

How to find an apartment/room in Münster

Yaaay, you are moving to Münster!

Getting the opportunity to do your PhD in one of the most renowned universities in Germany and moving to a new city is very exciting! At the same time, realizing what preparations must be taken for that new phase of life can be very scary. One of the things that you should take care of is finding a place to live. We know that finding a place in Münster at the start of the semester can be a very difficult task, especially if you are still abroad, so we have gathered some tips for you.

What to start with?

Before you start looking and applying for accommodation, we encourage you to think about a few aspects, find out about your own preferences and make the first decisions.

First, what is **the budget** that you can and are willing to pay? The price for a room in a shared flat or a 1-bedroom apartment varies based on the location, size, included facilities, etc. A realistic price is somewhere between 300 € - 600 €.

Do you want to **live alone or with other people**? There are different types of accommodation to rent in Münster, so depending on your needs, wishes and budget, you might look for a room in a shared flat, or rent a small apartment by yourself. A shared apartment is known as "Wohngemeinschaft" or "WG" in German.

Another question to decide on is whether you want to rent a **furnished or unfurnished** place. If you choose unfurnished, remember that this means with absolutely no furniture whatsoever. Often there is not even a kitchen. Apartments in student residences or guest houses are mostly furnished, shared flats usually already have a kitchen and places for short-term accommodation (subleasing, "Zwischenmiete", ZwiMi) are mostly offered fully furnished.

Where would you like to live? The University of Münster is not a campus university, meaning that all departments are spread over the city. Being **close to your department** might make your life easier. However, public transportation in Münster works quite well (and is free with your semester ticket) and everything is very easy to reach in a short amount of time if you cycle, so finding a place close to your department is not the only option. **Living outside the city center** might be a good option if you have a small budget. With the semester ticket you can take buses and even trains to surrounding cities for free.

What kind of housing do you prefer? PhD students have the choice to apply for an **apartment in one of the university's guesthouses**, for a room/apartment in one of the **student halls of residence**, or a place offered by **private** property owners. If you prefer the first two options, you should apply as soon as possible – while you are still abroad. If you prefer to rent a place from a private provider, you should think about the arguments for and against searching from abroad or booking a short-term accommodation and searching once you are here.

Important tips!

- ✚ Start looking for a place as early as possible and use various channels for application!
- ✚ React on many accommodation ads. If possible, react as soon as you see the ad.
- ✚ If the advertisement includes a phone number, make sure to call first, before writing a message.
- ✚ If there is no phone number, you should write a detailed message. Remember that you are competing with many other people when you apply for accommodation. Therefore, you should write a convincing, nice and informative text about yourself. Think about why people would want to live with you and why you want to live with other people/or in that apartment.
- ✚ If you can't find a room for the whole period of your stay try to look for a short-term rent ("Zwischenmiete"). Once you have a place for the first few weeks you can continue searching from there.
- ✚ To protect yourself against **fraud**, do not pay without having a contract, especially when you are abroad and have not seen the place and owner beforehand. Do not transfer money if you have any doubts.
- ✚ Make sure that you understand what the monthly rent payment covers. It is common that accommodation are advertised with the price for "Kaltmiete", meaning that it does not include the expenses such as water, electricity, gas and internet.
- ✚ When moving in, check if light and water fixtures work, investigate the overall condition of the place (windows, walls and floors) and note the damages down with your landlord. This way you can make sure that you will not be charged for some damages that you have not caused.

University's Guesthouses

There are four guesthouses with approximately 100 apartments in total for academics coming to Münster University from abroad, namely Alexander von Humboldt House, Europa House, the Germania Campus, and Edith Stein College. The apartments are different in size and price. Early application is highly recommended due to high desirability of apartments. Please note that you can only rent an apartment for a **maximum of 12 months**.

<https://www.uni-muenster.de/leben/en/gaestehaeuser/index.html>

Online application form: <https://www.uni-muenster.de/leben/en/gaestehaeuser/anfrage.html>

Student Residences

Studierendenwerk Münster

As all other students who are formally enrolled at the University of Münster, doctoral students may also apply for the accommodation provided by the Student Support Service (Studentenwerk). You can apply for a place in the dormitory without being enrolled. However, the enrollment status must be submitted and verified latest when you move in! If you are interested in living in the student halls of residence (student dorms), you should consider applying online even while you are still in your home country as the waiting lists are quite long (up to 24 months).

Enrollment deadline for Winter: 15th August – 15th November

Enrollment deadline for Summer: 15th February – 15th of May

Information on room layout, location and prices may be found on the website of the Student Support Service (Studentenwerk):

<https://stw-muenster.de/en/studentisches-wohnen-en/wohnanlagen/#/>

Student residence halls run by private and church-affiliated organisations

Here is an overview of all student halls of residence: <http://www.stuwo.de/wohnheim-region/muenster/>

AStA Münster

The AStA (student union) collects housing offers on their website. Here you can find many posts of students who sublet their room/apartment for a short period of time (e.g. a semester) <http://www.dasbrett.ms/wohnen/angebote>

Private housing market

- www.nadann.de (local newspaper, launched Wednesdays and Saturdays)
- <http://immomarkt.ms/suche/mieten-wohnung-in-muenster> (local newspaper, new ads on Saturdays)
- www.wg-gesucht.de
- <http://wohnungen.ms>
- <https://www.ebay-kleinanzeigen.de/s-wohnung-mieten/muenster-%28westfalen%29/c203l929>
- [Wohnen auf Zeit Münster – DomoCompany Münster – Short term rental Muenster](#) (furnished apartments for rent)

- ✚ The websites www.wg-gesucht.de and www.nadann.de offer to set an e-mail push notification, so you will get an e-mail every time someone uploads a new offer. To activate the e-mail alert, you have to create a user account and then go to “My Filters and E-Mail Alerts”. This way you can be the first to respond to a new offer, which can be very helpful.

Social Media

- Housing Münster – ERASMUS & International Students (Facebook group) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/287677864621181/about/>
- International PhD students and Staff (Facebook group) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/310027835815867/?ref=bookmarks>
- Wohnungen Münster (Facebook group) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wohnungenmuensterprovisionsfreimieten/>
- Wohnen in Münster – WG, etc. (Facebook group) https://www.facebook.com/groups/482547305098234/#_=_
- WG Zimmer oder Wohnung in Münster gesucht (Facebook group) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/613122835404938/about/>

Temporary Accommodation

- Jugendgästehaus Aasee (youth hostel): www.djh-wl.de/jh/muenster
- Sleep Station Hostel: www.sleep-station.de
- Nordstern Hostel: <https://nordstern-hostel.de/>
- Rossi's Bed & Breakfast: www.bedandbreakfastmuenster.de/startseite.html
- ✚ AirB&B: www.airbnb.com/
- ✚ Couchsurfing: <https://www.couchsurfing.com/>

Emergency short-term accommodation (Studierendenwerk)

The *Studierendenwerk* offers emergency short-term accommodation (Notfallunterkünfte) for those struggling to find rooms, which includes a section in a shared hall with a bed and wardrobe for 5 €/night.

<https://www.stw-muenster.de/en/studentisches-wohnen-en/wohnanlagen/notunterkuenfte/>

PhD Hospitality Network – host.link.exchange

The housing situation in Münster adds an extra hurdle at the beginning of the PhD – in particular for those coming from abroad. Our plan is to establish a network of doctoral candidates (international and German) and PhD friends, who would like to support their newly arrived peers with a couch or another accommodation opportunity or house hunting support for a few days. If you are looking for a short-term accommodation or house hunting support, contact the Graduate Centre and we'll put you in contact with the network.

[PhD Hospitality Network - host.link.exchange \(1. Juni 2022 - 31. Dezember 2022\) · WWU Indico \(Indico\) \(uni-muenster.de\)](#)

Good to know

You can find a list of abbreviations relevant for accommodation search here: <https://www.uni-muenster.de/leben/en/abkuerzungsverzeichnis.html>. Here a few important abbreviations and words:

WG (Wohngemeinschaft): shared flat

Whg. (Wohnung): flat

ZwiMi (Zwischenmiete): short-term rent

ZKB: Room, Kitchen, Bathroom

Kaltniete: rental charge for a room or flat exclusive of heating, water, electricity and other additional costs

Kaution: deposit (recoverable when you move out providing there is no damage to the property)

Wishing you a successful accommodation search and looking forward to greeting you in Münster!

Your Graduate Centre Team