University of Stuttgart
Germany

# Welcome guide for exchange students

2026/2027

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**Dear international exchange and program students,**

Welcome to the University of Stuttgart! We are very happy to have you here and hope this guide will help make your start in Stuttgart as smooth and stress-free as possible. To support you in settling in, we have put together some key information and tips for all new incoming Erasmus+, Overseas, and Double Masters students.

We recommend that you follow the guide in the order it is presented, as each chapter builds on the previous one. In the first chapter, you will find important information about your **arrival** in Stuttgart. The second chapter includes a list of **formalities** that need to be taken care of either before your arrival or shortly after. Finally, the third chapter offers practical tips for **daily life** in Stuttgart. At the end, you will find a **checklist** that summarizes everything you should do before and at the beginning of your stay.

Do you need further information? Please send an email to your advisor at the international office or visit us during our open office hours:

- Monday & Wednesday 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
- Tuesday & Thursday 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. (only March/April & September/October)

The International Office is more than happy to support you.

We wish you a great start at the University of Stuttgart!

Your International Office team at the IZ [*Internationales Zentrum*]

# 1. Getting started

## 1.1 Accommodation

### Moving into your student dorm

As an Erasmus+, Overseas, or Double Masters student, you have priority access to the dormitory provider SWS [*Studierendenwerk Stuttgart*].

Please check if the **duration of your rental contract** corresponds to your exchange semester(s). If it is incorrect or you need to extend it after one semester, please contact the International Office in time.

You can check into your dormitory **only during** the office hours of your dorm caretaker [*Hausmeister*]. Therefore, please check your moving-in letter [*Einzugsschreiben*] you have received from the SWS for their **office hours**, or check the SWS homepage. We recommend arranging a moving-in **appointment** with the caretaker. As proof of your identity, please bring your **passport** and your **moving-in letter** to the caretaker's office [*Hausmeisterbüro*]. Should you arrive later due to a delay in your

transportation, inform the caretaker immediately and ask if you can pick up your keys a bit later, or if they recommend another solution.

Please note that you can move into your dormitory **only during weekdays (Monday-Friday)**. Should you arrive on a weekend or a public holiday, you can only check in on the first following working day. It is possible to have someone collect your room keys before arrival. It is necessary to inform the caretaker and to send this person (for example, your buddy) an authorization. Please use the form sent along with the moving-in letter.

### SEPA direct debit authorization

Before your arrival, you have already transferred EUR 700 to the SWS (EUR 400 deposit, plus EUR 300 as part of the first month's rent). The following monthly rents will be debited automatically from your bank account every month. This process is called **SEPA direct debit** [*SEPA-Lastschrift*]. You should have received the SEPA form together with your tenancy agreement. You must put in your bank account data, sign it, and give it to the caretaker as soon as possible after your arrival.

**PLEASE NOTE**

For the SWS SEPA direct debit authorization [*SEPA-Lastschriftsmandat*], a **European bank account run in Euros** is needed! If you do not already have a European bank account in Euros, open a German bank account as soon as you arrive in Stuttgart (see chapter 2.4).

### Bed linen

In your dorm room, you will find a bed with a mattress, but no bed linen. New tenants of the SWS have the opportunity to purchase **bed linen and coverlets** from the caretaker of their student dorm for approx. EUR 70 (availability not guaranteed). This payment is withdrawn automatically from your bank account along with the first payment of rent.

### Internet access in the dormitories

In all SWS dormitories, internet is not included in the rent. To use the internet in your dorm room, you should **register** with **Selfnet e.V.**

With Selfnet, a membership fee of about EUR 10 per month is due after registration. We recommend registering with Selfnet approx. **2 weeks before your arrival**, putting in your contract start date. That way the internet will work immediately from the beginning of your stay. Please note that you need a **LAN cable** to access the internet in your room! Your Selfnet membership does not end automatically; cancellation is possible only at the end of each month.

On this website, you can find the current support office hours. Please find the frequently asked questions here.

### Broadcasting service fee (GEZ)

The so-called [*Rundfunkbeitrag*] (broadcasting service fee), also known as [*GEZ*], is a mandatory fee for receiving state-funded radio and TV programs. It has to be paid by every household, even when you do not take advantage of those programs.

Rundfunkbeitrag (broadcasting service fee)

The fee is approx. EUR 18 per month. If you share an apartment (e.g., in student dorms like Allmandring II, III, IV, or in Straußäcker II or III), you can also share the broadcasting service fee. You or one of your flatmates must register with the so-called "ARD ZDF Deutschlandradio Beitragsservice".

The non-paying members do not have to personally register, but have to inform the broadcasting service agency that their fee has already been paid. They need the registered person´s name and fee account number.

More information and the registration/deregistration forms, which need to be sent online, are available at this website (in English). Students living in the student dormitory, please also check the Broadcast Service Information.

## 1.2 Tickets for public transportation

Stuttgart has a very good public transportation system. You can travel by regional trains [*Regionalzüge*], commuter trains [*S-Bahn*], subway [*U-Bahn*], or bus. There are several fare zones [*Tarifzonen*] and each zone traveled through requires a fee.

An overview of the VVS zones, as well as further ticket information (prices, booking) and an overview of the rail and track network, can be found online.

VVS

You can download the useful VVS app, which shows all train connections in and around Stuttgart, as well as information on how to buy tickets (vvs.de).

All important information about tickets can be found here.

### Some examples of tickets

SSB/VVS 14-day trial ticket

New Stuttgart citizens can travel free of charge in the VVS network for 14 days after their registration at the residents' registration office, if they stay at least six months and are at least 18 years old. The trial ticket [*14-Tage-Schnupper-Ticket*] can be downloaded and printed via a **coupon code after the residence registration**.

**Please note:** You will have to ask for the code at the residents' registration office (see chapter 2.3) and finally redeem the voucher online at the SSB ticket shop. The starting date of the ticket can be chosen freely.

Deutschlandticket

This ticket for the **whole local** public transport in **Germany** is only available in a digital version and as a standing order [*Abonnement*] for EUR 63 per month. Please note that it is not valid on long-distance trains. In comparison to the "JugendTicketBW" (see below), this ticket is a bit more expensive, but there is no age limit, and it can be cancelled monthly. You can buy the "Deutschlandticket" **without any proof** of being a student.

You can buy the ticket for the current month, but you will still have to pay the full price. You can buy the ticket in one customer center (see below) or online. Payment is usually done through SEPA-direct debit [*Lastschriftmandat*] from your bank account. In the Deutsche App (DB) app or the VVS app, payment by **credit card** may be accepted.

DeutschlandticketJugendBW

As soon as you are **officially enrolled** at the University of Stuttgart, it is possible to purchase the so-called DeutschlandticketJugendBW for students. This ticket only comes into effect on October 1 (winter semester)/April 1 (summer semester) at the earliest! It is available **only** for students **under 27**. With this ticket, you can travel within the whole VVS network and use the local public transport in Germany (without long-distance trains) for EUR 45 per month.

**PLEASE NOTE**

The [*DeutschlandticketJugendBW*] is a subscription for **one year**. Students going home after only one exchange semester have a special cancellation right [*Sonderkündigungsrecht*] and can terminate the subscription even within the first year, by the end of the semester (March 31/September 30). Please contact one SSB or VVS customer center **in due time** before you depart from Stuttgart **by the 10th of the termination month.** In some cases, you may have to submit your deregistration certificate from the University [*Exmatrikulationsbescheinigung*].

### Do you need personal help buying a ticket?

If you are already in Stuttgart, you may go to one of the following **sales offices** of the SSB [*Stuttgarter Straßenbahnen*] or VVS [*Verkehrsverbund Stuttgart*].

- **SSB KundenCentrum Hauptbahnhof** (Main train station): Arnulf-Klett-Platz 3, 70173 Stuttgart (Mon - Fri 7.30 a.m. - 6.30 p.m.)

SSB

- **SSB KundenCentrum Charlottenplatz**: Charlottenplatz 1 (U-Bahn station "Charlottenplatz"), 70173 Stuttgart (Mon - Fri 7.30 a.m. - 6.30 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.).

### Night buses

Night buses operate every night. Most depart from the station "Schlossplatz" between 1.20 a.m. and 3.40 a.m. in various directions. The commuter trains [*S-Bahn*] operate once an hour on each line on the nights between Friday to Saturday and Saturday to Sunday and before holidays. Please refer to the timetable of Nachtverkehr (vvs.de).

### Main line closure of the S-Bahn: Summer 2026 [*Stammstrecken-sperrung*]

From July 20 to September 12, 2026, the [*S-Bahn*] does not operate between the stops "Hauptbahnhof", "Universität", and "Österfeld". As a replacement, buses operate between the main station and Campus Vaihingen as well as between Vaihingen train station and Campus Vaihingen. All those buses stop and depart from the stop "Universität".

## 1.3 WiFi on campus and in the city

### Free WiFi on campus

On campus and at other facilities of the University of Stuttgart, students can connect to WiFi via eduroam. **Eduroam** is an international roaming service for users in research and higher education. Students from universities connected to eduroam are able to get access through the student account of their home university.

Students without access to eduroam may select the network **uni-stuttgart-open** from the list of available networks. After connecting for the first time, users are automatically redirected to a login portal where they must confirm the ICT terms and conditions. This confirmation activates internet access for the next eight hours. After that, the login must be repeated.

### Internet terminals in Stuttgart

Outside of the university, those places offer internet services:

- Treffpunkt Rotebühlplatz, Rotebühlplatz 28 (free WiFi), Mon - Sat: 7.30 a.m. - 11 p.m., Sun and holidays: 8.30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Jugendagentur Stuttgart, Esslinger Str. 42 (free WiFi), Mon - Fri: 2 - 6 p.m.
- Starbucks Coffee House, Königstr. 44 (bring your own device), Mon - Sat 7 a.m. - 10 p.m., Sun 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
- Stadtbibliothek Stuttgart, Mailänder Platz 1 (and district libraries in many parts of Stuttgart), Mon - Sat: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Wi-Fi can

only be used with a library account and ID. Check this link for more information about internet, PC, and printer usage in the city library
- Rathausbibliothek, Marktplatz 1 (free WiFi), Mon - Wed 8 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 - 3.30 p.m., Thu 8 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 - 5 p.m., Fri 8 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
- Free WiFi at some public places in Stuttgart can be found on this website.

Please note that all opening hours are subject to change.

# 2. Formalities

## 2.1 Health insurance

All students are required to provide proof of valid health insurance that meets the requirements of German law by the time of enrollment. Purchasing health insurance and transmitting the information to the university can be done **online from abroad**, even before your arrival.

Please consider the different requirements for EU and non-EU citizens.

**PLEASE NOTE**

Regardless of how you are insured, electronic transmission to the university (for enrollment) is always conducted via a **German statutory** health insurance company. The transmission process takes up to five working days. More information can be found here and in chapter 2.2.

### Health insurance for citizens from non-EU countries

Non-EU students under the age of 30 have to purchase mandatory **student health insurance** from a state health insurance provider to enroll at the University of Stuttgart. This insurance costs about EUR 140 per month and covers most medical and dental costs, including hospital treatment. Please check the different state health insurance providers (see below) and inform yourself about their offers and services.

The following documents are required to purchase health insurance:

- Your letter of admission [*Zulassungsbescheid*]
- A passport-sized photo (for your health insurance card)
- Your IBAN of a German bank account (can be provided later).

After you have taken out health insurance, the insurance provider will inform the university electronically about your health insurance status for enrollment (see chapter 2.2). This can take up to two weeks. If the student portal C@MPUS shows any error message even after this period of time, please contact your German health insurance provider.

**PLEASE NOTE**

The student health insurance only comes into effect with enrollment (at the earliest from October 1 or April 1, when the semester starts). If you arrive earlier, please make sure to be insured temporarily (e.g., through **travel health insurance**).

Please note that no international or foreign private health insurance is accepted for enrollment (see chapter 2.2).

### Health insurance for EU and UK citizens

As an EU or UK citizen, you are required to bring a European or Global Health Insurance Card (**EHIC** or **GHIC**) from your insurance provider in your home country. Make sure that the card is valid for your whole stay in Germany!

As part of your **enrollment process**, you will have to contact any **German** state health insurance provider (see below for contact details) and notify them about your EHIC or GHIC. You can do so in person or using the digital possibilities they offer (see below). They need to know your full name, current address, date of birth, university ("Universität Stuttgart, Keplerstr. 7, 70174 Stuttgart"), and the date on which your studies begin (October 1, 2026, for the winter semester).

Afterwards, the German public health insurance provider will transmit this information electronically to the University of Stuttgart. This process can take between seven and fourteen days. Only after the enrollment office receives this information can you be enrolled.

**PLEASE NOTE**

For EU nationals who take on a "Minijob", a **working** student job, or a paid internship during their studies, German student health insurance is mandatory.

Please make sure to always carry your **original EHIC** or **GHIC** with you to receive necessary medical treatment from a doctor, dentist, or in a hospital. For prescriptions, you will have to pay a fee between EUR 5 and EUR 10 at the pharmacy.

If you do **not** have **the EHIC** or **GHIC,** you are required to **take out** the mandatory **state student health insurance** in Germany (see above).

### Special rules and exceptions

### Social security agreement

If you are a student from a country that has a **social security agreement** [*Sozialversicherungsabkommen*] with Germany (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Switzerland, Tunisia, Türkiye), you need to **verify with your home insurance provider** whether your

health insurance is valid in Germany and can be considered for your exchange.

Please contact your health insurance provider in your home country to obtain the required proof/certificate. It is important that the document is valid for the entire duration of your stay at the University of Stuttgart. After this step, you should get in touch with any **German** state health insurance provider and submit the document. The German provider will then transmit this information electronically to the University of Stuttgart for your enrollment (see chapter 2.2).

### Scholarship holders

If you are **younger than 30** and have already obtained **private health insurance through your scholarship program** (Erasmus Mundus students, DAAD scholarship holders), you must contact any **German** state health insurance provider and present proof of your scholarship award, including details of your health insurance. Before you can enroll at the university, a state health insurance provider must electronically confirm your exemption from the state health insurance to the university.

### Non-EU citizens over 30

All non-EU students **over the age of 30 must take out private health** insurance. Please consult the International Office if you need further information.

After purchasing private health insurance, you must contact any **German state** health insurance provider and present proof of your private health insurance. Before you can enroll, the public health insurance provider must electronically confirm your exemption from the state health insurance to the university.

### Contact details of some state health insurance providers

**AOK** Campus Vaihingen, Mensa II, Pfaffenwaldring 45
Office hours: Tue - Thu 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Tel.: 0711 652513352, email: andreas.koehn@bw.aok.de
Website [DE]: https://www.aok.de/pk/bw/

Students with an **EHIC** or a social agreement should go in person to the AOK (for the data transmission to the university). In urgent cases (only if you come shortly before lectures begin), you can use the contact form (in German).

**TK** Campus Vaihingen, Mensa II, Pfaffenwaldring 45
Office hours: Tue - Thu 11.15 a.m. – 2.15 p.m.
Tel.: 0151 14534980, email: natascha.edelmann@tk.de
Website: https://www.tk.de/en

**EU citizens** with an EHIC card can use **this online form** for the data transfer to the University of Stuttgart (please choose "None of the above" in the "Details of activity" section).

**PLEASE NOTE**

In case of **delayed entry** to Germany (e.g., due to visa delays), insurance fees are payable retroactively from the beginning of the semester.

If you plan to **travel outside Germany**, we recommend that you take out travel health insurance for a fee of about EUR 15 - 20 per year (available at most banks or health insurance companies).

## 2.2 Enrollment: registration at the university

The whole process takes place online and can be started from abroad before your arrival. **Tip:** You can find an **enrollment guideline** in your **Mobility-Online** download area and more information on this website.

If you are planning to arrive in Stuttgart **later** than the beginning of **September/March**, we **strongly recommend** that you start the **enrollment** process while you are **still abroad**. You have to expect a **processing time** of up to **three weeks** as the Office for Application, Admission, Enrollment [*Bewerbung, Zulassung, Einschreibung* - *BZE*] must check your enrollment first. Only **after your enrollment** will you be able to **register for your courses** in C@MPUS!

To complete your enrollment, please log into your C@MPUS account and open your application:

- Please submit all the data requested in your C@MPUS account, and add your **health insurance data** (you can skip the field asking for your insurance number!). For further information on health insurance, please see chapter 2.1 and follow our enrollment guideline.
- Upload a passport-sized photo (for your student ID). Double Master's students may be required to submit other specified documents.
- Make sure your **health insurance status** is listed correctly (green hook). If it is not updated after ten days, please contact your state health insurance provider! If you have no state health insurance policy in Germany, please contact any German health insurance provider (see addresses above in chapter 2.1) for the data to be transmitted to the University of Stuttgart.
- Transfer your (reduced) **semester contribution** for exchange students of EUR 104 (for details, please check your C@MPUS account: my fees and payments).
  Double Master's and Erasmus+/Overseas exchange students are exempt from paying the tuition fee of EUR 1.500 per semester due to the university agreements. Non-EU Erasmus Mundus students are not exempt from these fees.

**PLEASE NOTE**

On C@MPUS, you will find the **payment details** for transferring the semester contribution. Please enter these details, especially the payment purpose [*Verwendungszweck*], onto your transfer slip or online banking form precisely as indicated. Mind the blank spaces!

While the Office for Application, Admission, and Enrollment is checking your enrollment application, you can check its status in C@MPUS. Once your enrollment becomes effective, you will be able to download the **certificate of enrollment** from the C@MPUS system.

In case you have **technical questions** concerning C@MPUS, please contact the C@MPUS support: support@campus.uni-stuttgart.de.

### Student ID Card

The Office for Application, Admission, and Enrollment will provide you with your student ID card ECUS (Electronic Card University of Stuttgart) **after those two conditions are complete:**

- You are **enrolled** at the University of Stuttgart
- You have entered your **German address** in your C@MPUS account.

Therefore, **after your arrival in Stuttgart**, make sure to **update your address** in your C@MPUS account to your address in Germany. It is important that your name is written on your letterbox; otherwise, postal mail cannot be delivered. If it is not, contact your dorm caretaker.

For information about how to get an **international student ID**, please visit the ISIC website.

### Guest Card

If you are still waiting for your student identity card ECUS, you can request a **guest card** for a deposit of about EUR 10. Ask for it at the SWS Service Point on the ground floor of the Mensa on Campus Vaihingen or city center. With the guest card, you will be able to print at the University Library, use washing machines in the dormitories, and pay cashless in the student canteens and cafeterias (see chapter 3.4).

## 2.3 Residence registration

Anyone staying in Germany for longer than 90 days is required to register with the residents' registration office [*Bürgerbüro*] in their place of residence, **within fourteen days upon arrival**. After your registration, you will receive a confirmation of registration [*Meldebestätigung*]. You need this confirmation for opening a bank account and for obtaining a residence permit (if applicable).

The following documents are required for the residence registration:

- Your passport or ID card
- Registration form [*Meldeschein*], filled out and signed.
  The template is available at the International Office, online (in German), or directly at any residents' registration office.
  English instructions for completing the document are available at the International Office or here.
- Form "Housing provider confirmation" [*Wohnungsgeber-Bescheinigung*]. It is a confirmation from your landlord that you have moved in. **SWS tenants** can show their **moving-in letter** [*Einzugsschreiben*] and do not need this form.

Meldeschein (registration form)

Wohnungsgeber-Bescheinigung (housing provider confirmation)

Please note: You **do not** need a visa or residence permit for the residence registration!

**PLEASE NOTE**

If you move, you need to communicate your new address to the residents' registration office. Should you move to another city, you need to register there with the city administration. They will automatically deregister your former address.

Non-EU students who need to apply for a residence permit (see chapter 2.5) can only do so at the city where they are currently registered. The responsibility of the foreigners' registration office changes with the registration at a new place of residence.

You have to **register in person at the residents' registration office** of your city. In Stuttgart, you can go to any [*Bürgerbüro*]. Please check the office hours and current regulations online beforehand.

### Some office addresses in Stuttgart:

- Residents' registration office Vaihingen [*Bürgerbüro Vaihingen*]
  Address: Rathausplatz 1
  From the Vaihingen university campus, you can take the bus 82 in the direction "Rohr Mitte" and get off at the stop "Vaihingen Rathaus"

- Office of public order - main office [*Amt für öffentliche Ordnung*], Residents' registration office city center [*Bürgerbüro Mitte*]
  Address: Eberhardstr. 39, 2nd floor
  From the stop "Universität", take a [*S-Bahn*] to "Stadtmitte"; from here, you can walk or take U1, U2, or U4 and get off at the stop "Rathaus").

Bürgerbüros (residents' registration offices)

**Tip**: ask for a 14-day trial ticket (see chapter 1.2)!

## 2.4 Opening a bank account

The **rent of the student dorm** as well as your **health insurance** can only be paid by using the SEPA direct debit procedure [*SEPA-Lastschrift*]. The direct debit procedure (SEPA) means that the money will be taken out of your account to pay your bills automatically at the right time. For this you need a so-called personal current account [*Girokonto*].

If you already have a (SEPA) bank account in **Euros**, you do not necessarily need to open a **German** bank account to pay your dorm room rent. However, please inquire with your home bank if the direct debit procedure is allowed and if you can pay cashless and withdraw money with your debit or credit card abroad. Also, ask if any fees apply for these services.

If your bank account is run in another currency, you will need to open a **German** bank account for the SEPA direct debit authorization.

The following documents are required for a German bank account:

- **Proof of your residence registration** (see chapter 2.3)
- **Passport** (Non-EU students) or identity card (EU citizens)
- **Letter of admission** from the University of Stuttgart (for a free student bank account).

Some banks may insist on the following additional documents (if you do not have these at hand, choose another bank or contact the International Office for advice)

- University enrollment certificate
- Visa or residence permit (non-EU citizens only)
- Tax number [*Steuernummer*] or social security number.

### Local bank versus online bank

You can open a personal current account in person at either a local or an online bank [*Direktbank*]. Usually, you can open a bank account at an online bank rather promptly. However, they offer online or hotline support only, whereas at a local bank, you will have immediate support in person if you experience any problems.

Please inform yourself about the process of opening an account with the bank of your choice. Some local banks might have the option of opening a bank account online instead of an in-person appointment.

Examples of **local banks** (no recommendations)

- BW-Bank (Sparkassen-Gruppe), www.bw-bank.de
- Deutsche Bank, https://www.deutsche-bank.de/pk.html (with Deutsche Bank, you can apply online and bring your original documents later to the local branch office, e.g., in Vaihingen)
- Postbank, www.postbank.de
- Spardabank, www.sparda-bw.de

Examples of **online banks** (no recommendations)

- Wise, https://wise.com/
- DKB, https://www.dkb.de
- ING, https://www.ing.de/
- Norisbank, https://www.norisbank.de
- Revolut, https://www.revolut.com/de-DE

Upon opening a current account, you will receive a bank EC card with which you can withdraw cash without charge 24/7 from any of your bank's ATMs.

**PLEASE NOTE**

When withdrawing cash from another bank (or ATM), you may be charged extra fees! Please inform yourself when opening a bank account, which cash machines you can use, and how many times you can take out money for free.

### Do you have a blocked account?

Even if you have already opened a blocked account for your visa application, you need to open a regular personal current account [*Girokonto*] that has no limitations. We recommend following the instructions given by your blocked bank account provider. You may transfer the maximum monthly amount from your blocked account by standing order to your regular current account. Then you will be able to carry out transfers and authorize SEPA direct debit processes, e.g., for the SWS or health insurance.

**PLEASE NOTE**

As soon as you open a German bank account, fill out the SEPA direct debit authorization form [*SEPA-Lastschrift*] and hand it in as soon as possible to the SWS (through the dorm caretaker) and to the health insurance provider.

## 2.5 Residence and work permit

You apply for a residence permit at the foreigners' registration office [***Ausländerbehörde, ABH***]. Students from EU and EFTA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland) **do not** need an entrance visa for Germany and do not need to apply for a residence permit.

### Non-EU citizens with an entrance visa

If you entered Germany with a visa, and it covers the **whole period of your stay**, you do **not** need to apply for a residence permit. You are set!

In case your **visa** does **not** cover the whole period of your stay (e.g., in case of an exchange extension), you need to apply for a residence permit. You must apply with the foreigners' registration office [*Ausländerbehörde*] of your place of residence **before your entrance visa expires**. The international office will support you during this process.

### Non-EU students who do not require a visa to enter Germany

**90-day regulation:** So-called "privileged citizens" from countries such as Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Ukraine, the UK, and the USA **may** enter Germany without a visa. However, you must apply for a residence permit **upon arrival** (**within 90 days**). As soon as the 90 days end, you will **no longer be** allowed to exit and re-enter Germany without a valid German residence permit. Moreover, the 90-day visa-free entry does **not** permit working in a student part-time job at any time (this is only possible with a regular student visa). The international office will help you with your residence permit application.

**PLEASE NOTE**

The foreigners' registration office in Stuttgart is understaffed, and it can take up to several months to get an answer and an appointment to apply for a residence permit. Therefore, we strongly recommend applying for a visa at the German embassy in your home country before your arrival.

#### Residence permit application process

If you are required to apply for a residence permit, you must send your application through this online form. Please ensure that, in all the application steps, you enter your personal information **accurately and truthfully**.

**TIP**

The International Office will send you a residence permit application guideline after your arrival. Follow it step-by-step!

In the online application, you will be asked to upload a scan/picture of the following documents:

- Your passport
- Your visa for Germany or your entrance stamp
- **Letter of admission** [*Zulassungsbescheid*] from the University of Stuttgart
- **Proof of sufficient funds** (EUR 992 per month) e. g., a bank statement from a German account or a scholarship letter
- **Health insurance confirmation** [*Krankenversicherungsbescheinigung*] from a German health insurance provider. If you have the GHIC (see chapter 2.1), you also need confirmation that it is valid during your stay (e.g., the NHS letter you received with the GHIC)

- If applicable, your **high school diploma** or **Bachelor's certificate**
- The **residence permit support letter** that the International Office will send you after your arrival (for Erasmus+ and Overseas exchange students).

**PLEASE NOTE**

The foreigners' registration office [*Ausländerbehörde*] is understaffed at the moment. It can take a long time to get an answer and an appointment to apply for a residence permit. Please do not resend your application or any information request, as this may cause further delays. Several weeks after you send your application (see below), the [*Ausländerbehörde*] will send you a **fictional certificate** [*Fiktionsbescheinigung*] by letter post or will provide you with an appointment to apply for an electronic residence permit [*eAT*].

At the appointment with the [*Ausländerbehörde*], you will be asked to bring a **biometric photo** of yourself. This is a special photo required by the foreigners' registration office. From May 2025, only digital photos can be accepted. Please find more information here. Issuing a residence permit costs a EUR 100 fee.

**PLEASE NOTE**

If you wish to leave Germany temporarily, make sure that your passport and residence permit are still valid for the duration of your stay abroad and allow you to re-enter the country. If you leave Germany for more than six months, you need to apply for a certificate of non-expiration [*Bescheinigung über das Nichterlöschen eines Aufenthaltstitels*].

### Work permit and how to find a student job

Students who are EU citizens can work a maximum of 20 hours per week in accordance with the applicable laws for German students. Students of other nationalities may only work under certain conditions in accordance with their visa or residence permit (for a maximum of 20 hours per week and normally 140 full days or 280 half days maximum per calendar year).

Please note: non-degree and exchange students (Erasmus+ and Overseas) are, for now, **not** entitled to Hiwi positions at the University.

Please find all the important information about tax, social security numbers, and contact addresses for finding a job on our homepage.

## 2.6 Personal liability insurance

Personal liability insurance covers damages you cause to persons or objects (e.g., a rented apartment). Even though liability insurance is not

mandatory in Germany, we highly recommend purchasing an insurance policy that includes coverage for lost keys. The price ranges from EUR 60 to EUR 100 per year, depending on your family status. You can take out the insurance through a bank, an insurance company, or online.

# 3. Living in Stuttgart

## 3.1 Academic calendar

| **Winter Semester 2026/27** | **October 1 - March 31** |
|---|---|
| **Classes begin** | Mon, October 12, 2026 |
| **Classes end** | Sat, February 13, 2027 |
| **Summer Semester 2027** | **April 1 – September 30** |
| **Classes begin** | Mon, April 12, 2027 |
| **Classes end** | Sat, July 24, 2027 |

Please take note of national and state holidays as well as the automatic summer/winter time changeover by the end of March and October. See also our academic calendar online.

Note the **registration period** for **examinations** and the **re-registration period** for the following winter and summer semester:

| **Winter Semester 2026/27** | **October 1 - March 31** |
|---|---|
| **Exam registration period** | Wed, November 11 – Wed, December 2, 2026 |
| **Re-registration period** | Fri, January 15 - Mon, February 15, 2027 |
| **Summer Semester 2027** | **April 1 - September 30** |
| **Exam registration period** | tba |
| **Re-registration period** | Thu, July 15 - Sun, August 15, 2026 |

### Semester break and holidays [*vorlesungsfreie Zeit*]

The time between lecture periods is called "lecture-free period" [*vorlesungsfreie Zeit*], but it should not be considered a holiday period since **there are often exams**, compact courses, and excursions scheduled. Many offices of the university are closed or have shorter office hours during those periods.

In the winter semester, between Christmas Eve (December 24) and Epiphany (January 6), there are no lectures. During the summer semester, there is usually a one-week break after Whitsun (in May or June). If

you want to travel during the [*vorlesungsfreie Zeit*], you should check the dates of your exams or deadlines before planning your trips.

In case you want to leave Germany before your examinations take place, please contact your academic coordinator or your teaching staff as soon as possible in order to check whether this would be possible.

## 3.2 Leisure activities in Stuttgart

Stuttgart offers a lively student experience with cultural events, student organizations, and outdoor activities. The University of Stuttgart provides student clubs, sports programs, a buddy program, and more to help exchange students settle in.

**Leisure offers from the International Office or student groups**

ready.study.stuttgart
ready.study.stuttgart
ready.study.stuttgart

Leisure events Buddy program

stuvus
STUDIERENDENVERTRETUNG
UNIVERSITÄT STUTTGART

Student council - stuvus

AEGEE STUTTGART

AEGEE Stuttgart

ESN
Erasmus Student Network
Stuttgart

ESN Stuttgart

**Sport offers inside and outside the university**

Allgemeiner
Hochschulsport

University of Stuttgart sports

STUTTGART

City of Stuttgart - sports offers

## 3.3 Print documents

Due to different procedures of authorities in Stuttgart, you may need to fill out or hand in documents either online or in print.

If possible, please fill in and sign documents online and save them as a PDF file.

**Copy shops in Vaihingen and the city center**

If you prefer or have to fill in and sign the original of a form, please find information about copy shops close to our campus in Vaihingen or the city center below:

**Kopierlädle** - **printshop** on Campus Vaihingen next to the Mensa entrance
Address: Pfaffenwaldring 45, 70569 Stuttgart
Mon & Wed - Fri 11.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m., Tue 10.30 a.m. – 2.30 p.m. (online shop is open 24/7)
Website, Tel.: 0711 68562942, email: info@kopierlaedle.de

**Schwäbisches Tintenlädle** is a copy shop in the city center of Vaihingen: Approx. 10 min by public transport from the campus Vaihingen of the University of Stuttgart.
Address: Robert-Koch-Str. 2, 70563 Stuttgart
Mon - Fri 10 a.m. - 6.30 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Website, Tel.: 0176 70894733,
email: schwaebisches-tintenlaedle@web.de

The **Kopierzentrum** is a copy shop in the city center of Stuttgart: An approx. 8 min walk from the campus of the University of Stuttgart in the city center, as well as from the main station [*Hauptbahnhof*].
Address: Stephanstr. 33, 70173 Stuttgart
Mon - Fri 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Website, Tel.: 0711 292535, email: info@kopierzentrum-stuttgart.de

## 3.4 Eating on campus: dining halls and cafeterias

The Student Services [*Studierendenwerk Stuttgart*] operates several dining halls and cafés at both university campuses. Cafeterias are usually open between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Dining halls [*Mensen*] are usually open only between 11.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m. The opening hours vary between the semester times and the lecture-free period. Every day, there are different dishes to choose from, which cost between EUR 3 to EUR 7. You can see the current daily menu online.

As well as providing lunch at a reasonable price, the dining halls are also meeting points and information centers. You can find all kinds of information on the bulletin boards [*Schwarzes Brett*]: events, sales and exchange offers, rooms for rent, etc.

The addresses of the two main dining halls on campus are:

- Campus Vaihingen: Mensa Vaihingen, Pfaffenwaldring 45
- Campus City Center: Mensa Central, Ossietzkystr. 3

### Food and coffee to go

You can take away all meals and drinks in the cafeterias and dining halls. Just ask the staff at the counter and you will receive the meal or beverage of your choice in a **REBOWL** (reusable bowl, EUR 5 deposit) or **RECUP** (reusable cup, EUR 1 deposit). After use, you can return the bowl/cup to the cafeterias of [*Studierendenwerk Stuttgart*] or any other participating catering establishment.

## 3.5 Shopping options

There are no standardized opening hours in Germany. Some supermarkets are open from Monday to Saturday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. or until midnight. Usually, downtown shops open between 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

All regular businesses are closed on Sundays. The shops around Rotebühlplatz and some shops in the Arnulf-Klett-Passage have longer opening hours and are also open on weekends. Many petrol stations are open 24 hours and also offer food, snacks, drinks, and toiletries. Here are some tips for the specific needs of international students:

On **Campus Vaihingen**, there is a small supermarket:

- Frischemarkt Roth, Pfaffenwaldring 45, 70569 Stuttgart-Vaihingen (Mon - Fri 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

In **Vaihingen**, there is a bigger shopping mall with several shops:

- Schwabengalerie, Schwabenplatz 7, 70563 Stuttgart-Vaihingen (Mon - Sat 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.)

**Some other shops** (for specific needs, no recommendations):

**Asian groceries**

GoAsia, Königstraße 1c

**Arabic groceries**

Alsendiebad, Urbanstraße 61

Pamir Markt, Hauptstraße 19

**Kosher groceries**

Doronia (online shop)

**Halal quality food**

Höhenrainer (online shop)

Erciyes Süpermarket, Inselstr. 5

**Zero waste shops**

Schüttgut, Vogelsangstr. 51

Wandel.Handel, Wagenburgstr. 123

**Reasonably priced furniture**

New: IKEA

- Ludwigsburg
- Sindelfingen

Used: Ebay Kleinanzeigen (online)

**Sustainable and regional groceries**

Toogoodtogo (online shop)

Stuttgart weekly markets

Flea Market [*Flohmarkt*], Langwiesenweg 30

Food sharing cafe, Johannesstr. 97

**Items for free**

Verschenkmarkt (online)

Ebay Kleinanzeigen, category [*zu verschenken*]

**Laundromats**

WASH&GO - Waschsalon Stuttgart & Karlsruhe

- City center: Wilhelmstr. 11
- S-West: Schwabstr. 73

## 3.6 Sim Cards

If you want a German phone number or need a mobile phone plan during your stay, a prepaid SIM card or an eSIM is usually the best option. These plans do not require a long-term contract, making them ideal for students staying for one or two semesters.

Having a European phone number can be useful for contacting local services, landlords, or other students. If you already have a SIM card from another EU country, you can usually continue using it in Germany without additional roaming charges thanks to EU roaming regulations. Students from outside the EU should check whether their home provider offers affordable international roaming.

Many grocery stores offer physical prepaid SIM cards, such as Kaufland (Kaufland Mobil) or Aldi (Aldi Talk). Other SIM card providers are Telekom (Prepaid), Vodafone CallYa or Lebara. Some options for an eSIM are fraenk, SIMon mobile, MegaSIM or Nomad.

## 3.7 Bicycles

Many students in Stuttgart and the surrounding area use bicycles to get around. Cycling is an affordable, flexible, and environmentally friendly way to travel to campus and explore the city. You can buy a new or a second-hand bike, with plenty of options available online and in local bike shops.

When cycling in Germany, always use designated bike lanes where available, obey traffic lights and road signs, and make sure your bike has working lights and brakes. Riding under the influence of alcohol, using your phone while cycling, or riding on the sidewalk where it is not permitted can result in fines. Wearing a helmet is strongly recommended, but it is not mandatory for adults.

**Some options** (no recommendations):

| | |
|---|---|
| Ebay online shop<br>online second-hand marketplace<br>Räder-Börse / Fleamarket<br>Second-hand fleamarket in March every year | Cube Fahrrad<br>Handwerkstraße 4<br>70565 Stuttgart |

## 3.8 Parking on Campus Vaihingen

If you come to Stuttgart by car, please be aware that new parking regulations apply across the entire Vaihingen campus from August 2026 on. There are no free parking spaces available on campus and in general parking space is very limited throughout the whole city of Stuttgart.

For students staying for one semester or less, the best option is the on-street parking [*Straßenparken*] provided by PBW. The monthly parking permit costs for students EUR 25. If you are staying for one whole year, the semester parking permit for EUR 125 / semester [*Dauerparken*] may also be of interest. This option is only available for full semesters (October – March or April – September).

To benefit from the discounted rate for both options, you must register at www.mypbw.de and activate the corresponding parking preference [*Straßenparken* or *Dauerparken*] in your account. More information can be found on the PWB website [DE] and will be shared with you at the beginning of your semester.

# 4. Checklist

## Possible before arrival

**Before you move into your dorm (chapter 1.1)**

- ☐ Arrange moving-in appointment with your caretaker/Hausmeister
- ☐ Register with Selfnet e.V. (for dorm internet)
- ☐ Bring a LAN cable

**Health insurance (Chapter 2.1)**

- ☐ Non-EU students: Take out student health insurance from a state health insurance provider. If arriving before semester start (Oct/Apr), arrange travel insurance.
- ☐ Students from EU/Türkiye/Switzerland/UK: Bring a valid EHIC/ GHIC/social agreement confirmation
- ☐ Check if any special rule or exception applies to you (see Chapter 2.1)

**C@MPUS enrollment preparation (chapter 2.2)**

- ☐ Log into C@MPUS and complete your enrollment (photo, health insurance data)
- ☐ Pay the semester contribution (EUR 104 for exchange students)
- ☐ Contact a German statutory health insurance provider for the electronic transmission to the university

**Public Transport Ticket (chapter 1.2)**

- ☐ Buy a ticket for the public transportation in Stuttgart. Choose between:
  - *Deutschlandticket* (EUR 63/month, no age limit, possible from September)
  - *Deutschlandticket JugendBW* (EUR 45/month, under 27 y/o, possible only from October, and you need to be officially enrolled at the University of Stuttgart)

## Upon arrival in Stuttgart

**Move into your dorm (chapter 1.1)**

- ☐ Bring passport and moving-in letter
- ☐ Submit your completed SEPA form to the caretaker (can be handed in later)
- ☐ Check that your name is written on your mailbox to receive postal mail (e.g., student ID card)

**Update your German address in C@MPUS (chapter 2.2)**

- ☐ Update your address in C@MPUS to receive your student ID card

**Residence registration (chapter 2.3)**

- ☐ Register within 14 days at any Bürgerbüro
- ☐ Bring passport, filled registration form [*Meldeschein*], and SWS moving-in letter (or confirmation of your landlord)
- ☐ Ask for the 14-day VVS trial ticket (optional)

**German bank account (if required, chapter 2.4)**

- ☐ If you do not have a bank account in Euros, open a German bank account
- ☐ Bring passport/ID, admission letter, proof of city registration

**Residence permit (if required, chapter 2.5)**

- ☐ Apply within 90 days via the online form (or before your entrance visa expires)

**Liability insurance (optional, chapter 2.6)**

- ☐ Take out liability insurance

***

The International Office wishes you a lot of fun and all the best for your exchange semester(s)!