

Deutsches Studentenwerk
German National Association for Student Affairs



Student Services in Germany:
The Studentenwerke (STWs)

**Your partner
for student
success!**

Photo: DSW/Jan Eric Euler

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The **57** Studentenwerke (STWs) are Germany's public student service organisations. They support **2.5 million** students at over **300** higher education institutions in **200** cities and towns.

SERVICES

- dining services
- student residence halls
- students' accommodation service
- BAföG (Federal financial aid)
- study financing, counselling on financing studies
- loan offices or emergency funds for students experiencing financial hardship
- childcare: child day-care facilities, flexible and short-term care, and accommodation for students with children
- psychological counselling
- social counselling
- counselling for students with children
- counselling for students with disabilities or chronic diseases
- legal counselling
- student employment agencies
- student public transport tickets
- services for international students: buddy programmes, tutors for student residence halls, insurance issues
- culture: theatre, music, festivals, courses
- fitness and sports programmes and facilities

over **€2 billion**

of Federal BAföG money
is spent per year

around **500,000**
students receive BAföG grants and loans

over **4 million**
students have benefited from BAföG
since its introduction in 1971

BAföG - THE GERMAN FINANCIAL AID SYSTEM

So that everyone can study

Studying in Germany is generally free of charge, and parents are obliged to support their children throughout their higher education or vocational training. Still, not all parents can afford to send their children to college. This is why the German Federal Training and Education Assistance Act (Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz – or BAföG for short) is the key to social and educational justice in the German higher education system. BAföG provides all students whose parents could otherwise not afford do so with the necessary funding for their living costs. Usually, BAföG covers all living costs on a 50% grant and 50% loan basis (the loans are always free of interest). The STWs have been commissioned to implement the BAföG by the Federal and State governments – and they campaign for its continuous improvement. Our ambition is that a degree in higher education is open to everyone, regardless of an individual's social or financial background. The STWs advise students on all options they have to finance their studies and assist them in applying for BAföG.



Photo: DSW/Jan Eric Euler

964
dining service facilities:
Mensas, cafeterias and bistros

240,000
seats

73%
of students eat
at the Mensa

DINING SERVICES **To the Mensa!**

The STWs are Germany's most important provider of dining services in higher education. They offer healthy, tasty and fresh food, affordably, in over 400 student restaurants called "Mensas" (Latin for "table") as well as cafeterias, bistros and coffee bars. Today's Mensa meals are modern and rich in diversity: there is a growing share of vegetarian, vegan as well as organic dishes, and the STWs emphasise sustainability, combatting global warming and regional products throughout their dining services.

Healthy food provided on campus is one thing. But the Mensas and cafeterias are about a lot more – they are a place for communication, meeting friends and relaxation.

*A meal at the
Mensa is a visit
to your STW*

approx. **194,000**
places

1,700
residence halls

€246
average monthly rent

STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

Rooms for bright minds

Money should not determine where people study – this is why the STWs provide more than 194,000 places in around 1,700 student halls of residence. The monthly rent in the STW residence halls is 246 euros on national average – by far the most affordable accommodation away from one's parents' home!

Situated centrally, with the campus close by or in the suburbs – the housing range of the STWs is highly diversified and allows for a wide selection of individual types of living: single rooms with shared bathrooms, single apartments with bathrooms and kitchens of one's own, or shared flats that are typical for Germany. STW residence halls are also spread across the city, both situated in city centres, close to campus and in the suburbs.

As a rule, all rooms are single occupancy, fully furnished, and sizes range from 18 to 25 square metres. There are also special offers tailored to the needs of students with health impairments and students who have children.

44

STWs provide psychological counselling

48

STWs offer social counselling

47

STWs support students with disabilities or chronic illnesses with specialised advice

STUDYING WITH CHILDREN

Family friendliness

Six per cent of Germany's students have children. The STWs do a lot for them – and for their children: starting with special housing offers for couples or single parents through free-of-charge lunch for students' children. The STWs run 216 child-care facilities on and off campus for almost 9,000 children throughout the Federal Republic. Playrooms as well as baby-changing and common rooms, corners for children to play in at the Mensas and cafeterias, welcome money for the newly born as well as financial assistance help parents to manage their everyday student life. In addition, they offer flexible childcare at short notice. The STWs make Germany's higher education institutions family-friendly!

COUNSELLING

Good advice

Psychological and social counselling, counselling for students with disabilities or chronic illnesses – the STW tailors continuous counselling to the special life and work situation of students in higher education. STW counselling addresses the individual and is completely confidential and free of charge – and it is open to all students in all phases of their studies.

6%

of students have children

216

childcare centres with 9,000 places nationally

4,700

childcare places for the very young (up to 3 years old)



Photo: DSW/Lars Nickel

Photo: DSW/Kay Herschelmann



21

theatre stages and halls

27

cultural festivals and competitions

35

**STWs offer courses
and workshops**

CULTURE

A lively campus

Concerts, parties, science slams, student clubs with cultural programmes, theatre and even musicals – cultural support provided by the STWs makes the campus a lively place. The STWs run courses and workshops, promote student culture groups and make photo labs, recording studios, theatre stages and rehearsal and exhibition rooms available for all students to explore the arts.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE

Welcome to Germany!

Around 400,000 international students, with numbers set to grow, make Germany one of the most popular countries for higher education worldwide. The STWs have internationalised their services and counselling programmes. They engage in international exchange and partnerships, host conferences and seminars and organise study trips. They offer a wide range of international information. The residence halls are brought to life with more than 700 student tutors who bring together residents with different cultural, educational and social backgrounds.

around **400,000**
international students (incl. permanent
foreign residents)

39

**STWs provide financial support for
international students**

700

**student tutors work for social inclusion
and cohesion in the residence halls**

1. STW Schleswig-Holstein
2. STW Rostock-Wismar
3. STW Greifswald
4. STW Hamburg
5. STW Oldenburg
6. STW Bremen
7. STW Osnabrück
8. STW Hannover
9. STW in Eastern Lower Saxony
10. STW Magdeburg
11. STW Potsdam
12. STW Berlin
13. STW Frankfurt (Oder)
14. STW Münster
15. STW Bielefeld
16. STW Paderborn
17. STW Essen-Duisburg
18. AKAFO Bochum
19. STW Dortmund
20. STW Kassel
21. STW Göttingen
22. STW Halle
23. STW Leipzig
24. STW Düsseldorf
25. STW Wuppertal
26. STW Aachen
27. STW Cologne
28. STW Bonn
29. STW Siegen
30. STW Marburg
31. STW Thuringia
32. STW Chemnitz-Zwickau
33. STW Freiberg
34. STW Dresden
35. STW Koblenz
36. STW Giessen
37. STW Mainz
38. STW Frankfurt (Main)
39. STW Darmstadt
40. STW Würzburg
41. STW Erlangen-Nuremberg
42. STW Upper Franconia
43. STW Trier
44. STW Kaiserslautern
45. STW Mannheim
46. STW Heidelberg
47. STW in the Saarland
48. STW Anterior Palatinate
49. STW Regensburg
50. STW Karlsruhe
51. STW Stuttgart
52. STW Tübingen-Hohenheim
53. STW Ulm
54. STW Augsburg
55. STW Munich
56. STW Freiburg
57. STW Lake Constance



57 public student service organisations – the Studentenwerke or STWs – provide social, economic, health and cultural support for all students in Germany.