

How can I find a room in a shared apartment in Münster?

Helpful information for students

Dear exchange students,

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Münster soon! Please keep in mind: In order to prepare for your stay abroad, you should start searching for a room as soon as possible. Unfortunately, it can be quite difficult in the beginning of the semester because all new students arrive at the same time and everyone is looking for a place to stay. Like most German universities, the University of Münster has no means of accommodation of its own – there are no guest houses or student rooms that are managed by the university, but students are required to look for a (private) accommodation themselves. Below, you will find some information on how to find a room and we hope that this will be helpful for you.

1. Finding Accommodation

Where can I find room or flat offers?

- **Student Residences**
 - **Studierendenwerk Münster** (Student Support Services): Exchange students can apply for the halls of residence offered by the Studierendenwerk. Because of their reasonable prices and different arrangements (furnished rooms, room in shared apartments, single rooms and flats), this is one of the most popular options for students. The online application can be found on their website: <https://www.stw-muenster.de/de/studentisches-wohnen/wohnanlagen>. However, please note that the waiting time can take several months. So please make sure to apply as early as possible!
 - **Bischöfliches Studierendenwerk**: The Episcopalian Student Union owns five halls of residence in the city of Münster. Altogether there are 380 places for students. The application form and further information on the application procedure as well as information on the halls of residence (prices, equipment, location) can be found on this website: <https://bsw-muenster.de/de/wohnheime>.
- **ERASMUS Münster e.V.**: The student association ERASMUS Münster e.V. collects offers for flat-sharing from students in Münster who go abroad and want to sublet their rooms. These offers can be found in the ERASMUS Münster e.V. Whatsapp Group
- **AStA Münster (Student Union)**: The Student Union collects housing offers on their website: Wohnbörse (asta.ms).
- **Private housing market**: On the following websites, you can find offers from private landlords:
 - WG-gesucht: www.wg-gesucht.de (This is the most popular website for students who look for a room in Münster).
 - Na dann: www.nadann.de/

Understanding Housing Advertisements

- **Often used abbreviations:**

- WG: shared flat
- Whg.: flat
- ZwiMi: short-term rent
- ZKB: Room, Kitchen, Bathroom
- Kaltmiete: rental charge for a room or flat exclusive of heating, water, electricity and other additional costs
- Warmmiete: rent for a house or apartment including all additional costs

Be Careful!

- Unfortunately, there have been some cases of fraud in the past. Therefore, please make sure that you **never transfer money** before you sign the rental contract!

2. Applying for a Room

Flat mates who are looking for a new tenant will read your messages carefully. Therefore, you should write a nice and informative text about yourself.

- Important: If the advertisement includes a phone number, make sure to call first, before writing a message. To make a good first impression, you could prepare some phrases in German or think about how you could introduce yourself.
- If there is no phone number, you should write a detailed message:
 - Give some information on yourself: name, age, studies, hobbies, have you lived in a shared flat before?
 - What are your expectations and wishes for living together in a shared flat (e.g. cooking together, "cleaning plan"...)?
 - Why should the others choose you as their new flat mate? For example, you can talk about the benefits of having an intercultural flat community and practicing different languages.
 - Since you probably will not be in Münster to visit the flat in person, you could suggest a Skype-interview to get to know the flat mates and see the flat.

3. Further Recommendations

- Start looking for a room as early as possible!
- Write to multiple offers
- It is very difficult to find a room in the city center of Münster. So also look in the surroundings of Münster – with the semester ticket it is easy to reach the university by bus or train.
- 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.
- You can also contact the International Office of your home university to ask whether a student from Münster will be studying in your home town. Maybe you could switch rooms for the time of your exchange.
- 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-MailAlerts". This way you can be the first to respond to a new offer, which can be very helpful.

4. In Emergencies

- In case you were not able to find a room before coming to Münster and you cannot find any place to stay, the Studierendenwerk offers emergency accommodations. The costs per night are 5€. You can find more information on: <http://www.studentenwerk-muenster.de/de/wohnen/wohnanlagen/notunterkuenfte>.
- The AStA runs the page “Deine Couch für Erstis” where people offer their couch for students who are still searching for a room: www.asta.ms/wohnraum or try www.couchsurfing.com.
- For a few nights you can also try to book a room in these hostels:
 - Sleep station: <http://www.sleep-station.de/>
-> you get a discount of 7% if you use the following code:
 - Jugendgästehaus Aasee: <http://www.djh-wl.de/de/jugendherbergen/muenster>
-> if you show your ErasmusCard you get 10% discount

We wish you all the best for your search for a room and a good start in Münster!

Your team of the Exchange Student Service