

Accommodation Guide



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		contact the Student Support Team:
		Tel: +49 (0) 40 874 09 632
		Email: studentsupporthamburg@bimm-
		institute.de





Welcome to Hamburg

...and welcome to student life!

Before you start your studies, there are a few things you will want to organise and deal with first.

In this guide, we take you through all the things you need to think of when planning your move to study in Hamburg.

We give you guidance on how to find a place to stay and what you need to know about renting in general, how to register in Hamburg after you have found a place to stay and how to apply for the student health insurance that is obligatory in Germany. Last, but not least, you will find information on how to travel from your new place to our campus and how to get around this lovely, cool and buzzing city that will be your home now for the time to come.

If you like, check out the city's Welcome Portal.

It might be of interest to you as it contains a lot of helpful information for people new to Hamburg and Germany in general.

How To Access Our Campus

College Address: BIMM Institute Hamburg Neuer Kamp 30 Floor 2 20357 Hamburg

If you are going to be using public transport regularly, we recommend purchasing a monthly or annual pass – it is a lot cheaper in the long run. You can access our college using the below public transport connections:

1 - Feldstraße U-Bahn (U3 line) station is a one-minute walk away.

2 – Messehallen U-Bahn (U2 line) is a 10 minute walk away and provides a quick connection to Hamburg Main Station (Hauptbahnhof) with services running regularly.

3 – The 3 and X3 buses also serve the area, and run roughly every ten minutes.

As public transport in Hamburg is reliable and well organised, we strongly recommend you take advantage of it! You can use the moovit or HVV apps to find out the 'what' and 'where' and 'how' to get around by public transport.

And with this **network plan** you will have an overview of all lines and routes of the rapid transit at a glance.

When studying at BIMM Institute, you are eligible for a discounted public transport ticket. For this purpose, you will receive proof of your enrolment in your induction folder that is handed out to you at the start of your studies.

You can find general information on the student discount and how to purchase your ticket here.

You may wish to consider living slightly further away and commuting into St. Pauli, especially if you're already settled in Hamburg. Remember that you'll need to take into consideration the cost of travelling, and the time it will take to get to BIMM Institute Hamburg when making any accommodation decisions.

Cycling and Vehicle Sharing

We strongly encourage you to take advantage of the city's many cyclepaths! As a fairly flat city with a large number of dedicated bike routes, it's something of a cyclist's dream. There's also a wealth of bike storage space in the area, and there are several bike workshops nearby should you need to get yours repaired.

Should you not own a bike but want one, you might want to check out Swapfiets. They rent out bikes on a long-term basis, and any repairs are already included in the membership fee.

There are also a number of reasonably priced vehicle-sharing companies, if you wish to take advantage of that.

Some of our favourites include: - E-Scooters: Emmy

- Bicycles:
- 1. StadtRAD
- 2. Bike Hire Altona
- 3. Hamburg City Cycles

- Car rental options:
1. Car Rental Price Comparison
2. Public Car Sharing:
Cambio Car Sharing
Sixt Car Sharing
ShareNow
Miles Car Sharing
3. Private Car Sharing:
Getaround
Hamburg car-pooling

Please be aware that you will need to check all legal requirements for these services – make sure you have the appropriate licenses if necessary, and do make sure to adhere to the rules of the road and safety standards (i.e. wear a helmet, please).





House Hunting Basics

Finding accommodation in Hamburg can be competitive, so make sure that you have all your documents ready and are prepared to spend a good amount of time looking for a flat share or apartment to avoid disappointment. There are also some important aspects to understand before you embark upon the excitement of hunting down your digs.

This includes the following:
Schufa-Auskunft - this is not necessarily required for students coming from abroad, but it's always a good idea to make sure you have some evidence of your credit rating.

Otherwise, anything declaring that you aren't in any debt will suffice.

• Mietschuldenfreiheitsbescheinigung - This is proof (a reference) from your previous landlord that you have no debts relevant to your rent.

• Einkommensnachweise - proof of income/ proof of parents' income if they're renting on your behalf.

• Copy of your ID card/ Passport

How much can I expect to spend?

The amount you'll pay very much depends upon the type of accommodation you choose – for example, the privacy of a one-bedroom apartment will cost considerably more than a three-bedroom flat share.

As with all cities, where you live will affect the price: opting for lodgings right next to a U-Bahn line in the centre of a key nightlife district will take more from your wallet each month than somewhere a little further out.

We recommend the following areas, some of which are within walking distance of BIMM Hamburg or a short commute:

- St. Pauli
- Karolinenviertel
- Schanzenviertel
- Eimsbüttel
- Hoheluft
- Altona
- Wilhelmsburg
- Barmbek



Different kinds of rentals

Please familiarise yourself with the three different kinds of rental: Mieten means to rent or to let, and refers to a direct contract between you and a landlord, while Untermieten means to sub-let; renting a room from someone who themselves has a contract with the landlord. A WG, or Wohngemeinschaft, is a flat share, in which a group of people will come together to rent a property on equal terms.

Mieten (Renting)

The first option is the safest, as under German law anyone signing a tenancy agreement automatically gains the protection of strong rights that prevent eviction, exploitation, etc. However, taking on a tenancy will likely be considerably more expensive than the other options covered here, and bestows a number of responsibilities upon you as a tenant – there are a fair number of checks to be passed as well (see the What I Need to Know section for more information). Mieten contracts tend to be for longer periods of time, so may not suit a student lifestyle.

Untermieten (Subletting)

Much more flexible are Untermieten agreements, which are often more informal in nature and shorter in length, and frequently negotiable in terms of cost. However, you have considerably fewer rights - it is sometimes the case that the landlord might not know you're living there. Technically, this is not allowed, and the landlord can end the lease without prior notice. Make sure you have this cleared beforehand and that there is official confirmation for a sublease from the owners of the place (plus, you won't be able to register yourself in Hamburg if you don't have written consent).





WG's/ Wohngemeinschaft (Flat shares)

Perhaps the best option for students is the Wohngemeinschaft, where you would share a property with others, taking on equal responsibility and splitting costs between you. These are very common within Hamburg, and while some care is needed to ensure that you don't end up living with people that you can't get along with, they can be a fun and affordable option.

The European accommodation portal wg-gesucht.de is a great free place to look for these, and local newspapers and community freesheets regularly advertise apartments and rooms.

Alternatively, you could sign up with one of the Mitwohnzentralenaccommodation agencies that specialise in filling rooms across the city, or even join and message the BIMM Hamburg Student Facebook Group to find others heading to the city who are looking for people to share with. You can also search for other public groups to ask about flat shares.



House Viewings Tips

Tips for viewing properties

• Take someone with you or let someone else know exactly where you're going when you go to visit a property, just to err on the side of caution.

• It's also a good idea to visit the area at night at a separate time to your viewing to get a sense of the area during the day and at night time also. If you do this, please ensure you stick to the point above and take someone with you.

• Make sure you and all your other housemates view the place. Don't take someone else's word that the property is right for you.

• Compare a range of different landlords and properties.

• Don't let landlords/ agents pressure you - if you don't have a good feeling about it, look for other options. • When you go to view, take notes and photos, and use our checklist to make sure you don't miss anything.

What to look for at viewings

- Does the place look well maintained?
- Will it be warm enough?
- Will it be safe and secure?
- Does it have the space and facilities you need?
- Are the current tenants happy with the landlord?
- Is the property affordable and good value?
- Is the area suitable?

Extra fees to consider

- Drawing up contracts
- Administration charges
- Reference fees
- Inventory fees

Will I need to sign a contract to rent a room?

Most landlords/ agents will ask you to sign a tenancy agreement. If you do not sign a tenancy agreement you choose to do so at your own risk. This is a legally binding document setting out each party's rights and responsibilities. By signing it, both you and the landlord have certain rights protected in law which can't be overwritten by the contract.

Before you sign, make sure you understand all the clauses, so there are no nasty surprises after you've signed.

I've heard I have to register my accommodation - is that correct?

Everyone who wants to stay in Germany for longer than three months – including EU citizens – needs to register their residence (or Anmeldung) at an Einwohnermeldeamt (or registration office) within two weeks of moving in or face a fine. Alternatively, you can book an appointment for a later date through their online system within the two-week notice period, and keep the booking receipt as proof.

Einwohnermeldeämter can be found within a Bezirksamt, or Citizen's Advice Office, of which there are many within Hamburg, and registration requires a signature from your landlord or lettings agency. Useful documents (i.e. Confirmation letter/ Einzugsbestaetigung) and a link to the booking system can be found here.

Do I need to hold a German bank account?

While it is possible to transfer money from an international account to a German landlord, you may find your dealings are much easier if you hold a bank account within Germany, particularly if you're dealing with agents.

This is also ordinarily a requirement for passing a credit check, or SCHUFA Auskunft which you'll need to do if you intend to rent privately.

Do I need to pay a deposit?

Some landlords request one to two months' rent as a deposit; others the equivalent of three months – it shouldn't be more than this. The money shouldn't be paid directly to the landlord but instead put into a joint savings book where, if no repairs or damages take place during your tenancy, it should be returned to you along with the interest it has gained when you return your keys.

Do I need a guarantor?

There are many documents that you need when renting in Hamburg. You'll typically be asked for: an application form; copies of photo ID; proof of income (wage slips from the last three months); a letter from your previous landlord indicating that there is no rent outstanding; and your credit report (see previous point). If you don't have one of these or have just arrived in Germany and have no reliable income, then it's best to have a friend or a relative as a guarantor. This will increase your chances of being given a contract.

Please be aware some letting agents aren't too keen on letting directly to students - in many cases they will ask the parent(s) to rent the apartment and this should be noted. If in doubt, take a look at our House Hunting page to see exactly which documents you'll need.

What are the different types of lease?

A standard lease is between one tenant and the landlord and lasts for an indefinite period of time. A temporary lease has an end date that will be stated from the start, and once this end date has been reached, the tenant must move out.

How does shared accommodation work?

Within shared accommodation, three options are available:

• One person assumes the role of the tenant, signing the lease with the landlord and taking on all responsibilities. They then sign a subtenancy agreement with the additional tenants.



• All or some of the tenants become head tenants, assuming the same obligations to the landlord.

• All tenants sign separate leases with the landlord to cover their own rooms.

What are the rules for ending a tenancy?

The usual notice period for both tenant and landlord in Hamburg is three months. However, under German law, a tenancy can be terminated without notice if:

• The property is used consistently for non-agreed purposes

• The rent is unpaid for at least two months

• The tenant is consistently noisy or disturbs neighbours

What are the landlord's responsibilities?

In general the landlord is responsible for:

- Heating and hot water installation
- Baths, sinks, basins and other sanitary installations
- The structure of the exterior of the property
- Repairs to and safety of gas and electrical appliances
- Ensuring that any furniture supplied meets fire resistant requirements

At the start of a tenancy, your landlord should provide you with an Übergabeprotokoll – a document that clarifies the condition of the property at that point, in order to protect you against unfair accusations when it ends.

Will I need to take out insurance?

Most agents and landlords will require you to take out third-party liability insurance (Haftpflicht) and/ or contents insurance for the property. You may find the website Check24 useful to compare insurance and utility prices from various providers.

Further questions

If you have any further questions about finding accommodation in Hamburg, please don't hesitate to contact our Student Support Team: +49 (0)40 874 09 632 or by email at studentsupporthamburg@bimminstitute.de



What I Need To Know

Number of rooms

Apartments in Hamburg are categorised by the number of rooms, excluding the bathroom and the kitchen.

So, '1 Zimmer' would be a studio flat, plus a bathroom and kitchen, while '2 Zimmer' would refer to one bedroom, a sitting room/ lounge, a bathroom and a kitchen.

It's also quite common to find apartments for rent without any built-in kitchen appliances: unless the property is advertised as having an Einbauküche (built-in kitchen) it may have only a sink and possibly a stove, so if you're keen on home-cooking you'll want to check this carefully.

Charges

Note as well that two different rental prices will often be quoted on advertisements: Kaltmiete and Warmmiete;

Kaltmiete

Or also known as cold rent, refers to the cost of renting the property alone, with no extras such as utilities.

Warmmiete

Or also known as warm rent, normally includes any charges for communal spaces, heating and water (although not usually electricity or internet, unless stated otherwise).

Glossary of Terms

Here's a list of some common words and phrases you might come across during your house hunt:

1- **Zimmer-Wohnung** - (1= ein) this indicates a one-room or studio apartment

2- **Zimmer-Wohnung** – (2= zwei) – this means that there are two rooms within the apartment, excluding the kitchen and bathroom

3- **Zimmer Wohnung** – (3= drei) same as above, except there are three rather than two rooms excluding the kitchen and bathroom

Warmmiete – the cost of some or all bills is included in the rent, but be sure to double check this in your contract Kaltmiete – bills are not included in your monthly rent

Kundenzentrum/

Einwohnermeldeamt – registration office: this is where you'll have to go to register your new address. If you're not too confident with your German skills, we'd strongly recommend you bring someone who is with you. To find the registration office that is responsible for your registration, just fill in your post code on this website.

Meldebescheinigung – registration certificate: upon moving to Hamburg, you'll have to register your new address within two weeks or pay a fine

WG/Wohngemeinschaft – shared apartment Untermiete – sublet/subtenancy Hauptmieter/Mieten – main renter (the person who holds the contract for the apartment)/ to rent

Nebenkosten - utilities Möbliert - furnished Unmöbliert - unfurnished Kaution – deposit: generally speaking, landlords can request a deposit up to the value of three months rent, which will be returned to you when you move out providing everything is in order Courtage – commission Einbauküche/EBK – fitted kitchen Mietvertrag – rental contract

More information

The team at HousingAnywhere have created content regarding relocating and settling into life in Germany, which you may find useful to reference: Registration in Hamburg Moving to Germany checklist Cost of living in Hamburg Tenant rights in Germany

Further useful information and accommodation listed on HousingAnywhere can be accessed here: housinganywhere.com/Hamburg--Germany/BIMM-Hamburg/sign-up



Accommodation Providers and Private Advertisement Portals

The list of accommodation providers below may be useful for you to look into when deciding where to live when you first move to Hamburg. Please note that the following agents have not been visited or vetted by BIMM Institute Hamburg, so please research these options thoroughly.

AGENT	WEBSITE	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Home Company	hamburg.homecompany.de/en/index	+49 (0) 40 19445
Home For Rent	homeforrent.de	+49 (0) 30 - 88 30 51
Immonet	immonet.de	
Null-Provision	null-provision.de	
Wohnungsmarkt 24	wohnungsmarkt24.de	
Immobilien Scout 24	immobilienscout24.de	
Private lettings		
WG-Gesucht	wg-gesucht.de/en	+49 (0)900 100 1315
Wohngemeinschaft	wohngemeinschaft.de	
WG	studenten-wg.de/Hamburg,wg.html	
Student Residencies		
SMARTments	smartments-student.de/en/	+49 (0) 9131 91 61 80-233
STUART Apartments	stuart-apartments.com/?lang=en	+49 (0) 40 756680 - 18
UNINEST Student Residence	unineststudents.de/en/locations/hamburg	+49 (0) 69 959086222
Erasmusu	erasmusu.com/en/erasmus-hamburg/studer	it-housing
Kolping Jugendwohnen	kolping-jugendwohnen.de	+49 (0) 40 88 36 00 20
HousingAnywhere	housinganywhere.com	

Please note: Due to recent changes in Hamburg local legislation regarding subletting private holiday and temporary apartments (private Ferienwohnungen, Airbnb etc) please be aware that this might affect some offers so it is best to enquire beforehand if the apartment has been registered.

General lettings

Completely WITHOUT STRESS in your new home. We are prepared for YOU!

NA

In the heart of Wandsbek, really well equipped and an ALL-INCLUSIVE RENT. The all-round carefree package for your student life.

BIMM students get a "KITCHEN PACK" for free when booking! Here is everything you need in your new kitchen. New common rooms

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Visa Information, Health Insurance & C-19 (Covid) Advice & Guidance

Visa Information

The UK may have left the EU, but here at BIMM Institute, we are determined to keep our community of creative students as diverse and vibrant post-Brexit as always. We are committed to being a friendly international community. And we want to make sure you have all the information you need about Brexit and how it affects you. Whether you're looking to study at BIMM Institute or are a current student, our **Brexit Information** page should help answer any questions you may have.

BIMM Institute is a British organisation, but our colleges in Germany are fully registered as a provider of academic degrees to our students, and also as an employer to our lecturers and support staff. We have worked hard to establish state-of-the-art facilities in the heart of Berlin and Hamburg and deliver industry-leading education to our students. In short, we are here to stay.

EU, Swiss or EEA students

If you are an EU, Swiss or EEA student, you can move to Germany and begin your studies at BIMM Institute without the need for a visa. All you need to do is register with the local authorities within 2-weeks of your arrival to let them know you're here.

Non-EU or UK students

If you are a non-EU or UK student, you may need to apply for a visa to study at BIMM Institute. You can get immigration and visa support throughout your time with us – from when you apply to when you graduate.

Germany offers very positive terms for international students, including the right to work a certain number of hours per week during your studies, which could greatly help you engage with the music industry during the semester or holiday periods as well as have parttime employment to support your living costs. Please contact your local German embassy for further information on how to apply for a visa. It should be noted the process can take several weeks so we recommend getting the process started as early as possible.

Further information on applying for a student visa, and a list of overseas German embassies, can be found here.

Health Insurance

All students at BIMM Institute (including non-EU students since last year) are eligible for cover under TK insurance.

Health insurance is a legal requirement for all residents in Germany. TK (Techniker Krankenkasse) is a German public healthcare provider which offers, in addition to comprehensive medical services, a Welcome to Germany Service, which supports foreign students with an English-speaking team during their arrival in Germany.

Please find current information for students including monthly fees over here.

For further information on how to register, please get in touch with Student Services studentsupporthamburg@bimminstitute.de



C-19 (Covid) Advice & Guidance

BIMM Institute has a duty of care to all our students, lecturers and staff in and out of the classroom. We have a thorough hygiene concept and risk assessment for all activities; from onsite teaching to any offsite activities that our students may engage with during their studies. We also encourage all students to observe good hygiene, social distancing and self-isolating practice when going about their daily duties, for their own health and safety and that of others.

When you enrol at BIMM Institute, you will be issued with our internal hygiene and reporting policies so you are confident on what action needs to be taken if you believe you are at risk of C-19 or have had contact with someone else at risk. If you plan to stay with a student-purpose accommodation provider, please check their policies when you move in, and if you're flat-sharing we encourage you to talk through good practice with your housemates, all so you can make the most of your study experience.



Which Legal Documents Will I Require?

1

If you're not already listed as a resident in Germany, please make this a priority as it's fairly tricky to do anything without your Anmeldung (registration – please see the glossary for more details). You must register at your local Einwohnermeldeamt (registration office) within 14 days of arrival – appointments can be made months in advance, so make sure you get this box ticked as soon as possible! www.hamburg.de/kundenzentrum

2

Take out a health insurance policy, or double check that your current provider is still effective abroad. It's a legal requirement to be insured in Germany and you can be hit with a hefty fine if you are not, so please ensure this is in order. For further information, see 'Visa Information, Health Insurance & C-19 (Covid) Advice & Guidance'.

3

If applicable, you will need to ensure you have an up-to-date student visa. The BIMM Institute Hamburg admissions team are able to provide you with evidence stating that you are due to enrol as a student with us, which can be used to support your visa application. However, this can only be provided once we've received your signed contract and deposit payment – if you have any questions regarding this, please contact our Admissions Department directly at hamburg@bimm-institute.de.

4

In order to make your life a little easier here, you might want to open a German bank account. Whilst it seems a little daunting, it's actually relatively easy – although you may want to bring a German-speaking friend with you to your appointment if you're not too confident in the language! For this, you will most likely need the following:

- 1 a valid government-issued photo ID or passport
- 2 confirmation of your registration (Anmeldung)
- 3 a student ID, or a confirmation of studentship letter from BIMM Institute

There's always the option to open an app-based bank account with a provider such as N26, with whom you won't require an Anmeldung.

It's always wise to get a SCHUFA (credit score) if you're looking to enter into any form of contract (for example, a rental agreement or phone plan). It's essentially a report stating that you have (or haven't!) paid all your bills on time. It is created as soon as you get an Anmeldung, and only applies within Germany – your credit score from your home country won't affect your SCHUFA here.

The easiest way to get hold of yours is to order a Schufa Bonitätsauskunft. The SCHUFA credit score is free of charge once a year. It takes approximately two weeks to be processed and sent to you.



While it's of course not legally necessary, you may want to get a German SIM card for your phone in order to cut down on costs – you can get your service provider in your hometown to unlock your phone and allow another SIM card access for a relatively small fee. Of course, different regions have different legal requirements, but at the time of printing all the information here is up to date. If you have any questions, we'd advise you to contact your local council or embassy to see if they need any additional documents.





If you have any further questions about finding accommodation in Hamburg, please don't hesitate to contact our Student Support Team.

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