



photo: Martin Lorenz

2023

STUTTGART WELCOME GUIDE

for first-semester international students

Your start in Stuttgart and the region

Dein Start in Stuttgart und der Region



www.stuttgart.de/your-start-in-stuttgart

STUTTGART




Wirtschaftsförderung
Region Stuttgart


Welcome Center
Stuttgart


Welcome Center
BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG

WELCOME SERVICE
REGION STUTTGART

Gefördert durch / Founded by:



Baden-Württemberg

MINISTERIUM FÜR WIRTSCHAFT, ARBEIT UND TOURISMUS



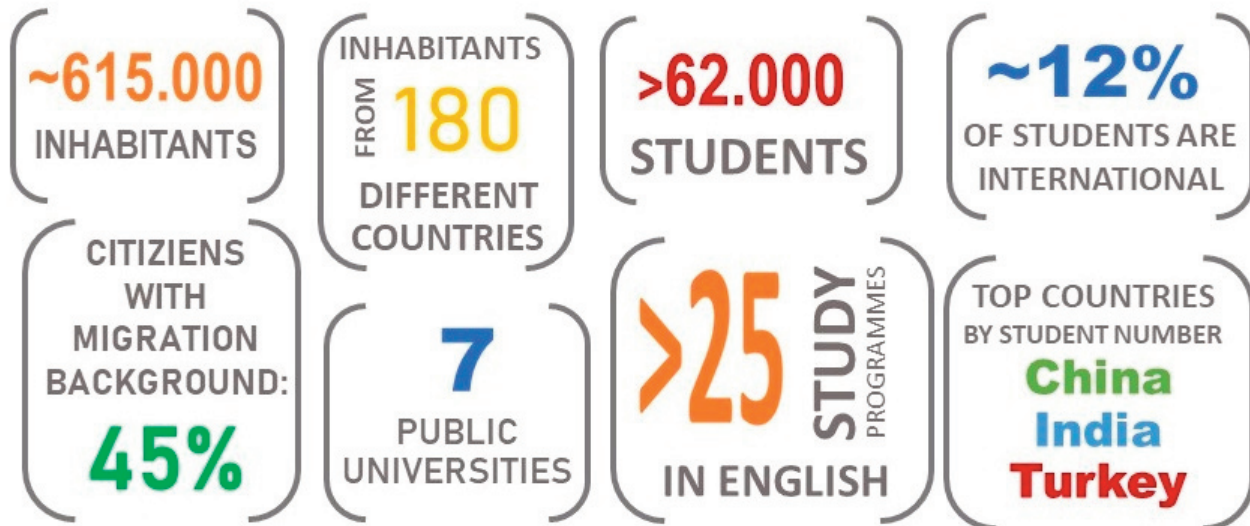
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Stuttgart in Numbers



Welcome to your new place of study!

The Capital City of Stuttgart wants to extend a warm welcome to all international students by offering some valuable tips and tricks for your start here. As a new international student in Stuttgart, you have probably already received loads of handouts, lists, brochures or flyers. So with this Welcome Guide, we hope to provide the relevant information you are still missing.

1. Why should I learn German?
2. Where can I meet new/international people?
3. What can I do in Stuttgart on a student's budget?
4. How can I earn some extra money?
5. How can I find a job?
6. When should I start looking for an apartment?
7. Who can I ask for more information?

We wish you all the best for your start in Stuttgart and the region!

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1. WHY SHOULD I LEARN GERMAN?

For a professional future in Germany a good command of German language (spoken and written) is essential! Why? Because in most companies the working language is German. German language skills are not only important for your every day and professional life, but also in order to participate in cultural activities.

So start now!

Not yet convinced? Here are ten reasons to learn German:

- 1. Business:** Knowing the language of your German business partners improves your relations and therefore your chances for effective communication and success.
- 2. The global career:** Knowledge of German increases your job opportunities with German and foreign companies in your own country and abroad. Proficiency in German helps you to function productively for an employer with global business connections.
- 3. Tourism and hospitality industry:** Tourists from German-speaking countries travel wide and far, and are the world's biggest spenders during their vacations. They appreciate to be looked after by German-speaking staff and tour guides.
- 4. Science and research:** German is the second most commonly used scientific language. Germany is the third largest contributor to research and development and offers research fellowships to scientists from abroad.
- 5. Communication:** Developments in media, information and communication technology require multilingual communicators. A wide range of important websites are in German and worldwide, Germany is ranked number five in terms of annual publication of new books. Therefore knowledge of German grants you extended access to information.
- 6. Cultural understanding:** Learning German provides you with an insight into the way of life, hopes and dreams of people in German speaking countries, broadening your horizon.
- 7. Travel:** Make the most of your travels not only in German-speaking countries, but in many other European countries where German is widely spoken, especially in Eastern Europe.
- 8. Enjoyment of literature, music, art and philosophy:** German is the language of Goethe, Kafka, Mozart, Bach and Beethoven. Indulge in reading and/or listening to their works in their original language.
- 9. Opportunities to study/work in Germany:** Germany awards a generous number of scholarships and other support to study in Germany. Working-holiday visas are available for young foreigners from a range of countries, and special visas are offered to skilled workers and professionals.
- 10. Opportunities for exchange:** A wide range of exchange programme exists for both school and university students between Germany and many countries in the world.

Interested?

In Stuttgart we have many language schools, that offer different courses for German as a foreign language on all levels! Please see their websites for more information.

Also your university might offer German language courses – ask your Language Center (called Sprachenzentrum or short 'SZ').

Here you can find more information:
en.welcome.stuttgart.de/learning-german/

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Why not start today?

Here are some survival phrases, that might be helpful in your day-to-day life:

Hallo! Guten Tag! — Hello! Good day!

Guten Morgen! Guten Abend! — Good morning! Good evening!

Wie heißen Sie?/Wie heißt du? — What's your name? (formal/informal)

Ich heiße... — My name is...

Freut mich, Sie/dich kennen zu lernen — Nice to meet you!

Woher kommen Sie?/Woher kommst du? — Where are you from? (formal/informal)

Ich komme aus Indien/Amerika/Shanghai — I am from India/the US/Shanghai.

Wie lange bist sind Sie/bist du schon in Stuttgart? — How long have you been living in Stuttgart?

Danke! Vielen Dank! — Thank you! Thank you very much!

Das gefällt mir. — I like this.

Sprechen Sie Englisch? — Do you speak English?

Können Sie das wiederholen? Kannst du das wiederholen? — Could you repeat that? (formal/informal)

Tschüss/Auf Wiedersehen — Goodbye

Wie komme ich zum Fernsehturm? — How do I get to the television tower?

Wo ist die Stiftskirche? — Where is the Stiftskirche?

Gibt es hier eine öffentliche Toilette? — Is there a public restroom close by?

Welche Bahn fährt nach Bad Cannstatt? — Which train will take me to Bad Cannstatt?

Hält diese Bahn an der Station „Feuersee“? — Does this train stop at the station “Feuersee“?

Von welchem Gleis fährt die Bahn? — Which platform does the train leave from?

Wann fährt der Zug ab? — When is the train departing?

Was kostet ein Ticket zum Hauptbahnhof? — How much is a ticket to the mainstation?

Kann ich mit Karte bezahlen? — Do you accept credit cards?

Ich suche eine Blume/ein Geschenk... — I am looking for a flower/a present...

Wie viel kosten die Kartoffeln? — How much are the potatoes?

Haben Sie eine Speisekarte auf Englisch? — Do you have an English menu?

Was können Sie empfehlen? — What can you recommend?

Ein Bier/zwei Brezeln..., bitte. — A beer/two pretzels... please.*

Die Rechnung, bitte. — The check, please.

Zum Mitnehmen, bitte. — To go, please.

Können Sie/Kannst du mir bitte helfen? — Can you help me, please?

Wo sind Sie/Wo bist du? — Where are you?

Ich bin... — I am at... (address/location)

Bitte rufen rufen Sie/rufe die Polizei. — Please call the police.

Ich brauche einen Arzt. — I need a doctor.

Ich habe Kopfschmerzen. — I have a headache.

Es tut mir hier weh. — It hurts here (used when pointing at a body part).

Basics



Explore the City



Shopping and Dining

Emergency

We hope you won't have to make use of this phrases!

Are you already familiar with the difference between the formal you “Sie” and the informal you “du” in German? When in doubt, especially if you have never met the person before, use the more polite “Sie”.

***While in other countries the check is always brought to your table, in German restaurants you have to request the check. Otherwise, the staff will assume that you'd like to stay a little bit longer.**

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2. WHERE CAN I MEET NEW/INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE?

The **Welcome Club** is an informal meet-up for international and German young people in the WeltCafé at Charlottenplatz on the first Monday of every month at 7pm. The theme for Welcome Club rotates every month: At Quiz Night, teams of German and international students compete to win great prizes. At Language Night, participants can practice their German via a variety of card and board games. At Cultural Night the Welcome Club visits different places, like the German Christmas Market, the opera or the State Library. Join the get-togethers and mingle, make friends and discover what the beautiful city of Stuttgart has to offer. To participate, please register at lisa.hauff@welcome-center-stuttgart.de.

The **Welcome Center** provides information on a variety of relevant topics such as questions about the residence permit, applying for a job, the social welfare system in Germany, learning German, mobility in Stuttgart, and much more. You are welcome to visit the Welcome Center during the opening hours. Visit www.welcome.region-stuttgart.de or <https://welcome.stuttgart.de/en> for a list of upcoming events and registration details.

Some universities have a newsletter too, for which you can register.

3. WHAT CAN I DO IN STUTTGART ON A STUDENT'S BUDGET?

Student discounts and affordable prices: As a student, you are eligible to receive student rates at local museums, theatres, and stores. Be sure to carry your student identification card with you at all times as proof of enrollment.

An annual **library card** at the Stadtbibliothek at Mailänder Platz costs € 20. With this card, you can check out a wide variety of resources to assist you with your studies or your life in Stuttgart – from textbooks and travel guides to computers/laptops and language-learning CDs.

Flea markets are a great way to shop affordably. These are organised by intercultural organisations, churches and other social groups. For more information see: meine-flohmarkt-termine.de/flohmarkt/plz/bereich_70.html

Wi-Fi Hotspots

Free public Wi-Fi is available at the Tourist Information Center i-Punkt (Königstraße 1a), Schlossplatz, Schillerplatz, and Marktplatz in the Stuttgart city centre. You can also use the free Wifi "WIFI@DB" at some stations and inside the S-Bahn.

Public Transport

If your student identification card has a logo of the Public Transport System (VVS) on it you can use the entire VVS public transport network from Monday to Friday starting at 6 pm, at the weekend and on public holidays for free. Be sure to carry your student identification card and your passport with you at all times.

If you have to buy a ticket, the fare depends on the number of zones you want to travel. If you are travelling within the city of Stuttgart, a ticket for one zone is enough. If you intend to travel no more than three stops by bus or the city railway (or one stop by S-Bahn), you can also buy a short-trip ticket, which is cheaper. It's called "HandyTicket" and is a ticket on your mobile phone, which you can use via the VVS App or the HandyTicket Application. By buying a ticket with your mobile device, you get a better price than if you buy it at a vending machine. Information on how to buy a ticket: <https://en.vvs.de/tickets/how-to-buy-a-ticket/>
Journey Planner: www3.vvs.de/mngg/#!/XSLT_TRIP_REQUEST2@init?language=en

If you want to use the Public Transport more frequently – there is also a special ticket option for students. With the VVS Studentticket, you have access to the entire VVS public transport network for € 210 per semester (6 months). This is a huge discount compared to the regular monthly fee. Take advantage of the opportunity to ride comfortably by bus, tram or train to some of the most popular day and weekend trip destinations in the region.

Useful maps:

VVS public transport network: www.vvs.de/download/RailandTrackNetwork.pdf

VVS Fare Zone Map: www.vvs.de/download/Tarifzonenplan.pdf

Discover Stuttgart

From culture to entertainment, nightlife or cafes & restaurants – in Stuttgart you are in the right place!

Sightseeing: int.stuttgart-tourist.de/en/sights-in-stuttgart

Upcoming events in Stuttgart:

int.stuttgart-tourist.de/en/top-events-in-stuttgart-and-region

International festivals in Stuttgart:

www.stuttgart.de/kultur/kulturelle-vielfalt/kulturfestivals.php

Discover Baden-Württemberg

Not only the city of Stuttgart has to offer a variety of sights. Get inspired and discover the beautiful area of Baden-Württemberg www.bw-studyguide.de/en/why-baden-wuerttemberg/free-time

There are various types of trains in Stuttgart. In the City Center you can use streetcars (so-called U-Bahn), as well as the subway (the faster inner city lane, called S-Bahn) and buses. Special stations are connected by the cog railway (the Zahnradbahn or short 'Zacke' is a rack railway that links Marienplatz with the district of Degerloch) or the cable car (called Seilbahn).

4. HOW CAN I EARN SOME EXTRA MONEY?

As a student, you are allowed to work a total of 120 full days or 240 half days a year. These do not have to be consecutive days, but rather can be calculated as the total number of hours worked within the timeframe of a year (half day = up to 4 working hours, more than 4 working hours = 1 day).

Completing an **internship** is a great way to get your foot in the door at a company while earning a bit of extra money. A common term for part-time jobs especially for students is "Werkstudent". Your subject of studies has to match the company requirements. Keep your eyes open at your university departments for postings about internships, or visit the following websites:

www.meinpraktikum.de
www.1000praktika.de
www.praktika.de
www.praktikum.info
www.praktikumsanzeigen.info
www.praktikum.de
www.jobboerse.arbeitsagentur.de
jobs.region-stuttgart.de
... and many more

Special Advising Services: The Welcome Center offers advising by employees of the Agentur für Arbeit (Employment Agency) regularly, in German and English

TAXES: If you accept a so-called Minijob, that pays maximum € 520/month, you do not need to pay taxes. For other jobs (unless you are self-employed), tax rates will be calculated based on your income and deducted via your employer.

Short-term employment can fit the student schedule very well, especially when it's offered during the semester break.

The Agentur für Arbeit (Employment Agency) will help you to find the right activity for you. You can contact them by e-mail or by phone.

The e-mail address is Stuttgart.Job-Team@arbeitsagentur.de. The office is open from Monday to Friday, 7.30 am - 12 pm and Thursday afternoon 2 pm - 6 pm.

Germany has a minimum wage. It currently stands at € 12 an hour. How much you can earn however depends heavily on your skills, the industry in which you are working, and the regional labour market. For academic and production assistants in industry or for service staff at trade fairs the average hourly wage is often somewhat higher.

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5. HOW CAN I FIND A JOB?

There are certain regulations for German job applications no matter if you are applying for an internship, a part-time job or your first job after your graduation. If you have any questions about job applications or job hunting, please contact the team "Akademische Berufe der Agentur für Arbeit Stuttgart" (academic jobs unit of the Employment Agency Stuttgart). You will be guided through these issues during and after your studies.

If you are based in Stuttgart, ask for an individual consultation appointment at stuttgart.172-Beratung@arbeitsagentur.de

The Welcome Center Stuttgart also offers informational events and consultations in co-operation with the Agentur für Arbeit Stuttgart and further partners for questions about job hunting and applications at info@welcome-center-stuttgart.de www.welcome.region-stuttgart.de

Further online services on employment, professional life, job application and labour market are available at www.arbeitsagentur.de

6. WHEN SHOULD I START LOOKING FOR AN APARTMENT?

University newcomers are not required to live in student housing on campus, but it is an option. There are many benefits to living in a dormitory on campus, such as meeting friends easily and being very close to your faculty buildings. Please note that you have to take care of your accommodation in Germany on your own. A university place does not ensure a room in student housing. Nonetheless you can apply for a room there even if you do not yet have your certificate of enrollment. This will only be necessary on the day you move in. However, your eligibility for student housing expires after six semesters.

You will often find room offers posted on the bulletin boards in university buildings as well as at the student unions (Studierendenwerke). You can find small ads for flat-sharing communities as well as private single-apartments and room offers in your local newspaper, on the internet on real estate online portals and on the website of Studierendenwerk Stuttgart at www.studierendenwerk-stuttgart.de/privatzimmervermittlung

Flat share or the so-called WGs (spoken "WeGe") are popular among students, as students can each have their own room, but enjoy common spaces.

The rent is approximately € 450 for a single room in a WG and € 550 for a small apartment. In student housing offered by student unions the rent level starts at € 230 for a single room apartment. A small apartment with kitchenette and small bathroom costs at least € 280.

Please make sure that you know whether additional expenses (costs for heating, electricity, water, building manager, waste disposal) are already included or not.

Here are some important abbreviations and terms found in the ads:

NK	Nebenkosten	Additional costs (heat, electricity, water, building manager (Hausmeister), garbage)
ZKB	Zimmer, Küche, Bad oder Zimmer, Küche, Balkon	Room, kitchen and bath or Room, kitchen and balcony
WG	Wohngemeinschaft	Shared apartment or flat with one or more roommates
NR	Nichtraucher	Non-smoking
WM	Warmmiete	Heating costs are included in the rent
	Kaution	deposit
	Provision	realtor's fee
EBK	Einbauküche	built-in kitchen

Finding accommodation on the private market in Stuttgart is not an easy thing, so you should begin searching asap.

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Shared apartments / WG

www.wg-gesucht.de is one of many real estate online portals. On this portal you can find advertisements for shared apartments (WG) or you can set up your own advertisement to ask for accommodation. For example:

More real estate online portals:

www.wg-gesucht.de
www.die-wg-boerse.de
www.studenten-wg.de
www.wohngemeinschaft.de
www.vierwaen.de

Some useful tips how to "survive" in student housing:

www.studierendenwerk-stuttgart.de/fileadmin/Mediendatenbank_Studierendenwerk/02_Wohnen_WOW/026_PDF/2019_DSW_Wohnheimwoerterbuch_d-fr-arab.pdf
www.studierendenwerk-stuttgart.de/fileadmin/Mediendatenbank_Studierendenwerk/02_Wohnen_WOW/026_PDF/2019_DSW_Wohnheimwoerterbuch_d-fr-sp.pdf
www.studierendenwerk-stuttgart.de/fileadmin/Mediendatenbank_Studierendenwerk/02_Wohnen_WOW/026_PDF/2019_DSW_Wohnheimwoerterbuch_d-en-chin.pdf
www.studierendenwerk-stuttgart.de/fileadmin/Mediendatenbank_Studierendenwerk/02_Wohnen_WOW/026_PDF/2019_DSW_Wohnheimwoerterbuch_d-pol-rus.pdf

7. WHO CAN I ASK FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Your international office on campus

your first point of contact for questions about any student affairs

Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg

www.dhbw-stuttgart.de/en/international-students

Hochschule für Technik Stuttgart

www.hft-stuttgart.de/international

Hochschule der Medien

www.hdm-stuttgart.de/studierende/abteilungen/aaa

Hochschule für Musik und darstellende Kunst

www.hmdk-stuttgart.de/about/international-office/?L=1

Merz Akademie

www.merz-akademie.de/en/international-office

Universität Stuttgart

www.uni-stuttgart.de/en/university/international/service

Universität Hohenheim

www.uni-hohenheim.de/en/student-counselling-center-team

Studierendenwerke (student unions)

for questions about living arrangements, financial aid, campus gastronomy, childcare services, and legal, social or psychotherapeutic counseling

Studierendenwerk Stuttgart

Rosenbergstraße 18 | 70174 Stuttgart | www.studierendenwerk-stuttgart.de

Studierendenwerk Tübingen-Hohenheim

Kirchnerstraße 5 | 70599 Stuttgart-Hohenheim | www.my-stuwe.de

Living arrangements

www.studierendenwerk-stuttgart.de/en/accommodation

Financial aid

www.studierendenwerk-stuttgart.de/en/money

Insurance

www.studierendenwerk-stuttgart.de/en/counselling/insurances

campus gastronomy

www.studierendenwerk-stuttgart.de/en/food

Child care Services

www.studierendenwerk-stuttgart.de/en/children/daycare-centres

Legal advising

www.studierendenwerk-stuttgart.de/en/counselling/legal-advice

Social counselling

www.studierendenwerk-stuttgart.de/en/counselling/social-counselling

Psychotherapeutic advising

www.studierendenwerk-stuttgart.de/en/counselling/psychotherapeutic-counselling

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Welcome Center Stuttgart

for initial advising services about living and working in Stuttgart and the region for newcomers, skilled professionals and international students: Charlottenplatz 17 | 70173 Stuttgart | www.welcome-center-stuttgart.de

Integrationsbeauftragte (Commissioner for Integration)

Stuttgart attaches great importance to the co-existence of its international population. The integration policy is therefore a top-level issue here and assigned to the Deputy Mayor's Department of Integration and Social Affairs.
www.stuttgart.de/vv/verwaltungseinheit/abteilung-integrationspolitik.php

Ausländerbehörde (Foreigner's Office)

for questions about visas, residency permits, work permits
Eberhardstraße 39 | 70173 Stuttgart | www.stuttgart.de/vv/verwaltungseinheit/auslaender-und-staatsangehoerigkeitsrecht.php

Here you can find answers to frequently asked questions:

www.stuttgart.de/buergerinnen-und-buerger/migranten/fragen-rund-um-aufenthaltstitel/

www.stuttgart.de/your-start-in-stuttgart

Founded by

STUTTGART




Wirtschaftsförderung
Region Stuttgart


Welcome Center
Stuttgart


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BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG
WELCOME SERVICE
REGION STUTTGART



Baden-Württemberg
MINISTERIUM FÜR WIRTSCHAFT, ARBEIT UND TOURISMUS



Hauptbahnhof (Main Station)

Stadtmittte (Public Transport Station)

Charlottenplatz (Public Transport Station)

Studierendenwerk Stuttgart (student union)
Rosenbergstraße 18

Agentur für Arbeit Stuttgart (Employment Agency)
Nordbahnhofstraße 30–34

Ausländerbehörde (Foreigner's office)
Eberhardstraße 39

Bürgerbüro Stadtmittte (Residents' registration office)
Eberhardstraße 39

Mensa city center (cafeteria)
Holzgartenstraße 11

i-Punkt (Tourist Information)
Königsstraße 1 a

Stadtbücherei am Mailänder Platz (Library)
Mailänder Platz 1

BI Welcome Center
Charlottenplatz 17

Kartengrundlage: © Landeshauptstadt Stuttgart,
Stadtmessungsamt

