

Important information housing

1. **Introduction:** In contrast to other countries, German universities are not allowed to own housing facilities and do not rent dorm rooms to students. **Therefore, it is the student's responsibility to find accommodation. FAU cannot guarantee that you will find a suitable place to stay.** Please note that it is not common in German households to have domestic servants/maids, especially not if you are a student. This means that **you have to cook, clean, wash your clothes etc. on your own.**
2. **General information** on the different forms of student accommodation (dorms/student residences or private single and shared apartments) can be found here: [Accommodation > Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg \(fau.eu\)](#) On the same website, you will also find the contact form of our **Accommodation Service** for international students, which can support you with your search. **Please note that our Accommodation Service can only help you to a limited extent, we cannot guarantee that you will find housing.**
3. **Student dorms/halls of residence:**
 - Studierendenwerk student dorms: [Housing » Studentenwerk Erlangen-Nürnberg \(werkswelt.de\)](#)
 - Joseph Stiftung student dorms: [Englisch : Joseph-Stiftung](#)
 - FDS Foundation student dorms: <https://www.fda-stiftung.de/en/>
 - Smartments (also operated by FDS Foundation): <https://www.smartments-student.de/en/>

In order to find a private apartment, you can try these online resources:

4. Housing website of the Catholic student community (the private offers there are open to all students regardless of their religion): <https://khg-erlangen.de/fuer-dich.html#wohnungsb%C3%B6rse>
5. **Facebook groups** to look for/offer rooms and apartments in the region of Erlangen/Nürnberg/Fürth:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/434622816562962>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/207953839325465>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/148852765216796>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/WohnenErlangen>
 - [International Students in Nuremberg-Erlangen\(by DEGIS\) | Facebook](#)
6. **Other online portals to find private apartments (shared or not)**
 - www.easy-apartments-to-rent.com
 - www.wg-gesucht.de
 - www.immowelt.de
 - www.housinganywhere.com/de/
 - www.wg-welt.de
 - www.immopool.de

- www.immobilienscout24.de
- www.studenten-wohnung.de
- www.brucklyn.de
- <https://esg-khg-erlangen.de/wohnungsboerse-205.html>

7. **Online portals to find temporary accommodation:**

- <https://www.airbnb.de/>
- <https://www.jugendherberge.de/en/youth-hostels/nuernberg-253/portrait/>
- https://www.aohostels.com/de/nuernberg/nuernberg-hauptbahnhof/?cnagn=a%20%26%20o%20n%C3%BCrnberg%20hauptbahnhof&gad=1&gclid=EAlaIQobChMI0vaB0-DggAMVg5GDBx3pDgxsEAAYASAAEgJo2vD_BwE
- <https://housinganywhere.com>
- <https://bed-and-breakfast.de/en/nuremberg>
- <https://www.jugendherberge.de/en/youth-hostels/bamberg-am-kaulberg-734/portrait/>

8. **Only for students who are already in Erlangen:**

Housing referral organized by Studierendenwerk:

<https://www.werkswelt.de/index.php?id=privatzimmersvermittlung-erlangen&setlang=en>

In this housing project, Studentenwerk does not act as a housing agent but only as an intermediary to get you in contact with private landlords in the Erlangen area. In order to inform yourself about current offers, you have to present yourself in person in the Studentenwerk office (the address can be found under the above link).

9. **Only for students with intermediate/advanced German skills (B2 or higher):**

Project "Wohnen für Hilfe" (accommodation in exchange for help), in which students get a room in the apartment/house of an elderly person and pay a very low rent in exchange for helping the owner with household chores, gardening etc.: <https://erlangen.de/aktuelles/wohnenfuerhilfe>
In order to be able to communicate with the elderly person your German skills must be very good.

10. **Tips, tricks and a warning:**

Very important information for private shared apartments ("WG" in German): Do not just send the person offering the room a message asking if the room is still available. People who live in shared apartments will want to know about who you are (your studies/hobbies/favorite activities etc.) because they want to find out if you fit into their friends group. Think of it rather as a job application (Why are you a great roommate?).

Lower expectations: Please accept the first decent offer you can afford, even if it is not in Erlangen but in the surrounding cities (Nürnberg, Fürth, Forchheim, Bamberg, Schwabach) and villages. The housing market in Erlangen is extremely tense, meaning that it is absolutely not recommended to be picky. Please note that all these areas in and around Erlangen are safe, well-connected by public transport and offer a high quality of living.

Network! Although the first weeks after your arrival will be stressful and finding accommodation will be your main concern, don't skip the social events organized by FAU and various student groups on and around campus. It is often through personal contacts and friendships that you will learn about a free room in a shared apartment or a chance to sub-let somebody else's place while they are away.

Whether you are doing sports, eating at the university canteen etc. use every chance to let people around you know that you are searching for accommodation and ask them if they know of any vacancies.

Search online for groups that represent your cultural community in the Erlangen/Nürnberg region (i.e. "Iranians in Erlangen", "Bengali-speakers in Erlangen", "Latin Americans in Nürnberg" etc.) and ask around if members of these communities can take you in for some time.

A word of warning regarding private offers: Beware of scams! If the apartment/room looks too luxurious for the price, the landlord seems especially nice (e.g. they seem to cater to all of your wishes) and/or they tell you that they cannot meet you in person but you have to pick up the keys in a strange place, be suspicious! Look up the building on google maps to check if it really exists! Don't transfer any deposit before you come to Germany unless you have found the place via our FAU Accommodation Service or the student dorm providers listed under topic 3.

A word of warning regarding your financial situation: Have an additional budget/an alternative plan! Unfortunately, it is very likely that you will not find permanent accommodation right after your arrival. This means that you will probably have to spend the first weeks or even months in a youth hostel/hotel room/airbnb, which are very expensive. Please plan with an additional financial budget for this purpose! It is also crucial that you have an alternative plan in case you cannot find accommodation at all: Do you have family or friends in other parts of Germany who can take you in? Do you have enough money for a plane ticket back home? Please think about these things *before* you travel to Germany.

Good luck with your search & best wishes,

Claudia Barnickel
Study Coordinator and Advisor Medical Engineering
Department of Computer Science
FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg