

MANUAL



HOW TO FIND ACCOMODATION IN EUROPE?

- ✓ *BULGARIA*
- ✓ *BELGIUM*
- ✓ *GERMANY*
- ✓ *NORTH MACEDONIA*



1. ACCOMODATION IN BULGARIA

The most frequently asked questions when it comes to student accommodation in Bulgaria answered below:

➤ Costs

-Student accommodation in Bulgaria is **very affordable** – a shared room in the university dormitories costs around 50 EUR (100 BGN) per month.

-However, most international students prefer to live in a private apartment – in this case, rent is around 200 EUR – 400 EUR (400-800 BGN) per month depending on the city and the neighbourhood you live in.

➤ Where to look for accomodation?

-Foreigners who like to rent a private or shared apartment in Bulgaria often use the services of an estate agent. It is important to work with a trustworthy estate agent who will prepare a good rental agreement as well as show you apartments that meet your expectations and budget.



➤ The best time to search for student accommodation

-The academic year of most Bulgarian universities starts in September or October. If this is also the case for the university of your choice, we advise you to start looking for accommodation around July or August.

- The reason is that apartment hunting close to the start of the semester is usually more difficult due to the high number of students moving to Bulgaria at that time.

➤ **Where can I live as a student in Bulgaria?**

-There are two main options – a student dormitory (if the university has one) or a private/shared apartment in the city where you plan to live.

-Usually, in the student dormitory, two people live together – there is one bathroom and a bedroom with two beds and two desks. The main advantage of living in the student dormitory is the cheap rent (usually around 50 EUR per month per person). On the other side, student dormitories in Bulgaria are often far away from the universities and the places are limited. Furthermore, some dormitories do not have a kitchen and you are not allowed to cook inside the rooms.

-Another option is to look for a private or shared apartment in the city where you will study. This way you can choose where to live, how the apartment looks like, who you live with, etc. In this case, the rent is higher (200 to 400 EUR per month depending on the city you live in, where the apartment is located, etc.



2. ACCOMODATION IN BELGIUM

Belgium is a beautiful and vibrant country that attracts students from all over the world. Whether you are a local student or an international student, finding the right accommodation can be a challenging task. In this article, we will explore some of the options available to students looking for accommodation in Belgium.

➤ **University Halls of Residence**

One of the most popular options for students is to stay in the university halls of residence. These are usually located close to the university campus, making it easy for students to attend classes and socialize with other students. The university halls of residence are generally affordable and offer students the opportunity to make new friends and experience campus life.

➤ **Private Student Residences**

Private student residences are another popular option for students in Belgium. These are privately owned buildings that are specifically designed for students. They offer a range of amenities such as study rooms, communal kitchens, and social areas. Private student residences are often more expensive than university halls of residence, but they offer more privacy and independence.

➤ **Shared Apartments**

Sharing an apartment with other students is a popular option for those who want to have more independence and privacy.

This is a great option for students who are studying in a city or town where the cost of living is high. Shared apartments are generally more affordable than private student residences and offer students the opportunity to live with people from different cultures and backgrounds.

➤ **Homestay**

Homestay's are another popular option for students who want to experience the local culture and improve their language skills.

A homestay is where a student lives with a local family and shares their home. Homestay's can be a great way to make new friends and experience local culture, but they are generally more expensive than other options.

➤ **Private Rentals**

Finally, students can also rent private apartments or rooms on their own. This option offers the most independence and privacy, but it is also the most expensive.

Private rentals are a good option for students who are looking for a specific type of accommodation or who want to live alone.

In conclusion, there are many options available to students looking for accommodation in Belgium. It is important to consider your budget, location, and personal preferences when choosing the right option for you. It is also advisable to start your search early, as the best accommodations tend to fill up quickly.



3.ACCOMODATION IN GERMANY

Finding a place to call home can be difficult at the best of times, but in a new country and in a language you might not understand, it can be even more daunting. Where do you even start? There are plenty of ways to find student housing in Germany, depending on what type of accommodation you are interested in. As a student traveling to Germany for the first time or someone who has just received their university acceptance letter, it is normal to be confused about student housing. A valuable piece of advice is to start thinking about accommodation in Germany as early as possible.



Cheapest prices

Germany is quite affordable in terms of living as compared to other European countries. But for students, even a small amount of money matters a lot. And it's usual for all students to save as much money as they can. The cheapest apartments are going from 30 to 90 euro per night.

Mid-range prices

Mid-range apartments are going from 97 to 140 euro. This typical germany hotel rooms are a good representation of what is available, because they are in the middle of the total price range while still providing quality amenities.

Expensive

The best price ranges of the best places to stay in Germany are going from 150 euros and more per night.

The main types of student accommodation and housing in Germany are:

➤ **Student Residences (Halls of Residence)**

Student residences in Germany (also known as residence halls) are among the most affordable housing options for students. In fact, approximately 40% of all international students in Germany live in student halls of residence. Halls of residence in Germany are a type of shared accommodation specifically designed for students. Students live in a house/building with other students and may share the bathroom as well as the kitchen. The great thing about these residence halls is that there are plenty of opportunities to socialize and make friends.

Student residences may differ slightly from one German city to another. One of the main differences is the size of the building, rooms, and furnishing. Student residence halls are generally located close to universities, which means the location (in addition to the affordable cost) makes students opt for student residence halls in Germany. Renting a room in a student residence hall usually costs around €250 per month, but the cost will also depend on the location, size, and other amenities.

➤ **How To Get Into Student Halls of Residence?**

Students interested in securing accommodation in German student halls of residence should apply as soon as they receive their acceptance letter from a German university. There will be a deadline for application, and the spots are limited (meaning the process is rather competitive). To register for a place in these halls, students must contact their local student services or their university's International Office. The application process is usually done online through the student unions' respective websites.

➤ **Flatshares (Wohngemeinschaft – WG)**

Flatshares (also known as Wohngemeinschaft) is also one of Germany's main types of accommodation for students (either domestic or international). While flatshares are the first accommodation option for some students, others opt for this type of housing because they couldn't secure a place in student halls of residence. Whatever the case may be, this type of student accommodation is relatively common for students, and there are plenty of advantages to it as well. You will often hear flatshares being referred to as WG in Germany. What they're talking about when you

see WG being mentioned is private apartments students often decide to rent and share with their peers. Usually, these apartments are rather spacious, so there is enough room for around four students (or more/less, depending on the apartment size). Each flatmate will have their room and only share the living room, bathroom, and kitchen with the other flatmates. Additionally, they will also share the cost of rent and utilities.

➤ **Private Accommodation**

Germany has student housing accommodation options for each taste and preference. If you're a student who prefers to have plenty of privacy and you would rather live on your own – then you can rent your own place in Germany. This is, however, one of the most expensive types of accommodation in Germany for students because you will have to pay the cost of rent and utilities on your own.

➤ **Short-Stay Accommodation**

And, last but not least, you may also find short-stay accommodation, in case you'll only be staying in Germany for a short period of time. Additionally, some students like to get to Germany first and then look at permanent accommodation options. Whichever group of students you belong to, you can choose one of the following short-stay options:

- ◆ Overnight accommodation (often offered by local student services).
- ◆ Rent a room in a hostel.
- ◆ Rent a shared room in a youth hostel (there are about 450 different youth hostels in Germany).
- ◆ Rent a private B&B for the duration of your stay in Germany.

Here are some of the ways you can find student housing in Germany:

Local Student Unions (Deutsches Studentenwerk)

Each German city has its own local student unions (known as Studentenwerk). These student unions are usually in charge of dealing with the residence hall application process. If you want to secure a spot in student residence halls in Germany, you should contact your local branch of Studentenwerk directly.

University International Office & Notice Boards

Another way you can find accommodation in Germany is by contacting your university's International Office or searching for ads on the university's notice boards. Additionally, you may also place your own ads on your higher education institution's notice board.

Online Accommodation Platforms

One of the most common ways of finding and booking student accommodation in Germany is through online accommodation platforms. Generally, these online accommodation platforms list a wide array of apartments on their website, and students can search for the ones that fit their needs and preferences. Some platforms also provide support when it comes to paperwork, including lease agreements or rent, which can be a great help.



4.ACCOMODATION IN NORTH MACEDONIA

The admission of national/international students at Macedonian universities is slowly rising from the past few years. The government and universities in North Macedonia keep updating its services as much as possible to benefit national and international students. Let's look for some available options for students looking for accommodation in North Macedonia.

Residence Hall

Residence hall is a place where college or university students live. Most colleges and universities provide single or multiple occupancy rooms for their students, usually at a low cost. These buildings consist of many such rooms, like an apartment building. Residence halls in Skopje, North Macedonia are the following: *Goce Delchev, Pelagonija, Stiv Naumov, Kuzman Josifovski Pitu, Tome Stefanovski-Senikj.*

Prices at state residence halls are really affordable and vary from 60-70 euros per person, monthly.



Private Student Residence

Private student residences are privately owned buildings that are specifically designed for students. They are contained of apartments, reading room, space for recreation, free parking, TV, Internet, office, closets, everything one student needs.

Such private student residences halls in our country are 'Logos' and 'Oaza' from Shtip, the second biggest students city in the country.

Shared Apartments

Shared accommodation means that renters live in the same property and share specific spaces. Typically, each renter has their own bedroom and shares other rooms, such as the living area, kitchen and sometimes the bathroom. This is a great option for students who are studying in a city or town where the cost of living is high. Prices for these apartments are about 100-150 euros per person.

Private Rents

Students can rent their own apartments, which is the most expensive way of accommodation. That accommodation offers intimacy and privacy. It's the best option for the students who want to live alone. This rentals cost about 200-400 euros.

North Macedonia offers different types of accommodation for national and international students that study in this country. To find the right option you must think about the budget you have, location you want and your personal preferences.

