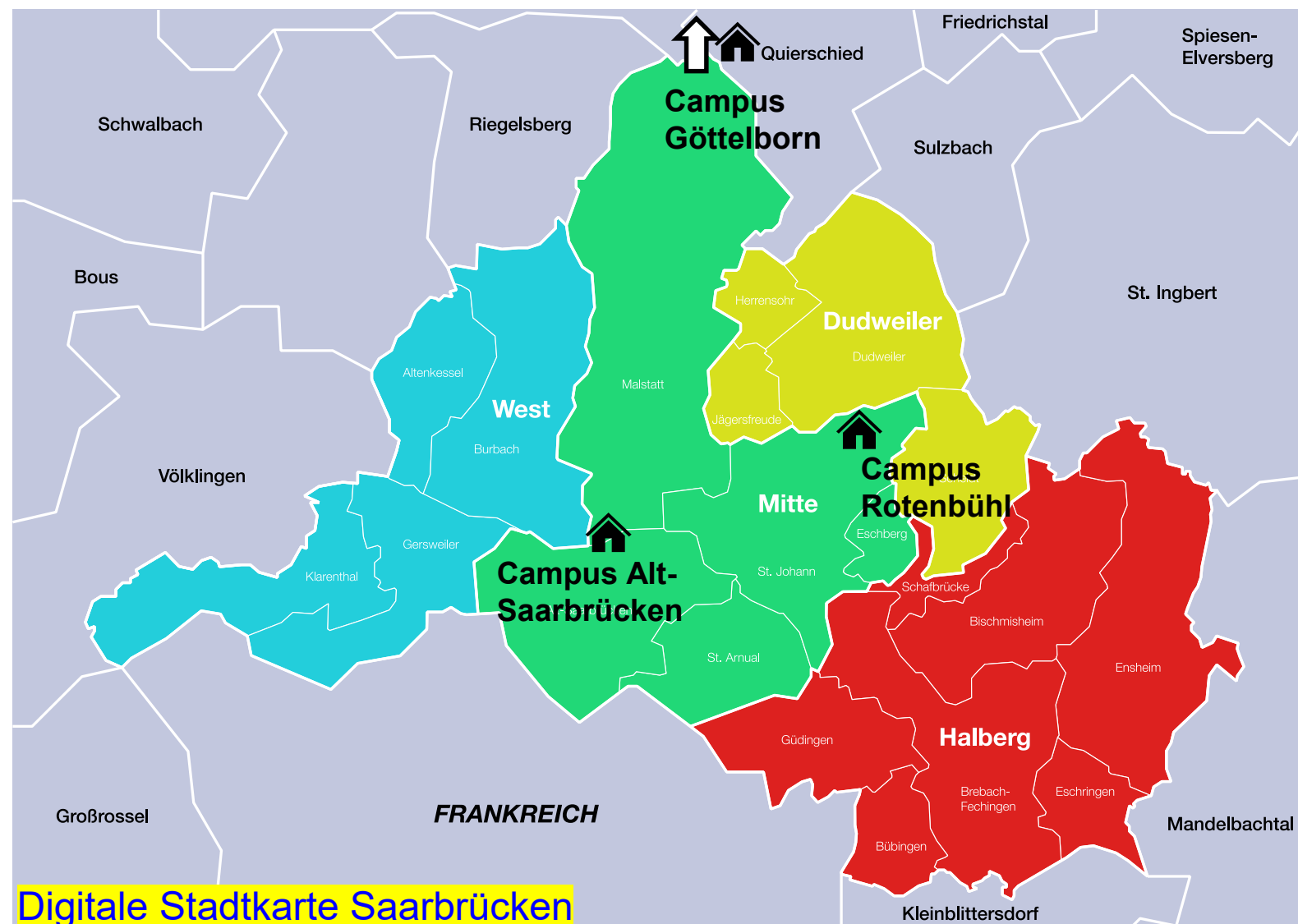
### Rental agreement check:

- Rental agreements can be time-limited (must be in the contract)
- Termination conditions must be stipulated
- Cost breakdown of what is included in the amount to be paid for rent must be clear
- Deposit amount in the contract must match what the landlord requires from you



## Finding accommodation – But where?

- Where are the offers located ?
- One city, four city-areas, 20 districts
- How far is it to my campus, are shops close enough?
- Have a check on Google Maps



## Finding accommodation - Useful tips

### How can I live / What can I afford: set a budget

- Student dormitories: The Studierendenwerk Saarland offers furnished rooms in dormitories. Be aware that waiting lists are long!
- Shared flats (WG): Sharing an apartment with other students is a popular and often cost-effective option (rooms **from** ~300€).
- Private apartments: Single apartments or larger flats can be rented on the private housing market. (usually quite expensive ~10€/m<sup>2</sup> **without** heating, power, internet, ...), often unfurnished!
- Check our [website for housing](#) for more info and links to platforms

Again: be aware of scams, if in doubt, please contact us or your student buddies



## Financing your studies

### Degree Seeking-Students

- [Scholarships](#)
- [BAFöG](#)
- [Student loans](#)
- [Blocked account](#)

### Exchange Students

- Study grants or scholarships from your home country / home university
- Erasmus+ scholarship from home university

### [Part-time job](#)

- For example: gastronomy & retail or call center
- [Student jobs](#) “HiWi” at the htw saar
- Check the [legal framework](#) (work permit, tax obligations)
- Use online portals ([Jobworld](#), [Stepstone](#), etc.)
- Find out about the application & work culture and get support
- Pay attention to your time management (you are a student)!



## Health insurance

How to insure yourself properly

- Compulsory health insurance for all, including (international) students
- Private / statutory
- Electronic notification to htw saar is required for enrolment.  
*(Exchange students need to actively contact one of the German statutory health insurance companies for the digital notification of their health insurance status.)*
- If you do not pay your health insurance contribution regularly, the health insurance company will inform the htw saar student services. Consequences may be: no re-registration for the next semester or even ex-matriculation
- You must terminate the contract with your health insurance provider if you leave Germany permanently. You can find more information about health insurance for [degree seeking students](#) and [exchange students](#) on our website.


## Other insurances

### Liability & Co., what you really need

- [Insurance via the Studierendenwerk](#) : (included in the semester fee):
  - Accident insurance (on the university grounds and on the direct routes to and from the university)
  - Theft insurance (only on the university campus)
  - Liability (only related with participation in learning and research activities - does not replace private liability insurance!!!)
- Private liability insurance is not compulsory, but **we strongly recommend it!**
  - Damage accidentally caused to other persons or to the property of others
  - Should cover damage to rented property
  - Costs approx. 40- 65€/year depending on the tariff
  - Insurance provider recommended by the Studierendenwerk: [vela](#)
- If you bring along your car or motorbike please make sure to have sufficient insurance!

## Visa & residence permit

### Everything you need to know

- If you want to convert your entry visa into a residence permit, you have to go to the immigration office
  - NO walk-in!! Ask for an appointment at the [local immigration office](#) in Lebach (**via email only**) well in advance before your visa expires (6 weeks minimum): email: [zab@lava.saarland.de](mailto:zab@lava.saarland.de)
  - Make sure you apply for an extension before your current residence permit expires!
  - Appointments can take a long time, keep the confirmation email you receive after sending your request!
  - Bring all required documents (you will be told what to bring in the confirmation email) and the fees to be paid along with you to your appointment!
  - For more information, check the website “[Study in Germany](#)”
  - Exchange students, check also [here](#)
- 



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**htw saar**  
international office

## Welcome Event

for new international students

### Get the perfect start to your studies:

Meet the team of the International Office and your student tutors (“student buddies”) and connect with other new international students.

At this event, you’ll receive an official introduction to your new university and learn all about our exciting Welcome Weeks program.

Important: Participation is mandatory and you need to register for this event (see link below).

### We’re looking forward to meeting you!



**22.09.2025**  
**09:15 AM**



**htw saar, Campus Alt-Saarbrücken**  
Malstatter Straße 17, 66117 Saarbr.  
Building 11, second floor, room 10  
(Forum)





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



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



**Linktree\***  
<https://linktr.ee/internationalstudentshtwsaar>



**You Tube**  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuq7za9GlgZ8i02AehDLe3A>