



Orientation Document

Computer Science Students'
Representative Council

October 2020, Saarbrücken

Preface

The Computer Science Students' Representative Council welcomes a new batch of students every semester, like you, in Bachelors and Masters programs at the Saarland University. We organize orientation events to help freshmen adapt to the university and to guide them through their day to day challenges here.

Following the pandemic outbreak of COVID-19 and the unforeseen circumstances that have surrounded the very nature of the university functions, we had to dynamically adopt new and appropriate ways to reach out to you. This semester we are back with our Master StEP orientation event. And just like all lectures and events, since March 2019, Master StEP will also be conducted via online platforms, following university guidelines.

Accompanying the video tutorials, we present you this orientation document (OD) as a detailed summary of all the information we have shared with the students at the (Master StEP). We advise you to keep it as a reference document for the contacts and the weblinks. You can always reach out to us via email, our website and our social media channels if you find anything unclear in the OD.

Since our university is following a mandatory attendance policy, students have to arrive in Saarbrücken sometime during the semester, preferably before your exams start. So be sure to reach out to us when you do.

Yours faithfully,

Master StEP Team
The Computer Science Students' Representative Council







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Introduction to Computer Science Students' Representative Council

The Computer Science Students' Representative Council is a committee of students representing the interests of the student body in different boards and towards other institutions. The council organizes social events and orientation events, provides the free student printer and old exams, organizes job fairs and works continuously to improve study conditions of the students. The council is made up of 15 elected members from various computer science programs and voluntary members from different study programs. All the members of the council help students to the best of their abilities to make their study comfortable and joyful at Saarland University. Students may consult the council on any matter troubling them on the university campus which they do not know who to approach.



Students may follow the council in various ways to keep up to date with the offers and news. The information is distributed both on the website and in various social networks.

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|  Website: cs.fs.uni-saarland.de |  Facebook: facebook.com/fs.info.uds |
|  Telegram: t.me/fs_info_uds |  Twitter: twitter.com/fs_info_uds |
|  Discord: cs.fs.uni-saarland.de/discord |  Instagram: instagram.com/fs_info_uds |

The council also provide various mailing lists to share their announcements.

- Events: fs-announce@cs.fs.uni-saarland.de
- Jobs: jobs@cs.fs.uni-saarland.de
- Council: fsr@cs.fs.uni-saarland.de

For further questions students may reach to the council by mail, use the telegram bot or visit the office.

- | |
|--|
|  Mail: contact@cs.fs.uni-saarland.de |
|  Telegram: t.me/RindphiBot |

Location: E1.3, Room 109

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 8:00 - 21:00, Saturday 10:00 - 18:00

Checklist for New Master Students

In general, these are the steps you will have to follow after arriving at Saarbrücken (please carry them in the following order):

Registering at Residents' Registration Office (Bürgeramt) in Saarbrücken

If you will be staying in Germany for more than 90 days, you (and the members of your family) will need to register at the local Residents' Registration Office within one week after arrival. If you move to new accommodation within Germany, you must register at your new place of residence. You must also deregister your residence status when you leave Germany.

In order to register, you will need to present:

- A valid passport or personal ID document (+visa if applicable)
- Written confirmation (Wohnungsgeberbestätigung) from your landlord or their agent that you will be resident at the specified address
- The lease contract (Mietübergangsvereinbarung)

After registering, you will get your residence certificate (Anmeldebescheinigung) which you will need to open a bank account. Keep the original document and give photocopies when needed, the next documents only issued with additional charge.

About six to eight weeks after registering, you will be sent a letter with your tax identification number (TIN). If you have an employment contract with Saarland University or one of the on-campus research institutes, please communicate your TIN to the university's Human Resources department.

More info: (http://www.saarbruecken.de/rathaus/buergerservice/saarbruecker_buergeraemter)

Opening a Bank Account

You will need a bank account with a German bank in order to pay your bills or to be able to rent a room in a student dormitory. We advise opening a 'Girokonto', which is equivalent to a British current account or an American checking account. Most banks in Saarbrücken offer current accounts, though conditions and prices may vary. For students a current account is usually free of charge.

Documents you'll need to open a bank account:

- A valid passport or personal ID document (+visa if applicable)
- A residence certificate (Anmeldebescheinigung) from the Residents' Registration Office (Bürgeramt) in Saarbrücken
- Certificate of enrolment at Saarland University (Immatrikulationsbescheinigung) (In some cases, admission letter may also be enough)

Important: To open a bank account, you will need to make an appointment at the bank which may be around a week after the application. Within this time, you may complete your online enrolment and get your certificate of enrolment.

Getting a German Health Insurance

You will need to submit proof that you have an adequate health insurance cover while enrolling at the university.

EU nationals

If you are a national of an EU member state and are already in possession of a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), you will not need to take out additional German health insurance. The EHIC applies to medical and health services within the entire EU region. You need to present your EHIC here in Germany to a public health insurance company. After checking your insurance cover the health insurance company will issue the relevant health insurance certificate to present to the university.

Students from outside the EU

Students from countries outside the EU will need to purchase student health insurance cover from a health insurance provider in Germany, unless they are from a state which Germany has signed a Social Insurance Treaty.¹

There is a range of different health insurance companies who charge almost the same amount of monthly contribution (approximately 110 Euros p.m.) for master students. The services of the health insurers differ very slightly. Some companies offer the possibility to prepare a document beforehand as a part of their customer service at the campus. They issue a certificate of health insurance by providing a soft copy, so you can upload it in the online enrollment database. This document is a provisional document, and you will fill in the membership request form after arriving here and opening a bank account. For other insurance companies which do not offer the possibility to prepare a document beforehand, you can settle everything upon your arrival. Three providers of statutory health insurance have their offices on the campus ([Versicherungen | Saarland University](#)).

Enrolling with Saarland University

The enrolment has to be submitted by upload (for URL see on enrolment form) to the students' office enclosing the documents and evidence stated below. It is essential that you comply with the enrolment period stated in the admission notification. If the enrollment is not completed within this period the admission expires. Enrolment can only take place if all the necessary documents with the enrolment form (signed print out of the online enrolment form) are uploaded within the stated period.

The following documents have to be enclosed scanned to the enrolment form:

- A valid passport or personal ID document (+visa if applicable)
- The official admission notification issued by the Saarland University
- Photo (passport size) jpg-format with minimum pixels 248 x 330.
- A certified copy of your Bachelor's certificate (English or German version).²
- Payment receipt of the summer semester fee.³

¹ The students from states which Germany has signed a Social Insurance Treaty need to present related documents to a public health insurance company at the university. In this case, the health insurance company will issue the relevant health insurance certificate to present to the university (i.e. students from Turkey may apply for the AT11 document in Turkey if they meet the requirements).

² If the admission has been given by hochschulstart.de or for admission free degree courses:

For German student applicants and those with German entrance qualifications: Higher education access qualification; if applicable, endorsement attesting the recognition (for German applicants with higher education access qualifications from other countries or the former GDR) and if applicable certified German translations (not required if the students' office already has an up-to-date version of the application)

For foreign EU and EEA citizens: Higher education access qualification and the official German translation (not necessary for documents in English).

³ The due amount is made up of the semester contribution (social contribution incl. semester ticket) and the study fees (where applicable). The current semester fee ([Semester fee | Saarland University](#)) and the bank details for the payment ([Saarland University bank details | Saarland University](#)) are stated on the related university web pages. The whole sum is to be transferred or paid in cash. Please state under "reference field" (Verwendungszweck) either the student's number or B-Identifier (that you got during registration on the sim-page - B followed by 7 digits) your first and last name as well as your date of birth in the reference field. Should you already know your enrolment

- A certificate of coverage from your health insurance company ([see 3](#)).
- If you had been registered to another university in Germany, a certificate of your removal from the register of student.

Important: Due to COVID-19 and the drastic changes since the last semester Welcome Centre, Admission Department and other offices are overworked and may take some time to reply with verification/acknowledgement. In the meantime, students can carry a printed copy of fee receipt for transportation facilities.

Additional info: ([Enrolment | Saarland University](#))

Online Enrollment Platform: ([an der Saar-Uni](#))

Getting a Residence Permit

While a visa will allow you to enter Germany and stay for a period of up to 90 days, a temporary residence permit is required if you are planning to stay for longer than three months. If you are not an EU national, you will need to apply to the Foreigners' Registration Office (Ausländerbehörde) for a temporary residence permit. If you have entered Germany from a country, for which no visa was needed, you also have 90 days to request a residence permit.

Ideally, you should arrange an appointment six to eight weeks before your visa expires. To make an appointment, please refer to the contact details provided. Please note: staff at the Foreigners' Registration Office ONLY see visitors by appointment.

Address of Ausländerbehörde:

Lebacherstraße 6A, 66113, Saarbrücken

Tel.: 0681 / 501-00

e-mail: zab@lava.saarland.de

The Foreigners' Registration Office is located near Ludwigskreisel (behind the Toyota car dealership) – the reception desk is situated on the 2nd floor.

When you are notified about the date and time of your appointment, you will also be given a list of documents that you will need to bring with you. Generally the required documents are:

- 1 recent passport-size photo (biometric)
- The completed application form (generally provided during the application).
- Proof of finances for one year (blocked account or scholarship as applicable)
- Residence Permit application fee.
- Your confirmation of registration at the town hall (Meldebescheinigung)
- Your lease contract
- Your admission certificate ("Immatrikulationsbescheinigung")
- Your health insurance certificate (Meldebescheinigung)

Important: The officers at Foreigners' Registration Office do not prefer to speak English. It is highly recommended to go to the application with someone who speaks German well.

number please state it to the very left of the first reference line. The enrolment is only effective, when the complete amount of the fees has been paid; the transfer may take a few days due to bank processing time. Please consider the bank transfer charge and do raise the amount consequently.

Saarland University Facilities

The university offers several facilities to the students. The interactive map of the campus showing all the buildings and the rooms can be found here: [Map of Saarbrücken campus | Saarland University](#)

There are also interactive mobile apps provided by the university: [Google Play Store](#), [iTunes App Store](#)

Social Activities

- **Sports**

The University Sport offers a wide range of different sports at the “Herrmann Neuberger Sportschule” (right next to the campus). Some of them are for free whether the others require registration or payment.

More info: [Hochschulsport](#)

- **University Gym**

Uni-Fit offers supervised fitness training with a functional, up-to-date workout, advice and support from experts.

Location: Campus Centre B 5.1

More info: [Uni-Fit Saarbrücken - Home](#)

- **Student Groups**

If you are interested in politics, religion, theatre or some other social activities, you may find some of the social (university) groups on the following links:

More info: [Studentische Selbstverwaltung und Gremienarbeit](#)

- **ZIS**

Excursions, city tours, guided tours of campus, culinary focus days in the Mensa, cultural evenings, informal get-togethers, *you & me* buddy programme.

Location: Campus Centre A4.4 Room 2.37 to 2.40

More info: [Centre for International Students \(ZIS\) | Saarland University](#)

- **ASTA**

The General Student Committee. Unifilm, concerts, various events

Location: Campus Centre A 5.2

More info: [ASTA der Universität des Saarlandes](#)

Eat & Drink

- **Mensa & Mensacafé**

Mensa and Mensacafé Saarbrücken are in building D4.1. It is a listed building with a lot of interesting arts. To supply the students with warm food, Mensa offers a selection of FOUR different meals each day. Students can select the set meal available at the stairwell ‘A’ serving point or the vegetarian meal that is on offer at the stairwell ‘B’ serving point. Stairs ‘C’ take you up into the free-flow area where you can choose between a vegan meal, a low-price one-course meal and occasional regional speciality dishes. Mensacafé is at the entrance floor of the Mensa building and serves delicious vegetarian and

nonvegetarian meals as well. The meals can be paid by the UdS student ID card. The special debit machines located at the entrance floor of the Mensa building are used to load credits into your UdS card.

NOTE : Following the COVID-19 guidelines, there are limited places available in Mensa for seating. As an alternative, students often prefer to *take-away* the meals.

More Info: [Essen und Trinken - Mensa Saarbrücken](#)

Menu App: [MenSaar.de](#)

Mensa Meals (during the main teaching period):

Set meal (3,10€) and vegetarian meal (2,60€)

Opening Hours: Mon - Thu: 11.30 - 14.30, Fri: 11.30 - 14.15

Free-flow area (low-fat, fish, budget one-course, vegetarian, regional, speciality)

Opening Hours: Mon - Fri: 11.30 - 13.45

Mensacafé:

Breakfast items, hot dishes, fresh salads, a variety of snacks and many other

Opening Hours: Mon - Thu: 7.45 - 20.00, Fri: 7.45 - 14.45

- **Other**

There are multiple eateries, fast-food joints and coffee shops at the University campus - Café Unique, iCoffee, Fast Food Heros, the Ausländer-Café, the PhiloCafe, the Sportlertreff, the Cafete im Audimax-Foyer, the KHG-Café, Starbooks Coffee and an "EDEKA".

NOTE : Since March'20 due to COVID operation and/or timings of most of these food joints have been affected.

More info: [Food and drink | Saarland University](#)

Important Offices

NOTE : Since March'20 due to COVID-19 most offices allow contact only via non-personal means, e.g. email or phone. For this reason, some office-hours are no longer included in this document. Please seek an appointment with the concerned office if necessary.

- **Card Office**

If you have any problems with your student ID card (cannot transfer money on it, it is not readable anymore, you lost your card etc.), you should go to the card office

Location: Campus Centre A 4.4

During restricted functional operation: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday: 8:00 - 12:00

More info: [Kartenbüro Saarbrücken](#)

- **Examination Office**

If you have any questions regarding the lectures and exams or if you would like to submit your Bachelor/Master thesis, you should visit the examination office.

Location: E 1.3, Room 202 (Get a ticket from the machine located at the entrance)

During restricted functional operation: Contact is possible only by email

To download some important documents, to submit your thesis or to carry some of your credit points to another course of study, visit: (<http://www.ps-ntf.uni-saarland.de>)

- **Study Coordination**

Unlike the examination office, the study coordination helps students make decisions regarding their course of study (“Is this course of study right for me?”) or study regulations. It is located on the same floor as the examination office, located at the other side of the room.

Location: E1.3, Room 209

FAQ: [The Department](#)

- **IT Service Desk**

If you have any problems regarding your UdS account (email, WLAN, VPN, iTAN-List etc.), you should go to the IT Service Desk.

Location: Campus Centre A 4.4

During restricted functional operation: [Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9:00 - 12:00, 13:00 - 16:00](#)

More Info: [Servicekontakte](#)

- **Central Student Advisory Service (Zentrale Studienberatung)**

The central advisory service helps students to decide what to study, to apply for a place on a degree course, about reorientation options (switching subjects, problems with studying or dropping out) and financing their studies.

More info: [Zentrale Studienberatung](#)

- **International Office**

The International Office is managing all aspects of Saarland University international relations and activities as a central coordination and service unit. It manages the international exchange programmes and the university's academic partnerships. It is also the main contact whenever university management or the faculties require information on international issues.

Location: Campus Centre A 4.4

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9:30 - 11:30, 13:30 - 15:30

More info: [International Office | Saarland University](#)

- **Internationales StudienZentrum**

Internationales StudienZentrum (ISZ) serves the purpose of preparing international students in intercultural competence and academic standards required to succeed at Uni Saarland. They provide extensive German courses at all levels, workshops to improve scientific/academic reading and writing, learning strategies and understanding German academic system. As a special service, ISZ offers an on-request Sprechstunde for students who wish to **speak to fellow students** about anything they may want to share or express. To learn more about these or register for any of the courses or learn about sprechstunde head to their [International Study Centre Saar \(ISZ Saar\) | Saarland University](#).

Location: Campus A 3.2

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9:30 - 11:30, 13:30 - 16:00

More info: [International Study Centre Saar \(ISZ Saar\) | Saarland University](#)

- **Studentenwerk in Saarland e.V.**

Studentenwerk of Saarland Uni provides solutions to students living and learning at Saarland University with wohnheim accommodation facilities, Bafoeg, Mensa catering service, Kindergarten and child-care for parents studying or working.

More info: [Studentenwerk Office](#)

- **PPB Counselling**

An extension of Studentenwerk, PPB provides counselling to all students and employees of Saarland University for problems with studies, motivation, confidence and self-esteem and other personal issues that one may need help with. Their service is strictly confidential and very professional. For consultation you must request an appointment by [email](#).

Location: Campus B 62

Open Consultation: Monday 12:00 - 13:00 (**by phone**)

More info: [Studentenwerk - Psychologische Beratung - Anmeldung](#)

- **Kontaktstelle Studium und Behinderung**

KSB aims to make the university journey for all students and employees equal in all sense of the word. They support students with learning or physical disabilities, students with family responsibilities towards their old parents or young children with appropriate action plans and support for their needs. Students can also get a relaxed semester plan with less credit requirements if the KSB office deems appropriate.

- **Gleichstellungsbüro**

The equal opportunities officer works together with many actors to promote gender-equitable university development at the Saarland University. The equal opportunities officer and her team support the interests of all women (students, staff, professors) at the UoS and contribute to gender-equitable university culture and development.

Location: Campus A4 4, 1.06

More info: [KSB office](#) / [Gleichstellungsbüro](#)

- **AStA**

The General Student Committee, or “AStA” for short, is an organ of the student body. In addition to representing the interests of students, the AStA also offers a wide range of advisory services. For this reason, the AStA has a large number of different speakers on various topics (i.e. our department for student finance or international students). There is a special office by AStA with Gleichstellungsbüro is also there to hear about any racial discrimination you have faced or seen happening on the campus.

Location: Campus A5 2

Opening hours: Depending on the service and tutor. Refer to their website.

More info: [AStA](#)

- **Student Parliament**

The student parliament (StuPa) is the highest decision making body of the constituted student body at Saarland University. The most important function of the parliament is the election and control of the Allgemeiner Studierendenausschuss (AStA). In its constituent assembly the StuPa elects its

president and his or her substitutes as well as the AStA-presidency and the other members of the AStA. The StuPa furthermore decides on the budget of the student body and delegates student representatives into diverse University boards and committees.

Rooms

- **Library**

With the student card, you are allowed to rent a book from the computer science library and from the SULB (The Saarland University and State Library). The library is a common place for students wishing to study in a quiet place. In case of need, students may find some of the previous Bachelor/Master theses at the library.

During the lockdown, students may benefit from online digital library to access the learning resources. [SULB](#) and [Informatik library](#) resources can be accessed via Uni IP address range by connecting via VPN.

CS Library: [Campusbibliothek für Informatik und Mathematik](#)

Location: E2.3

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 - 18:00

SULB: [Saarländische Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek](#)

Location: B1.1

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 8:00 - 21:00, Saturday 10:00 - 18:00

- **VPN**

VPN access to the Uni's IP range allows students (and staff) to access the local and private resources and learning material. This is especially helpful for students abroad or stuck in lockdown. You can only access VPN after you have your students login and password. Head to [HIZ's website](#) for clear detailed instructions on how to setup VPN.

- **CIP – Pools**

Students who do not have a Laptop may use one of the CIP-pools (for bioinformatics students, there are additional CIP-pools).

Location: E1.3, Room 104, 012

More info: [Computer rooms | Saarland University](#)

[During restricted functional operation: Closed](#)

- **Lecture Halls**

The most commonly used lecture halls for computer science students are Günter-Hotz Hörsaal in the building E2.2, lecture halls in the building E2.5 (Math building) and the lecture halls in the building E1.3. Most of the tutorials take place in tutorial rooms of buildings E1.3 and E2.5.

[During restricted functional operation: Closed](#)

- **Notebook Rooms**

If you need a place to study or to work in groups, there are the notebook rooms 105, 106, 012 and 103 in the computer science department in building E1.3. In room 103/4, you have access to some of the monitors. The rooms are air conditioned.

[During restricted functional operation: Closed](#)

- **Printer Room**

A service offered by the CS Students' Representative Council to the students of computer science and related study fields is the printer room. There, students can use the printer for free. Each student has a monthly limit of 100 copies. Students may register for the printer using the printer machine or online (<http://ophelia.fs.uni-saarland.de>). To complete the registration process, students need to send their confirmation of registration at the university ("Immatrikulationsbescheinigung") to printer@cs.fs.uni-saarland.de. The council also offers cheap printing and free binding of Bachelor/Master theses for relatively low prices. To use this service, students should send an email to printer@cs.fs.uni-saarland.de.

Location: E1.3, Room 013

During restricted functional operation: Closed

More info: [Student Printer | Computer Science Students' Representative Council](#)

- **Computer Science Students' Representative Council**

The Computer Science Students' Representative Council is a committee of students representing the interests of the student body in different boards (e.g., faculty or examination boards), organizing social events (e.g., summer party, Christmas party, pub crawls), providing the free student printer and old exams, organizing orientation events for new students (StEP) and organizing job fairs (NEXT).

Location: E1.3, Room 109

During restricted functional operation: Closed/Online.

More info: [Computer Science Students' Representative Council | The website of the Computer Science Students' Representative Council of Saarland University](#)

- **Study Coordination Office**

The Study Coordination office is here to provide assistance to prospective and active students of the Computer Science Department of the Uni Saarland. Along with providing consultation about study programs, requirements, regulations, they also assist with special conditions and assistance to personal misfortunes of students.

Mrs Tanja Breinig

Email: studium@cs.uni-saarland.de

Mrs Barbara Schulz-Brünken

Email: erasmus@cs.uni-saarland.de

- **Software**

All computer science students have access to the University Computer Science account on Microsoft Imagine (earlier: DreamSpark) where students can find some software offered for free (Visual Studio, Windows Licenses). Students who are interested in prototyping can also get a AXURE RP 9 license for free during the time of their Bachelor/Master.

A list of companies which offer free licenses can be found here: [Free Student Software](#)

City Life in Saarbrücken

Accommodation

- **Apartments offered by the Studentenwerk im Saarland e.V.**

Studentenwerk's dormitories are open to all Saarland University students. The dormitories in Saarbrücken and Homburg offer different kinds of accommodation: single apartments, rooms in shared housing („Dublette“) and family housing, all of them furnished. There are washing machines available in the common areas. Applications for all dormitories are only available online. The rooms are assigned on a first come first serve basis, which means there is always a waiting list.

Link: [Wohnen](#)

Application: <https://tl1host.eu/SWSB/#admission>

- **Private dormitories**

There are several private dormitories in Saarbrücken, which are not run by the Studentenwerk. These dormitories mostly offer furnished rooms, single or double apartments. To get a place in these dormitories, you need to apply directly with their administration:

The Carl Duisberg Haus: [Mieten](#)

Evangelische Studierendengemeinde: [\(ESG\) \(Saarbrücken\)](#)

Verein Internationales Studierendenwerk „Cusanus-Haus Saarbrücken“ e.V.: [Cusanushaus](#)

Saarland Bauträger Immobiliengruppe: [Studentenwohnungen Saarbrücken](#)

Gesellschaft für Hausverwaltung mbH: [GFH Dudweiler](#)

studioeins: [Studioeins](#)

- **Private housing market**

While searching a flat in the private housing market, please be aware of dubious methods. Fraudsters mainly use money transfer services, such as Western Union, to obtain security deposits. Do not accept prepayments without viewing. If an advertiser asks for a copy of your ID, this is a possible sign of fraud. Scammers use this later to pretend seriousness. Usually students search on these web pages:

- [WG-Gesucht.de](#)
- [Wohnungen in Saarbrücken bei immowelt.de](#)
- [Immobilien SAARBRÜCKEN mieten/kaufen -Wohnung WG Zimmer Haus Airbnb DE](#)
- [Woge Saar: Welcome Page](#)
- [Immobiliengruppe Saarbrücken: Start](#)
- [Wohnungsangebote — htw saar](#)
- [Immobilien, Wohnungen und Häuser bei Immonet.de](#)
- [HousingAnywhere: Mittel- & Langfristige Unterkünfte | 400+ Städte](#)
- [easyRoommate | Part of the easy family of brands](#)
- [HousingAnywhere: Mittel- & Langfristige Unterkünfte | 400+ Städte](#)
- [wohnen-jetzt.de: Ihre Seite rund um das Thema Wohnen](#)
- [Provisionsfreie Wohnungen](#)
- [Wohnungen mieten Saarbrücken - Häuser, Immobilien kaufen & mieten](#)
- [WG in Stadtverband Saarbrücken \(Kreis\)](#)
- [eBay Kleinanzeigen \(Saarbrücken ; Immobilien\)](#)

Transportation

NOTE : Since March'20 due to COVID-19 it is mandatory to wear a mask while using public transportation. You will not be allowed in buses without a mask and violating this is punishable by heavy fines.

- **Buses in Saarbrücken**

A service offered by [Saartallinien](#). This state-owned local company provides bus lines and a tramway. Depending on the line, buses run every 15 to 60 minutes. You can check the timetable [online](#). Also ticket prices are available [online](#).

Google Play Store: [Saarfahrplan](#)

iTunes App Store: [Saarfahrplan](#)

Important: With the UdS Card you can use buses, trams (SaarBahn), local trains except long-distance trains (RB, RE, Saarbahn) in the entire Saarland and up to the Saarland border (to Sarreguemines by tram) without any additional costs. The UdS card serves as a ticket. The prerequisite is that the saarVV logo and a stamp with the current semester are located in the lower part of the card.

- **Bicycle**

Used Bicycle Exchange: The ADFC Saar regularly offers bicycle exchanges in the summer months, where used bicycles can be sold and bought from private to private. The dates are the first Saturday of each month from April to September.

More Info: [Fahrradbörsen](#)

Bike Rental AStA VELO: AStA allows short term and long term bike rentals. Renting a bike for a weekend or up to 7 days costs 7€ while renting up to a month costs 15€. They allow renting up to 6 months. For each rental, a 60€ deposit is required.

More info: [Bike rental AStA VELO](#)

- **Deutsche Bahn**

The Deutsche Bahn is responsible for the German train system, its website gives detailed information about train schedules and platforms, trips inside Germany, and prices. Passenger trains are classified according to their speed, the distance they cover, and the type of services they offer. Holders of a Bahncard receive a discount on all train fares within Germany. The card is only valid for the person it is issued to. (There are different types of BahnCards. Some BahnCards are automatically renewed for one year, unless they are cancelled no later than 6 weeks before the renewal date.) The rule in Germany is that you buy a ticket before travel begins; otherwise, you will end up paying a higher fare or even a penalty. Bear in mind that ticket checks are routine, as each train usually has a team of staff rather than a single conductor.

Tickets for train travel can be purchased from travel centers or booking offices at stations, authorized travel agencies (additional handling fee), ticket machines at stations (touch screen), timetable and tickets via the Internet.

More info: [Cheap Train Tickets | Timetables for Germany & Europe](#)

Google Play: [DB Navigator](#)

- **Homburg Shuttle Bus**

It is free for students and employees, runs 3 times a day. The schedule is displayed at the bus stop Mensa and online (AStA). Route: Rathaus > Campus Saarbrücken > Campus Homburg

- **Travel to/from Luxembourg**

The express bus to/from Luxembourg costs 5€ for one-way and 9€ for a day ticket. It is free with a semester ticket from the University of Saarland with the locations Saarbrücken and Homburg. *More info:* [Saarbrücken Express](#)

- **Parking**

There are several tariffs depending on the student residence location and duration of parking.

Parking at campus: [Parken auf dem Campus](#)

Parking in the city: [Parken und Anreise](#)

Shopping Facilities

Larger shops and department stores in downtown Saarbrücken are open until 8pm Monday-Saturday and closed on Sunday. Be aware that some shops, especially smaller ones, may close before 8pm. on Saturdays. Some bakeries are open until 11am. or 12 noon on Sundays. Restaurants are, of course, open on Sundays, but most of them are then closed on Mondays. Pharmacies are separate stores and are not affiliated with grocery or drugstores. Prescription drugs are only available in pharmacies.

To search stores depending on area, category and payment method: [Geschäfte](#)

- **Department Stores**

There are four main stores in Saarbrücken: [Karstadt](#), [Galeria Kaufhof](#), [Saarbasar](#), [Europa Galerie](#)

- **Grocery Stores**

Here are the main grocery stores in Saarbrücken: [Aldi](#), [Netto](#), [Lidl](#), [Real](#), [Edeka](#), [Rewe](#)

- **Electronics Stores**

The following are the largest electronics stores: [Saturn](#), [Conrad Electronic GmbH](#), [Media Markt](#)

The [tedox](#) offers everything that you need for your household from pots and pans and cutlery to towels and bed clothing.

- **Hairdressers**

There are a lot of [hairdressers](#) in Saarbrücken, but most of them expect you to have an appointment. Only a few accept drop-ins.

- **Order Takeaway**

There are several websites to order a variety of food:ents search on these web pages:

- [Pizza.de](#)
- [Lieferando.de | Essen Bestellen in ganz Deutschland](#)
- [Food Delivery | Restaurant Takeout | Order Food Online](#)

There are also several places where you can get food in the city after midnight. These stores are mostly located around the St. Johanner market in the middle of the city.

- **Markets**

If you like to buy some groceries, especially fresh vegetables on a market, there is a list of markets you may want to visit: [Märkte](#)

Mobile Phones and Internet

There are several companies in Germany offering mobile tariffs and internet services. Prepaid mobile tariffs does not require a contract and can be easily obtained by a valid passport or personal ID document. However, other mobile tariffs and internet services with a contract requires a valid bank account for the payments. The comparison between different options can be found in the given links below.

Mobile Phones: [Smartphone- & Handy Tarife ohne Stress vergleichen](#)

Internet: [Internettarife & Internetanbieter stressfrei vergleichen](#) (Area code for Saarbrücken: 0681)

Fines

- **Registration**

If you move within a city/village, you have to go to the Registration office within one/two weeks after you moved into the new apartment. If not, a high fee can be set up as a punishment.

More info: [Umzug und Meldeangelegenheiten](#)

- **Internet**

German laws concerning file-sharing are pretty strict and clearly condemn any kind of file sharing activity related to copyrighted content. While both download and upload are condemned by law, in reality the uploading part of the process will result with a warning letter. Using services like torrent clients makes you automatically share the file you are downloading. This is why torrent and other P2P clients' users receive a lot of letters from German lawyers.

Since April 2017, users of illegal streaming services (also broadcasting of live events) can also get in trouble because of a decision from the European Court of Justice.

Taxes

- **GEZ**

The GEZ or radiotax is a fee which every household in Germany has to pay. This tax is used to keep the radio and print media in Germany free from political funding, bias and independence. The fee is 17,50€ per month (per household/flat, not per person). You can use this facility to watch TV online. Head to their [website](#) to get more information. An exemption or reduction of the fee is possible under certain conditions, eg if you or your roommate is a Bafoeg scholar.

More info: [Der Rundfunkbeitrag](#)

Recycling

Cleanliness is an important part of well being. This is very clear if you look around, how clean and maintained the public places in Saarbrücken, Germany are. Waste segregation is an important part of living in Germany. It enables efficient recycling. Here, waste is more or less divided into 6 categories-

- Gelber Sack - plastic containers, aluminum cans, tetra packs and other packaging material (except paper cartons). These bags are yellow in color and can be collected from burgeramt.
- Biomüll - biodegradable food wastes. These bags are green in color.
- Alt-papier - clean paper paste, newspapers, carton and paper packaging material.
- Glassmüll - Separate your glass waste based on color - Green (red wine bottle, etc), Brown (beer bottles) and White (liquor and food container). Make sure you do not dispose of them with the lids.

- Batteries - Since batteries can be biohazard and toxic, they will contaminate the recycling process if mixed. Inform yourself from your local authorities, neighbors or roommates about the right disposal strategy followed at your place of residence.
- Restmüll - Anything that does not go into the above described categories will go into these black bags. These are materials that cannot be recycled and go into landfills, so use this only as your last option.

Health Insurance and Availing Medical Facilities

Although Germany has a universal healthcare system which covers almost all medical expenses of all its residents and visitors, German healthcare system can be complicated and it is important to understand your way around it.

Your public health insurance covers ⁴;

- Hospital treatment
 - Emergency services such as accidents
 - Medical treatment such as outpatient, dental treatment
 - Walking aids or wheelchairs
 - Transportation to the nearest hospital
 - Burial or Repatriation
- **Primary Care** - Your first step to availing a health service is at a primary care centre of a general physician, aka Hausarzt. A Hausarzt is concerned with all of your primary healthcare needs, internal medicine, common sickness etc. Find your closest Hausarzt praxis via Google and note their phone number for later. IMPRS has compiled a [list](#) of English speaking doctors for the convenience of students. They usually have an open door policy.
 - **Specialist** - A specialist such as an orthopedic, dentist or a psychiatrist can only be visited with a prior appointment. You can find them on Google or call your health insurance provider (number can be found on your insurance card) to assist you with an appointment if needed.
 - **Emergencies** - Hospitals are usually meant for higher degree of medical care or urgent medical care during holidays and weekends. There are 4 hospitals in Saarbrücken -
 - Caritas Klinikum - Rheinstraße 2, 66113 Saarbrücken
 - Caritas Dudweiler - Klosterstraße 14, 66125 Saarbrücken
 - Klinikum Saarbrücken - Winterberg 1, 66119 Saarbrücken
 - Evangelical City Hospital - Großherzog-Friedrich-Straße 44, 66111 Saarbrücken
 - **Pharmacy** - There are 3 kinds of prescription slips:
 - Green - Over the counter medicines, like flu, headache, etc. These are not covered by the health insurance and have to be paid by you.
 - Pink - These are prescription medicines such as antibiotics etc. These slips are valid for 4 weeks and paid by the insurance provider.
 - Yellow - These include restricted medicines which have to be prescribed only in special cases. These slips are valid for 7 days and also paid for by the insurance provider.

⁴ Refer to your health insurance for a detailed list of coverage.

Academics

The informatics related study programs are represented by the [Saarland Informatics Campus \(SIC\)](#) including 11 English-language [master's programs](#) which are Computer Science, Bioinformatics, Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, Embedded Systems, Entrepreneurial Cybersecurity, Language Science and Technology, Mathematics and Computer Science, Media Informatics, Visual Computing, Business Informatics and Language and Communication Technologies.

All master programs require 120 Credit Points to complete the program within 6 semesters. There is a progress control where students should have;

- After 1 semester at least 9 Credit Points
- After 2 semester at least 30 Credit Points
- After 4 semester at least 60 Credit Points
- After 6 semester at least 90 Credit Points

If students fail progress control, they will get a letter from the university. Two times failure in a row may cause students to lose their claim to finish.

Lectures/Courses

The lectures offered by the campus are divided into three categories:

- Core Lectures
- Advanced Lectures
- Seminars

Core and advanced lectures are once (6CP) or twice (9CP) a week with additional tutorial hours if applicable. The lecture materials and scripts are usually available online on the related lecture pages. Seminars are usually once a week (7CP) and attendance to presentations and the kickoff meeting is mandatory. Majority of the lectures do not require any prior registration, but enrollment links for the classes/tutorials are shared on the webpage of the chair offering the course and during the classes. However, the seminars require prior registration on the [SIC Seminars](#) system. The system requires students to choose three seminars of their choices, and assigns students to one of their choice considering several criteria.

[LSF](#) is the central system where the students can find all the offered lectures, overview their transcript of records, schedule a study plan and register for events (exams, seminars). The student certificate can be found under [SIM](#). Each course may use different lecture systems (dCMS, RCMS, Cisca CMS, Moodle, Vipa, SZSB Courses-system).

Students may get additional credit points by attending the lectures not listed on their study program, if they get the acceptance of the head of their study program and the related examination office.

Exams

Majority of the lectures require participants to take exams to get a final grade. The exams are offered oral or written and the admission to exams require to meet some criteria selected by the instructors (assignment sheets, tutorial attendance, tests). It is mandatory to register for the exams on the [LSF](#) system with a valid iTAN number. The system allows students to register and unregister until 1 week before the actual exam date. The lectures offer an end term exam and a re-exam every semester. If the students participate in both, the better grade counts. Some of the lectures may require additional midterm exams.

The university allows students 3 attempts to write an exam, registration to the [LSF](#) system is mandatory for each attempt.

Passing grade for the exams is 4.0 and the scale is between 1.0 (the best grade) and 5.0 (the worst grade) (in x.0, x.3, x.7). Some lectures (seminars, language courses) offer a "Schein" which cannot be directly transferred as grade on the central lecture system, so the student must go to the examination office and provide their certificate to transfer their final grade to the central lecture system.

For further information, students may check the study and examination regulation of their relevant study program [here](#).

Master Thesis

The Master of Science at the Saarland University requires every student to display their appetite for research and successful applications of lessons learnt in their courses. This is evaluated in the form of a scientific report on a project that has been carried out under supervision. It is intended to show that the candidate is able to solve a computer science problem according to scientific methods and to present the results clearly. The thesis can be written in English or German. The problem statement for the Master Thesis should be deemed appropriate for the workload of a 6 months working period and is evaluated for 30 CPs.

Since the problem statement in the thesis is a semester-long (sometimes longer) commitment, and a chance to show your skill almost unrestricted because of rigid course structures, it is only appropriate that the student chooses the topic in their field of interest. An appropriate way to do this is to build your knowledge base by taking core courses offered by different departments. This can be followed by taking advanced courses in the field of your interest, building upon the knowledge of course courses. This will help you understand the depths and intricacies of your favorite field and funnel your focus. Upon identification of a particular field of research interest, students should choose to attend seminars offered by the appropriate department. This will help you familiarize with the latest research in this topic. Talking to the faculty and fellow researchers of the department and understanding their latest research topics will help you with the cause as well. These progressive steps will help you establish a good understanding with your research topic, fellow researchers, supervisors and professor.

This is only a tentative approach to obtaining a master thesis problem statement. Students are free to experiment and figure out what works for them. If the student is unable to find a problem statement by himself, they should approach the department for the same.

Some Master Programs also require students to perform a Master Seminar where they would present the literature survey, analysis of the problem and theoretical solution before implementation and writing of the thesis.

For further information, students may check the thesis submission requirements of their relevant study program on the [MINT](#) system.

Erasmus

The Erasmus Exchange Program covers all partnerships with universities in EU countries. The individual partnerships are coordinated through the departments and the International Office. In the framework of the Erasmus/Socrates Program, students have the opportunity to study at a partner university abroad. The current list of partners can be obtained in the study coordination office.

For further information, students shall contact the [Erasmus office](#).