

STUDYING WITH CHILDREN – BASIC INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



Studying with children can be challenging – especially in a foreign country! This handout addresses common questions international students may have when coming to Göttingen. Topics covered include entry requirements for children, accommodation, childcare, the German school system, bilingual/multilingual medical assistance, and financial support.

The number of topics involved asks for highly individual responses to your needs. In each section, we provide contact information for support institutions offering further advice.

Your first point of contact should be the [Familien Service](#) of the University of Göttingen. Contact details are also provided at the very end of this handout.

ACCOMMODATION WITH CHILDREN

Studentenwerk Göttingen

The Studentenwerk Göttingen provides support infrastructures for students on site, including dining halls, cafeterias, and different forms of affordable accommodation, including apartments suitable for families or single parents. Such apartments may come furnished or unfurnished. **Family-friendly apartment are highly sought after.** Long waiting times are to be expected. Please apply to the Studentenwerk Göttingen as soon as possible.

Please note that despite close collaboration on site and complimentary missions, the Studentenwerk Göttingen and the University of Göttingen are **independent organisations**. Your admission to a study programme offered by the University does not include a room or flat in halls of residence operated by the Studentenwerk. Still, to be eligible for Studentenwerk housing, you have to be enrolled at the University.

For an overview of family-friendly housing offered by the Studentenwerk, follow this link:

- [family-friendly housing offered by the Studentenwerk Göttingen](#)

For further information on accommodation offered by the Studentenwerk Göttingen, please contact the Wohnheimverwaltung Albrecht-Thaer-Weg:

Wohnheimverwaltung Albrecht-Thaer-Weg

Albrecht-Thaer-Weg 6

37075 Göttingen

E-Mail: wvmitte@studentenwerk-goettingen.de

Admission to a study programme offered by the University does not include a room or flat in halls of residence operated by the Studentenwerk. Demand clearly exceeds the Studentenwerk's supply of rooms and apartments. Waiting times are long. The University itself does not provide any accommodation.

Private Accommodation

Private accommodation is usually more expensive than rooms or apartments in halls of residence operated by the Studentenwerk.

Affordable private accommodation can be found at **communal or independent housing associations**. Instead of making a deposit when moving in, tenants buy into the association by paying for a number of shares or membership. Note again that long waiting times are to be expected. Accommodation may be allocated depending on social criteria and urgency.

- [Wohnungsgenossenschaft eG Göttingen](#) (in German)
- [Volksheimstätte](#)

The **Städtische Wohnungsbau GmbH** is not a communal housing association. One needs to pay a deposit when moving in. Still, as offers are catered towards providing affordable housing, signing up is advisable:

- [Städtische Wohnungsbau GmbH](#)

Single rooms, apartments and flats are also available on the **private housing market**. Please find portals under the following links:

- [ImmoScout24](#) (in German)
- [WG-Gesucht.de](#)

Familiarise yourself with filter options (e.g., only furnished flats, only from [date] to [date], min./max. rent, etc.). Despite all financial limitations, please make sure to assess your needs realistically. A two bedroom apartment will be too small for a family of four.

Most students will look for accommodation close to campus and the city centre first. In case your search remains unsuccessful, or options are too expensive, have a look at **housing options just outside Göttingen**. Please follow this link to get an overview of housing options in Göttingen's immediate surroundings, with good access to public transport into town:

- [Living Just Outside Göttingen](#)

If you are coming to Göttingen for a **short period of time** or in case you need accommodation for the first few weeks after arrival, please have a look at the following link. We put together an assorted list of affordable hotels, hostels and B&Bs:

- [Temporary Accommodation](#)

Please note that affordable accommodation in Göttingen can be very challenging to find. Start your search as early as possible, estimate the expenses for rent realistically, and consider all available options.

For further inquiry, please contact the Accommodation Service for international students:

Accommodation Service

Abteilung Göttingen International

Incoming Office

Von-Siebold-Straße 2, 37073 Göttingen

Fon: +49 (0)551 39 21790/21338

E-Mail: accommodation@uni-goettingen.de

Web: www.uni-goettingen.de/en/617883.html

CHILDCARE

Nurseries generally accept children from the age of 1 to 6. Both communal nurseries and nurseries operated by the Studentenwerk Göttingen accept students' children; the University of Göttingen has a certain number of childcare places reserved for students. The following link provides further information on childcare in Göttingen:

- [Further information on childcare at the University of Göttingen](#)

Generally, childcare places are highly sought after. Hence, we advise you to start planning as soon as possible. For **emergency care for children**, please contact the University's **Familien Service** and have a look at this link:

- [„Kinderbetreuung in Notfällen und Randzeiten“](#) (Childcare in emergencies and out of hours)

A flexible option in case of spontaneous needs or during short stays in town is hiring a **childminder/babysitter**. Contact the Familien Service to get more information on such options.

For all kinds of questions regarding childcare in and around Göttingen/at the University of Göttingen, please contact the Familien Service or the Studentenwerk Göttingen:

Verwaltung Studentenwerk

Platz der Göttinger Sieben 4
Eingang 4b, in der Ebene 0
37075 Göttingen

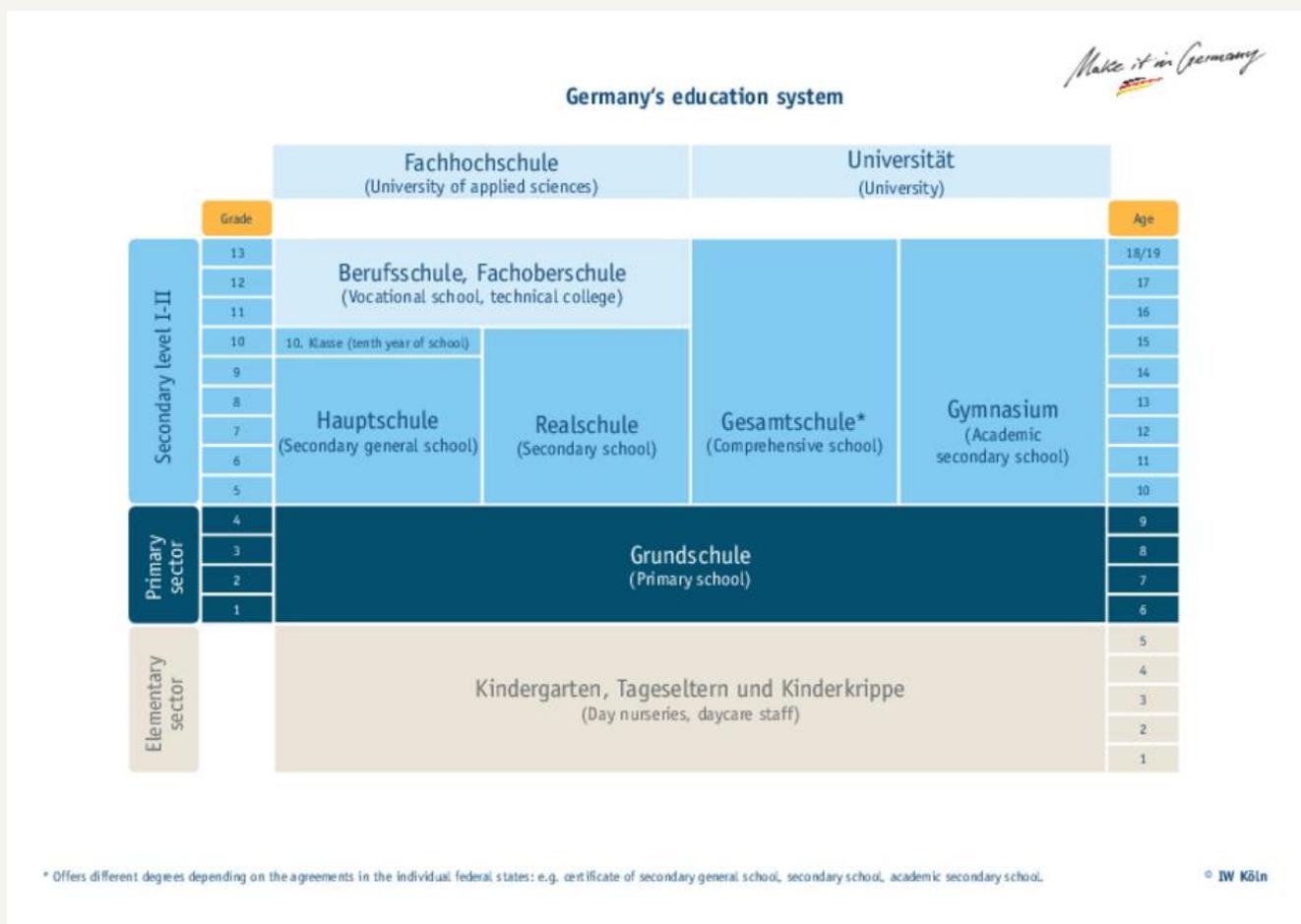
Contact person:

Ms. Lorey-Vaupel

Fon: +49 (0)551 39 35 156

THE GERMAN SCHOOL SYSTEM

In Germany, children of school age are obligated to visit a (local) school. Most schools are operated by the state. Attending school is not subject to fees. While the primary school your child will attend is determined according to your place of residence, choosing a suitable secondary school is up to the parents. Three types of secondary schools exist; access is dependent upon your child's grades and talents, and also upon school-leaving-qualifications your child aspires to obtain.



https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/fileadmin/_processed_/1/8/csm_MiiG_Grafik_Bildungssystem_EN_a87eb170fd.png

Comprehensive schools are secondary schools combining features of 'Hauptschulen', 'Realschulen' and 'Gymnasien'. Different schools can have different focus areas (e.g. sciences, arts and music, ancient or modern languages, economics, etc.).

Please contact the **Familien Service** with questions concerning primary or secondary schools in and around Göttingen

COMING TO GERMANY WITH CHILDREN: ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Children of Non-EU nationals also require a visa for entering with their parents. Usually, their eligibility for a visa depends on their parents' eligibility, but requires additional funds or income to provide for a family's higher living expenses. As do their parents, children need valid health insurance.

The private market provides simple solutions for blocked accounts and the necessary insurance, accessible online from abroad:

- [Expatrio](#)
- [Fintiba](#)
- [Allyways](#)

Also have a look at general information on visa requirements and entry provided by the International Office:

- [Visa requirements, entry and residence permits for international students](#)

Further requirements may vary from country to country. Please contact the German embassy or consulate responsible for your current area of residence for further information. To learn more about topics like blocked accounts, health insurance, etc., please follow this link:

Further information on traveling to, arriving in, and living in Göttingen can be found here:

- [Traveling to, arriving in, and living in Göttingen](#)

In case of a pregnancy or birth during the first 12 months of your stay in Germany, do not take out private health insurance. Private health insurance companies usually do not cover costs related to pregnancy or birth for one year after first signing a contract. In case of an emergency, please contact the Familien Service.

MEDICAL CARE AND EMERGENCIES

The International Office provides extensive information on medical care and dealing with emergencies here:

- [Medical Care and Emergencies](#)

When searching for a general practitioner or specialist, take potential language barriers into account. The following portal allows filtering by languages spoken:

- [General practitioners and specialists in Göttingen](#)

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

International students from Non-EU countries are not entitled to social benefits for students (BAFöG), but may be eligible for family benefits. A thorough assessment of your individual situation is necessary to determine your options. The Studentenwerk's Social Service provides advice and assistance, and also financial support to cover the most urgent needs in case of emergency:

- [Social Services of Studentenwerk Göttingen](#)

The Familien Service also provides advice in case unforeseeable financial needs arise.

Strictly in case of emergencies, the International Office provides grants to support international students:

- [Emergency Grants for International Students](#)

FAMILIENSERVICE

If you have questions that could not be answered by this handout guide, do not hesitate to get in touch with the Familien Service:

- [Website des Familien Service](#)

Familien Service

Katrin Hansmann & Renate Putschbach

Stabstelle Chancengleichheit und Diversität

Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

Goßlerstr. 9, 37073 Göttingen

Fon: +49 (0)551 39 26328/26323

E-Mail: familienervice@zvw.uni-goettingen.de

The information provided in this handout was put together to the best of our abilities. Nonetheless, we cannot guarantee the correctness of the information provided.

Please also note that members of university staff will do their best to help. However, services are subject to limitations in resources, and support services cannot replace personal initiative. **Please make sure to seek help in time, and address challenges before they become problems!**