As a new international student in Stuttgart, you have probably already received loads of handouts, lists, brochures, flyers...in one word: paper!

With this Welcome Guide, we hope to provide you with the relevant information you don’t already have.

1. Why should I learn German?
2. Where can I meet new / international people?
3. How can I earn some extra money?
4. How can I find a job?
5. When should I start looking for an apartment?
6. What can I do in Stuttgart on a student’s budget?
7. Who can I ask for more information?

We wish you all the best for your start in Stuttgart and the Stuttgart region!
1. WHY SHOULD I LEARN GERMAN?

For a professional future in Germany a good command of German language (spoken and written) is essential! Why? Because in most companies the working language is German. German language skills are not only important for your every day and professional life, but also in order to participate in cultural activities.

So start now!

Not yet convinced? Here are 10 reasons to learn German:

1. **Business:** Knowing the language of your German business partners improves your relations and therefore your chances for effective communication and success.

2. **The global career:** Knowledge of German increases your job opportunities with German and foreign companies in your own country and abroad. Proficiency in German helps you to function productively for an employer with global business connections.

3. **Tourism and hospitality industry:** Tourists from German-speaking countries travel wide and far, and are the world's biggest spenders when on holiday. They appreciate to be looked after by German-speaking staff and tour guides.

4. **Science and Research:** German is the second most commonly used scientific language. Germany is the third largest contributor to research and development and offers research fellowships to scientists from abroad.

5. **Communication:** Developments in media, information and communication technology require multilingual communicators. A wide range of important websites are in German and worldwide, Germany is ranked number 5 in terms of annual publication of new books. Knowledge of German therefore offers you extended access to information.

6. **Cultural understanding:** Learning German provides you with an insight into the way of life, and the hopes and dreams of people in German speaking countries, broadening your horizon.

7. **Travel:** Make the most of your travels not only in German-speaking countries, but in many other European countries where German is widely spoken, especially in Eastern Europe.

8. **Enjoyment of literature, music, art and philosophy:** German is the language of Goethe, Kafka, Mozart, Bach and Beethoven. Indulge in reading and/or listening to their works in their original language.

9. **Opportunities to study/work in Germany:** Germany awards a generous number of scholarships and other support to study in Germany. Working-holiday visas are available for young foreigners from a range of countries, and special visas are offered to skilled workers and professionals.

10. **Opportunities for exchange:** A wide range of exchange programme exists for both school and university students between Germany and many countries in the world.
2. WHERE CAN I MEET NEW / INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE?

**Welcome Club** is an informal meet-up for international and German students in the WeltCafé at Charlottenplatz on the first Monday of every month at 7pm. The theme for Welcome Club rotates every other month: At Quiz Night, teams of German and international students compete to win great prizes. At Game Night, participants can practice their German via a variety of card and board games. Registration is not required, just drop by.

**Additional Welcome Center events tailored to international students** provide information on a variety of relevant topics such as applying for a job, the social welfare system in Germany, learning German, mobility in Stuttgart, and much more.

Visit [www.welcome.region-stuttgart.de](http://www.welcome.region-stuttgart.de) and [www.welcome.stuttgart.de/item/show/550881](http://www.welcome.stuttgart.de/item/show/550881) for a list of upcoming events and registration details.

**Stuttgart Universities** organise a number of social events for international students. Please be sure to read emails from your International Student Office, as they forward information about special programmes for students.

3. HOW CAN I EARN SOME EXTRA MONEY?

As a student, you are allowed to work a total of 120 full days or 240 half days a year. These do not have to be consecutive days, but rather can be calculated as the total number of hours worked within the timeframe of a year (half day = up to 4 working hours, more than 4 working hours = 1 day).

Completing an **internship** is a great way to get your foot in the door at a company while earning a bit of extra money. A common term for part-time jobs especially for students is “Werkstudent”. Your subject of studies has to match the company requirements. Keep your eyes open at your university departments for postings about internships, or visit the following websites:

- www.meinpraktikum.de
- www.1000praktika.de
- www.prabo.de
- www.praktika.de
- www.praktikum.info
- www.praktikumsanzeigen.info
- www.praktikum.de
- www.jobboerse.arbeitsagentur.de
- www.jobs.region-stuttgart.de
- www.jobwall.region-stuttgart.de
- ... and many more

Short-term employment can fit the student schedule very well, especially when it’s offered during the semester break.

The Job-Team of the Agentur für Arbeit gives you the opportunity to find the right activity for you. You can contact the Job-Team by e-mail or in-person.

The e-mail address is **Stuttgart.Job-Team@arbeitsagentur.de**.

The office is open from Monday to Friday, 7:30am – 12pm and Thursday afternoon 2pm – 6pm.
4. HOW CAN I FIND A JOB?

There are certain regulations for German job applications no matter if you are applying for an internship, a part-time job or your first job after your graduation. If you have any questions about job applications or job hunting, please contact the team “Akademische Berufe der Agentur für Arbeit Stuttgart” (academic jobs unit of the Employment Agency Stuttgart). You will be guided through these issues during and after your studies.

If you are based in Stuttgart, ask for an individual consultation appointment at stuttgart.172-Beratung@arbeitsagentur.de

The Welcome Center Stuttgart also offers informational events and consultations in co-operation with the Agentur für Arbeit Stuttgart and further partners for questions about job hunting and applications at www.welcome.region-stuttgart.de

Further online services on employment, professional life, job application and labour market are available at www.arbeitsagentur.de

5. WHEN SHOULD I START LOOKING FOR AN APARTMENT?

University newcomers are not required to live in student housing on campus as is the norm in other countries, but it is an option. There are many benefits to living in a dormitory on campus, like meeting friends quickly and being very close to your faculty buildings. Please note that you have to take care of your accommodation in Germany on your own. A university place does not ensure a room in student housing. But you can apply for a room there even if you do not yet have your certificate of enrollment. This will only be necessary the day you move in. However, your eligibility for student housing expires after six semesters.

You will often find room offers posted on the bulletin boards in university buildings as well as at the student unions (Studierendenwerke). You can find small ads for flat-sharing communities as well as private single-apartments and room offers in your local newspaper, on the internet on real estate online portals and on the Website of Studierendenwerk Stuttgart at www.studierendenwerk-stuttgart.de/privatzzimmervermittlung

Flat share or the so-called WGs are popular among students, as students can each have their own room, but enjoy common spaces.

Rent level starts at approximately €350 for a single room in a WG and €450 for a small, unfurnished apartment. In student housing offered by student unions the rent level starts at €220 for a single room in a WG. A small apartment with kitchenette and small bathroom costs at least €280. All additional costs are included.

Please make sure that you know whether additional expenses (costs for heating, electricity, water, building manager, waste disposal) are already included or not.

Here are some important abbreviations and terms found in the ads:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NK</td>
<td>Nebenkosten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZKB</td>
<td>Zimmer, Küche, Bad oder Zimmer, Küche, Balkon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WG</td>
<td>Wohngemeinschaft</td>
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<tr>
<td>NR</td>
<td>Nichtraucher</td>
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<tr>
<td>WM</td>
<td>Warmmiete</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kation</td>
<td>deposit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provision</td>
<td>realtor's fee</td>
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<tr>
<td>EBK</td>
<td>Einbauküche</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Shared apartments / WG  
www.wg-gesucht.de, is one of many real estate online portals. On this portal you can find advertisements for shared apartments (WG) or you can set up your own advertisement to ask for accommodation. For example:

More real estate online portals:
www.wg-gesucht.de  
www.die-wg-boerse.de  
www.wg-welt.de  
www.studenten-wg.de  
www.wohngemeinschaft.de  
www.essaywg.de  
www.vierwaen.de  
www.immonetwg.html

Some useful tips how to “survive” in student housing:
http://studentenwerke.de/sites/default/files/Wohnheimwoerterbuch_d-fr-arab.pdf  
http://studentenwerke.de/sites/default/files/Wohnheimwoerterbuch_d-fr-sp.pdf  
http://studentenwerke.de/sites/default/files/Wohnheimwoerterbuch_d-pol-russ.pdf

6. WHAT CAN I DO IN STUTTGART ON A STUDENT’S BUDGET?
As a student, you are eligible to receive student rates at local museums, theatres, and businesses. Be sure to carry your student identification card with you at all times as proof of enrollment.

Free Wi-Fi internet is available at the Tourist Information Center i-Punkt (Königstraße 1a), Schlossplatz, Schillerplatz, and Markt- platz in the Stuttgart city centre. You can access the free and safe connection under the name “Unitymedia Wifi” on your mobile device. An annual library card at the Stadtbibliothek at Mailänder Platz costs €20. With this card, you can check out a wide variety of resources to assist you with your studies or your life in Stuttgart – from textbooks and travel guides to computers/laptops and language-learning CDs.

With the VVS Studiticket, you have access to the entire VVS public transport network for €203 per semester (6 months). This is a huge discount compared to the regular monthly fee. Take advantage of the opportunity to ride comfortably with bus, tram or train to some of the most popular day and weekend trip destinations in the region.

If your student identification card has a logo of the VVS you can use the entire VVS public transport network Monday to Friday starting at 6pm, at the weekend and on public holiday for free. Be sure to carry your student identifikation card and your passport with you at all times.

Flea markets are a great way to shop affordably. These are organised by intercultural organisations, churches and other social groups. For more information see www.flohmarkt-terminetnet/baden-wuerttemberg/stuttgart/markt/flohmarkt.html
7. WHO CAN I ASK FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Your international office on campus
your first point of contact for questions about any student affairs

Studierendenwerke (student unions)
for questions about living arrangements, financial aid, campus gastronomy, childcare services, and legal, social or psychotherapeutic counseling

- Studierendenwerk Stuttgart
  Rosenbergstraße 18
  70174 Stuttgart
  www.studierendenwerk-stuttgart.de

- Studierendenwerk Tübingen-Hohenheim
  Kirchnerstraße 5
  70599 Stuttgart-Hohenheim
  www.my-stuwe.de

Welcome Center Stuttgart
for initial advising services about living and working in Stuttgart and the region for newcomers, skilled professionals and international students
Charlottenplatz 17
70173 Stuttgart
www.welcome-center-stuttgart.de

Ausländerbehörde (Foreigner’s Office)
for questions about visas, residency permits, work permits
Eberhardstraße 39
70173 Stuttgart
http://www.stuttgart.de/en/item/show/268521

Agentur für Arbeit (Employment Agency)
for questions about where and how to apply for jobs
Nordbahnhofstraße 30-34
70191 Stuttgart
www.arbeitsagentur.de

Doctor Visits
To search for doctors in Stuttgart who speak your language
www.arztsuche-bw.de/index.php?suchen=0&expertensuche=1
Your start in Stuttgart and the region