



International
Office

Housing Guide

for international degree and non-degree
students

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Welcome

Congratulations on being accepted to study at RWTH Aachen University!

You have chosen Germany as the country to pursue your degree or your exchange stay. We are very happy that you will be coming to Aachen soon and that you will learn more about the German culture, university system and the way of life in general.

One of the things that might appear to be the biggest challenge for you as a foreign student will be finding accommodation. In Germany in general, but especially in Aachen, the number of students (German and Internationals) as well as the rental prices increase every year, whereas the number of rooms and dorms is increasing at a much slower pace.

The competition for student rooms is particularly tough.



It might be very frustrating, but remember that you are not alone. A lot of students are in your situation and we have gathered the most important facts and tips about housing in Aachen to prepare you for this tough task!

Do not hesitate to ask for help but also prepare to get active in your housing search. It might take time, but we are sure you will eventually find a place that you can call home. We wish you a nice stay here in Aachen and a successful start to your studies at RWTH Aachen University!

Your Housing Advisors



Living in Germany, what does that mean?

1 **The University does not provide accommodation**

Unlike in other countries, you do not automatically get a place to live when you come to Germany to study. You must actively look for housing and independently apply for a room in a dorm. RWTH Aachen does not own or manage any dorms and thus cannot provide nor guarantee you housing.

2 **Consider other options**

Every student wishes a cheap single apartment in the city center and close to campus. In Aachen, you should definitely consider other options. Not only are the apartments in the inner city extremely expensive but the RWTH campus is also spread all over town. Aachen is a small city where every place is easily reachable by foot, bike or bus. If you have a small budget, we strongly recommend you consider including the outer districts of Aachen in your search. This would significantly increase your chances of finding an affordable apartment.

3 **Don't get stuck on one offer**

We cannot stress enough how quickly accommodations in Aachen get allocated. You might find a place that seems perfect for you but you should not get stuck on one offer. Increase your chances of getting a room by applying everywhere possible and by sending an elaborated application each time. For more tips about application, check p. 29.

4 Patience is the key word

Since the competition at the beginning of the semester is tough, you will need to start searching for accommodation early and you will need tons of patience. If you apply for a room in a student dorm, expect at least six months up to one year to get an offer. On the private market, you might have to apply to fifty different places without getting any reply. Keep in mind that the landlords or main tenants receive sometimes hundreds of applications.

5 Preparation, preparation, preparation...

In Germany, you need a registered address to open a bank account, therefore make sure to have enough cash for the first month (we recommend 1000€) in order to settle down smoothly. If necessary, book a temporary accommodation! You will find further tips on p. 15.

6 Do not give up!

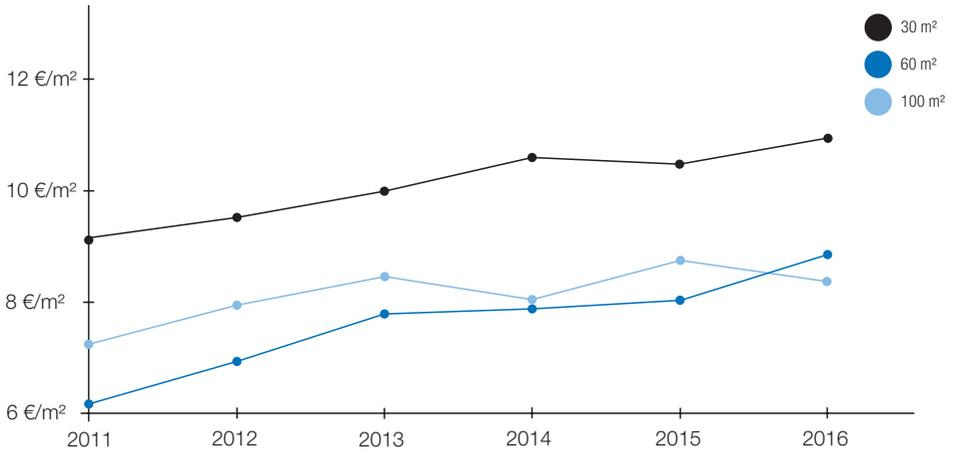
A simple but very important tip: do not give up! Nevertheless, prepare to get active search on your own. But do not hesitate to ask us or your Buddy for help. Heads up, you are gonna make it!



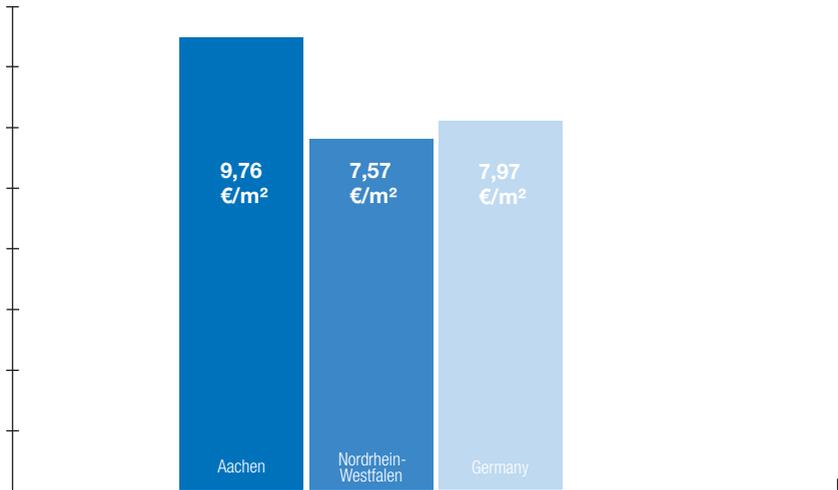
High rental prices

We have put together statistics offered by Wohnungsboerse.net and Immobilienscout to show you what you should expect to pay for your rent in Aachen. The prices mentioned include the basic rent. It does not include utilities (water, electricity, internet, possible taxes, etc.).

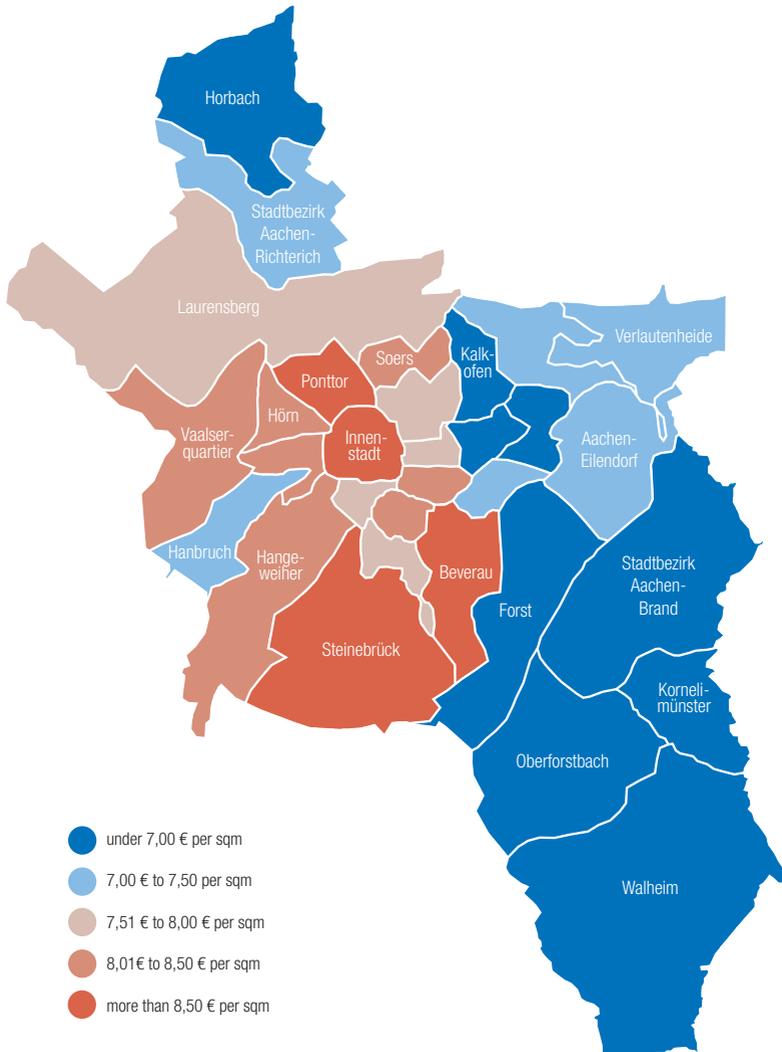
Rental price trend since 2011 (per sqm):



Aachen rental price compared to NRW and Germany (per sqm)



Aachen rental price depending on location (per sqm)



Administrative steps and paperwork

Registration at Citizens' Office

If you are staying longer than three weeks in Aachen, you need to register your address at the [Bürgeramt Aachen](#) (Citizens' Office) at the latest two weeks after the start of your lease contract. It is also possible to register as a citizen if you are subrenting a room or apartment. For the registration, you will need a so-called "[Wohnungsgeberbestätigung](#)" that you can download from the Bürgeramt website. It is a confirmation from your landlord that you actually moved into the apartment or room.

Registration at Immigration Office (non-EU students)

If you are a non-EU student, you will need to register additionally at the Immigration Office. There is an RWTH branch of the Immigration Office in the Super C building. You can find further information about their office hours and contact data on their [website](#).

GEZ (Gebühreneinzugszentrale)

GEZ (also called "Radio fee") is a fee for public service broadcasting offers that amounts to €17.50 per month and that has to be paid by every household in Germany, regardless of how many people live there, of how many devices they use or of the nationality. Even if you do not have any television, radio or computer, you will have to pay GEZ.

The registration to GEZ happens automatically upon your registration at the Bürgeramt.

If you live in a shared flat, you will share this €17.50 fee with your flat mates.

Usually, one of the residents pays the complete fee and gets refunded by his/her flat mates. If you live in a student hall of residence, the GEZ fee must be paid completely by each resident, as the rooms in student dorms are considered to be separate apartments.

You can check the conditions of exemption (i.e. BAföG recipient) and find the application form and additional information at www.rundfunkbeitrag.de or at the Bürgeramt itself.





Bank account

If you need to unblock your blocked account (Sperrkonto), you need to have an address registered in Germany. Many students who have not found long-term accommodation register while subrenting an apartment or a room for the first month.

If you would like to open a regular bank account once in Germany, you will need to show proof of your address registration.

Health insurance

Health insurance is compulsory in Germany. In order to enroll for your course of studies and to apply for your residence permit, you will have to show proof of health insurance. If your stay is not fully covered by insurance from your home country, you are obliged to take out a policy with a German insurance company.

The German health insurance system has two tracks:

- Public health insurance (gesetzliche Krankenkasse) - basic coverage for all indispensable medical costs
- Private health insurance (Private Krankenversicherung) - several coverage options.

Further information is to be found in our [information sheet for exchange students and international degree students](#) (see FAQ for international students)

The Indian student association AISA can help you get your public health insurance faster. You will find their contact data on p. 38.

European students with a European Health insurance Card (EHIC) and Turkish students will only need a waiver from a German public health insurance company such as TK, DAK, AOK or Actimonda.

Finding an Internet Connection

After your enrollment to RWTH Aachen, you will be able to access the internet network [Eduroam](#)¹. Before that, you will have to search for other ways to access the internet, which you will need for your housing search. Here are some tips:

Eduroam

If you are enrolled in another university using Eduroam network, you might try to log in directly. Find out [here](#) whether your home country is part of the Eduroam network.

Aachen City-WiFi*²

You can access internet everywhere and anytime near the Cathedral, City hall and Elisenbrunnen. For that, choose "AACHEN WiFi" out of the list of WLAN connections.

Hostels usually have internet connection or even at least one computer for free use. If you are staying at one, just ask the receptionist.

Some cafés in Aachen have an internet connection you can use, such as **Starbucks (Markt 35)**, **Chico Mendes (Pontstraße 74-76)** and **Café Egmont (Pontstraße 1)**. If you are not sure, just ask for the password at the bar.

The Library of Aachen

offers internet access for €1.50/hour if you are not a library member.

1 www.itc.rwth-aachen.de

2 Please note that open WiFi are usually not secure connections and therefore, you should not access sensitive websites or do online banking while logged into open WiFi.

How do I find a place to stay?

Step 1: Find a place for the first nights

If you will be coming to Aachen soon and you have not found any permanent place to stay, you should definitely book temporary accommodation for the first days or even weeks. Please note that you cannot register your address with the following temporary accommodation.

Stay with locals for a few days using...



Couchsurfing (free of charge)

- Create a profile
- Find a host
- Have a backup plan
- Check safety basics
- Participate in community meetings



AirBnB

- Create a profile
- Check reviews and [safety tips](#)
- Book a place to stay early enough
- Get to know locals through AirBnB network!



AISA HomeBuddy Program

- Registration \geq one month prior to arrival
 - Stay up to 10 days
 - Price: up to 5€/night
 - Matching between hosts through AISA
- !** Important: AISA takes no responsibility in case of issues such as inappropriate behavior or damage to property.



KHG "Nachtlager"

- Emergency shelter
- From October until December
- Organized by private student dorm
- Registration required \geq 3 days prior to arrival
- Price: up to 10€/night
- Breakfast in Café Chico Mendes



Stay at a hostel, hotel or boarding house^{3, 4} ...

A&O Hostel

- From €10/night
- Located next to main train station
- Single and twin rooms, mixed dorm and female dorm
- Free Wi-Fi

Prestep Boardinghouse

- From €21/night
- Located next to main train station
- Single, twin and dorm rooms
- Reduced prices for long-term residents

Hostel Aachen

- From €12/night
- Located next to train station “Schanz”
- Single, twin and dorm rooms
- Offer for “permanent residents”: approx. 15€ per night
- Free Wi-Fi

Aachen Youth Hostel

- From €23.90/night
- Located in Aachen south (Bus stop: Aachen Ronheide)
- Single, double and dorm rooms
- Price reduction for up to 26 year old guests
- Accessible for people with disability

3 Price may increase on peak season.

4 We cannot guarantee that the list is complete or up-to-date.

Apartments Zeidler

- From €31/day
- Located near train station Schanz
- Fully furnished apartments
- Apartment types available for up to 4 persons
- Adapted to persons with allergies and children

Fastrada Apartments

- Price available on request at verwaltung@fastrada-ac.de
- Located in Frankenberger district
- Fully furnished apartments
- Apartments available for long-term stays

Klenkes Apartments

- From €25/night per person
- Located between Hansemannplatz and Kaiserplatz
- Fully furnished apartments
- Price reduction possible for long-term residents
- Internet accessible on demand

Aparthaus Frankenberg

- From €39/night
- Located in Frankenberger district
- Fully furnished apartments
- Apartment types available for up to 5 persons
- Price reduction possible for long-term stays



Step 2: Choosing the right kind of accommodation...

Now that you have a roof over your head, you will be able to start house hunting!

We recommend looking preferably at offers with a phone number, as you will get an answer faster than by email. If need be, ask a native speaker (i.e. your [Buddy!](#)) to help you search or for the first contact with the potential landlord or landlady.

In Germany there are basically two kinds of accommodation that you will have to consider. For that you will have to ask yourself: Do I want to share my place or not?

YES

If you would like to live with other students, you should consider applying for a room in a **WG (Wohngemeinschaft = shared flat)**. It is a great way to meet people quickly, to learn German and to experience life in a community. Also, the rent is usually lower and you share costs such as GEZ or utilities with your flat mates. While living in a WG, you need to be considerate of your flat mates, needs and you might need to adapt to new rules.

When applying for a room in a WG, you might have to go through a selection process including an interview with your prospective flat mates. In most WGs, the students sharing the flat are interested in sharing everyday life together, by cooking, playing games, going out together. If you read "**Zweck-WG**" in an ad, the social aspect might not be as important, as the purpose of flat sharing is purely financial.

In a student dorm, you might also have a **single room with a kitchen (and sometimes also bathroom) shared** by the students living on the same floor. This might be a good compromise if you like to socialize but also need a quiet retreat place.





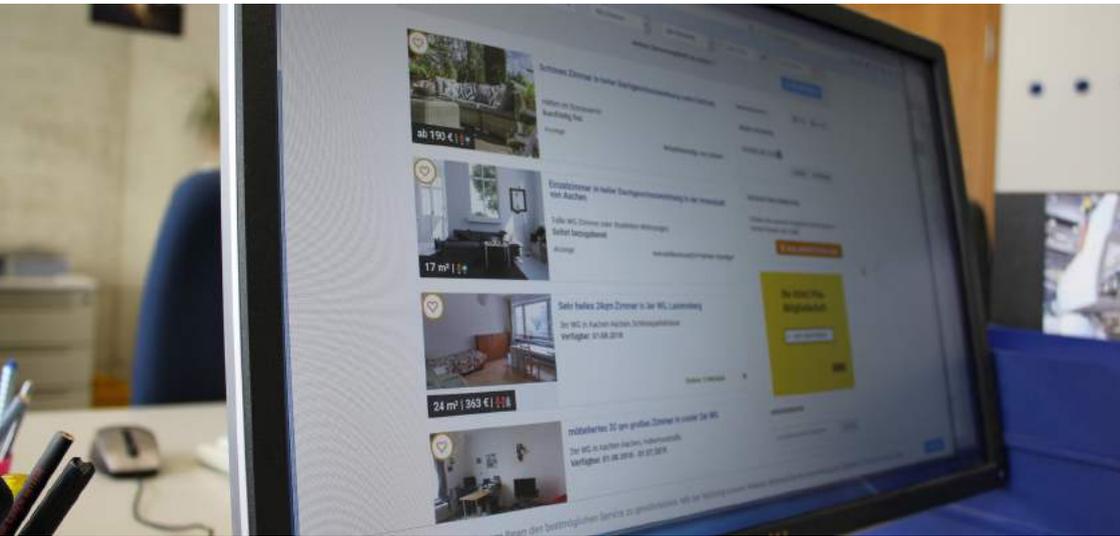
NO

If you prefer living alone, apply preferably for a **single apartment**. The advantage is that you do not have to share your space and you can have tranquility whenever you need it. But a single apartment will be more expensive and you will not be able to share the costs (i.e. GEZ, utilities). If you apply for an apartment, you will probably not have to go through an interview with your landlord.

Step 3: Start the hunt...

To start your search on the private market, we recommend looking at the following **websites**:

- www.wg-gesucht.de
- www.immobilienscout24.de
- www.extraraum-aachen.de
- www.aachen.studenten-wohnung.de
- www.immonet.de
- www.immowelt.de
- www.studenten-wg.de
- www.meinestadt.de/aachen/immobilien
- www.wg-liste.de
- www.wohnpool.de/mieten/wg/aachen
- www.zwischenmiete.de
- www.hc24.de



If you have a **Facebook account**, you should definitely follow the groups below, as students often post ads for their apartment or room in a shared flat:

- INCAS Aachen
- AISA (Association of Indian Students in Aachen)
- Suche Wohnung in Aachen
- WG & Wohnung Aachen gesucht
- Wohnung Aachen
- Wohnung & Haus in Aachen gesucht
- Wohnung WG Zimmer Aachen – Room & Flat Aix-la-Chapelle
- Wohnungsbörse Aachen
- WG Zimmer frei in Aachen
- Wohnungen frei in Aachen
- RWTH Aachen WG Börse

“**Schwarzes Brett**” is the German name for notice boards where long and short term offers are published. You can find them at the following addresses to name a few:

- KHG (Katholische Hochschulgemeinde), Pontstraße 74
- Cafeterias and lecture buildings (e.g. Foyer Ahornstraße 55, Audimax, Kármán-Auditorium or C.A.R.L. Building)
- Pubs and bars in Pontstraße
- Supermarkets



You can also buy some **local newspapers** (Aachener Zeitung or Aachener Nachrichten) and look through the classifieds. They are largely identical with those offers on [Kalaydo](#) but you might find some different offers nonetheless. You should do this early in the morning!

“My Home is your Castle”

The RWTH International Office has started a project called “My Home is your Castle”. The rules are simple. Once per semester, the International Office asks all RWTH students going abroad for the next semester: how about subletting your room to an international student? The International Office has implemented a list of all offers coming through “My Home is your Castle”. Any international student, regardless of the period of stay, is welcome to contact the International Office [Housing Advice Service](#) and check the current availability and range of offers.

- Step 1: Fill the [contact form](#) for housing-seeker properly
- Step 2: Send the form back to housing@rwth-aachen.de
- Step 3: The Housing Advice Service will provide you with the contact data of outgoing students⁵ according to your budget criteria and preferences
- Step 4: Contact the main tenant (introduction of yourself, further information, house rules, lease contract...)
- Step 5: If the main tenant chooses you as his subtenant, congratulations!

! IMPORTANT: The International Office takes responsibility neither for the condition of the room, nor for the lease contract conditions or any issue that might arise between the main tenant and the subtenant.

You also might want to contact [INCAS](#), as they also manage a database with offers from private landlords they receive regularly.

Applying for a room in a student dorm:

Studierendenwerk Aachen vs. Quota rooms

The Studierendenwerk Aachen is the institution managing most of the dorms in Aachen, as well as the university canteen. Depending on your eligibility, there are two ways to apply for a room in a Studierendenwerk student dorm.

Regular application with Studierendenwerk Aachen

Characteristics:

- You can apply any time of the year
- Application open to any RWTH or FH student
- You can apply to up to six specific dorms / rooms
- Waiting time: 6 months up to one year
- Not linked to the International Office
- Room available for up to three years and six months

⁵ Offer subject to availability

- Age limit: 30 years
- <https://bewerberportal.stw.rwth-aachen.de/app.php/en/>
- Price range: €190 - €400
- Website Studierendenwerk <https://www.studierendenwerk-aachen.de/en/start-1015.html>

Quota rooms for exchange students and scholarship holders

Characteristics:

- Collaboration between Studierendenwerk Aachen and RWTH International Office
- Allotment of 226 rooms
- Reserved for exchange students and scholarship holders
- Different application portal with access provided only by International Office
- Application for up to four room types (not to specific dorms)
- Strict application deadlines
- Room available for max. two semesters
- Location and exact rental price provided by Studierendenwerk Aachen and unknown to the International Office
- Degree students are not eligible
- Contact housing@rwth-aachen.de to check eligibility

! IMPORTANT: If you are eligible for quota rooms, you can both apply for a regular room at Studierendenwerk and for a quota room via the International Office. Your application for a quota room has no impact on your application at Studierendenwerk (vice versa). There is also no guarantee you will be allocated a quota room or a regular room, as the number of applicants exceeds by far the number of rooms available. Therefore make sure to apply in both portals in due times and to start looking on the private market early enough.

Private dorms

There are several private dorms in Aachen which are not managed by Studierendewerk Aachen. The application procedure is therefore different from dorm to dorm.

We have prepared a list of all private dorms and their key information.

Please note that the list might not be complete or up-to-date.

n.s. = not specified

Name of dorm	Adress	Price	Roomsize
Langer Turm	Junkerstr. 101 52064 Aachen	n.s.	n.s.
Hermannstraße	Hermannstr. 15 52062 Aachen	180€ - 185€ 420€	2-14 sqm 50-75 sqm
Pontstraße	Pontstr. 74-76 52062 Aachen	n.s.	n.s.
Eckertweg	Eckertweg 3-5 52074 Aachen	183€ - 246€ (incl. utilit.)	11-13 sqm
Campus Living	Junkerstr. 1 52064 Aachen	320€ - 360€	25-65 sqm
Campus Living	Roermonderstr. 101 52072 Aachen	280€ - 340€	25-78 sqm

Contact	Application via	Comments
info@studentenwerk-khg-aachen.de	Website Application documents: CV, Photo, RWTH study certificate	
bewerbung@hermann.rwth-aachen.de	Website Application documents: Personal letter, CV, Photo, RWTH study certificate or admission letter	Room types: - single room with shared kitchen and either shared or own bathroom - shared flat (2 persons)
info@studentenwerk-khg-aachen.de	Website Application documents: CV, Photo, RWTH study certificate	Room types: - single apartments - shared flats
eckert@studentenwerk-khg-aachen.de	Website Application documents: CV, Photo, RWTH study certificate	Room types: - single rooms (sometimes partly furnished)
info@campus-living.de	Email	Room types: - single rooms - shared flats (2 persons)
info@campus-living.de	Email	Room types: - single rooms - shared flats (2/3 persons)

Name of dorm	Address	Price	Roomsize
Merowinger Residenz	Turmstr. 16 52072 Aachen	n.s.	17-46 sqm
Newton Apartments	Kühlwetterstr. 8 52072 Aachen	≈ 430€	16-29 sqm
Haarener Gracht	Haarener Gracht 7 a/b 52080 Aachen	339€ - 389€	16-30 sqm
Studentenheim Erk	Oppenhoffallee 6 52066 Aachen	n.s.	n.s.
ESG Nizzaallee	Nizzaallee 20 52072 Aachen	230€ - 370€	9-18 sqm
NextStep	Campus Boulevard 62-72 52074 Aachen	450€ - 480€	25-27 sqm
C13	Claßenstr. 13 52072 Aachen	550€ - 620€	24-30 sqm
Viv-Aachen	Roermonderstr. 112 52074 Aachen	n.s.	n.s.
ESG Templergraben	Templergraben 39 52062 Aachen	90€ - 134€	n.s.

Contact	Application via	Comments
rolfeverding_hve@hotmail.com	Email	Room types: - single apartments - shared flats (2 persons)
info@Newton-Apartments.de	Email	- single apartments - lease contract readable online
j.beer@gemak.de	Email	- single apartments - furnished
info@bildungszentrum-erk.de	Application form in German	- Information about income required
esg-wohnheim@rwth-aachen.de	Application form in German	Room types: - single apartment - extra charge for furniture Contract available from one year
info@studentencampus-aachen.de	Application form	Room types: - single apartment - extra charge for furniture Contract available from one year
kontakt@c13-aachen.de	Application form in German + salary statement or guarantor certificate, copy of ID card	- Partly furnished single apartments - Rent includes all costs (utilities, internet...)
info@viv-aachen.de	Application form in German	- Information about income required
hv@t39.rwth-aachen.de	Application form in German	- Single rooms - Self-governed dorm without janitor - Good German skills required

How do I apply?

The application

For student dormitory:

- Write a good and personal description of yourself (hobbies, interests...); explain your motivation for living in this flat (idea of living in shared flat, important aspects of cohabitation for you)
- Friendliness and humor are very important aspects while applying for a room in a dorm or in a shared flat.
- Write in German if possible.
- Be creative: a short introduction video can be more entertaining than a traditional text.

For private accommodation:

- In case of WG: Check the flat mates' requirements in the ad to make sure you match with the description.
- Sometimes CV and motivation letter are required.
- Include information about financial resources (Hiwi-Job, BaföG, Verpflichtungserklärung, blocked account, scholarship...)
- Offer to provide official proof

Application checking: Do not hesitate to ask your [Buddy](#) or your Housing Advisors if you are unsure. Further tips can also be found on <https://www.wg-gesucht.de/info/wg-suche>.

The interview

- During the visit of the flat, make a good impression, for example by not using your phone, being respectful, being yourself, talking about your qualities and not emphasizing your flaws.
- Find out for yourself whether you really fit in this shared flat / apartment.
- If necessary: show official proof of financial resources or even include them in a "Bewerbungsmappe" (application file) along with a CV, motivation letter and study certificate/ letter of acceptance at university.

6 letter of financial commitment from guarantor

Extra: WG-Casting

Students usually invite potential flat mates to an interview to get to know each other and eventually decide which applicant they would like to offer the room. The interview can take various forms and be very different from one flat share to another. Some will have a very strict questionnaire; others will have planned games to test your “team spirit” or ability to integrate quickly. Nevertheless, be yourself, open-minded and if you do not feel it, do not force yourself.

FAQ in WG-Castings

- Do you smoke? Do you drink?
- Do you like to have friends over? How often?
- What hours do you usually keep?
- What are your expectations regarding cleaning?
- Do you have any special house rules or habits I should know about?
- Do you like to cook with other people and participate in evening activities (i.e. party)?
- How are you going to finance your life in the flat?
- Do you have experience in flat sharing?
- If so, what was your worst experience sharing a flat with someone?

The contract

- If you are the lucky one, you will probably be handed the rental contract.
- Make sure to read it calmly and if necessary with the help of your Buddy, a native speaker or even a legal consultant of AStA⁷.
- **Never sign anything if you have not seen the room or if you do not understand the conditions.**
- Make sure to get the “Wohnungsgeberbestätigung” you will need for your registration at citizen office (see p. 11)
- Bring the contract back signed and get the key.

⁷ Appointment available after approx. two weeks by contacting asta@asta.rwth-aachen.de or av@asta.rwth-aachen.de

Payment of the deposit

- Usually, there are two ways of making deposit. Either:
- Cash payment: to avoid if possible. If not, make sure to get a receipt which states clearly the amount!
- Deposit Account (Mietkautionskonto): just visit the bank to get help though the process.
- Verpflichtungserklärung: Formal obligation from a guarantor in case of insufficient funds. Check the criteria for a valid Verpflichtungserklärung ahead!

Moving in

- Check the apartment or room for possible damages. Take pictures as proof.
- If you find any, notify the janitor immediately, otherwise the reparation costs could be deducted from your deposit.
- in case of damages that prevent you from living in the flat or room (vermin, major defects), notify the janitor immediately and inform yourself about the procedure to follow.
- in case you need to sleep somewhere else for a few nights, keep all the bills and check whether a reimbursement or compensation is possible.
- If you must leave your room on short notice, make sure to get a confirmation that the circumstances allow an extraordinary termination of the contract.
- For all these cases, AStA legal consultation can be of great help. Do not hesitate to make an appointment at asta@rwth-aachen.de or av@asta.rwth-aachen.de.

Moving out

- Also check the apartment or room with the janitor before moving out to make sure you get your deposit back.
- Have any damages listed in the Wohnungsübergabeprotokoll (inspection protocol).
- Ask for the deposit refund procedure. The refund can take up to 8 weeks at the Studierendenwerk and up to 6 months for private accommodation.



Any special needs?

Students with disability

If you have physical disabilities, you will probably need your apartment to be particularly accessible. While searching on the private market, always use the filter “handicapped accessible” (barrierefrei), if available.

You will need to inform yourself about the facilities:

- Is there a lift in the building?
- Are the entrances broad enough for wheel chair users?
- Is the bathroom adapted to tenants with disabilities?
- How far is the next supermarket / pharmacy / bus station...?

Studierendenwerk Aachen also offers a few rooms accessible for students with disability in several [dorms](#). During the application, you will need to indicate your degree of disability so that the allocation priority can be adjusted.

Generally, we recommend that students with a disability contact [AStA's representative for disabled students](#). They can inform you about additional services adapted to your personal situation and might support you in finding accommodation.

Couples and families

Finding a place for you and your partner might not be so difficult on the private market, since the budgets combined are higher than for single students and you will be eligible for both single apartments and shared flats.

At Studierendenwerk, you should apply together for a so-called “[Doppelapartment](#)”. With two different applications for rooms in a shared flat, you cannot have the guarantee that you will both be accepted in the same flat since the rooms get allocated separately.

The following private dorms also offer accommodation for couples:

- [Neupforte](#): 47 sqm apartments. Contact: [KHG Aachen](#)
- [Hermannstraße](#): 50-75 sqm apartments (420€). Contact: [Email](#) or [website](#)
- [ESG Nizzaallee](#): 18 sqm apartment (370€): Contact: [ESG](#)



Heerlen

Kerkrade

Vaals

Aachen

And what about...

Living for help?

There are quite a lot of Aacheners living in a big houses who have a spare room since their children moved out. The Studierendenwerk has implemented a special program called Wohn-Duo that allows students to live with older persons – either a senior or a family.

In exchange for help with buying groceries, taking care of the garden or just completing every day chores, you get a rent reduction. The amount of support required depends on the size of the room available.

Further information can be found on www.studierendenwerk-aachen.de/en/housing/wohn-duo.html.

N.B.: The application form is only available in German.

Living in the Netherlands?

At first glance it may seem counterintuitive to study in Aachen and live in the Netherlands. At second glance though, this is clearly a good alternative! Aachen is located in the three-country corner and is just a few kilometers from Vaals, Kerkrade or Heerlen.

EU citizens can easily commute between countries. The connection with public transportation is very good and you can even cover parts of the route by bike.

Pilot project Parkstad Limburg

Usually, non-European citizens are not able to study in Germany and live in the Netherlands or Belgium due to residence restrictions. There is one exception: the pilot project Parkstad Limburg which provides housing in Heerlen and Kerkrade for international students. Since 2016 there has been a collaborative project between Parkstad Limburg, Netherlands and RWTH Aachen: this pilot project allows international students to study at RWTH and live in the Netherlands. The housing project is open to all international students. Non-EU students must apply for a Dutch visa. The residence hurdles have been smoothed over especially for the pilot project. However, since the visa procedures take time and since you cannot apply for both a German and Dutch visa, you should decide early enough whether you would like to live in the Netherlands. Do you have questions about this housing project? Contact the project coordinator in Kerkrade, [Ms. Starmans-Wallz](#). Flyers and Photos are available at the [Housing Advice Service](#).

Heerlen: 22sqm for €256.50

Kerkrade: 11 - 24sqm for €217 - €382





Katzensprung

You might also be interested in having a look at Vaals, which is a stone's throw (Katzensprung) away from Aachen and especially from Campus Melaten. As the community of Vaals is very interested in attracting a student population, a dorm has been built with fully furnished single apartments. The dorm has common and recreation rooms on each floor to help you integrate as part of the dorm community. The city also provides advantageous offers for students. Further information is available at <http://www.wohneninkatzensprung.de/en/>.

Price: 22sqm for €363 incl. Internet

NB: This option is only available to EU citizens at the moment. In any case, as a non-EU student, you should check with the [Immigration Office](#) whether you are allowed to live in the Netherlands while studying in Germany.

Living in an international dormitory?

The International Academy has opened a private student dorm with shared flats in the Frankenberger district of Aachen. The rooms are fully furnished and are reserved especially for international students.

With up to 15sqm living space and modern facilities in one of the most popular and student-friendly districts of Aachen, this flat share community will quickly make you feel at home.

The flats are shared either by three or five students and can be rented for at least a year with renewable contract.

Price: 15sqm for €450 all incl.

Further information can be found at <https://housing-aachen.de/> and can be requested at the [Housing Advice Service](#).



Glossary

German	English
Mietvarianten / Kinds of rent:	
Miete	Rent
Zwischenmiete	Temporary apartment / room
Untermiete	Subrent / sublease
Wohngemeinschaft (WG)	Flat share
Wohnung	Flat
Zimmer / Raum (Zi)	Room
Dachgeschoss (DG)	Top Floor
Erdgeschoss (EG)	First Floor / Ground Floor
Kosten / costs:	
Kaltmiete (KM)	Rent without utilities
Warmmiete (WM)	Rent including utilities
Nebenkosten (zzgl. NK)	Utilities
Strom	Electricity
Wasser	Water
Heizung	Heating
Zentralheizung (ZH)	Central Heating
STAWAG	Electricity and gas provider in Aachen
Provision (Prov.)	Commission

Angaben zur Wohnung / Details about flat:

Kochnische (KN)	Kitchenette
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Küche	Kitchen
-------	---------

Bad	Bathroom
-----	----------

Balkon	Balcony
--------	---------

Keller	Cellar
--------	--------

Dachboden	Attic
-----------	-------

Garten	Garden
--------	--------

Dachterrasse	Roof terrace
--------------	--------------

Parkplatz	Parking space
-----------	---------------

Abstellkammer	Storage cupboard
---------------	------------------

Etage	Floor
-------	-------

Ausstattung und sonstiges / Furniture and other:

Waschmaschine	Washing machine
---------------	-----------------

Trockner	Dryer
----------	-------

Herd	Cooker
------	--------

Kühlschrank	Refrigerator
-------------	--------------

Teppich	Carpet
---------	--------

Nichtraucher	Non smoker
--------------	------------

Möbliert / unmöbliert	furnished / unfurnished
-----------------------	-------------------------

Keine Haustiere	No pets
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Who can I contact?

International Office Housing Advice Service

The International Office coordinates RWTH Aachen's international relationships, develops programs with partner universities abroad, and advises and supports international students, and students wishing to spend time abroad.

We, the International Office Housing Advice Service, support exchange students, scholarship holders, international researchers and international degree students in finding accommodation.

Service offers:

- Guidance in the quota rooms application procedure for our exchange students and scholarship holders (see p. 24)
- Consultation and advising via email and personally upon appointment for any international student about the housing situation
- Database with private offers from external partners of RWTH Aachen University, RWTH outgoing students or private landlords.

Contact:

- Email housing@rwth-aachen.de
- Phone 0241 80 90681
- Website <https://www.rwth-aachen.de/international-housing>
- Individual appointment upon request and subject to availability by [contact form](#)

Service offers:

- Consultation and advising via email and personally during office hours
- Support in contacting the owner / landlord / flat mates and arranging an appointment to visit the room or flat
- Database with private offers from other students (short and long term)

Contact:

- Email wohnungssuche.incas@rwth-aachen.de
- Phone 0241 80 98184
- Website <http://www.incas.rwth-aachen.de/>
- See office hours [here](#)

INCAS Housing Service

INCAS stands for Intercultural Center of Aachen Students. We are a student organization, partly financially and logistically supported by the RWTH International Office and FH Aachen, which mainly serves international students and interns or students taking a German class in Aachen.

At INCAS Housing Service, we try our best to help you find good accommodation. Our aim is to show you how to find a flat in Aachen. We do not own any flats, so in the end it is up to you!

Service offers:

- Consultation and advising via email and personally during office hours
- Collaboration with housing platform [Extraraum](#) and housing project [WohnDuo](#)
- Tenancy law and housing benefits consultation

Contact:

- Email wohnen@asta.rwth-aachen.de
- Phone 0241 80 93 792
- Website <https://www.asta.rwth-aachen.de/en/housing>
- See office hours at <https://www.asta.rwth-aachen.de/en/consultation-general>

AStA Housing Consultation

The students' union executive committee (AStA) is the university-wide representation of students' interests at RWTH. Our tasks consist of the university-political representation of the students to the university, the land and the public, of the administration of the student body's finances, of the organization of a cultural program and in political education. We offer consultation in various topics, such as finance, jobs, and also housing.

AISA

The Association of Indian Students in Aachen (AISA) represents the growing community of Indian students in Aachen and has been established primarily to preserve and increase awareness of Indian heritage, not only through cultural and social activities, but also by providing community services to international students.

We implemented a system similar to Couchsurfing for international students called "Home Buddy" program. You can live up to ten days at a local student's and search for new accommodation more easily. You should register at least one month before arriving to have a chance to get matched in time with a host in Aachen.

! IMPORTANT: AISA takes no responsibility in case of issues such as inappropriate behavior or damage to property.

Service offers:

- Support in finalizing public health insurance affiliation
- Provide general information and tips about housing
- Home buddy program

Contact:

- Email infodesk.aisa@gmail.com
- Website <http://www.aisa.rwth-aachen.de/>
- For further information regarding health insurance or the Home Buddy program, please contact infodesk.aisa@gmail.com

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