

Welcome at htw saar



The International Office Team

- **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
- **Linus Wrona** – Erasmus+ and outgoing blended mobilities

- **Student Buddies:**

International Degree Seeking Students

- Alona
- Chaymae
- Emgihan
- Fadic
- Mariia
- Rohan

Incoming Exchange Students

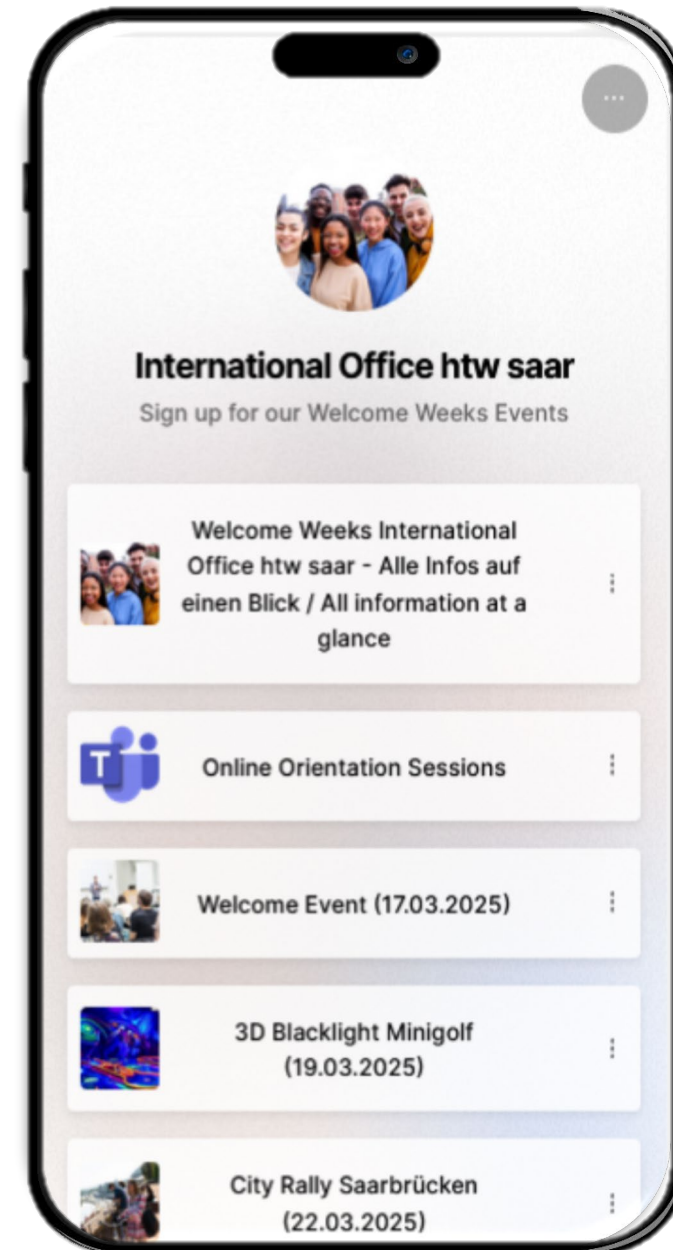
- Emilia
- Sulaiman



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



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



Your new daily life: Germany & Saarbrücken for beginners and students

- **Germany up close** - Things to know about everyday life in Germany
- **Learning German** made easy
- **Safety, Mentality & Equality**
- **Stay healthy in Germany** - Doctors, pharmacies and hospitals
- Who or what is **Saarbrücken**?
- **Living in Saarbrücken** - How to get by as a student
- **Public Transport** - Getting around in and around Saarbrücken
- **Recreation** - What you can do in Saarbrücken
- **Semester Programm and Buddies** - Making friends made easy



1

The 5th most popular country for international students and the second most popular destination for expats in the world

2

Berlin (our capital) has the largest railway station in Europe, more bridges than Venice and is 9 times larger than Paris

3

A third of Germany is covered in forest, with over 2100 castles and palaces across the country

4

In Germany we have 1,500 different types of beer, 300 types of bread and 1,000 types of sausage

5

German is the third most widely taught language in the world and the most widely spoken native language in Europe

Learning German made easy

Wie bitte..?

- German has lots of words that don't exist in other languages
 - "fremdschämen" = the shame felt on someone else's behalf
 - "Fernweh" = the feeling of a deep yearning pain, an ache that reminds us we have to get out and see the world
 - "Rabenmutter" = Mother of ravens, a mother who is neglecting her child
 - "Weltschmerz" = Pain, sadness, suffering from the world and its inadequacy with regard to one's own wishes and expectations, which characterize the basic mental mood.

Longest German Words (great to play hangman):

- **Rindfleischetikettierungsüberwachungsaufgabenübertragungsgesetz**
 - "beef labeling regulation and delegation of supervision law."
 - This was a 1999 German Word of the Year, and it also won a special award as the longest German word for that year.
- **Betäubungsmittelverschreibungsverordnung**
 - "regulation requiring a prescription for an anesthetic"
- **Donaudampfschiffahrtselektrizitätenhauptbetriebswerkbauunterbeamtter**
 - Do you even want to know...? Yes? Even the definition is a mouthful: "subordinate official of the head office management of the Danube steamboat electrical services"

Learning German made easy

Join German Classes or get a language tandem at htw saar:
<https://www.htwsaar.de/htw/int/Deutschkurse>

Tips to learn German:

- Meet up with your new German friends and fellow students, you can visit the pub-quiz at Old Murphy's together for a challenge
- Listening to German music, e.g. [Clueso](#), [Cro](#), [Wir sind Helden](#), etc.
- Watch your favorite movies or series again in the German dubbed version
- Read simple, but interesting German books (children's books are the perfect teacher)
- Ask our German lecturer [Tina Flauder](#) for making contact to a tandem



Safety, Mentality & Equality

Safety

- Police: 110
- Fire Department & Rescue Service: 112
- Saarbrücken is generally very safe
- htw saar very safe
- Always take care of yourself and others, keep an eye on situations
- [Night buses](#)
- “Is Luisa there?/Ist Luisa da?” - In bars for women when they feel uncomfortable
- Getting home with the ‘Heimwegtelefon’ (voluntary organization): if you feel uncomfortable on your way home, call:
030 12074182



**Ist Luisa
da?**

Open-mindedness and fair cooperation

- At htw saar we accept and respect every person for who they are, regardless of origin, religion, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation or world view
- Discrimination in any form - whether by word or deed - is not tolerated at our university under any circumstances. It is particularly important for women to know that consent has top priority here: any kind of behavior without clear consent will not be tolerated.

[More about Equal Opportunities & Diversity at htw saar](#)
[Service center for complaints and ideas management](#)

Stay healthy in Germany - Doctors, pharmacies and hospitals

- Ambulance: **112**

I am sick, what do I do:

- Find a general practitioner (≠ specialist) who speaks my language: [Barmer Doctor search](#)
- Make an appointment - by phone or online (except in emergencies).
- The GP will issue a referral if a specialist is needed.
- You will need your insurance card every time you visit the doctor . If you are privately insured, you will receive an invoice after your visit. Please clarify in advance which costs are covered by your private health insurance also in case of a hospital stay.
- Costs : visiting a doctor (if not a private practitioner) typically is free of charge with statutory health insurance (SHI), advance payment may be necessary with private insurance (also in hospitals). Medication at the pharmacy is staggered by a fixed scale: at least €5 and a maximum of €10 for prescriptions reimbursable within the SHI.
- Emergencies - Go directly to [hospital](#) or call the emergency service (**116 117 or 112**).

Prescriptions (from doctors) and pharmacies in Germany

- Doctors prescribe medicines, medical devices and aids via e-prescription for persons holding SHI. They can then redeem them with their electronic health card in a pharmacy. For privately insured persons, the prescription may be printed out on paper.
- [Pharmacy finder](#)

Who or what is **Saarbrücken**?

6 Universities, ~31.500 Students, 309 Bachelor Degrees, 150 Master Degrees

Culture

- “Individualistic” – everyone is responsible for themselves and should ask for help if needed, keen sense of community and social conscience as well as a desire to belong
- Supportive, also with strangers
- Punctuality is very important, in professional life like university, but also in private life when meeting with friends

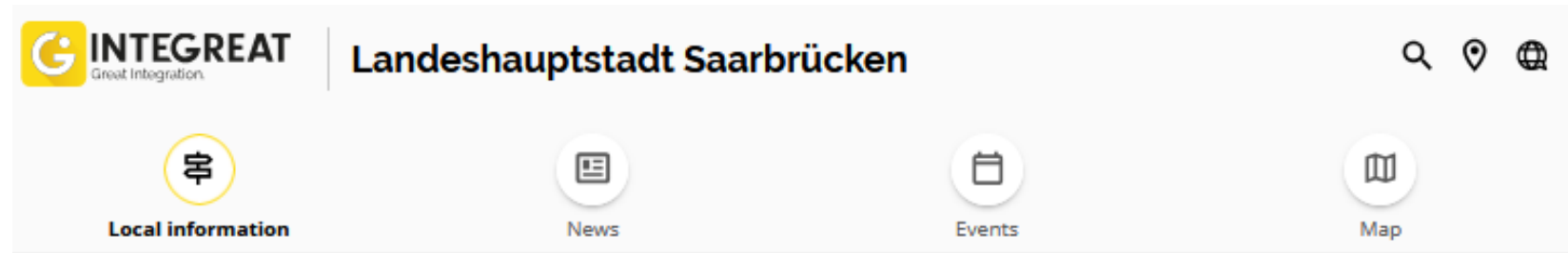
Food

- Many different restaurants (a lot at St. Johanner Market)
- Traditional Saarland food is affordable and heavy as workers in mines or farms needed calories
- Bacon & cream are common ingredients, like in „Dibbelabbes“
- Fleischkäseweck: very popular, biggest Fleischkäseweck in the world! 2m long, 1,5 m high
- Maggi-Love

Weather

- Summers are warm (average 24°) and winters are quite mild (average 0-5°)
- But they can rise above 30 degrees or drop as low as -10 degrees
- Weather can change during the day
(from warm and sunshine to cold and rainy or vice versa)
- Rains irregularly throughout the whole year.
- It is easy to buy clothes in Germany / Saarbrücken – there are all kinds of shops, ranging from cheaper ones to very expensive ones
(e.g. in the pedestrian zone Bahnhofstraße), as well as online





Local information

- Create a PDF
- Share
- Copy link
- Feedback



Welcome



Important offices
and authorities



Integration Advisory
Board
(Integrationsbeirat)



Participating in
society



Language



Education, Work
und University
Studies



Health



People living with
disabilities



Children, teenagers
and family



Legal matters and
rights



Emergency
numbers - SOS



Storms and
flooding



Bomb find

Visit the website

Download on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google Play

Living in Saarbrücken - How to get by as a student

Special Sights:



- **Sport** (climbing, kanu, kajak, hiking, swimming, bowling,...)
- **Restaurants** (St. Johanner Market, ...)
- **Cinemas** (Kino 8 ½ , UT Kino, Kamera Zwo, Cinestar)
- **Theaters** (Staatstheater, Theater im Viertel, Theaterschiff, Varieté-Theater im Hirsch)
- **Museums** (Saarlandmuseum, Historic Museum Saar, ...)
- **Bars & Clubs** (St. Johanner Market, Garage, Blau, Silo, ...)
- **Festival & Events** (Max Ophüls, Perspectives, Viertelfest, Rocco del Schlacko, ...)
- [Associations in Saarbrücken](#) (sports and others)

Public Transport - Getting around in and around Saarbrücken

- **Travel** within Saarland **for free** with your [Deutschlandsemesterticket](#)
- There are trains, busses, trams
- BUT: ICE or fast trains are not included, only “Regionalexpress” for ICE you need to get an extra ticket
- single trip within Saarbrücken: 3.80€, a day ticket: 6.00 €.
- Website: www.saarfahrplan.de
- App: [saarVV](#)
- Saarbrücken is made for cars, not for bikes, bike lanes can be rare (be careful)

Taxis

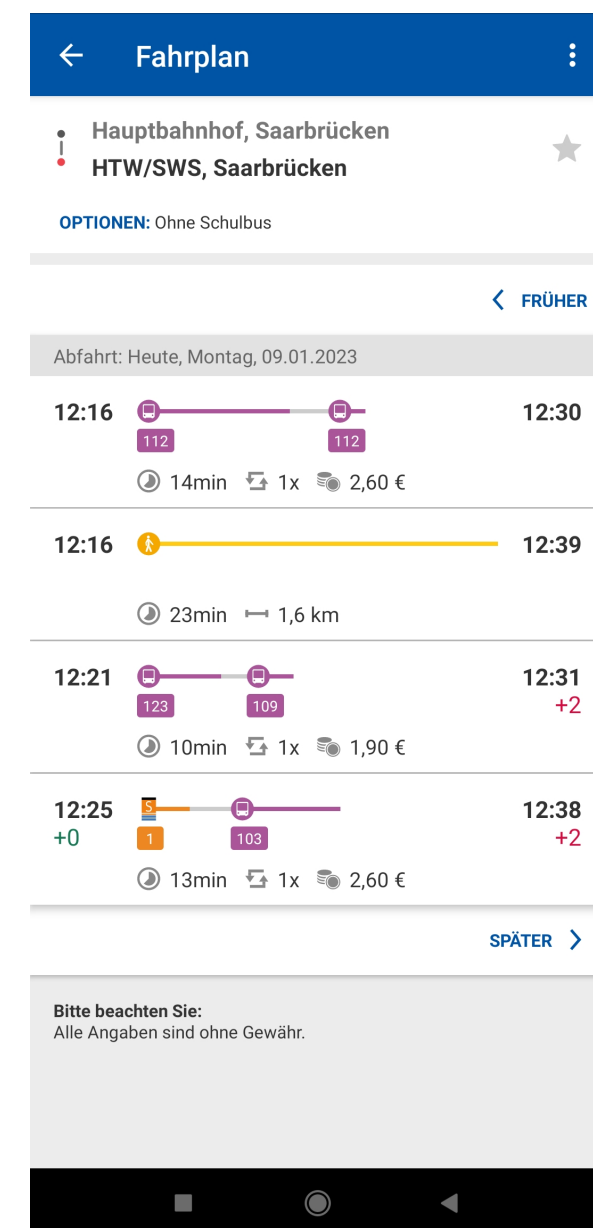
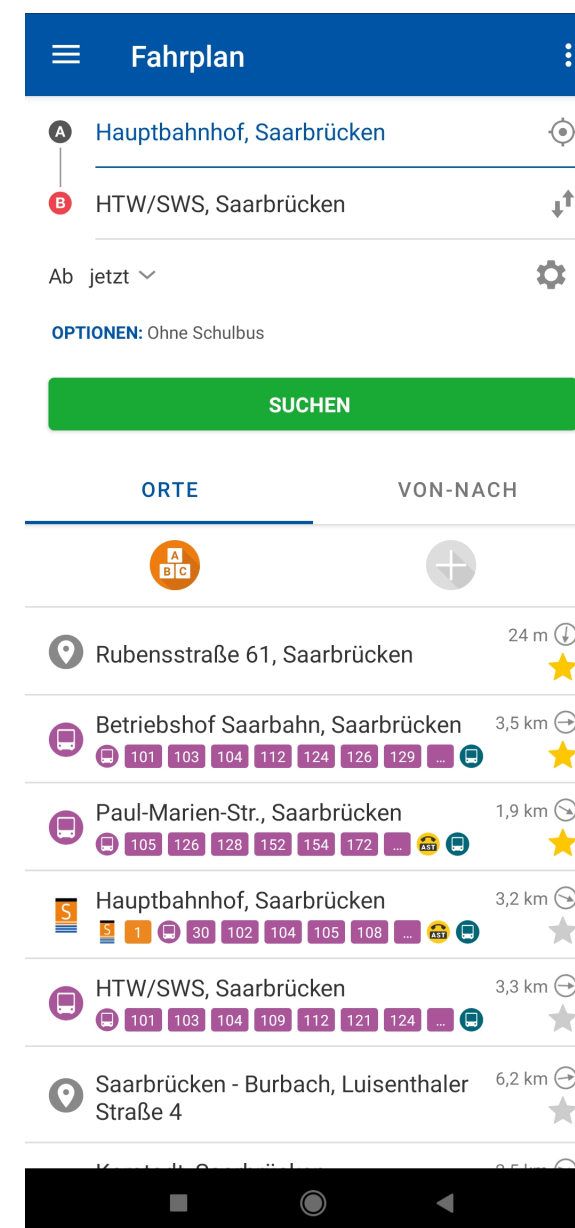
- All day / night long
- Pricey
- Call or go to a station (e.g. main train station or old town)
- Uber is really new, not so common

Electronic scooters

- From 6.00am to 1.00am
- Cost usually more than a bus-ticket for the short range

 **YouTube**
[Melina explains public transport in Saarbrücken](#)

 **YouTube**
[How to get your Deutschlandticket](#)



Public Transport – How to get the Deutschland ticket for a month

1. Download the HVV Switch App ([Android](#) or [Apple](#))
2. Register with your personal email
3. Click on Deutschland ticket in the main menu
4. Select the date when you want it to be valid
5. Select payment method (credit card)



Start flexibly, the 1st month is charged pro rata. Ticket is automatically renewed at the end of the month. Can be cancelled monthly by the 10th of the month. If you buy after the 10th, you will automatically buy for the current and the following month.

Note: To get the Deutschlandticket and pay only 58€ for a month (e.g. September), buy it at the beginning of the month (e.g. September 1st) and cancel the subscription before the 10th of the month. Your ticket will remain valid for the rest of the month and you will not have to pay for the following month. **If you cancel after the 10th of the month (e.g. 10th September), you will have to pay for that month and the following month** (but you will have a valid ticket for both months).

Public Transport – How to get only regional tickets on your search

1. Download the DB Navigator App ([Android](#) or [Apple](#))
2. Go to Options (Mode of transportation) and select Local/Regional transport only



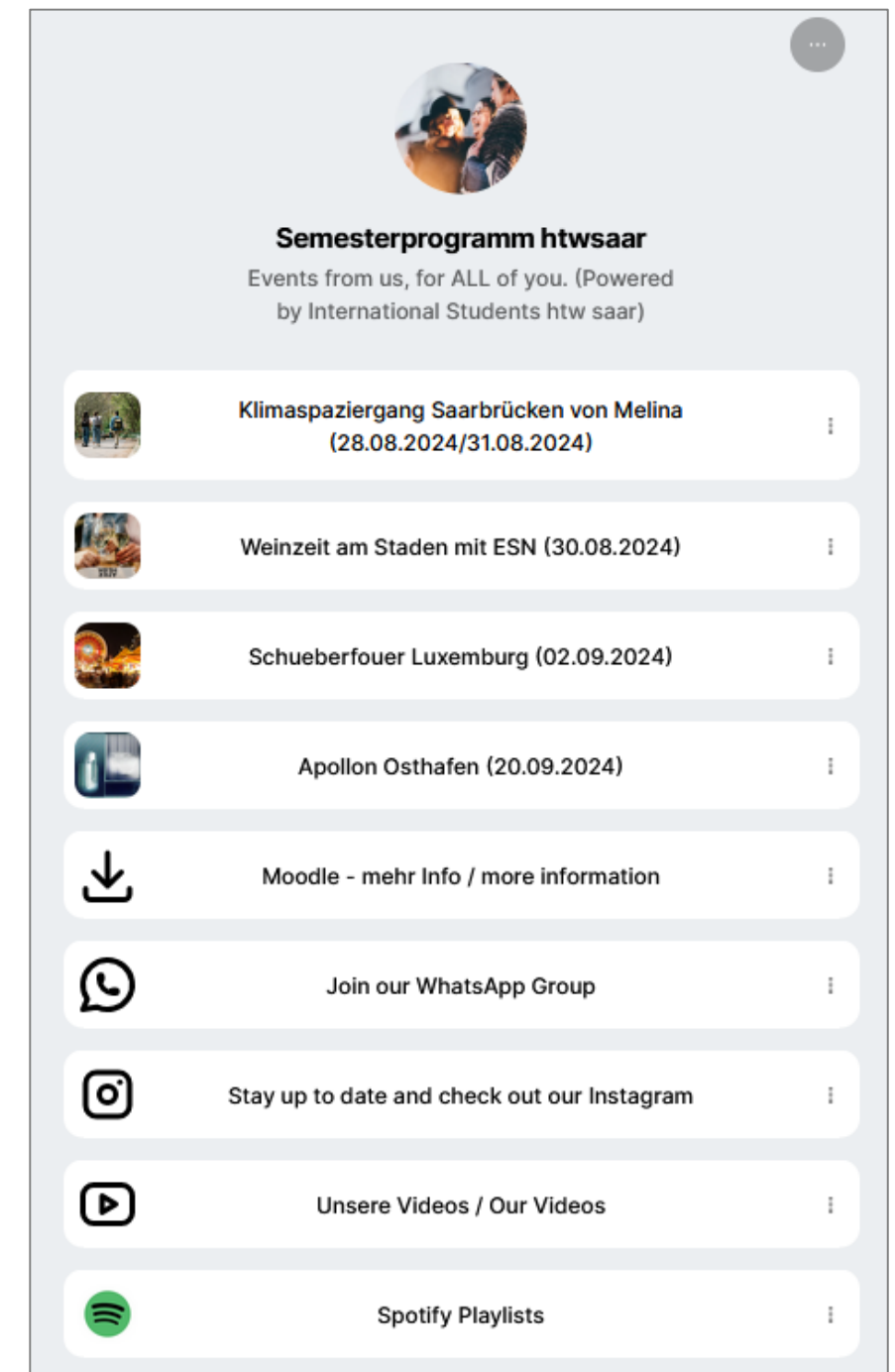
Note: In addition, if you're buying an ICE ticket, select your age group under Passengers; if you're a younger passenger, you'll get a discount.

Recreation - What you can do in Saarbrücken

- Saarbrücken offers people who like to go out numerous opportunities to visit bars, cafés, restaurants and events or simply to spend a fun day or evening with friends.
- There's something for everyone, so go out and discover!
- We asked some students about their favorites and have put together a short list ([full list](#)):
- St. Johanner Markt: Like an Italian piazza, the St. Johanner Markt in the old town is a central meeting point for students. It has many bars and restaurants. Most people use it as a starting point to decide where to go next.
- Breite Straße (lower district of Malstatt); Syrian/Arabic restaurants and specialties
- Silodom: cultural party and nightlife venue
- Jules Vernes: alternative bar
- Blau: student club par excellence
- ...

Semester Programm and Buddies - Making friends made easy

- International Office student buddies
 - [Welcome Week Programm](#)
 - [Diverse semester programme](#)
 - [WhatsApp Group](#)
 - [Social Media](#)
- [Cultural Pact](#): Discounts at cinemas and theatres
- Events organised by the student councils and the ASTA of htw saar



Recreation - What you can do in Saarbrücken

- Support for international students – Students helping students
- Connection of locals and internationals
- Weekly events, excursions



Erasmus Student Network
Saarbrücken

Join the WhatsApp News Group



Follow us on Instagram: **@esn_saarbruecken**

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 **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/UCuq7za9GIgZ8iO2AehDLe3A>