

ACCOMMODATION, CITY REGISTRATION AND BROADCASTING FEE



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ACCOMMODATION

fun fact: rooms are seldomly shared in Germany but shared flats are very common 😊

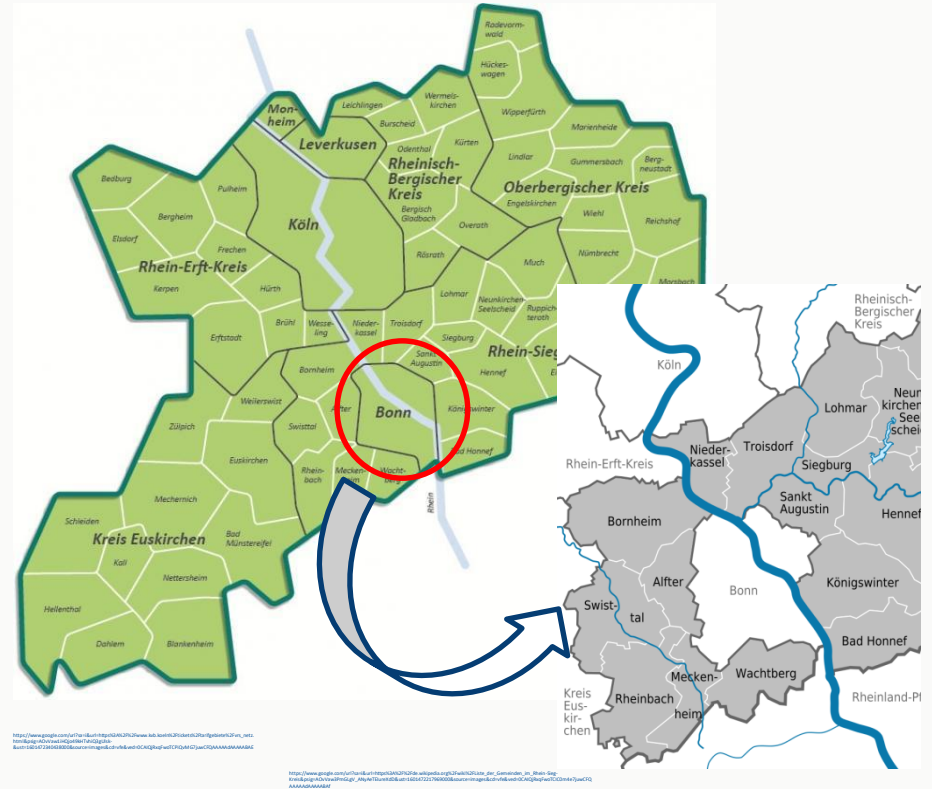
What kind of accommodations are there?

- own flat such as a one room apartment (“*Einzimmerapartment*”) or more rooms
- one room in a shared flat (“*Wohngemeinschaft*” = WG)
- one room in a house / apartment with a family
- student dormitories by the [Studierendenwerk](#) (usually your own room with shared bathroom and kitchen)

ACCOMMODATION – WHERE TO LOOK?

The VRS (public transportation region Bonn is located in) is your “home area” for your student ticket – but you can go anywhere in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The smaller towns around Bonn are easily accessible by train, tram or bus and offer a good alternative to live – if only for the first months.



ACCOMMODATION – WHERE TO LOOK?

The newspaper or... there are many online portals such as:

[WG-Gesucht](#)

[Erstrraum](#)

[Immobilienscout24](#)

[Immobilio](#)

[eBay Kleinanzeigen](#)

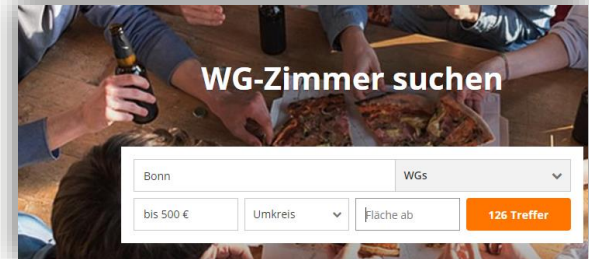
[Housinganywhere](#)

[Immowelt](#)

[AStA Wohnbörse](#)

[Wohnungsbörse](#)

[Zimmer frei?!](#)



ACCOMMODATION – WHERE TO LOOK?

Private /commercial student residences

[Goebenstift](#)

[Haus Annaberg](#)

[Kampmeyer student apartments](#)

[House for Students](#)

[Haus Teresa](#) (for women)

[StayToo S2](#)

[Quartierwest](#)

[Quartiervier](#)

And different **facebook** groups such as “[WG und Wohnung in Bonn gesucht](#)”

ACCOMMODATION – WHERE TO LOOK?

If you don't have permanent accommodation before your arrival, there are a few temporary options to stay at for a few nights:

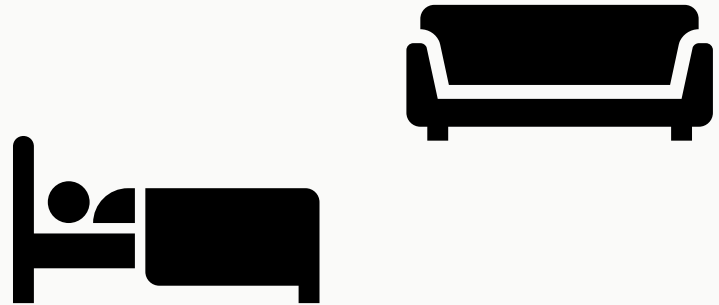
[AStA – Sofafrei](#) = vacant couch offers by students of Uni Bonn, which is similar to [Couchsurfing](#)

[Hostels:](#)

[Haus Venusberg – Archdiocese Cologne](#)

[Max Hostel](#)

[Basecamp Bonn](#)



Know how to answer to a housing ad!

The housing market can be stressful. Not all messages will be answered so try to stand out – positively!

- introduce yourself fully (name, nationality, what you are studying)
- explain that you have secure funding (such as enough money and support from family)
- imagine what you would like to hear as a landlord/landlady: neat and tidy, quiet and focusing on your studies a.k.a. no trouble
- in case of shared flats: give some personal info about yourself, such as hobbies, what you do for fun, if you already have experience in sharing an apartment, etc.

ACCOMMODATION – HOUSING ADS

Since most of the notices for flats or rooms are in German, you should know some relevant words and abbreviations to understand what you are looking for:

- *möbliert* = furnished / *unmöbliert* = not furnished
- *Nebenkosten* (NK)= running costs (electricity, heating, water – usually NOT internet)
- *Kaution* = deposit (usually 2 months' rent)
- *keine Zweck-WG* = not only a means to an end (save money) but also to interact with the roomies 😊
- *Nichtraucher* (NR) = non-smoker
- *Zwischenmiete* = rented for a short time, for example when the tenant is abroad
- *Studentenverbindung* = fraternity
- [List of commonly used abbreviations](#)

You need a signed contract / rental agreement!

1. direct contract with landlord/landlady
 2. sub-lease (“*Untermietvertrag*”) with the tenant
- landlord/landlady needs to confirm rental agreement
(“*Wohnungsgeberbestätigung*”)

- Be sure to read the contract very carefully and ask questions if anything remains unclear!



There are some general duties that are expected of tenants:

- reducing humidity in the apartment and preventing mold
 - opening windows regularly i.e. in the bathroom after taking a shower, kitchen after cooking, bedroom in the morning
 - if you have a room in the cellar for the washing machine, dry the clothes there or outside
- informing the landlord/landlady if something is broken or you find something odd
- transferring the monthly rent on time according to your contract (usually beginning of the month) – you can install a standing order (“*Dauerauftrag*”) from your bank account

CITY REGISTRATION

CITY REGISTRATION

- register within **two weeks** after moving into your apartment
- to be sure not to fail the two week-deadline, you should make an appointment already before traveling to Bonn
- if you happen to move to a different apartment during your stay, you will have to re-register to inform the city that your address has changed

CITY REGISTRATION – APPOINTMENT

- there are four places to go for the registration:
 - Service Center Bonn
 - Bad Godesberg
 - Hardtberg
 - Beuel

- the City of Bonn [offers a guide](#) on how to make an appointment



CITY REGISTRATION – APPOINTMENT

- to successfully register you will need the following documents:
 - filled-out [registration form](#)
 - filled-out [confirmation by your landlord/landlady](#)
(“*Wohnungsgeberbestätigung*”):
 - note: This is not the contract/lease but a separate document the landlord/landlady needs to sign!
 - **valid ID** (personal ID or passport)

CITY REGISTRATION – APPOINTMENT

- During the appointment, you will receive a confirmation of registration, which you can use for
 - applying for a residence permit (if applicable)
 - opening a bank account
- After a few weeks you will automatically receive your tax identification number (*“Steuer-ID”*)
 - you need the tax identification number when opening a bank account
- You will also receive mail from the contribution service (*“Beitragservice”*) for the broadcasting fee

BROADCASTING FEE

BROADCASTING FEE – “RUNDFUNKBEITRAG”

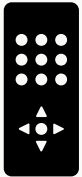
By law, all residents in Germany have to pay the broadcasting fee for:

- public Broadcast TV channels (ARD, ZDF, WDR, arte, 3sat and many more)
- public Radio Channels (WDR, Deutschlandfunk, 1Live, etc.)
- news and entertainment by these channels on their websites and social media
- generally, these public broadcasting services are considered to be very reliable and well researched, independent sources for news
- the fee is collected by the [“Beitragservice”](#)



BROADCASTING FEE – “RUNDFUNKBEITRAG”

- the fee is around €20 per month and **per apartment**
- this means you can share the costs if you are living with roommates in a shared flat (WG)
 - check with them if they already have an account, so you don't pay double the amount
 - sharing the fee might not be possible in student dorms
- in any case, you have to fill out the form you receive by postal mail and send it back



BEITRAGSSERVICE

BEFORE DEPARTURE

Register when you arrive, don't forget to deregister when you leave:

- deregister (“*Abmeldung*”) from the City of Bonn when leaving Germany
 - by mail: fill out the [form](#) for “*Abmeldung*”
 - in person at the Service Centers of the city with another appointment
- give notice of departure to the [contribution service](#) (“*Beitragservice*”)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION AND
HAVE A GREAT START IN BONN!**