# General Reference Material

1. <https://www.howtogermany.com/>
2. <https://www.reddit.com/r/germany/wiki/index>
3. <https://www.uni-saarland.de/en/global/welcome-center.html>
4. <https://kaleidoescape.wordpress.com/erasmus-mundus-germany/> - a blog of a former student’s experience in the LCT program

# Before Arrival

1. Visa - see General Reference Material
2. Housing
   1. <https://www.uni-saarland.de/en/global/welcome-center/accommodation.html>
   2. <https://www.wg-gesucht.de/>
   3. Popular Neighborhoods/Areas
      1. Bahnhofstr./Downtown - train station, shops, bars, restaurants, museums, ~20 minutes by bus to campus
      2. Alt Saarbrücken - across the river from downtown, historical homes/buildings/castle, ~25 minutes by bus to campus
      3. Dudweiler - small town outside of Saarbrücken, has essential shops/restaurants/grocery stores, ~20 minutes by bus to campus, ~30 minutes by bus to downtown Saarbrücken, has a nice forest near Guckelsberg dormitory (uni is ~20 mins by foot through the forest)
      4. Am Homburg - mostly residential, close grocery stores/pharmacy, has a nice forest with walking trails, ~15 minutes by bus to campus, ~20 minutes by bus to downtown Saarbrücken
      5. Rotenbühl - mostly residential, some restaurants, ~15 minutes by bus to campus, ~15 minutes by bus to downtown Saarbrücken
3. Health Insurance - see General Reference Material, especially the r/German wiki

# After Arrival

1. Banking - see r/German wiki
2. Cellphone - see r/German wiki
   1. Recommendation - get a month-to-month SIM card at a grocery store or online ([sim.de](http://sim.de)), not a contract with a cellphone provider like O2/Vodafone/T-Mobile. Month-to-month is cheaper and gives you more freedom to change.
   2. NOTE - If you bought your cellphone in the United States your old provider might have your phone hardware locked. You will need to google how to unlock your phone from the old provider to start using a new SIM card.
3. Registration Quick Overview - see [Welcome Center link](https://www.uni-saarland.de/en/global/welcome-center/first-steps/residents-registration.html) for full steps
   1. Step 1: When you sign the contract for your apartment your landlord/landlady will provide a **Wohnungsgeberbestätigung** document for you.
   2. Step 2: Make an appointment with one of the local **Bürgeramter** and bring this document (and other necessary documents) to the appointment. At this appointment your apartment will be registered with the city. They will give you a **Meldebestätigung** to bring to your residency appointment
      1. You may be asked to declare your religion during this appointment and you will be registered to pay a Church Tax.
      2. Once your apartment is registered you will receive a letter in the mail to pay a yearly Radio/TV tax. The tax can be shared amongst your flatmates.
   3. Step 3: Make an appointment through email with the **Aüslanderbehörde** in Lebach.
      1. You may need to send multiple emails or ask the University [Welcome Center](https://www.uni-saarland.de/en/global/welcome-center.html) to reach out on your behalf. Getting an appointment may take a while.
      2. Once you have an appointment you will receive a letter in the mail saying the date, time, and necessary paperwork to bring.
      3. At the first appointment your paperwork will be processed, you’ll pay €100, and you’ll receive a **Fiktionsbescheinigung**. This temporary document allows for legal travel within Europe and work within Germany for the next 6 months.
      4. Approximately 6 weeks later you’ll receive another letter with a date and time to go back to the Aüslanderbehörde to pick up your full residency card.
4. School
   1. Map: <https://map.fsr.saarland/>
   2. Coli/LST/LCT
      1. Location: Campus buildings C72, C73, C74
      2. <https://www.coli.uni-saarland.de/>
      3. Discords:
         1. LST - <https://discord.gg/zFWHweAdG9>
         2. SpraWiTech - <https://discord.gg/CG8swP8Km9>
   3. Student card (used as ticket in public transport, library card, Mensa card)
      1. Loading money onto a student card:
         1. EC bank card
            1. Welcome Center office (A44)
            2. SULB library (B11)
            3. Mensa (D41)
         2. Cash
            1. SULB library (B11)
            2. Mensa (D41)
         3. Credit
            1. Mensa (D41)
      2. Before the beginning of a new semester, you’ll need to take your student card to the Welcome Center and put a new stamp on it at the available machines
   4. Classes:
      1. LSF (used for registering for LST classes/exams): <https://www.lsf.uni-saarland.de/qisserver/rds?state=wtree&search=1&trex=step&root120231=342429%7C341669%7C342345%7C340572&P.vx=kurz>
      2. CMS (used for registering for CS classes): <https://cms.sic.saarland/system/courses>
      3. NOTE: Professors may have a second way they want you to register for a class. Read through the course websites carefully to see if that’s the case.
      4. NOTE: Registering for the class does not guarantee you a spot. You must register for the final exam (a few months after the start of classes) and pass the exam for the class to count for credits.
   5. IT Center (School email, wifi, printers, etc): <https://www.hiz-saarland.de/start>
   6. ASTA (University student council) - <https://asta.uni-saarland.de/>
   7. Language Center
      1. German: <https://www.uni-saarland.de/en/global/german-courses.html>
      2. German with MPI: <https://www.imprs-trust.mpg.de/language/>
      3. Other Languages: <https://www.szsb.uni-saarland.de/start.html>
   8. Sports - <https://www.uni-saarland.de/einrichtung/hochschulsport.html>
   9. Library - SULB (need to register, firstly online, [application form & instructions](https://opac.sulb.uni-saarland.de/libero/WebOpac.cls?VERSION=2&ACTION=SIGNUPAGREE&RSN=&DATA=SUB&TOKEN=snkxas7Ryw3760&Z=1&NewBreadCrumb=1))
   10. Printing - SULB, various printers around campus, stores such as DM in town
   11. Mensa (canteen) - [menu released](https://mensaar.de/#/menu/sb) a week in advance

# Settling In

1. Transportation
   1. Local - *Saarfahrplan* app
   2. Long-distance - *DB Navigator* app
      1. For train and bus travel around Europe: trainline
   3. Other modes of transportation (generally cheaper than trains) - Flixbus, BlaBlaCar
   4. Semester ticket - <https://asta.uni-saarland.de/mobilitaet/?lang=en>
      1. Free travel for buses, trams, and regional (RB/RE) trains *within* Saarland
      2. ICE trains are *not* included. You will need to pay full price.
   5. D-ticket - Student Edition - <https://saarvv.de/abo/aufstockermodell-fuer-studierende/>
      1. Monthly ticket (stipend for students) which will allow you to use any regional trains within and around Germany
      2. ICE trains are *not* included. You will need to pay full price.
      3. This is a month-to-month ticket which must be purchased by the 10th of the month before you want to use it. (ie - If you’re taking a regional train to Frankfurt in June, you must buy this ticket by May 15.)
   6. Airports: Frankfurt (2-3h by train), Paris (3h by train), Luxembourg (2h by bus)
2. Stores
   1. Grocery (closed on Sundays & public holidays)
      1. Cheap - Netto, Aldi, Lidl
      2. Pricey - Rewe, Edeka
      3. Large - Kaufland, Globus
      4. Open Sunday - [Rossman at Hauptbahnhof](https://www.rossmann.de/de/filialen/saarland/saarbruecken/am-hauptbahnhof-4.html?utm_source=gmb&utm_medium=store-entry&utm_campaign=gmb&utm_content=2819) aka main train station
      5. Specialty/Regional
         1. Indian/Asian groceries
            1. Asia Markt Lebensmittel at Uhlandstraße
            2. Go-Asia
         2. Polish - Polski Sklep
         3. Organic/BIO - BIOMarkt
         4. Arabic/Middle Eastern - Aslan Market
   2. Medical
      1. To find any doctors near you who speak your preferred language: <https://www.tk-aerztefuehrer.de/TK/englische-suche.htm>
         1. NOTE: many receptionists who schedule your appt on the phone don’t speak english
   3. Misc
      1. Home goods/Furniture/Hardware - Tedox, JSKY, IKEA
      2. Hardware - Bauhaus, Hornbach
      3. Technology - Saturn, Media Markt
      4. Paper goods - McPaper
      5. Books - Thalia, Bock & Seip
      6. Post office - DHL
      7. Sport stuff - Galeria Karstadt, Sporthaus Kohlen
      8. Bikes - [Monthly bike market at the Staatstheater](https://saarland.adfc.de/artikel/fahrradboerse-2023)
         1. There are some basic self-repair stations in the city on/near Bahnhofstrasse
      9. Other (online, secondhand) - <https://www.kleinanzeigen.de/>
3. Mail
   1. <https://www.dhl.de/en/privatkunden.html>
   2. *Post & DHL* app can be used to send/receive packages from Packstations instead of delivering directly to your address.
   3. REMEMBER - Make sure your name is on your mailbox when you move in. Mail delivery isn’t based on apartment number, it’s based on matching the name of the mailbox to the name on the envelope
   4. Stamps
      1. National stamps can be bought at McPaper/DHL/kiosks
      2. International stamps can be bought on the DHL website
      3. Electronic stamps can be bought on DHL App, which will give you a code to write on your envelope/mail in place of a physical stamp.