

Some advice on how to apply for a flat share in Germany

Before applying for a flat share in Germany, you should have an idea about how it mostly works:

For sure there are many different kinds of living together. Roughly classified you will find **two types of flat shares** (in German "Wohngemeinschaft", or abbreviated to "WG"):

- A **rather functional flat share**. It is called "Zweck WG". This means that flat sharing in this instance is more about sharing the costs of the upkeep of the flat and less about having a social life together. It is a flat share in the sense of a rather practical arrangement.
- A **socially-motivated flat share** is a flat share which is socially oriented/ conceived as a space for spending time together. Applying for a room is about choosing the people you will live with and mostly not only about the room itself! You will often find people who specifically want roommates who are looking for an active social life within the WG. When applying for a flat share, the procedure is as follows:
 1. You apply via telephone or email
 2. The other residents will perhaps get back to you and invite you to drop by so they can get to know you in person.
 3. After a few days of deliberation, they will then decide whether you fit into the WG and tell you if you can move in or not.

Please note that if you apply for a flat share you will often be required to describe yourself. The following pointers might be helpful to you when thinking about how to describe yourself (especially when you apply for a socially-motivated flat share)

- Your hobbies (music, cooking, etc.)
- Highlighting that you are interested in living with other students
- Detailing the extent to which you are interested in participating in their social life and showing that you are interested in the people you will be living together with and spending some time with them
- Showing a willingness to blend into the existing lifestyle of the WG

Please also take note of the following advice which you should take into account when applying for a flat share:

- **Don't be too lazy to read carefully what they expect!** For example, sometimes people expect a detailed personal description so don't skip or skim over this part!
- **Avoid short sentences!** Write in detail!
- **Follow the procedure outlined above:** Avoid sentences such as "Can I move in tomorrow?" before they have even had the chance to get to know you! It's never good to pressure them. Even if you are urgently searching. What you can do is sending them a reminder of your interest: "Hi guys. I really liked your WG and I just wanted you to know that I am still interested..."
- Since the housing situation in Göttingen is difficult you will probably have a lot of competition, so it might be helpful being creative in your application