

Guide To Find a Room in a Shared Apartment (WG) in Germany

Websites

- [Online Room Exchange](#) | International Office
- [Sublet List](#) | Studierendenwerk Mannheim
- www.wg-gesucht.de
- [Immobilienscout24](#)

Please find further information regarding the websites in the Info Cockpit on Portal² (Other online platforms for finding accommodation).

Step-by-step Guide from Search to Moving Day

1. Read through the Information Sheet on how to avoid housing scams in the Info Cockpit on Portal²!

2. Select Search Criteria:

- Shared apartment, all-female, all-male, no preference?
- Size of the room
- Location
- Maximum amount of rent per month

3. Contact the person that offers the room

Have you found rooms that you are interested in? Then you need to contact the person that is indicated in the offer. This can be the landlord or the current tenants.

Please be aware that individual rooms in shared apartments are in high demand, often attracting numerous applicants. To increase your chances, it's important not only to mention your need for accommodation, but also to present yourself as a person and future roommate.

While your housing search may be urgent, potential roommates are typically looking for someone they feel comfortable living with—someone who fits into their daily life and household dynamic, rather than someone they are simply helping out.

Take the opportunity to share a bit about yourself, your interests, and what kind of living environment you're looking for. **A personal, thoughtful message can make a strong impression.**

Write a short personal introduction, including for example:

- General information: your name, age, studies
- What do you enjoy doing in your free time (hobbies, regular activities, traveling, etc.)
- How would you describe yourself (your personality, how you interact socially, etc.)
- Have you ever lived in a shared flat (WG) before?
- What matters to you when it comes to shared living?

Pro Tip: When writing your message, refer to specific details mentioned in the listing to show genuine interest in the shared apartment. If the ad describes shared activities—like cooking together, social outings, or hosting gatherings—highlight your enthusiasm for these and tailor your message to reflect a desire for active engagement and possibly building friendships. On the other hand, if the apartment is described as a purely practical living arrangement (often referred to as a “Zweck-WG”), it’s best to keep your message focused and professional, emphasizing your reliability and compatibility as a roommate.

4. Apply to several WGs to improve your chances

5. During the online viewing/interview

- Be open, kind and approachable
- Be prepared for a possible group interview with other applicants
- Answer the roommates’ questions and ask your own about daily life
- Pay attention to any obvious issues (e.g., cleanliness, condition of the space)
- Let the roommates know quickly if you are genuinely interested in living there

6. If you are accepted, arrange an appointment to sign the rental agreement and the handover of the keys and clarify further details – and then move in! 😊

If your search remains unsuccessful despite multiple attempts to contact potential roommates, you are welcome to reach out to Ricarda Diehl from the International Office or our Accommodation Service. Appointments are available in the weeks leading up to Welcome Week. We will be happy to review your search strategy with you and determine whether any adjustments to your search criteria or application text may be helpful.

Example Introduction Text

If you are able to write the text in German you are welcome to do so. If you are not comfortable to write in German you can either start the message in German with a simple introduction or keep it in English entirely. If you are addressing other students they are almost always able and happy to communicate in English.

Hello [WG roommate names],

My name is (...) and I am (...) years old. I will be moving to Mannheim soon to start my studies/my semester abroad in (...) and I came across your ad while looking for a room – it immediately caught my attention! I would love the chance to join your WG and get to know the city with new people by my side.

A little about me: I enjoy reading, hanging out with my friends and cooking in my spare time. I am usually more on the calm and introverted side, but I also really enjoy social events and the occasional party. I have never lived in a shared flat before, but I am excited to try it and meet new people along the way. What matters most to me is a positive and relaxed vibe at home – maybe we can cook together sometimes or have movie nights?

I saw in your ad that you all enjoy doing (...) together – I would be absolutely up for that!

I am looking forward to hearing from you. Feel free to reach out to me via email, WhatsApp or whatever works best for you.

All the best,

[Name]