

Housing in the Geisenheim area is becoming increasingly sought-after. We therefore advise you to start looking for accommodation on your own initiative 3-4 months before you commence your studies here. June and July are good months for finding a place to live.

For exchange students and visiting academics who will only be staying in Geisenheim for a maximum of six months, the university has a limited number of rooms available. If you require one, please apply to the International Office. These are available on a first come, first served basis.

What types of accommodation are available?

An apartment in Geisenheim will cost from around 300 to 500 Euros per month. A room in a shared apartment – *Wohngemeinschaft (WG)* – may be cheaper. In addition to the lower price, **shared apartments** have the added benefit that they offer you the immediate chance to meet other students and practise your German. Sharing an apartment can make it easier to get used to life in a new country, particularly for students who have never lived alone in their own apartment before.

Renting your **own apartment** is usually more expensive than a room in a student residence or a shared apartment, but is often the preferred choice, particularly for students with children and/or a partner.

Another economic alternative would be to look for a **furnished room** (*Zimmer zur Untermiete*) in a private home. With this type of accommodation, you live in the house or apartment of a family or older couple who have room to spare. You have your own room, but often have to share the kitchen and bathroom with your landlords.

Students often need to find new tenants for **sub-lets** (*Zwischenmiete*), to take their place while they complete an internship or semester abroad, for example. Sub-lets are often very short-term and only offer a temporary solution.

Student residences offer small, separate living spaces for students. There are only a limited number available and they are in high demand. There are two student residences in Geisenheim and more in Wiesbaden. Private student residences in Geisenheim usually require a minimum contract period of one year.

Where can I look for accommodation?

A lot of current accommodation offers are posted on the notice board in the canteen building (*Mensagebäude*). Here you'll find ads for furnished and unfurnished rooms, rooms in shared apartments and sub-let offers.

If you live a long way from Geisenheim and are not able to consult the notice board, you'll also find many of the ads in the **Facebook Group "AStA Geisenheim: WG & Wohnungsbörse"** www.facebook.com/groups/992437727457169/ and at www.wohnraum-gesucht.de

If you're already in the Rheingau area, you can also keep an eye on accommodation ads on the notice boards of the larger supermarkets and DIY stores.

Tip: Extend your search to include the area around Geisenheim, Mainz and Wiesbaden, as there are several large universities in these locations. With your Semesterticket you enjoy free travel throughout large parts of Hessen and Rheinland-Pfalz.

To find accommodation in Geisenheim and the local area from abroad, try searching via the internet:

Popular accommodation search sites:

www.wg-gesucht.de

www.wohngemeinschaft.de

www.studentenwohnungsmarkt.de/

www.studentenwohnheime.eu

www.wunderflats.com/furnished-apartments/Geisenheim

www.facebook.com/groups/wohnung.wiesbaden/?fref=ts

www.immobilienscout24.de/

www.immonet.de

www.immowelt.de/suche/wohnungen/mieten

www.geisenheim.de/Startseite/Wein-Tourismus-und-Kultur/Unterkuenfte/K120.htm

<http://web4.deskline.net/ruedesheim/de/accommodation/list?limCat=ec3c8e0c-961c-4cfd-900e-1f2875acce63>

www.oestrich-winkel.de/tourist/uebernachten.htm

How do I rent an apartment?

In Germany the indefinite term lease is the most common type of residential lease contract, but there are also contracts which oblige you to rent accommodation for a fixed period, such as in the case of contracts with private student residences. The problem with fixed term contracts is that you cannot move out early and terminate the contract without the consent of the landlord. The landlord can demand that you continue to pay the rent until the end of the fixed term, and he/she is not obliged to accept any new tenant you may propose.

With open-end contracts there is always a notice period that must be observed. You will also have to pay a **deposit** (*Kaution*) when you move in. The landlord retains this as security and will return it to you when you move out, provided you have not damaged the property.

The International Office and the **Buddies from the Pre-Study Project** can provide you with **advice on finding accommodation**. Upon request, a Buddy will accompany you to an appointment to view a flat if you feel in need of support.

You'll find further information in the **illustrated dictionary "Living at a Student Dorm"**, issued by the *Deutsches Studentenwerk* (German, French, Arabic, Polish and Spanish)

www.studentenwerke.de/sites/default/files/45_Wohnheimwoerterbuch_d-fr-sp.pdf

Further languages:

www.studentenwerke.de/de/content/illustriertes-wohnheimwörterbuch

When searching for accommodation in Germany you will probably find yourself confronted with the following **common abbreviations**:

1 ZKB	1 room with a kitchen and a bathroom
1 ZKBB	1 room with a kitchen, a bathroom and a balcony
1 ZKBT	1 room with a kitchen, a bathroom and a patio
1 ZKDB	1 room with a kitchen, a hall and a bathroom
1 ZKDD	1 room with a kitchen, a hall and a shower room
DG	<i>Dachgeschoss</i> Attic, top floor
EG	<i>Erdgeschoss</i> Ground floor
EFH	<i>Einfamilienhaus</i> Single-family house
DHH	<i>Doppelhaushälfte</i> Semi-detached house
EBK	<i>Einbauküche</i> Fitted kitchen
WG	<i>Wohngemeinschaft</i> Shared apartment (your own bedroom, but bathroom and kitchen shared with the other flatmates)
KM or kalt	<i>Kaltmiete</i> "Cold rent" (Basic rent for the use of the accommodation, without ancillary costs)
WM or warm	<i>Warmmiete</i> "Warm rent" (rent including ancillary costs, i.e. garbage collection, water, maintenance and usually heating). But please note that heating costs are <u>not always included</u> in the <i>Warmmiete</i> !
zzgl.	<i>zuzüglich</i> (e.g. <i>zzgl. Strom</i>) Plus (e.g. plus electricity)
möbliert / teilmöbliert	The apartment/the room is fully (<i>möbliert</i>) or partly (<i>teilmöbliert</i>) furnished
Kaution	A security deposit for the landlord, usually payable when you move in. The deposit is normally fully or partially refunded to you if you hand over the accommodation in perfect condition when you move out. If there is any damage inside the apartment the landlord is entitled to retain part of the security deposit in order to renovate the property.
Mietvertrag	Rental contract. Please read the contract carefully. If necessary, take someone with you when you view an apartment and get them to explain all the details of the rental contract to you. In some cases, the previous tenant has to renovate the apartment when he/she moves out (paint the walls, repair any damage). Alternatively, the new tenant may have to do this when he/she moves in, but will not then be obliged to renovate the apartment when he/she moves out.
WE	<i>Wohneinheit</i> Residential unit
Zwischenmiete	Sub-let. Some students leave Geisenheim temporarily in order to complete an internship or semester abroad, and sub-let their apartment or room for a limited period of time while they are away.
Kündigungsfrist	Period of Notice. Specific notice periods apply for the termination of rental contracts for apartments, rooms and accommodation in student residences. Fixed-term contracts cannot normally be terminated. The periods of notice are set out in the rental contract.

Registering your Place of Residence

You've cleared a major hurdle – you've found somewhere to live in Germany and have moved into your accommodation.

In Germany, everyone who moves into a house, apartment or rented room normally has one week in which to register their new address at the local residents' registration office (*Einwohnermeldeamt/Bürgeramt/Bürgerbüro*). This applies to **everyone** in Germany who moves into a home or changes address. Within Germany you also have to de-register an old place of residence and register a new one.

After successful registration you will be issued with a copy of the *Meldebescheinigung* (Certificate of Residence), which you will need if you want to open a bank account, for example.

To register your place of residence you'll need:

- A valid identity card or passport, and possibly a visa for non-EU citizens
- Written confirmation from your landlord (*Wohnungsgeberbescheinigung*)

A Buddy will be happy to accompany you to the respective authorities and help you complete the formalities, if you so wish.

Residents' Registration Offices (*Einwohnermeldeämter*) serving the Rheingau and Wiesbaden

Bürgerbüro Geisenheim

Beinstrasse 9
Room 401
65366 Geisenheim

Contact:

Tel: 06722 / 701-111
Fax: 06722 / 701-240
Email: buergerbuero@geisenheim.de

Please note the opening hours: www.geisenheim.de/Startseite/Buergerservice/E1010.htm

Bürgerbüro Wiesbaden

Dotzheimer Straße 8
65185 Wiesbaden

Phone 0611 31-3344

E-Mail Buergerbuero@wiesbaden.de

Please note the opening hours:

www.wiesbaden.de/vv/oe/07/34/141010100000002378.php

For enquiries about finding accommodation:

International Office international@hs-gm.de

To contact a Buddy:

International Office pre-study@hs-gm.de