



htw saar

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

Online Orientation Session International Office htw saar

17.02.2026, 01:30 PM

Living in Saarbrücken & Germany's
Bureaucracy for Beginners

Advice and support for international students

International Degree Seeking Students
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Hochschule für
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University of
Applied Sciences

International Office Student Buddies



internationalstudents.htwsaar@gmail.com



WhatsApp

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



Instagram

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

Online Orientation Sessions International Office Summer Semester 2026

Every Week until our Welcome Event (16.03.2026), *same link*

- 17.02.2026: Living in Saarbrücken & Germany's Bureaucracy for Beginners
 - 01:30 PM in English; 02:30 PM in German
- 23.02.2026: Q&A Session: Ask your Questions
 - 01:30 PM Exchange Students; 02:30 PM Degree Seeking Students
- 02.03.2026: Studying at htw saar & Health Care In Germany
 - 01:30 PM in English; 02:30 PM in German
- 09.03.2026: Q&A Session: Ask your Questions
 - 01:30 PM Exchange Students; 02:30 PM Degree Seeking Students

**Save the Date:
March 16, 2026**

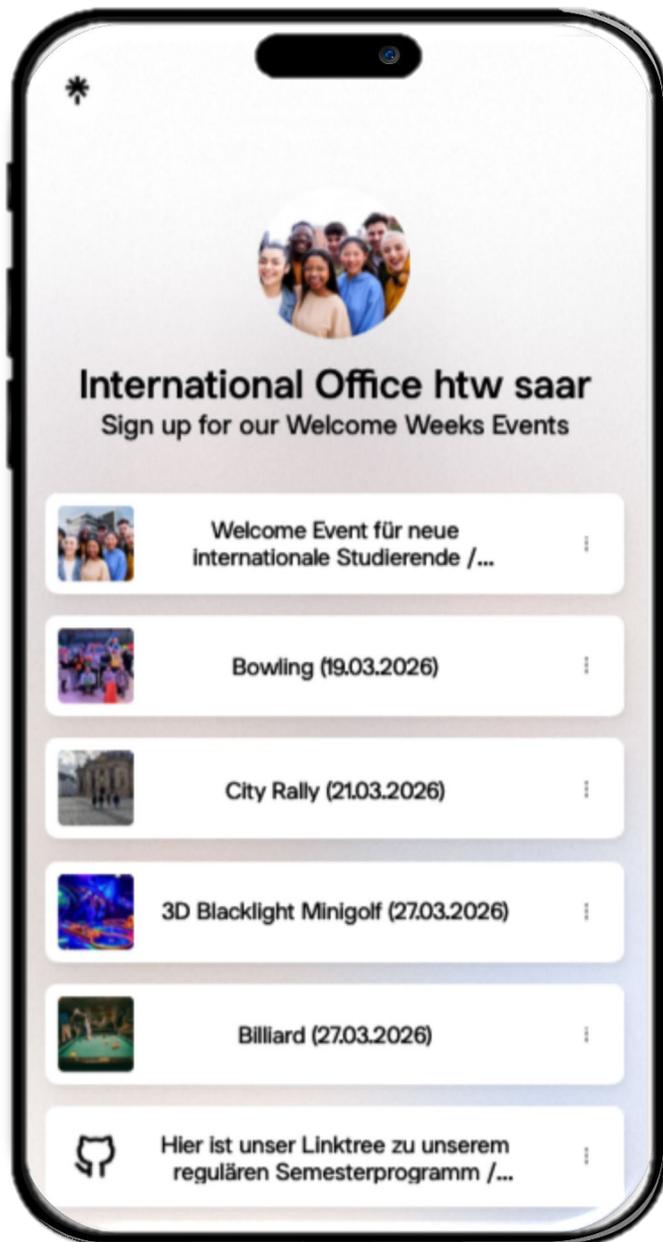
Welcome Event for new international students

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



SAAR/BRÜCKEN

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

Bureaucracy

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

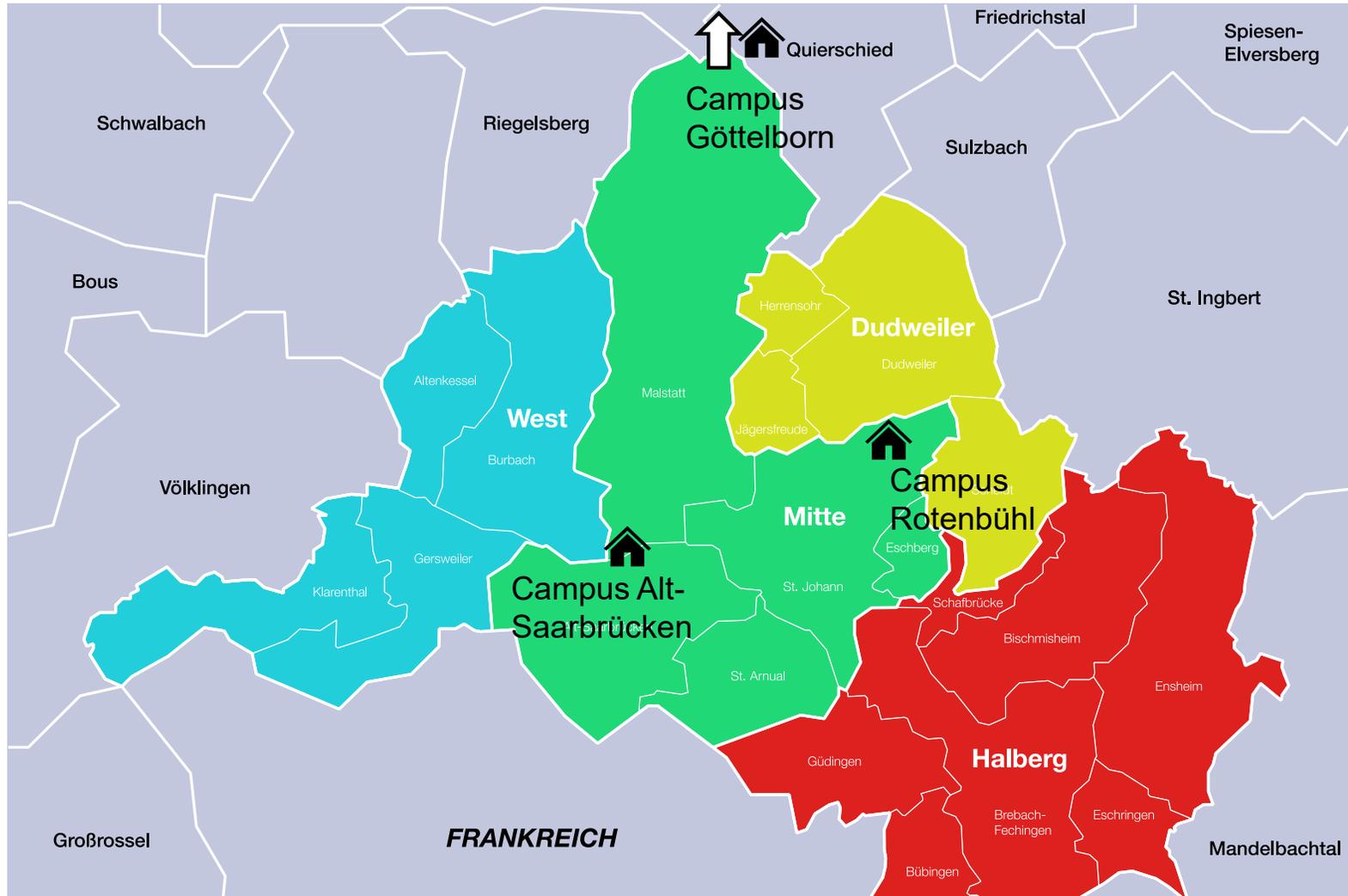


Living in Saarbrücken

- Pack a multipurpose jacket – thank us later!
- Summers are warm (average 24°) and winters are quite mild (average 0-5°)

- Also bring: Cash, Patience
- 6 Universities, ~31.500 Students
- Culture: rather individualistic
- But: international & supportive

Districts Saarbrücken



Settle in & feel at home

Make new friends:

-  **ESN** Erasmus Student Network
- Semesterprogramm International Office



- Traditional (maybe bit weird) food to try: Dibelabbes, Fleischkäsweck, Rigatoni rot-weiß, Maggi
- Student Life in Saarbrücken
 - (Theatres, Cinemas, Cafés, Bars, Clubs, Events & Festivals and more...)

Arriving and Moving In

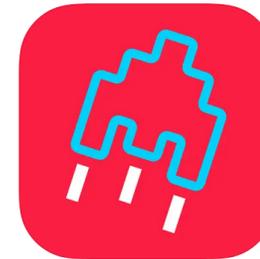
- Plan your arrival:
 - Check public transport (download apps)
 - Book internet on your phone & save important contacts and websites
 - Schedule an appointment to get the keys to your appartement/room
- Move in:
 - Put your name on your mailbox (!) – you will get physical mails!
 - Be considerate: introduce yourself to neighbours, check cleaning duties and house rules
- Take care:
 - Air out regularly ([How to: Lüften](#))
 - Be economical with resources (power, water, heating) – they are expensive
 - Inform yourself on [how to separate rubbish proper](#) or [Guideline waste separation in Saarland \(EN\)](#)
- [Broadcasting fee](#):
 - Yes, you need to pay, don't ignore! About 19€/month per household, register [online](#)

Public Transport

- Travel within whole Germany **for free** with your [Deutschland\(semester\)ticket](#) (bus, tram, train) from 1.04. – 30.09.2026. Registration for D-semester ticket possible **after** enrolment.
- BUT: ICE is not included, you need to get an extra ticket (but there is a discount for younger travellers, make sure to put in your age).
-  **saarvv** Der Saarländische Verkehrsverbund: Best app for traveling within Saarland: [online schedule](#), download the app ([Android](#) or [Apple](#)). [Cheaper weekly tickets](#) (22,50€ for students within greater Saarbrücken – ask us for a certificate to hand in to the local [Saarbahn Service Center!](#)  Saarbahn)
-  **DB** Navigator: to travel within Germany and to find train connections (only regional trains are included in your Deutschland(semester)ticket!:
 - Download the DB Navigator App ([Android](#) or [Apple](#))
 - Go to options (mode of transportation) and select local/regional transport only
-  **YouTube** [How to get your Deutschland\(semester\)ticket](#)

How to get the Deutschland ticket for a month (during arrival month, before the semester starts)

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)



hvv switch: Tickets & Sharing 4+
Deutschlandticket & Fahrplan
Hamburger Hochbahn AG
Nr. 64 in Reisen
★★★★★ 4,3 • 24.010 Bewertungen
Gratis

- Cost: 63€ / month
- Buy in the beginning of the month
- Cancel the subscription before the 10th of the month
- Ticket will remain valid for the rest of the month and you will not have to pay for the following month.

Note: If you cancel after the 10th of the month (e.g. 15th of March), you will have to pay for that month and the following month (for which you will have the Deutschlandsemesterticket!!).



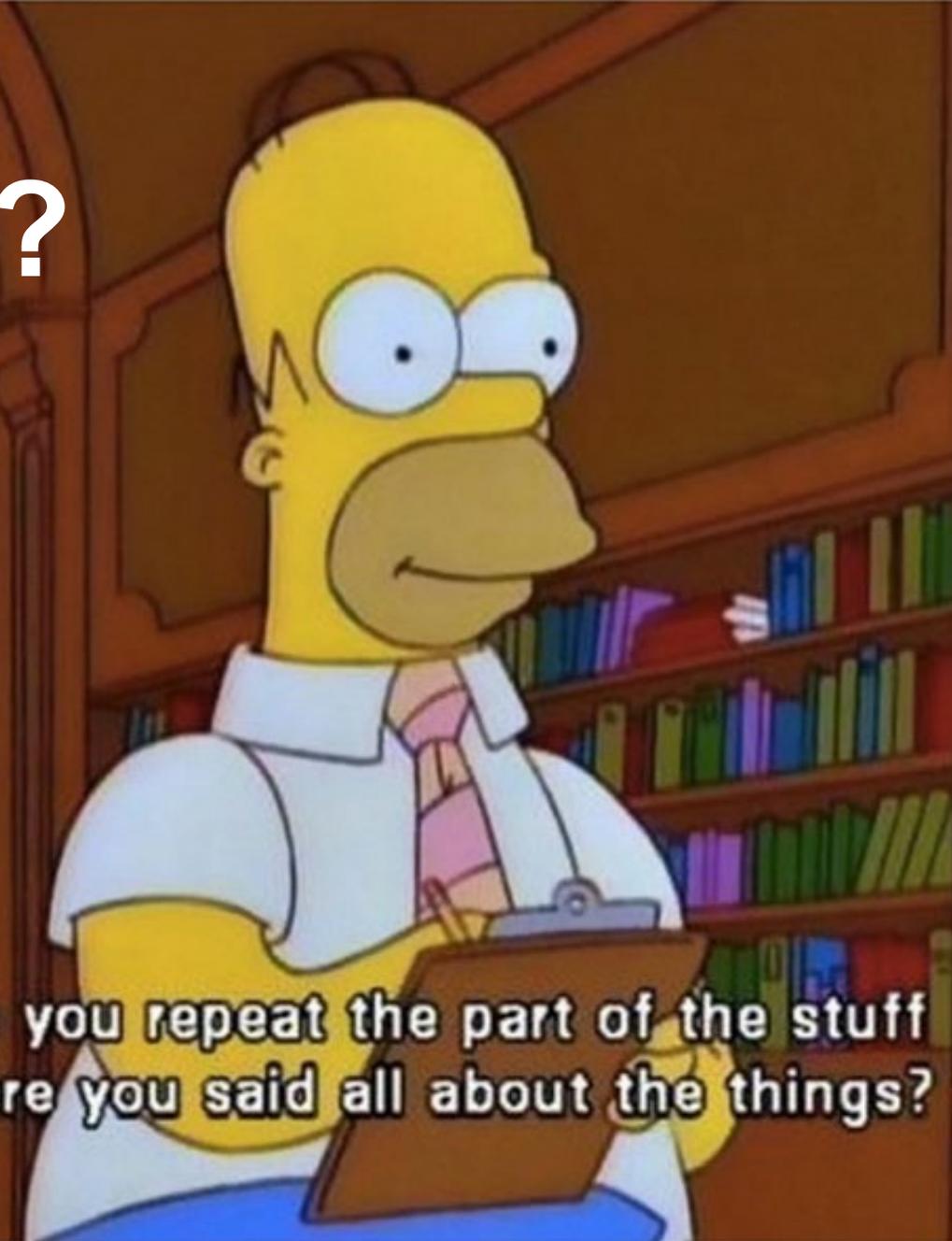
Germany's Buerocracy for Beginners

- 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

- **Citizen's Office**: Register your address within the first 2 weeks after your move-in. You need an appointment or go on Wednesday mornings 07:30 – 11:30, bring ID, Visa, rental contract & Wohnungsgeberbescheinigung, [more info here](#)
- **Immigration Office**: Make an appointment via Email (zab@lava.saarland.de) BEFORE your visa expires, long waiting time, appointment are communicated via physical mail, [more info](#)
- **Tax ID**: Is issued via physical mail after your registration at the Citizen's Office, forward to your health insurance provider and to your employer (if you have a side job)
- **Social Security Number**: Needed if you want to work in Germany, is provided by your health insurance provider as soon as they have all needed info
- **Bank Account**: compare offers, Tax ID & confirmation of address is needed – appointment required (can take 2 or 3 weeks)
- **Working**: check your visa conditions, contact [Career Service](#) htw saar for support

Questions?

A cartoon illustration of Homer Simpson, a yellow-skinned character with a large nose and wide eyes, wearing a white short-sleeved shirt and a pink and white striped tie. He is holding a brown clipboard with a silver clip and a pen, looking slightly to the right with a neutral expression. The background is a wooden bookshelf filled with colorful books.

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

Contact us!



WhatsApp

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/FKg74WEbo9w0mRV2zOnEFq>



Instagram

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



Linktree*

<https://linktr.ee/internationalstudentshtwsaar>



You Tube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuq7za9GlgZ8iO2AehDLe3A>



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