

Guidebook for International Students at RAC

By Mariam Bilge; February 2024

Here you will find the most important information for planning your stay in Germany.

1. Before Arrival in Germany

- Find apartment (Dorms/WG)
- Discuss all the details with potential landlord, for example: Are utilities included in price? Is furniture included?
- Check that your landlord will give you “*Wohnungsgeberbestätigung*” which is a document needed to register on an address in Germany.
- Arrange health insurance (Public/Private)
- Arrange your blocked bank account (for Visa purposes)
- Arrange flights before semester starts (preferably 1-2 weeks prior)
- Choose airport in which you will arrive in (Best options: Cologne, Frankfurt, Düsseldorf)
- Arrange transportation from airport to Remagen, buy tickets beforehand (use DB Navigator app to plan your trip)
- Arrange meeting with landlord before arrival or book hotel rooms for stay before meeting with landlord.

2. Upon Arrival in Germany

- Pick up your student card (Student card is also your transportation card, you can travel for free with Regional Transport in all cities from Cologne to Koblenz, that includes Remagen)
- Meet with landlord, take keys for apartment and mailbox.
- Take pictures of apartment as you received it.
- Put your last name on mailbox to receive post.
- With “*Wohnungsgeberbestätigung*” go to Rathaus (city hall) in Remagen and register on your address. You will receive *Anmeldung* (registration) document, keep it!
- Open bank account, request bank card (recommended Volksbank in Remagen, no fees for students)
- Pay first rent + deposit, upon transfer don't forget to write correct description of transfer for example: Rent for February 2024.
- Buy sim card.
- Receive your health insurance card in Post.
- Receive your Bank card and Bank Pin in Post.

3. First day at University

- Charge your student card for Mensa (Cash or GiroCard only)
- Familiarize yourself with buildings
- Register in the library
- Register with you Sogo email
- Register into OLAT platform

4. During your Stay

- Create automatic transactions with your bank account to pay rent/utilities.
- Radio tax 18.36€ per month/per apartment. If you live in shared apartment you can share the cost with roommates.
- Arrange mobile banking with your bank for easy transfers.
- Air your apartment minimum 30 min a day to avoid molding.

5. Recommendations

- Purchase Deutschland ticket for cheap travels within Germany.
- Personal Liability Insurance
- No illegal downloads/streaming (fines up to 1000 Euro)
- Keep your apartment clean! WG's might get checkups from landlords.
- Frequently check your mailbox.
- Do not travel without ticket, fines of minimum 60 Euro.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the [International Office](#).

We wish you all the best for your studies in Germany!