

## Introduction for New Students

- The AISA (Association of Indian Students in Aachen) is a registered student organization of the RWTH Aachen University and the FH Aachen. We work in close co-operation with the International Office of both the Universities as well with Indian Embassy and Consulate offices. AISA endeavors to provide a platform for Indian and International students and community to interact and share the rich and diverse Indian culture and heritage. We advise you to read the information below to ease the transition to your student life in Aachen.
- Students can email us their queries at [accommodation.aisa@gmail.com](mailto:accommodation.aisa@gmail.com). We will be more than happy to help. You can also join our group on Facebook. **The information provided here has been painstakingly compiled after gathering general queries and experiences of the previous batches. Please refrain from asking questions, which have already been answered in documents, provided in this document and make the effort of going through these documents before posting general queries. Repetitive queries will not be answered!**

## HOW TO REACH AACHEN?

First thing to be decided:

- **Where will your flight land in Germany?**

Deciding this will help you to plan and save your Euros. Depending on the airline and baggage allowance we recommend that you choose one of following two international airports:

- 1) **Frankfurt Airport**
- 2) **Düsseldorf Airport**

Secondly:

- **Where to stay after your arrival in Aachen-**
  - This decision is extremely important because, if you received an accommodation in student dorms then you need to go to the Hausmeister (Care-taker) of the building and pick-up keys to your room. However, the Hausmeister are only available during the official working hours.
  - If you have a private WG accommodation, then you have to co-ordinate with your existing room-mates.

Thirdly:

- **The Day of Arrival in Aachen-**
  - You may be aware that Germany is closed on Sundays. So, if you are arriving on Saturday evening then don't expect basic utilities like sim cards, toiletries, groceries etc. to be available until Monday morning. Some kiosks and restaurants are open but that is very minimalistic. Therefore, it is vital to choose a day of arrival in Aachen.

**Depending on the above factors, you may choose to land at any of the above-mentioned airports. Now for a realistic scenario:**

### Scenario 1:

Let's assume that 'Sidharth' is landing at Frankfurt International airport on Monday at 18.40 hours (CET).

Luggage scenario: 3 X 23 kg each + 1 X 7 kg + 1 Laptop bag



➤ Options for Sidharth to reach Aachen are:

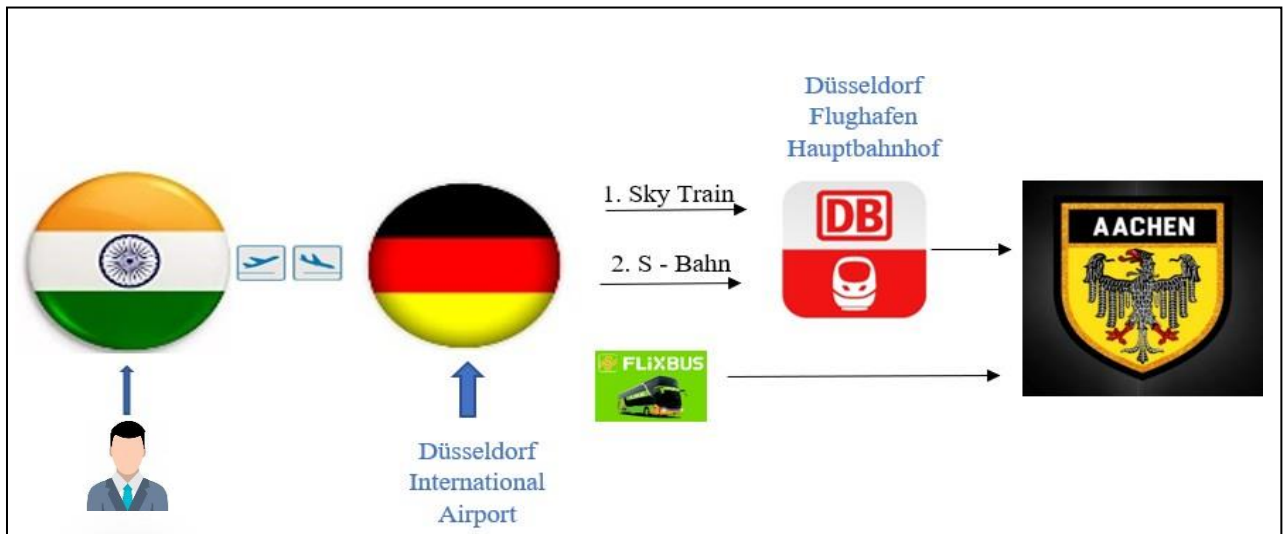
- Time required for luggage and immigration process: 1hr. approx.
- Luggage trolley cost: 1 Euro. Only card payment (Forex Card). You can take this trolley to the Rail platform. Lifts and escalators can carry trolleys (You will find the symbol for restricted lifts and escalators as far as trolleys are concerned).
- For boarding the train, go to Frankfurt (Main) Hbf. (Go to the first floor of airport and cross the road via the foot over bridge. You will find the direction at airport).
- No trolleys are available at Cologne train station.
- **Deutsche Bahn:** For train bookings (for more than 6 people, group booking can be done which can save you a few bucks. Early booking is recommended preferably approx. 1-2 month earlier). ICE trains have enough space to carry luggage and RE trains are limited with luggage space.
- **FlixBus:** For bus booking (1 X 7 kg + 1 X 23 kg included in ticket. For additional bags you need to book additional luggage at 3.99 Euro per bag while booking your ticket and 6 euro after booking your ticket.)
- **BlaBlabus:** Please visit <https://de.blablabus.com/> for details
- After reaching Aachen, two options are available for local transportation:
  - 1) **City Bus:** Cheaper option, approx. 2.4€-3€ (no constraints on luggage, routes might have change overs)
  - 2) **Taxi:** Available outside every station (approx. base rate 3.8€, 2€/km)

If Sidharth wants to spend the night at Frankfurt international airport before boarding ICE direct train, there is a lot of space available at airport, no need to book hotel or waiting lounge. Mr. Mit just needs to ensure that he has enough water and food for the night. Food can be purchased latest until 22.00.

## Scenario 2:

- Let's assume that Harish lands at Düsseldorf International airport on Monday at 13.30 hours (CET).

Luggage scenario: 2 X 23 kg each + 1 X 7 kg + 1 Laptop bag



- Time required for luggage and immigration process: 30mins approx.
- Luggage trolley costs 1 Euro. Only card payment (Forex Card). You cannot take this trolley to sky train or S-bahn platforms.
- For sky train station go to second floor of airport. Travel on sky train is free with valid flight ticket.
- For S-bahn station directions are mentioned on airport and ticket vending machines are available on the station.
- It is advisable that you take the train from “**Düsseldorf Flughafen**” train station that will take you directly to Aachen Hbf. Alternatively, you can take any train to Düsseldorf Hbf. From there, you can take a train to Aachen.
- Düsseldorf Hbf will have waiting room on the first floor.
- After reaching Aachen, two options are available for local transportation:
  - City Bus:** Cheaper option, approx. 2.4€-3€ (no constraints on luggage, routes might have change overs)
  - Taxi:** Available outside every station (approx. base rate 3.8€, 2€/km)

- Flixbus pickup and drop points are mentioned on tickets.
- It is advisable to choose the option which has less change-over
- It is always better to have some cushion-time (approx. 2 hours) after landing. This is only for the worst-case scenarios, where your luggage didn't arrive or there was some delay or you're the “random” person whose bags are opened by the Customs officers.