

#youchange

Find your perfect
place to stay



macromedia university
of applied sciences



International Students Housing Guide Berlin

Revised and updated 14/07/2021

Errors and omissions excepted. We assume no responsibility for third-party contents.

For student internal use only—do not distribute this document in whole or in part.

1. General Information	3
2. Where To Live in Berlin	5
3. Short-Term Accommodation	7
4. Long-Term Accommodation	10
4.1 Introductory Information	10
4.2 WG/Flatshare	12
4.3 Housing Partners	14
Staytoo	
i Live Urban Living	
Village M	
Campus Viva	
Neon Wood	
THE FIZZ	
Smartments	
Berlinovo and EasyLiving	
The Student Hotel	
Uniplaces	
HousingAnywhere	
Spotahome	
4.4 Other Housing Providers	27
5. Housing Glossary, House Viewings and Further Tips	29
6. Schufa Credit Report	32

1. General Information

Finding affordable accommodation in Berlin has become very difficult in recent years, not just for students; the days of cheap housing are long gone. We therefore strongly advise you start looking for accommodation as soon as you have been accepted to Macromedia University. We recommend you opt for securing a room in one of Berlin's private student residences or student apartment houses already before coming to Germany—detailed information on Macromedia University's housing partners can be found below. If you arrive only shortly before or even after the start of the semester, the more affordable private student residences or apartment houses will already be full for the semester and you will have to rely on other options. For searching other types of long-term accommodation, you should book short-term accommodation for the first few weeks of your stay in Germany. To find permanent accommodation, you should check out the private housing market; another option are Berlin's city-owned housing companies. Please note that the public halls of residence managed by the Studierendenwerk (Association for Student Affairs) Berlin are not available to Macromedia University students.

Generally, the closer to the start of the semester you arrive, the longer it will take you to find permanent student accommodation. Please don't expect to find affordable accommodation in the city centre or in the vicinity of the university; in a city the size of Berlin, it's perfectly normal for students to commute 45 minutes or longer to reach the university. Please note that Macromedia University does not offer student housing of its own and that we won't be able to find a place to live *for* you. We will of course provide you with a wealth of information and suggestions where to look and assist you in any way we can.

We strongly discourage students from signing any longer-term contract and/or making any payment for such a contract from abroad, unless it is a trustworthy accommodation provider such as a student residence. Similarly, after you arrival in Germany, you should never make a payment for a room you haven't checked out in person—it may not exist. Unfortunately, housing scams happen in Berlin and international students have fallen prey to them in the past. If you need assistance while looking for accommodation, e.g. in the case of language barriers or uncertainties about the housing market and accommodation offers, please contact your buddy and ask him or her to help with communication and inquiries with landlords or rental agencies. We also recommend your buddy accompany you in person when it comes to negotiating contractual matters and signing a German-language contract.

1. General Information

Helpful general information on moving to Berlin and on issues like the city's neighbourhoods and the housing market, prerequisites and documents needed for renting as well as many tips and tricks can be found here:

www.settle-in-berlin.com/find-a-flat-in-berlin-apartement/
needleberlin.com/move/
blog.mygermanexpert.com/2013/02/Apartment-listing-for-Germany.html
jonworth.eu/how-to-find-a-flat-in-berlin-the-sequel/
allaboutberlin.com/guides/moving-to-berlin#find-a-place-to-live
www.justlanded.com/english/Germany/Housing-Rentals



Please note that you submit a booking or booking request for accommodation at your own risk and that Macromedia University cannot be held responsible for any losses, accidents or damages to people and property.

2. Where To Live in Berlin

Berlin is divided into twelve official districts, which are all made up of several neighbourhoods (often called Kiez). Every neighbourhood offers all you need for daily life: supermarkets, shopping centers, doctors' practices, parks, bars and restaurants. The character of Berlin's neighbourhoods changes from street to street and sometimes even from year to year. While some Berliners have lived in the same neighbourhood and even the same apartment for many years, students and expats tend to be much more mobile. Whatever your lifestyle, needs and taste may be, you are surely going to find a place that suits you.

For a detailed overview, please see www.needleberlin.com/move/

Wedding, sometimes called the new Kreuzberg, is a neighbourhood with affordable rents, appreciated by immigrant families, young artists and students. It is located north of the city center but still inside public transport zone B and thus well connected.

Mitte is the eastern center of Berlin. It's a very touristy and often crowded part of the city, where some of its major sights are located, such as the Brandenburg Gate. Mitte offers lots of hostels and hotels but not so many flatsharing communities, and is therefore usually a rather expensive place to live.

Charlottenburg and **Schöneberg** offer beautiful residential areas and green spaces as well as some great shopping (around Kurfürstendamm) and a vibrant café and restaurant scene in former West Berlin. Rents are rather high, but it's certainly worth a try.

Close to the center, **Prenzlauer Berg** is a trendy eastern neighbourhood with beautiful vintage buildings, cobbled streets and green areas. Already before the fall of the Wall, it was home to artists. Rents are constantly rising these days but are more affordable in northern sections of this part of town, towards the **Pankow** district.

Kreuzberg, also affectionately called X-Berg, is a centrally located western district. It boasts some beautiful residential areas along Landwehrkanal (a Spree River canal) and is traditionally home to the city's Turkish community. It is also home to hipsters, graffiti and street art and some of Berlin's best bars and restaurants. Macromedia University is located in one of Kreuzberg's trendiest sections.

Friedrichshain, a part of former East Berlin, is well-connected and close to the center. Due to its buzzing night life and "alternative" lifestyles left over in some places from the years following the fall of the Wall, it's a great place to live for students.



2. Where To Live in Berlin

Recommendable Districts

Kreuzberg (close to campus)
Neukölln (close to campus)
Friedrichshain
Prenzlauer Berg
Pankow
Mitte (close to campus)

Weissensee
Wedding
Moabit
Schöneberg
Charlottenburg
Steglitz
Reinickendorf



Berlin is generally considered a safe city. Nonetheless, there are some areas to avoid due to criminal activities often related to drugs.

Areas To Avoid

Kottbusser Tor (Kreuzberg)
Görlitzer Park and Lausitzer Platz (Kreuzberg)
Wrangelkiez (neighbourhood around Wrangelstraße) and Schlesisches Tor (Kreuzberg)
Hermannplatz and Hermannstraße (Neukölln)
Donaukiez (neighbourhood around Donaustraße) (Neukölln)

Revaler Straße (Friedrichshain)
Part of Rigaer Straße (Friedrichshain)
Kurfürstenstraße (Schöneberg)

Macromedia University is a two-minute walk from the subway station Mehringdamm on lines U6 and U7; another subway station, Hallesches Tor on U1 and U3, is nearby. With your student semester ticket, which you'll receive on enrolment day, you can use the public transport within Berlin, a reliable system with a good combination of buses, trams, subway and above-ground urban trains serving the metropolitan area. Please note that there is no parking on campus and only very limited parking in the vicinity.

For orientation, you can download the free app "Going Local Berlin":

itunes.apple.com/de/app/going-local-berlin/id964438630?mt=8
play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=de.visitberlin.goinglocal&hl=de

3. Short-Term Accommodation

Unless you have been able to secure a place at a student residence or student apartment house from abroad, it is a wise idea to check out permanent accommodation options in person after your arrival in Berlin. We recommend you book short-term accommodation for the first few weeks after arrival. As mentioned above, the closer to the start of the semester you arrive, the longer it will take you to find affordable permanent accommodation. In addition to a huge choice of hostels and hotels, Berlin also has a large offer of temporary, short-term rental housing options. If you decide to stay at a hostel or hotel, please be aware that you might only be able to stay for a few days as there is a great demand for such accommodation in Berlin throughout the year. If you wish to live at a hostel or hotel for an extended time, you will likely have to change rooms or even move to a different place. Another option is sharing a holiday flat with other students for some time and share the cost. Please note that short-term housing options other than hostel or hotel accommodation are often provided by rental agencies that charge commission (non-refundable). In the following, you will find a selection of useful links:

(Major) Online Housing Portals

www.immonet.de/moebliertes-wohnen.html (German)

www.immobilo.de (German)

www.immowelt.de/ (German)

www.host-a-fan.de/

(Student) Apartment Houses

www.berlinovo.de/en/suche-apartments (see housing partners below)

www.thestudenthotel.com/berlin-mitte/ (see housing partners below)

www.1a-apartment.de/en/ (guest house)

Online Rental Agencies/Holiday Flats

www.uniplaces.com (see housing partners below)

housinganywhere.com/Berlin--Germany/macromedia-university-of-applied-sciences-berlin/sign-up (see housing partners below)

www.spotahome.com/ (see housing partners below)

www.airbnb.com/?locale=en

www.9flats.com

www.homecompany.de/en/index

wunderflats.university/hs-macromedia

www.medici-living.com/

www.wimdu.co.uk

www.holidu.com/vacation-rentals/germany/berlin

gloveler.de/ (German)



3. Short-Term Accommodation

Stylish, Expensive Offers by Agencies

en.coming-home.org/index.php?l=en
www.fineandmine.de/
crocodilian.de

Hostels Near Macromedia University

www.neu.metropolhostel-berlin.de/?lang=en
www.acamaberlin.com/
www.happybed.de/en/
www.grandhostel-berlin.de/en
www.aohostels.com/en/berlin/
www.hostelworld.com/
www.hostelbookers.com/
www.hostels.com/



Homestay/Peerstay

Another good option for short- as well as long-term accommodation is to stay directly in Berliners' homes on the basis of a homestay or peerstay agreement. Homestay implies a family experience (though this does not necessarily mean a traditional family but may also refer to a single parent, for instance), whereas peerstay basically signifies renting a room in a young person's apartment as in any flatshare. Homestay students are expected to participate in basic family activities, such as sharing meals and spending some leisure time together, and often become a true member of their host family during their stay.

3. Short-Term Accommodation

For international students with little experience of being abroad for an extended time, homestay is a great way to combat homesickness. It also provides opportunities for language learning and intensive cultural exchange. Homestay means trust and safety. Good homestay families are connected to local agencies who check and approve the homes offered.

Prices are mostly listed per day/room (starting at around 20 to 30 euros*). If you want to stay for a long-term period, please contact the host directly to ask for monthly rent—many hosts are ready to host long-term guests at a special rate (starting from around 600 euros). The monthly cost for home- or peerstay is higher than the cost for a room in a shared flat due to certain meals, laundry and internet being usually included.

Please be aware that students must be at least 18 years old or accompanied by a supervising adult to make a reservation or stay in a homestay/peerstay household.

A good portal for searching homestay/peerstay providers with ratings and reviews can be found here:

www.homestay.com/



*June 2021

4. Long-Term Accommodation

4.1 Introductory Information

As regards permanent accommodation, the vast majority of Berlin students live in private accommodation, which is usually also the best long-term option for international students. Most students live in flatsharing communities (Wohngemeinschaft, abbreviated WG); depending on your lifestyle and budget, a studio or one-bedroom flat may also be an option for you. In general, private accommodation is advertised by landlords, rental agencies and rental brokers on the internet and sometimes still in daily newspapers. Another long-term accommodation option are Berlin's city-owned housing companies, more on which below.

Renting private accommodation from a broker or agency is often much more costly than renting directly from a landlord or from a person living in an already existing flatsharing community. Many agencies and brokers charge commission for finding accommodation for you. A room in a shared flat is cheaper and easier to find than a studio or one-bedroom apartment and is often already furnished. While all tenants have their own room in a flatshare, it is common that living room, kitchen and bathroom are shared. You will enjoy benefits like cooking together and spending your leisure time with your flatmates. You will gain insights into different cultures and languages far more easily in a shared flat than if you live on your own. Another advantage of a shared flat is that the deposit is usually smaller than the one required by a rental agency and there is usually no commission. In most cases, you will be invited to an interview so your potential flatmates can meet you before the deal is closed. You will find further information on flatshare and its characteristics below.

As soon as you have found your new home, you will have to sign the contract. In some cases, you will sign the contract (Mietvertrag) directly with the landlord, which gives you strong rights but also hefty responsibilities. In a flatshare you will often not close a direct contract with the landlord but an "Untermietvertrag." That means you are renting from the person who closed the main contract with the landlord and is subletting a room to you.

Rent for a room in a shared flat starts at around 450 to 500 euros, depending on the neighbourhood, room size and equipment. Rent for a studio/one-bedroom flat starts at around 650 to 750 euros. Utilities are usually charged extra. Please keep in mind that you are usually required to leave a security deposit when signing a contract (usually two or three months' rent), which will be reimbursed once your rental contract ends.

4. Long-Term Accommodation: Introductory Information

The following websites provide a large variety of private accommodation offers in Berlin:

Major Online Housing Portals

www.immobilienscout24.de (German)

www.immonet.de/ (German)

www.immowelt.de (German)

www.immobilo.de/ (German)

www.wohnung-jetzt.de/ (German)

www.ebay-kleinanzeigen.de/s-auf-zeit-wg/c199 (German)



It is a good idea to join Macromedia University's International Facebook Group, in which students also publish housing offers. Please note that it is a closed group. If your Facebook name differs from your real name, please write a Facebook message with your real name to the group in order to be verified and allowed to join the group.



Macromedia University find, share, connect

www.facebook.com/groups/356078501220632/?fref=ts

4. Long-Term Accommodation

4.2 WG/Flatshare

The best way to save money and at the same time experience local culture is to live in a flatshare. The majority of students and young people prefer living in a shared flat (Wohngemeinschaft/WG) over living in a studio or one-bedroom apartment. If that is an option for you, you should be aware of the following, in addition to what has already been said above:

Number of flatmates: A WG can have anywhere from two up to ten or even more people. This means living with other people on a daily basis, sharing a bathroom, kitchen and living room.

Type of WG: There are WGs based on sex (all-female, all-male) or food habits (vegetarian, vegan) as well as needs-must flatshares (Zweck-WGs), i.e. just a means to save money without sharing anything but the apartment and the costs.

WG rules: These may include a cleaning schedule (Putzplan) as well as rules for guests and visitors. There are also WGs without any rules.

WG literally means “living community,” so it is not just a flatshare but rather a lifestyle. It is a great way to find new friends, explore the city together and experience German and other local cultures. It is a guarantee of not being alone and having someone to talk to, which is particularly attractive to many international students a long way from home.

Here are four reasons to live in a WG:

www.german-way.com/four-reasons-to-live-in-a-wg-in-germany/

Further useful information on Berlin flatshares:

www.settle-in-berlin.com/flat-share-in-berlin-flatshare/

There are lots of WG rooms on offer; unfortunately, the majority of these offers are in German. Nevertheless, international WGs are becoming more and more frequent in Berlin. There you can expect to meet flatmates from all over the world who speak English and advertise in English.

4. Long-Term Accommodation: WG/Flatshare

Large Offer of Flatshares (WG)

In English

www.wg-gesucht.de/en/

www.stw.berlin/en/housing.html#jump_living_elsewhere (only Living Elsewhere is open to Macromedia students)
en.wg-suche.de/flatshare/deutschland-berlin

Facebook Groups

Flats in Berlin: www.facebook.com/groups/393237407451209/?fref=ts

Housing Berlin/Wohnen in Berlin: www.facebook.com/groups/227826694007405/

Berlin Wg Zimmer Wohnung Room Flat Apartment for Rent: www.facebook.com/groups/easy.wg/

In German

www.wgcompany.de/

www.wg-liste.de/berlin/

www.immobilienscout24.de

www.immonet.de/

www.immowelt.de/

www.ebay-kleinanzeigen.de/s-auf-zeit-wg/berlin/c19913331



4. Long-Term Accommodation

4.3 Housing Partners

Macromedia University constantly strives to acquire new contacts with housing providers in order to offer students a variety of housing options, with a focus on long-term accommodation in private student residences and apartment houses. Our partners offer accommodation throughout Berlin, in different price ranges and of different types, for instance fully furnished apartments or rooms with extra services. You can choose the most suitable accommodation depending on your budget, lifestyle and taste. We have contacted these partners after learning about them to make sure they are a suitable option. There is, however, no business relation, no commission nor any other benefit for Macromedia other than making life easier for students coming to us. For any additional information or room bookings, please turn directly to our partners' website.

THE STUDENT HOTEL BERLIN



[SPOTAHOME]



4. Long-Term Accommodation: Housing Partners



According to their motto “living on your own, while sharing your life,” **Staytoo** apartments combine amenities with the privacy of your own apartment, the sense of community and all the fun it provides. The fully-furnished apartments provide a cosy atmosphere and high functionality and include a private bathroom and a kitchenette with refrigerator, ceramic hob and built-in microwave. Common areas around the house are great for socialising and catching up with friends, joining others for lunch and relaxing. Staytoo apartments are located in Kreuzberg, only a 20-minute walk from Macromedia University, which is really close for a city the size of Berlin. The trendy Bergmannkiez with cool shops, cafés and bars is also nearby. In the summer you can relax in the surrounding parks.

Approximate price: starting from 599 euros*, minimum stay of six months includes utilities, such as electricity, heating, water and internet, as well as the use of common areas for studying and socialising (extra fee for laundry machines).

Location: Dudenstraße 80, 10965 Berlin

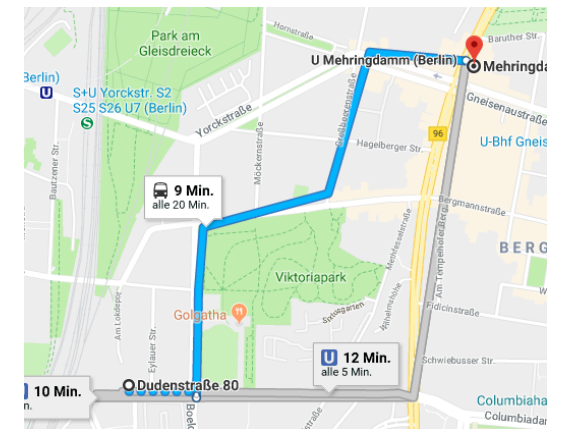
For further details, please check their website: www.staytoo.de/en/berlin-student-apartments/

Booking requests to be submitted via: www.staytoo.de/en/booking/

Please indicate that you are a Macromedia student!



Single Apartment
(c) Staytoo Living Holding GmbH
www.staytoo.de/en/imprint/



Location on map and connection to campus

* June 2021

4. Long-Term Accommodation: Housing Partners



i Live Urban Living Berlin is a housing complex with modern apartments and spacious common areas in the middle of Friedrichsfelde in the district of Lichtenberg, which is well connected to Macromedia University by public transport. i Live offers two types of fully furnished apartments: 1) type comfort: 272 one-room apartments with kitchen and private bathroom, mostly with balcony/terrace, 2) type penthouse: 26 two-room apartments with kitchen, private bathroom and roof deck. All apartments are equipped with a bed, wardrobe, TV board, dining table with two chairs, writing desk with chair and container, shelves and oddments compartment.

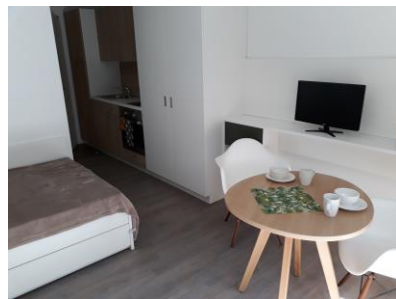
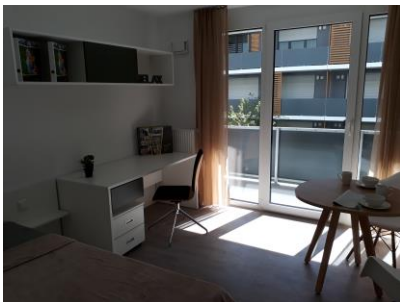
Approximate price: starting from 410 euros* (rents vary according to factors such as floor, location and size) plus around 135 euros for utilities, such as electricity, heating, water and internet, as well as the use of common areas for studying and socialising (extra fee for laundry machines). There is also a one-time community fee to be paid at the start. The minimum duration of stay is one year, which can be extended.

Location: Balatonstraße 1/1a, 10319 Berlin

For further details, please check their website: www.i-live-berlin.de/en/

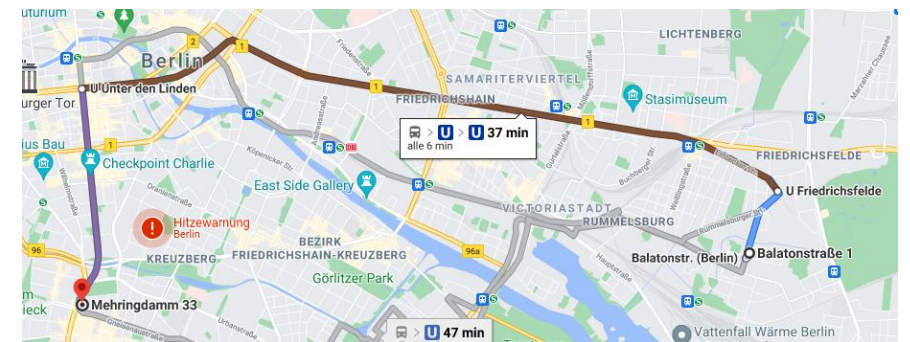
Booking requests to be submitted via: www.i-live-berlin.de/en/rent

Please indicate that you are a Macromedia student!



Single Apartment

* June 2021



Location on map and connection to campus

4. Long-Term Accommodation: Housing Partners

Village M

Village M is a co-living place with modern apartments and spacious common areas in the district of Wedding. It is well connected to Macromedia University by public transport. Village M offers two types of fully furnished apartments: 1) classic room in a shared flat: the room is for the sole use of the tenant, while the common areas (bathroom and kitchen) are shared with other tenants; 2) studio apartments with their own kitchen and bathroom. All rooms/apartments are equipped with bed, wardrobe, writing desk with chair, shelves and oddments compartment.

Approximate price: starting from 490 euros* (rents vary according to factors such as floor, location and size), including utilities, such as electricity, heating, water and internet. The minimum duration of stay are three months, which can be extended.

Location: Nazarethkirchstraße 51, Entry A-E, 13347 Berlin

For further details, please check their website: village-m.de/

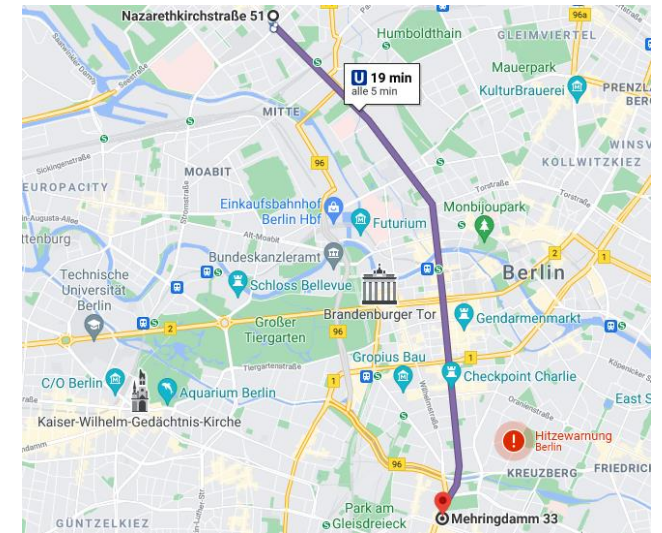
Booking requests to be submitted via their website

Phone: +49 (0) 173 467 0000, Email: info@village-m.de

Please indicate that you are a Macromedia student!



(c) Village M



Location on map and connection to campus

* June 2021

4. Long-Term Accommodation: Housing Partners



CAMPUS VIVA is a Germany-wide housing provider with apartments for rent and for sale in several cities. Its Berlin locations **CAMPUS VIVA I** and **CAMPUS VIVA II** provide hundreds of fully furnished apartments for rent in the Wedding district, which is well connected to Macromedia University by public transport. There are different types of apartments on offer, common areas include a study room, fitness room and garden.

Approximate price: starting from 470 (CAMPUS VIVA I) and 495 (CAMPUS VIVA II) euros* plus around 100 euros for utilities. The minimum duration of stay is one year.

Locations:

Campus Viva I: Jülicher Str. 16-17, 13357 Berlin (Wedding)

Campus Viva II: Koloniestraße 11-12, 13359 Berlin (Wedding)

For further details, please check their website: www.campusviva.de/en/renting/

Booking requests to be submitted via: www.campusviva.de/en/contact/

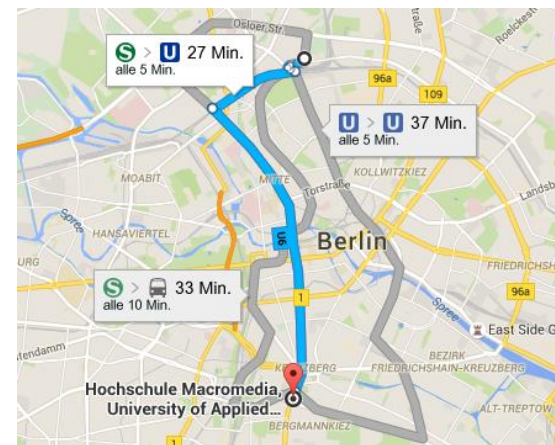
Phone: +49 89 242280-30, Email: info@campusviva.de

Please indicate that you are a Macromedia student!

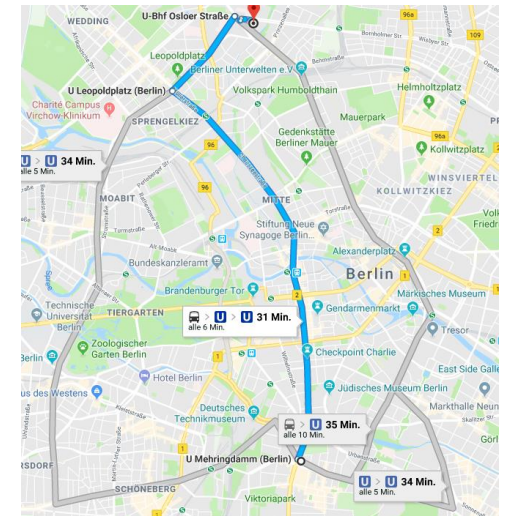


Single Apartment
(c) CAMPUS VIVA SERVICE GMBH
www.campusviva.de/impressum, 2dm GmbH

* June 2021



Location of CAMPUS VIVA I (Jülicher Straße) on map and connection to campus



Location of CAMPUS VIVA II (Koloniestraße) on map and connection to campus

4. Long-Term Accommodation: Housing Partners



Neon Wood is another brand of student apartments with several locations in Germany. Putting design at the center of its mission, Neon Wood aims to offer its tenants a great balance of support, autonomy and excitement as they focus on their studies as well as on experiencing local culture. Neon Wood provides more than one thousand fully furnished apartments for students and international professionals in several districts of Berlin. Its locations are well connected to Macromedia University by public transport. Common areas include a study room, laundry room, fitness room and garden. Neon Wood also offers on-demand services like housekeeping.

Approximate price: starting from 600 euros*, including utilities, such as electricity, heating and water. The minimum duration of stay is six months.

Locations:

Warschauer Str. 6, 10243 Berlin (Friedrichshain)

Stralsunder Str. 14, 13355 Berlin (Wedding)

For further details, please check their website: neonwood.com/
Booking requests to be submitted via: neonwood.com/booking/

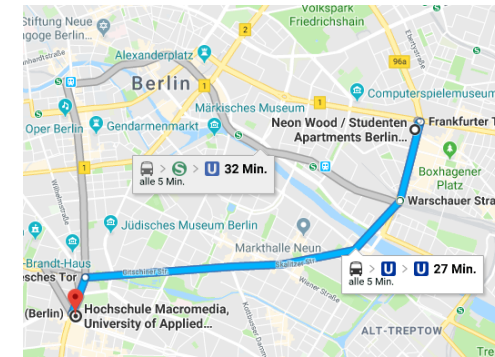
Please indicate that you are a Macromedia student!



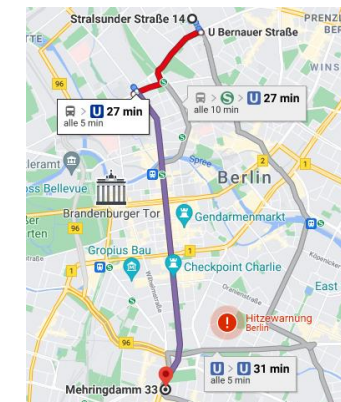
* June 2021



Single Apartment
(c) Cresco Immobilien Verwaltungs GmbH
neonwood.com/de/impressum/



Location of Warschauer Straße on map and connection to campus



Location of Stralsunder Straße on map and connection to campus

4. Long-Term Accommodation: Housing Partners



"Living cum laude" is the motto of **THE FIZZ** and stands for "Living and much more besides." THE FIZZ is a Germany-wide provider of student apartments and offers more than two hundred fully furnished apartments in Kreuzberg. It is well connected to Macromedia University by public transport. Located on seven floors, all apartments of THE FIZZ Berlin feature a modern kitchenette with microwave and fridge as well as a private bathroom. Common areas include a laundry room, a study space, a club house and a green courtyard. The FIZZ also organises entertaining inhouse events such as cooking and film nights and puts great stress on extensive service for its tenants.

Approximate price: starting from 732 euros*, including utilities, such as electricity, heating, water and internet. The minimum duration of stay is one year.

Location: Köpenicker Strasse 43, 10179 Berlin

For further details, please check their website: www.the-fizz.com/student-accommodation/berlin

Booking requests (promotion in 2021) to be submitted via: www.the-fizz.com/en/campagne/10-of-your-monthly-rent/

Please indicate that you are a Macromedia student!



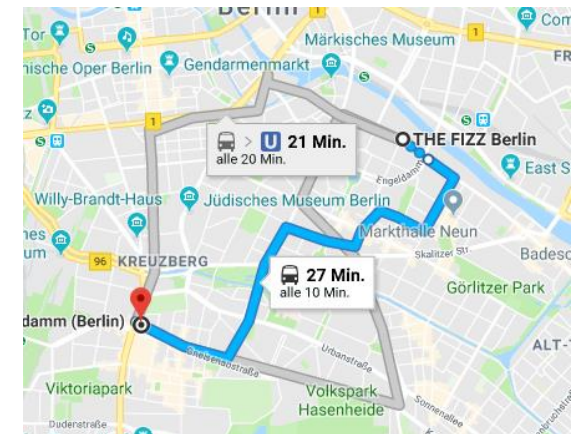
Single Studio



Club house in THE FIZZ
(c) THE FIZZ

www.the-fizz.com/studentenwohnungen/impressum.html

* June 2021



Location on map and connection to campus

4. Long-Term Accommodation: Housing Partners



SMARTments is tailored to the needs of young trainees and students. SMARTments apartment houses are located in two districts of Berlin, which are well connected to Macromedia University by public transport. The fully-furnished apartments include a kitchenette with microwave and ceramic hob. The common areas offer space for learning groups and also function as an extended living room. They're a great place to meet, study or have a party.

Approximate price: starting from 465 (Lotte Laserstein Haus) and 510 (David Friedländer Haus) euros*, including utilities, such as electricity, heating, water and internet. Tenants also have access to a laundry room (extra fee for laundry machines). The minimum duration of stay is six months.

Locations:

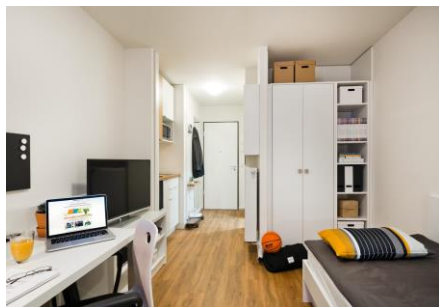
David Friedländer Haus, Kaiserin-Augusta-Allee 4, 10553 Berlin (Moabit)

Lotte Laserstein Haus, Am Carlsgarten 7/9, 10318 Berlin (Karlshorst)

For further details, please check their website: www.smartments-student.de/en/

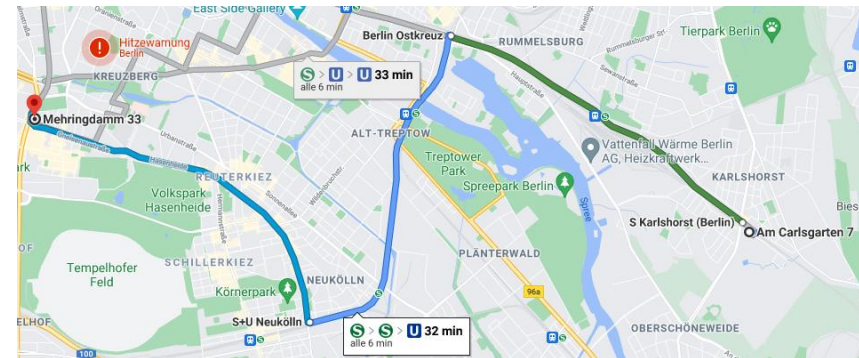
Booking requests to be submitted via: www.smartments-student.de/en/your-move-in/apartment-request/

Please indicate that you are a Macromedia student!

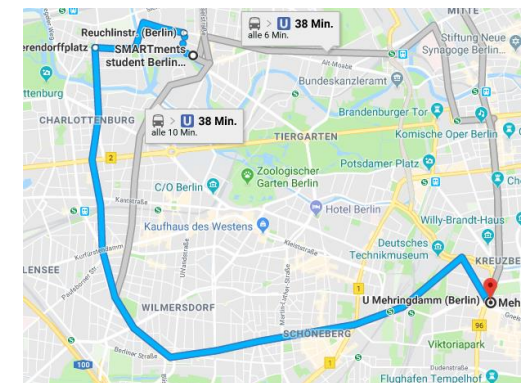


Single Apartment
(c) GBI AG
www.smartments-student.de/en/servicenavigation/impressum/

* June 2021



Location of Lotte Laserstein Haus (Am Carlsgarten) on map and connection to campus



Location of David-Friedländer Haus (Kaiserin-Augusta-Allee) on map and connection to campus

4. Long-Term Accommodation: Housing Partners



Berlinovo is one of Berlin's large housing providers. Specially for bachelor's students, they offer fully furnished apartments for rent through the platform EasyLiving: www.easy-living4u.de/en. EasyLiving Apartments are located around Berlin, in the districts of Spandau, Neukölln and Lichtenberg. Neukölln apartments are those closest to the campus (approximately thirty minutes by public transport). Prices start from 311 euros*, including utilities.

For further details and the booking link, please check their website: www.easy-living4u.de/en

While EasyLiving is only open to bachelor's students, other Berlinovo apartments are open to bachelor's as well as master's students. There are, for instance, two recently built apartment houses with affordable apartments for long-term stays in the district of Lichtenberg. For further details, please check their website: www.bgg-berlin.com/en/vermietung/apartmentanlagen They are bookable through the Berlinovo app mentioned below.

In addition, Berlinovo offers temporary, short-term accommodation for bachelor's and master's students all over the city. Rent for these apartments starts from around 360 to 400 euros*, including utilities.

Please check out the general Berlinovo apartment database: www.berlinovo.de/en/suche-apartments



The easiest way to look for and book all Berlinovo apartments is through the Berlinovo app: portal1s.easysquare.com/berlinovo/index.html (German)
Please indicate that you are a Macromedia student!

Single apartment in the apartment house on Buckower Damm
(c) Berlinovo Apartment GmbH, www.easy-living4u.de/impressum

* June 2021

4. Long-Term Accommodation: Housing Partners

THE STUDENT HOTEL BERLIN

The Student Hotel is an Amsterdam-based hotel chain and co-working space with locations in various European countries. It is a hybrid space that includes co-living and co-working students, business travelers and tourists. The Student Hotel Berlin is located in the district of Mitte and well connected to Macromedia University by public transport. It offers different types of fully furnished apartments/rooms: around 280 apartments for students (duration of stay five months up to twelve months), 35 apartments for short-stay guests (two weeks up to twelve months) and around 160 regular hotel rooms.

Approximate price for student apartments: starting from 710 euros* (rents vary according to the duration of the stay and size), including utilities, such as electricity, heating and water. All apartments include a private bathroom, there are shared kitchens on each floor. Further facilities such as a lounge, a game and work area and a gym are accessible to everyone free of charge.

Location: Alexanderstraße 40, 10179 Berlin

For further details, please check their website: www.thestudenthotel.com/berlin-mitte/

Booking requests to be submitted via their website

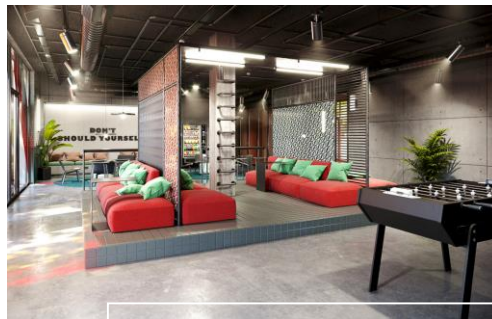
Phone: +49 30 3119 8339, Email: berlin@thestudenthotel.com

Please indicate that you are a Macromedia student!

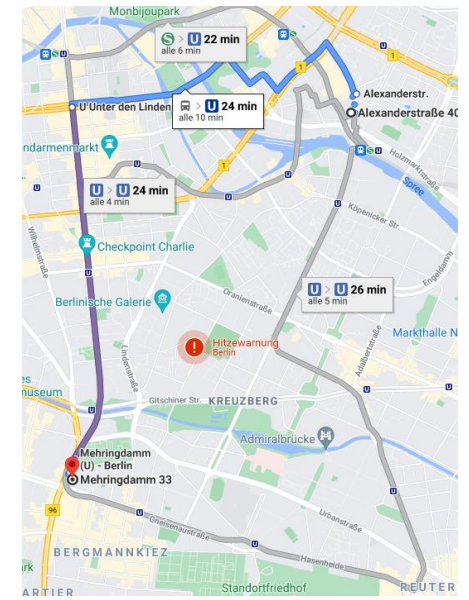


Student Apartment

* June 2021



Lounge & Game Area
(c) www.thestudenthotel.com



Location on map and connection to campus

4. Long-Term Accommodation: Housing Partners



Uniplaces is an online marketplace for booking student accommodation, which offers affordable single and shared accommodation for short stays as well as longer stays in various countries across Europe. It has become one of the most-used student housing platforms in Europe. Berlin is one of its markets, there is a large selection of accommodation offers for Berlin.

You can search for a fully furnished room or apartment online, check the options offered, choose the place you like and book directly online. Please be aware that you will not have the opportunity to visit the place before renting. However, one of Uniplaces' advantages is that their team checks and verifies all accommodation offers beforehand. Depending on the landlord, the minimum duration of stay is at least two months, sometimes three months. The first rent payment as well as the commission fee (which depends on the amount of rent) have to be paid to Uniplaces, whose team will then forward the money to the landlord. After the first month, rent is paid directly to the landlord.

For further details and accommodation offers, please check their website: www.uniplaces.com/accommodation/berlin

Booking requests to be submitted via their website

Please indicate that you are a Macromedia student!

Students interested in booking a room with Uniplaces will get a 10 % discount on the commission fee with a special Macromedia University discount code: MACROMEDIA (valid until December of 2021).



4. Long-Term Accommodation: Housing Partners



Another large online booking platform is **HousingAnywhere**. Active in various European countries, it focuses on providing affordable accommodation for students and interns. On this platform you can find rooms and one-bedroom apartments, furnished as well as unfurnished, for short- and long-term stays. HousingAnywhere is also available for Berlin.

You can search for accommodation online, check the options offered, choose the place you like and book directly online. Please be aware that you will not have the opportunity to visit the place before renting. However, HousingAnywhere checks and verifies all accommodation offers beforehand. The minimum duration of stay varies. The first rent payment as well as the commission fee have to be paid to HousingAnywhere, whose team will then forward the money to the landlord. After the first month, rent is paid directly to the landlord.

For further details and accommodation offers, please check their website with priority access for Macromedia University students: housinganywhere.com/Berlin--Germany/macromedia-university-of-applied-sciences-berlin/sign-up

Booking requests to be submitted via their website

Please indicate that you are a Macromedia student!



4. Long-Term Accommodation: Housing Partners

[SPOTAHOME]

Spotahome is another large online booking platform, which offers affordable fully furnished single and shared accommodation, including rooms in student residences, for short as well as longer stays in numerous cities in Europe and Asia. It is also available for Berlin.

You can search for accommodation online, check the options offered, choose the place you like and book directly online. Please be aware that you will not have the opportunity to visit the place before renting. However, Spotahome checks and verifies all accommodation offers beforehand. The minimum duration of stay is sometimes only one month, usually several months. The first rent payment as well as the commission fee (which depends on the amount of rent) have to be paid to Spotahome, whose team will then forward the money to the landlord. After the first month, rent is paid directly to the landlord.

For further details and accommodation offers, please check their website: www.spotahome.com/

Booking requests to be submitted via their website

Please indicate that you are a Macromedia student!



4. Long-Term Accommodation

4.4 Other Housing Providers

Here are some more useful links for finding long-term accommodation:

Further Student Apartment Houses/Housing Providers

www.stuwo.de/ (overview of student residences) (German)

www.studentendorf.berlin/find-a-home/

www.house-of-nations.de/en/

www.vondereurope.com/

www.spreepolis.berlin/en/

youniq-living.com/en/location/berlin/

www.studio-house.berlin/en/

studentenappartements-berlin.de/ (German)

www.home2feel.de/mikrowohnen (German)

www.deutsche-wohnen.com/en/

Further Online Rental Agencies

wunderflats.university/hs-macromedia

www.nestpick.com

www.medici-living.com/

Homestay/Peerstay

www.homestay.com/ (see short-term accommodation above)



4. Long-Term Accommodation: Other Housing Providers

City-Owned Housing Companies

Last but not least, there are also a number of city-owned housing companies in Berlin that offer one-bedroom/studio and student apartments, in part also shared apartments, at reasonable prices. The offer is more limited than on the private market, but it's certainly worth checking out:

inberlinwohnen.de/ (overview of city-owned housing companies) (German)

www.degewo.de/content/de/immobiliensuche.html (German)

www.howoge.de/mieten/wohnungssuche.html (German)

www.stadtundland.de (German)

www.gewobag.de/fuer-mieter-und-mietinteressenten/mietangebote/ (German)

www.gesobau.de/wohnungsangebote/studentenwohnungen/ (German)

www.wbm.de/wohnungen-berlin/angebote/ (German)



5. Housing Glossary, House Viewings and Further Tips

Glossary of German Housing Terms

Altbau – old building, often refers to pre-World War II buildings (often coveted after renovation)

Betriebskosten (BK) – utilities to be paid in addition to the basic rent, such as electricity, water, heating and internet; also called Nebenkosten

DG (Dachgeschoss) – top floor

EG (Erdgeschoss) – ground floor

Kaltmiete – cold or basic rent excluding utilities

Kaution – deposit

mieten – to rent

Mieter – tenant

Mietvertrag – rental agreement, rental contract

Mindestmietdauer – minimum rental period

Nachmieter – subsequent tenant

Nebenkosten (NK) – see Betriebskosten

Neubau – strictly a relatively recent, new building, but often used to refer to buildings constructed since World War II

Nichtraucher – non-smoker

Provision – agent fee, commission

provisionsfrei – no commission

Schufa-Auskunft – credit report (see Schufa credit report below)

Staffelmiete – stepped rent (gradually increases)

Untermiete – sublease

Untermietvertrag – sublease agreement

Vermieter – landlord

Warmmiete – warm rent including utilities, such as electricity, water, heating and internet

Wohnberechtigungsschein (WBS) – certificate for housing subsidised by the state, difficult to obtain for non-German citizens

Wohngemeinschaft (WG) – flatsharing community

Zimmer (ZI) – room

ZKB (Zimmer, Küche, Bad) – room plus kitchen and bathroom, used in housing ads: e.g. 1 ZKB, 2 ZKB

Zwischenmiete – intermediate rent, i.e. renting an apartment or a room in a shared apartment for an intermediate period



Sources:

www.berlin.bard.edu/fileadmin/common/Student_Resources/Housing_in_Berlin.pdf
www.jonworth.eu/how-to-find-a-flat-in-berlin/
www.justlanded.com/english/Germany/Germany-Guide/Housing-Rentals/Glossary

5. Housing Glossary, House Viewings and Further Tips

House Viewings

When you have the opportunity to view a room or an apartment and meet your landlord, it's a good idea to prepare yourself and keep the following advice in mind:

- Take someone with you, preferably a German speaker or your buddy
- If possible, view a place at least twice and at different times of the day before signing a contract, you will be more likely to notice details or problems the second time around.
- Get informed about your rights beforehand, this will help you view a place more critically and put you in a stronger negotiating position.
- During the viewing take notes and photos and go through your checklist. A checklist should include points like:
 - Does the place look well maintained and does it have the space and facilities you need?
 - Will it be warm enough?
 - Are the current tenants happy with the landlord?
 - Why is the previous tenant leaving?
 - Is it a safe neighbourhood and is the area suitable to your needs as well as well connected by public transport?
- Don't be shy to ask all of your questions.
- Compare a range of different places and landlords and take your time, don't let landlords pressure you.
- Never sign a German-language contract you don't understand, ask your buddy for assistance.
- Beware of housing scams.



5. Housing Glossary, House Viewings and Further Tips

Furnish Your Apartment on the Cheap

After you've found a place to live, you might wish to buy some things to furnish it and make it cosier. Here are some helpful links:

Free Your Stuff Community: www.free-your-stuff.com/de

Free Your Stuff Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/freeyourstuff/

Flea Markets in Berlin: www.visitberlin.de/en/blog/top-11-berlin-flea-markets

eBay Classified Ads: www.ebay-kleinanzeigen.de/stadt/berlin/ (German)

Zu Verschenken in Berlin & Brandenburg Facebook Group www.facebook.com/groups/1455154191381889/ (German)



6. Schufa Credit Report

What Is Schufa?

Schufa Holding AG is a German protection company for general creditworthiness. Everything you leave unpaid, like bills or fines, will be registered in your record history. In this way Schufa rates your ability to pay your bills and can check whether you are creditworthy or not. Please note that current loans do not count as debts—only if you cannot/will not pay a loan back, it will appear on your record. Having negative items on your credit record does not necessarily mean that you will be declined as a contract partner in the future; however, the more negative items your Schufa-Auskunft (credit report) shows, the more difficult it will become for you to close contracts. You have a right to see the data Schufa has about you and request a report.

Why Do I Need Schufa?

As soon as you open a bank account or sign a cell phone contract in Germany, your Schufa record will be automatically created. When you wish to rent accommodation, individual private landlords will usually ask you to hand in a Schufa report in addition to other financial documents in order to determine whether you will be able to pay the rent. It is obvious that there is no Schufa information about international students new to Germany. If your landlord is willing to waive the Schufa report, be prepared to submit proof that a friend or relative will act as your guarantor and pay the rent for you if you can't pay it. International student housing providers such as student residences or rental agencies are prepared for international students and will usually accept financial proof other than the Schufa report.

How Can I Obtain My Schufa Report and How Much Does It Cost?

The easiest way to obtain your Schufa report is to request it online. It will then be sent to your postal address. Schufa is obliged to provide your credit record for free, but only once a year. The free report contains all the information your landlord wants to have. On the website, Schufa also promotes its fee-based reports, which is why it proves to be quite tricky to find the free request form.

6. Schufa Credit Report

This is how you obtain your free Schufa report from the website www.meineschufa.de:

- Click on the button “Auskünfte“ at the top.
- On the left-hand side, you will find this menu item: “SCHUFA-BonitätsAuskunft.”
- Now you can select the “Order form for a SCHUFA Credit Report” in English on the right-hand side (Downloads).
- Click on the PDF, it should open.
- Fill out the form and send it along with a copy of your passport to the indicated address via postal mail.
- Make sure to leave out the “SCHUFA Credit Report at the price of € 29.95” section. If you fill out and sign that section, you will have to pay the fee.

It can take a while until you receive your Schufa report, so you may want to request it as early as possible.

