

LIVING AND STUDYING IN GERMANY



HOW TO SURVIVE IN GERMANY

REINOLD

We are going to explain some useful tips & tricks for your daily life in Germany:

- ▶ Insurance
- ▶ The public service broadcasting
- ▶ Purchase and payment
- ▶ Conduct in road traffic
- ▶ Different culture, different manners
- ▶ How to care for my apartment
- ▶ Balance social life and studies
- ▶ Approaching professors and university employees
- ▶ During the lecture
- ▶ Exams



INSURANCE

RENT II 10

Health insurance is required for living in Germany; don't forget to pay the fees!

To cover small but also serious accidents, it is recommended to have a private liability insurance in Germany (Haftpflichtversicherung).

What is a liability insurance?

- ▶ One of the most important insurances
- ▶ Not required by law
- ▶ It is taken out if you cause damage to third parties or damage the property of third parties



LIABILITY INSURANCE

REPORT 10

Why should you have one?

- ▶ We recommend liability insurance
- ▶ Covers costs of small mishaps and serious accidents as well
- ▶ Terms and conditions differ from agency to agency
- ▶ German third-party private liability insurances with either a three or five year term (cannot be cancelled before the term is up)
- ▶ Our strong advice is to buy only annually renewable policies



PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING (RUNDFUNKBEITRAG)

What is public service broadcasting?

- ▶ Offers independent information as well as high-quality entertainment
- ▶ A diversity of programmes is available on television, on the radio and online
- ▶ To make this offer available, everyone must pay a license fee of **18,36€ per month** and is levied for each residence.



PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING (RUNDFUNKBEITRAG)

What to do when you live alone or you share a flat?

- ▶ Single rooms count as one residence (as well in a student dormitory)
- ▶ In shared flats, only one person is required to pay the license fee. This fee can be split between the members



BUT: Be careful in this case! If you share the license fee with your roommates, those who do not pay need to report the contribution number from the payer
(online <https://www.rundfunkbeitrag.de/> or via postal mail)

- ▶ **It's a crime to download and even watch movies illegally on the internet!**



DAILY PURCHASE AND PAYMENT



Do your daily purchases from **Monday** to **Saturday**.

- ▶ Supermarkets are normally open until 8 pm
- ▶ Be environmentally friendly. Don't forget to bring your own bag whenever you shop or you'll end up paying for each plastic bag you need.
- ▶ Paying with a credit card is accepted at some places but not everywhere, so keeping cash with you is recommended.



CONDUCT IN ROAD TRAFFIC

DEGGENDORF 10



If you want to drive, you must have an **international driving license**

- ▶ It's easier to use a bike in Deggendorf



Germans usually don't jaywalk

- ▶ The little red man on the traffic light gives you the sign to stop
- ▶ The little green man gives you the sign that you can cross the road, as long as the street is clear



In general, if you have a **real emergency** call:

- ▶ 110 for police
- ▶ or 112 for an ambulance



CONDUCT IN ROAD TRAFFIC

If you're under the age of 21 it's absolutely forbidden to drink and drive.

- ▶ Criminal offense: High fine and driving ban!

If you're over the age of 21 a level under 0.5 mil is tolerated.

- ▶ Traffic administrative offense:
 - ▶ Fine: 500 Euro and
 - ▶ One month driving ban

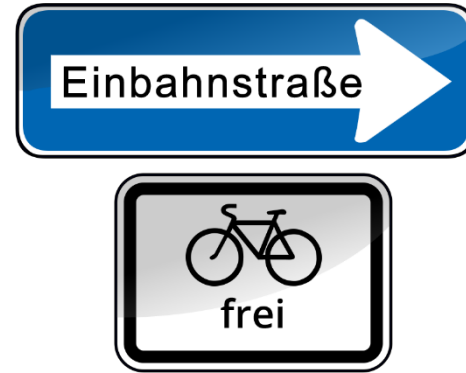
Attention! The rules are also valid for bicycle rides!

- ▶ More than 1.6 per mil: **Criminal offense** (High fine/driving ban)



BICYCLE REGULATIONS

RENT A CAR



- ▶ You are not allowed to ride through, unless there is one of these signs
- ▶ Don't ride the bike on the **sidewalk**



GENERAL MANNERS

PRESENT ID



- ▶ When someone say's "No", it really means No!
- ▶ And be punctual! Germans are very punctual people, so they take it very seriously for people to be on time.



HOW TO CARE FOR MY APARTMENT/FLAT ROOM



THINK.



ACT.



SAVE.

WE ALL HAVE THE POWER!



HOW TO CARE FOR MY APARTMENT

Useful tips & tricks for the german deposit system and caring for your apartment

- ▶ Saving energy and separating waste
- ▶ Cleaning and repairs
- ▶ Before you move out
- ▶ Peace at night



Nachtruhe!
22:00-07:00 Uhr



SAVING ENERGY AND SEPARATING WASTE

Collect waste separately:

- ▶ **Brown** → Bio waste: raw vegetable matter (peelings) and coffee
- ▶ **Blue** → Paper waste: cartons and derivatives
- ▶ **Grey** → All the rest that is not bio or paper waste



SAVING ENERGY AND SEPARATING WASTE

ENERGY 10

WASTE 10

Save Energy:

- ▶ Switch off the heaters, while airing the room.
- ▶ Correct procedure of airing; two to three times a day with the window fully open.



SAVING ENERGY AND SEPARATING WASTE

- ▶ To wash dishes: put water into the sink and wash the dishes, rinse with fresh water afterwards. Do not wash the dishes under running water. Shut off the water tap properly.
- ▶ Higher cost can occur through wasting energy and water which then will be put on top of the rent. You would have to pay for it when you move out.



SAVING ENERGY AND SEPARATING WASTE

► Deposit System:

When you buy a plastic or glass bottle in any store or a can of any beverage, they put between 7 and 25 cents deposit on top of the purchase price.

You can bring back the empty bottle or can to any food store and you will get your money back.



How does it work?

1. Put the bottle into the provided machine (e.g. in the supermarket).
2. Press the green button and you get a voucher with the deposit on it.
3. You can either go to the counter and ask for the money or use the voucher to buy other things in the store.



CLEANING AND REPAIRS

- ▶ If you move into a shared flat, ask for the cleaning plan
- ▶ Your student room is cleaned when you arrived. Once you have moved in, you will be responsible for cleaning your room and any shared areas.
- ▶ You should clean regularly (at least once a week): the kitchen, the bathroom and the floor
- ▶ You should remove the trash/waste and wash the dishes regularly.



CLEANING AND REPAIRS

- ▶ Once a month you should clean the oven, microwave and door of your room.
- ▶ Use eligible cleaning items (cloths, brush, swap wt.) rubber gloves, liquids and powders to clean your stuff.
- ▶ Throw away old and rotten food (cheese, meat, vegetables, fruits etc.)
- ▶ If something is broken or damaged you must report it immediately!



CLEANING AND REPAIRS

- ▶ Repairs that do not have to be carried out immediately will be taken care of by the facility manager as soon as possible after having received the damage report.
- ▶ Emergencies (e.g. flooding) will be taken care of by the on-duty service, if the facility manager is off-duty.
- ▶ Do not throw any items into the sinks (shower, toilet, kitchen sink, etc.). You need to cover the cost for a blocked drain by yourself.



END OF STAY IN YOUR APARTMENT

- ▶ Do not forget to terminate your rental contract in time.
- ▶ Cleaning! You will have to pay for it if you do not clean properly.
- ▶ Arrange room inspection: 1-2 weeks before you leave
- ▶ Handover the keys to the caretaker right after the inspection.
- ▶ You are not allowed to stay in the room after the inspection.



PEACE AT NIGHT

- ▶ **Respect the peace at night** and do not disturb the neighbourhood with loud noises! Especially between **10 pm and 7 am**
- ▶ It is forbidden to do noisy activities (play instruments or music, make parties, loud conversation etc.) during the quiet hours
- ▶ Be aware that you can get into big trouble with the police and the landlord of your residence if you do not respect the rules



YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO...

- ▶ Smoking in **closed rooms is strictly prohibited!** You are not allowed to smoke in closed places or rooms. Also, electronic cigarettes, as well as vape. Moreover, do not turn off or deactivate the fire alarm.
- ▶ Do not call the fire department if you forget your key inside the room. There is a key service that you can call (you have to pay for it by yourself).



**THANK YOU
FOR NOT
SMOKING**



BALANCE SOCIAL LIFE AND STUDIES

RESEARCH ID

- ▶ **Studies in Germany** are very exam-based. Enjoy your time here, but don't wait to study or start your projects a few days before deadline.
- ▶ Taking care of your apartment takes a lot of time. Make sure to organise your time in order to focus on your studies.



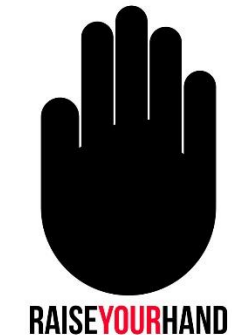
APPROACHING PROFESSORS AND UNIVERSITY STAFF

- ▶ Find the right contact person!
- ▶ Always introduce yourself using first and last name and do not forget to include your matriculation number and study programme.
- ▶ Always be polite when approaching someone in person, but also when writing an email. „Thank you“ is always welcome. 😊
- ▶ Check the university's „communication guidelines“.
- ▶ Do not send the same email to different departments of the University.
- ▶ Be respectful with the professors' and the staffs' time. They will answer you **as soon as they can.**



DURING THE LECTURE

- ▶ Attendance and participation in class are not mandatory, but very important!
- ▶ Do not interrupt the class. Raise your hand if you have a question or comment on the subject.
- ▶ Be respectful to the professor and your peers by avoiding conversations on the side.
- ▶ Independent and autonomous work - Studying by yourself is very important!
- ▶ **Interact with your class.** Ask questions, discuss topics, and engage as much as you can. Professors appreciate that. Critical questioning is welcome and does not lead to professors being offended.
- ▶ Focus is not only on reproduction (learning by heart), but also on transfer performance, problem solving, ...



EXAMS

- ▶ Pay attention to the **registration period** for exams.
- ▶ Prepare yourself: watch for the deadlines, dates of exams are not flexible, and if you miss an exam, you will lose a try and can only retake the exam in the next semester.
- ▶ There are many different types of exams: classical written exams, but also oral exams, take home exams, homework, project work / group work, etc. You need to register yourself for all of them, or the professors are not able to grade you.
- ▶ Normally there is one exam per semester for each subject. Don't wait to study on the last day.
- ▶ Keep in contact with your professor. They usually give tips on important content for the exams during class.
- ▶ **Take care of yourself!** Mental health is as important as exam scores.



QUESTIONS?



Thank you for your attention!

