



University of Stuttgart
International Office

For degree-seeking students

Winter semester 2024/25

Pre-Departure-brochure





This brochure will inform you about the following:

1. What you need to think of before coming to Stuttgart
2. First steps after your arrival in Stuttgart
3. Academic calendar

What you need to think of before coming to Stuttgart

📁 Prepare and bring along:

- Valid **passport**
- Visa** (if applicable)
- Letter of admission** (*Zulassungsbescheid*) generated by C@MPUS
- Original of your certificates** or certified copy (e.g. school leaving certificate, Bachelor's certificate and transcript, language certificates).
- Housing information** and/or **rental contract**
- Biometrical **passport photos**
- Health insurance** (travel health insurance if needed)
- Scholarship contract** (if applicable)
- Any **medicine** you regularly need to take for at least 4-8 weeks

Visa

Entry visa-free

Citizens of the **EU** do **NOT** need a visa to enter Germany.

Citizens of **Australia, Brazil, Canada, GB, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Israel** and the **USA** can enter Germany without visa but need to apply for a residence permit upon arrival.¹

You will need:

- Proof of **sufficient financial means** in the amount of at least **EUR 934 per month** (e.g. a bank statement showing the credit balance in a bank account in Germany, a blocked bank account, a declaration of financial commitment, or a proof of stipend or scholarship)

Visa required

Citizens of a **non-EU** country not mentioned on the left **need a student visa**.

Please apply at the **German embassy** or consulate in your country of residence. Schedule an appointment as soon as possible, since visa procedures can take **up to six months**. The visa is usually issued for three to six months. It must be changed into a residence permit after your arrival in Germany.

¹ If you have a citizenship of a **non-EU country** that allows **visa-free entry**, you are still free to try to **apply for a student visa** for Germany. This way, you have more time for the currently long-lasting application process for obtaining a residence permit upon your arrival in Stuttgart. Please contact the German embassy in your country of residence for further information.



<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proof of accommodation in Germany (optional)	Check with the German embassy office which additional documents you need. This might vary from country to country. ²
Please find further information at: www.uni-stuttgart.de/en/study/international/visa/	

Health insurance

EU students and students from countries with a social security agreement	Non-EU students
<p>Students from EU countries need the European health insurance card (EHIC) for proof of health insurance. It is available at the health insurance company of your home country.</p> <p>Students from countries with a social security agreement e.g. Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia and Turkey need to bring a confirmation of their current health insurance.</p>	<p>Due to German regulations, students from non-EU countries under 30 years of age are required to purchase a student health insurance at a local insurance company in Stuttgart which amounts to approx. 120 EUR per month. Students who have a health insurance by their program or scholarship provider need to bring the policy.</p>

Please note:
 The compulsory student health insurance comes into effect at the inception of the semester (October 1). If you arrive ahead of time we strongly recommend that you take out a **travel health insurance** in your home country to cover the period until April 1.

Non-EU citizens who are **30 years** of age **or older** must take out a private insurance meeting German standards. All private health insurances in Germany usually exclude pre-existing chronic disease e.g. asthma, diabetes, stomach ulcer, chronic headaches (migraine etc.). It will be necessary that you purchase insurance from your home country that will cover up for it. Please contact the International Office for further information.

² Applicants from China, India, Vietnam and Mongolia need to have their academic documents certified by the APS office (<https://aps-india.de/>, <http://www.aps.org.cn>, <http://www.vietnam.diplo.de>, <http://www.ulan-bator.diplo.de/aps>)



Accommodation

The **Studierendenwerk Stuttgart** and the **VSSW** provide both student dorms in Stuttgart. Please apply online.

🔗 www.studierendenwerk-stuttgart.de/en/accommodation

🔗 <https://www.vssw.de/>

We strongly advise to apply for a dormitory room **as soon as possible**. Rooms are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. The waiting period is currently approx. 6 -12 months.

There are only **single rooms** in mixed (male/female) student dormitories with shared kitchen and bathroom available.

Finding a room on the private housing market is possible but usually takes a long time and rooms are quite expensive.

Please note:

The **rental period** for Master's students in the Master's programs usually starts on **October 1**.

Neither the International Office nor your Master's program have any influence on the allocation of your dorm room.

Furthermore, there is **no guarantee to get a room offer** by the **Studierendenwerk Stuttgart or the VSSW** as the **number of rooms** is **limited!**

As soon as the **Studierendenwerk Stuttgart or the VSSW** has allocated the rooms (approx. four to six weeks prior to the reservation period), they will send you a **room offer** by e-mail. This offer includes the **rental contract**, your **hirer code** and the contact details of the person in charge of your dormitory. You will also receive instructions on how to accept your room offer so that your rental contract becomes effective.

In order for your rental contract to become effective, you must transfer a deposit of about **EUR 700** to the bank account of the dormitory provider. Mind the **deadline** for the transfer to arrive in **their account!**

The EUR 700 deposit already includes part of the first month's rent while **EUR 400** will be kept as **deposit** and will be **reimbursed** at the end of your stay in the dormitory if there are no complaints about the status of your room.

Should you come to Stuttgart at a time you cannot move into your dorm room immediately (e.g. weekend, public holiday, very early or late), we recommend you book a room in a youth hostel or a low-budget hotel well in advance.



Private/temporary accommodation

Private housing market

Unfortunately, the housing situation is difficult in Stuttgart. Be prepared to live in a temporary accommodation for several weeks during your room search before you find a long-term place to live. You can find many links and tips for **private** and **low budget** places here

🔗 <https://www.uni-stuttgart.de/en/study/living-in-stuttgart/housing/index.html>

Please note that it is **absolutely necessary to book in advance**, since hostels and low-budget hotels are quickly booked out at this time of the year!

Items of practical use

If you move into a student dorm of the **Studierendenwerk Stuttgart** or the **VSSW**, please remember that the **first moving-in day is October 1 (Please note that you cannot move in on October 3 since it is a public holiday (Unity Day))**. You can get the dorm key only during the office hours of the caretaker [**Hausmeister**]. The office hours will be indicated in your housing information from the Studierendenwerk Stuttgart or the VSSW.

When you **arrive in Stuttgart on a Saturday, Sunday** or before your rental contract becomes effective, we suggest you stay at a youth hostel or a guest house for the first night(s). Make sure to book in advance.

☑ Make sure you have **enough money** available - e.g. for the semester contribution approx. EUR 170, the tuition fee for non-EU students EUR 1.500, your rent, the public transportation pass for about EUR 50 per month for the whole metropolitan area, other incidental costs such as food and drink EUR 300, compulsory broadcasting fee, health insurance.

☑ You will also need some **small change** (about EUR 5) for public transportation from the airport/train station to the Vaihingen campus or city center. Or you download the app to order a ticket by mobile phone:

🔗 <http://en.vvs.de/tickets/how-to-buy-a-ticket/>

☑ Do not forget to bring along **clothing for rainy** and **cold weather**.

☑ **Glasses** are very expensive in Germany. You might want to bring a second pair along.

☑ For all electrical appliances you will need a 220 volt adapter.

Please note:

Do not come to Stuttgart and expect to be able to finance your studies by working. The University of Stuttgart's English Master's programs are full-time study programs and the study load is very high.



Support programs for international students

The University of Stuttgart offers various support programs for international students to ensure a perfect start and a study success.

Get your studies off to a perfect start

An introductory course for international students who received an admission to the University of Stuttgart on how to start your university studies well prepared.

🔗 <https://www.student.uni-stuttgart.de/en/startingout/international/perfect-start/>

Buddy program *ready.study.stuttgart*

The international buddy program *ready.study.stuttgart* aims to support you during your start in Stuttgart. Our buddies will welcome you at the airport, help you buy a ticket for the public transportation and show you which train you need to take in order to get to your accommodation. There is a limited amount of places available (first come, first served). Please **register** at least **three weeks prior** to your arrival.

🔗 <https://www.uni-stuttgart.de/en/study/international/ready-study-stuttgart/>

Intercultural Mentoring Program

Are you interested in intercultural exchange? In the Intercultural Mentoring Program you form a one-on-one tandem with an experienced student for an entire semester. Your mentor introduces you to local student life and is looking forward to learning about your culture. Workshops and fun leisure time events give you plenty of opportunities to find new friends. Please **register** here:

🔗 www.student.uni-stuttgart.de/en/startingout/international/support/mentoring/

Arrival and first steps:

We recommend you arrive shortly before the introductory week starts (Monday, **October 7, 2024**.)

If you move into a student dormitory:

1. Go to the caretaker's office [Hausmeister] of your dorm. Please mind the office hours (see housing information)! You may arrange an individual appointment with your caretaker.
2. Move into your dorm room and relax.

All students:

3. Go to the International Office at the IZ (Pfaffenwaldring 60, Campus Vaihingen). There, all students will receive helpful information about the formalities for the start in Stuttgart, can meet an advisor at the IO and ask questions. During some **information sessions** in small groups we go through all the formalities and give you useful advice ("Guidance on formalities").



Orientation program

The respective current orientation program can be found on our website. The events are continuously updated (orientation program for winter semester 2024/25 TBA).

www.student.uni-stuttgart.de/en/startingout/international/orientation-days/

Save the date:

Prepare for your Stay in Stuttgart: Monday, April 22, 2024 4 p.m. CEST

Get-together: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 4 p.m. CEST

Study financing: Monday, May 13, 2024 4 p.m. CEST

For the three above mentioned events you will receive the invitation via e-mail from your study program manager.

Academic calendar with current dates

The **academic year** at German universities is divided into **two semesters**, the winter and the summer semester. The winter semester always lasts from **October 1 until March 31** and the summer semester from **April 1 until September 30**. The exact dates of the lecture period, when classes take place, vary slightly each year. The classes of the winter semester usually start by mid-October and finish by mid-February. The classes of the summer semester start by mid-April and end by mid-July. During the semester break, examinations and block courses take place. Check the dates for examinations and block courses before you plan to leave Stuttgart for holidays or for any other reason.

Winter Semester 2024/25	
Classes start: Mon, October 14, 2024 Orientation week for first-semester students starts from Oct 7, 2024	Classes end: Sat, Feb 08, 2025
Summer Semester 2025	
Classes start: Mon, April 7, 2025	Classes end: Sat, July 19, 2025

Please note:

There are no lectures from Monday, Dec 23, 2024 to Monday, Jan 6, 2025 (winter holidays)

Public holidays (in Baden-Württemberg)

The university and all public stores are closed on public holidays:

Thursday, October 3, 2024	German Unification Day
Friday, November 1, 2024	All Saints' Day
Tuesday, December 24, 2024	Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 25, 2024	1.Christmas Day
Thursday, December 26, 2024	2.Christmas Day
Tuesday, December 31, 2024	New Years' Eve
Wednesday, January 1, 2025	New Years' Day
Monday, January 6, 2025	Epiphany
Friday, April 18, 2025	Good Friday
Sunday, April 20, 2025	Easter Sunday
Monday, April 21, 2025	Easter Monday
Thursday, May 1, 2025	Labour Day
Thursday, May 29, 2025	Ascension Day
Sunday, June 8, 2025	Whit Sunday
Monday, June 9, 2025	Whit Monday
Thursday, June 19, 2025	Corpus Christi



Note: Christmas Eve and New Years' Eve are no official public holidays, but shops close early (latest 2 p.m.).

Contact at the IO

Contact for students in English Master's programs:

Kerstin Glaser

International Office
Pfaffenwaldring 60
70569 Stuttgart
Phone +49 (0)711 685-686 08

My office is located on Campus Vaihingen at the International Center (IZ) on the 1st floor.
We can also schedule an individual online appointment.

✉ incoming@ia.uni-stuttgart.de

Please name your study program when you contact the International Office.
Thank you!

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Stuttgart!
Your International Office