

First steps in Germany

Informative Session

WiSe 2025-26

13/09/2025

Nirmiti - Indian Association in Gö



1. Started in 2009
2. Registered with University of Göttingen
3. Registered with Consulate General of India in Hamburg
4. All Indians living in Göttingen and near by areas are members
5. Students from UniGö, PFH, Max Planck and settlers (people working in Gö)
6. Organize cultural and social events.
7. Next upcoming big event: Diwali 2025

Why make luggage heavier?



- Things better and value for money in DE,
 - Heavy winter jacket, boots and other related things (Lookout for Black friday sale)
 - Toiletries
 - Excessive food supplies
 - Stationary

- Stuff better to get from home country,
 - Spices
 - Specific cooking vessels
 - Medicines, prescription, vaccine history
 - Traditional outfits
 - Electronics (better to compare before buying, usually expensive in DE).

Enroute Göttingen!

- Reference: Frankfurt flughafen to Göttingen
- Train
 - Direct: ICE high speed train (~2 hours) - Best option for first timers.
 - *Pro Tip: Book as soon as possible, Prices go up daily.*
 - Regional Trains (RE) slower (~3.5 hours) and no direct train to Göttingen.
 - *Except high speed trains, Deutschland semester ticket includes all of it (included in semester fees - [link](#))*
 - DB Navigator App (Android/iOS) to book or check the schedule of train (live).
- Bus
 - FlixBus: (~3.5 hours) - [link](#)
- Taxi
 - Very expensive but last option - Uber/airport taxi

Accommodation

- Long Term
 - Studentenwerk Göttingen - [Dorm list](#) | [Registration Form](#)
 - Private Housing - [wg-gesucht](#) | [eBay](#) | [immoscout24](#) | [Basecamp](#)
 - Brokers - [GoHV](#) | [DAWE](#)
- Short Term / Sublet
 - Facebook groups - [Gö internationals](#) | [WG](#) | [ESN](#) | [Internationals](#)
 - Whatsapp Groups - [Go sublet](#) | [Gö internationals](#)
- Stay for a day or two
 - Studentenwerk Göttingen - [link](#)
 - AirBnB, Box Hotel, B&B hotel

Health Insurance

- Mandatory in DE.
- Insurance is active from your first day in DE *(even without formal activation)*
- Formal activation of health insurance takes upto a week.
- Insurance card is important for hospital/clinics for insurance claim.



Expenses in first month

Description	Assumed Expense (Euro)
Rent	~350
Grocery/toiletries	250
Data plan	10
Winter wear	100
Miscellaneous	190
Total	~1000

Anmeldung (City Registration)

First thing you have to do after arriving is City Registration:

You need this for various purposes:

1. Sim Card
2. Residence Permit Application
3. Bank account

Rathaus website to book appointment: [link](#)

Step 1: Selection of the functional unit

- Registration matters
- Road Traffic Authority
- Health Authority
- Lost and Found
- Covid vaccinations

Step 2: Reporting matters - Selection of the matter

Overview of your appointment

- functional unit: Registration matters
- Issue
- Location
- Appointment
- Personal Data

You can select a maximum of two issues in total. The number may be limited for individual issues.

Registration, deregistration, change of residence

Group appointment for up to 6 people

Step 3: Date suggestions - Location selection

Overview of your appointment

- functional unit: Registration matters
- Issue: 1x Registration, deregistration, change of residence
- Location
- Appointment
- Personal Data

Please select the desired location for your appointment:

Displaying the map requires loading external data from third parties (OpenStreetMap, Nominatim, Overpass).

Show map

1: Göttingen New Town Hall - Residents' Registration Department, appointments from 12.09.2025, 10:10 a.m.

- name: Göttingen New Town Hall - Residents' Registration Department
- Address: Hiroshimaplatz 1-4, 37083 Göttingen
- distance
- Next: from 12.09.2025, 10:10 a.m.
- appointment information: Please take a seat in the waiting area and pay attention to the monitors. You are called ...

Anmeldung (City Registration)

What do you need for Anmeldung/City Registration ?

1. Passport
2. Wohnungsbesichtigung / Letter from your landlord



What happen if you don't find appointment for appropriate date?

- Then you can visit rathaus early in the morning around 7 AM and queue up there. They give around 15 to 20 appointments without registration.
- Rathaus : Hiroshimaplatz 1-4, 37083 Göttingen

Radio Tax

1. Everyone in Germany is obliged to pay radio tax ([Rundfunkbeitrag](#)).
2. It is so that the media can stay independent.
3. It is 18.36€ per month.
4. When you do City registration, your address automatically get registered with the respective radio tax company and you will receive the letter for it.
5. You can choose to pay automatically every month or manually pay.
6. You can also choose to pay for 3 month or 6 months all together.
7. If you share the address with other people, you all can pay together.



Student Card

- Application to initiate process of Student card - Forms (card application)
- Options for collection
 - Via Mail to your home address for a fee.
 - In-person collection at the office - location
 - Make sure to carry passport for verification

International Roaming / e-Sim

1. Get International roaming in your Indian Sim (for example - Airtel pack 1098 INR, 10 days validity, 3GB, 200 Minutes)
2. For only data, you can choose e-sims (easy to install)

Options : [Airallo](#), [Matrix](#), [eSIM.net](#) (cheaper options for data only packs)

When you're in the eSIM's coverage area, you can connect to a mobile network to use your eSIM. You'll need to make sure the eSIM is on and selected for data.

3. Document Requirements for e-Sim: Current phone number, email id.

Best Sim packs in Germany

1. Cheaper options

[Handyvertrag](#), [sim24.de](#), [sim.de](#)

- Better service and connectivity
- Prepaid or contract based
- Budget friendly (for example: 50-60GB for 9.99 euro/month)
- EU-roaming included
- Flat sms and calls
- Easy to buy online (email id, address, and IBAN)
- NO International calling

2. O2, Aldi sim, Lyca are expensive and sometimes Lyca has network issues.

Internet & Electricity Providers

[Check24.de](https://www.check24.de)

- Compare all providers online
- Find best deals
- Provided by Main provider
- Can save 100-200/year
- Trusted, easy and good service

Requirements:

- Address, email id, bank account (IBAN), phone number

neuer Vertrag Vertrag wechseln Umzug

Adresse
Prinzenstr. 9, 37073 Göttingen

Optionen
mit Young Tarifen

vergleichen

Tarife filtern

Tarifoptionen

- Internet mit TV
- Ich brauche einen WLAN-Router

Download-Speed ab

- alle ab 16,45 €
- 16 MBit/s ab 16,45 €
- 50 MBit/s ab 16,45 €
- 100 MBit/s ab 16,45 €
- 150 MBit/s ab 21,24 €
- 250 MBit/s ab 21,24 €
- 500 MBit/s ab 27,91 €

Anschlussart

- DSL ab 18,20 €
- Kabel ab 16,45 €
- Glasfaser  ab 36,41 €
- Satellit ab 19,90 €
- Mobilfunk (LTE / 5G) ab 20,63 €

Anbieter

- 1&1 Telecom GmbH ab 24,57 €
- o2 ab 30,41 €
- Telekom ab 18,20 €
- Vodafone ab 16,45 €
- bigblu ab 34,48 €

[alle anzeigen](#)

Max. Laufzeit neuer Vertrag

196 Tarife ab 16,45 €

Informationen zur Sortierung

Sortiert nach Beliebtheit

Beliebtester Tarif



Young
GigaZuhause 100
Kabel

8,4 Sehr gut
Tarifbewertung

★★★★★ 3,7 (26.088)

100 MBit/s

Aktion bis 15.09.

335 € CHECK24 Cashback

unter 28 Jahren

[Tarifdetails](#)

~~30,41 €~~ -45 %

16,45 €

Durchschnitt pro Monat
ab 25. Monat 44,99 €

[weiter zum Tarif](#)



GigaZuhause 100
Kabel

8,4 Sehr gut
Tarifbewertung

★★★★★ 3,7 (26.088)

100 MBit/s

Aktion bis 15.09.

320 € CHECK24 Cashback

unter 28 Jahren

[Tarifdetails](#)

~~30,41 €~~ -43 %

17,07 €

Durchschnitt pro Monat
ab 25. Monat 44,99 €

[weiter zum Tarif](#)



Magenta Zuhause
L Young

7,2 Gut
Tarifbewertung

★★★★★ 3,7 (26.088)

100 MBit/s

Aktion bis 15.09.

190 € CHECK24 Cashback

unter 28 Jahren

✓ 40 € zusätzlicher Bonus bei Telekom einlösbar

~~30,49 €~~ -25 %

22,58 €

Durchschnitt pro Monat
ab 25. Monat 47,95 €

[weiter zum Tarif](#)

Opening a bank Account

Required Documents for All Banks:

1. Valid Passport
2. Proof of Address Registration
3. Student Enrollment Certificate
4. Visa or Resident Permit
5. Tax ID Number (send by Finanzamt or can be collected from Finanzamt's office)

Recommended Banks



1. Account Maintenance charges applicable
2. Few branches (only 1 in Goettingen)
3. Bank App is good, real-time transfer is available
4. Service is really good, in English
5. Account Services are smooth



1. Free until the age of 25, then 4.90 euro/month
2. Multiple branches
3. Wide ATM network
4. Good bank app, Real-time transfer
5. Local support in English
6. Account Services are smooth



1. Free until the age of 30
2. Few branches
3. Service is Average
4. Bank App has less features, for example - no transaction ID, no real-time transfer

N26 Bank (Online Bank)

- Free, Always real-time, best service, any currency transfer without any fee, and more
- Can only be applied after getting resident permit

Bank Account:

You need to open a Bank account so that you can link your blocked account to your german account and get you money from you blocked account in it.

There are several banks:

1. 1822 Frankfurter Sparkasse
 - I have my personal account with this bank
 - Haven't faced any problem till date
 - Completely online, they do have a branch in Frankfurt
 - Free, if you are below 27 and you credit 700+ euros every month in your account.
 - You can open the account from you home country as well so that you already have giro card with you in time.
 - If you plan to open an account after coming to Germany, I won't recommend it because there is no physical branch in Goettingen.
 - [1822](#)




Residence Permit

1. You have to apply for a residence permit once you are in Germany within 2 weeks of your arrival.
2. Even if your visa is issued for a year, you have to apply for a residence permit.
3. Along with a residence permit, you get a Zusatzblatt, which is your work permit, and your employer will ask for this while giving you a work contract.
4. This is the website of the foreign office ([Ausländerbehörde](#)) where you will find information about your respective officer.
5. You have to write an email to the officer, and they will send you the list of documents needed, and you then send all the documents via email.
6. They check all documents and give you an appointment for a residence permit.
7. You can check this [pdf](#) from the Foreign Office for more details.

Residence permit


Granting and extension of various forms of residence.

Letter of the family name Contact person

Alt - AZ, C, V, BA	J. Scholz >
L, M, BB-BN	F. Wickmann 
N, S-Sha, BO-BZ	P. Sommer 
Shb-Sz, T, U, W, DF-DO	L. Gartmann 
E, O, R, Ali-AIs, DA-DE	A. Behrendt >
K, Z, DP-DZ	L. Aschenbach >
H, I, J, F	F. Gabel >
A-Alh, Q, X	V. Kuneski >
G, P, Y	auslaederstelle@goettingen.de

List can change anytime,
please check before applying,
and also while your application
is under review.

Contact person for students

Letter of the family name	Contact person
A, B, C, D	Junior office 
G, N, R, T, V, W, X, Y, I	E. Sadiku >
O, H, K, S	D. Sahin >
E, F, L, M	P. Weiße >
J, P, Q, U, Z	A. Jungandreas-Lütke >
Goethe/Erasmus, VE 's	A. Noll >

8. More or less you need these document as a first timer when you apply for residence permit

- Completed and signed application form ([Application for granting a residence Permit / settlement permit\(383 KB\)](#))
- Passport (passport photo page only - copy)
- Confirmation of registration (Meldebestätigung)
- Current certificate of enrolment at the university or language school
- Visa (copy – only if you entered the country with a visa)
- Entry stamp issued at customs/border control when entering the Federal Republic of Germany. If not applicable: flight ticket, boarding pass, train ticket or bus ticket with destination Germany (copy)
- Current proof of financing. How to show your funding:
 - 1) Declaration of Commitment “Verpflichtungserklärung” according to § 68 Residence Act (copy and original) or
 - 2) Bank statements from a German bank account showing regular income (€ 934 per month) or
 - 3) Blocked account in euros or German current account or savings account with € 11,208 for one year or € 22,416 for two years or
 - 4) Certificate of scholarship/employment contract and last 3 payslips/draft of employment contract etc. or
 - 5) Hosting agreement “Aufnahmevereinbarung” (only applies to researchers)

è Please note that the shown funds must be at your disposal! False bank statements, short-term loans from friends and fellow students, short-term account movements, cash deposits etc. are not accepted. If there are any doubts about your financial situation, you may be obligated to open a blocked bank account without prior notice!

è You must show a monthly income of 934 € (574 € personal consumer spending + 360 € rental costs = 934 €). If your rental costs are less than 360 € per month, the amount you have to show is reduced accordingly. The proof of subsistence can also consist of a combination of the listed possibilities. It is always important that your income and account movements are clearly traceable.

· Current health insurance certificate (not older than 1 month, copy) - not the insurance card or other letters from your health insurance company! Proof of health insurance is required at least for the period of residence you are applying for.

è Most insurance companies allow you to create an insurance certificate on their website or via the app. Ask your health insurance company about this option and save yourself the time and trouble!

- Complete tenancy/rental/sublease agreement “Mietvertrag” (copy) – **do not send** the “[Wohnungsgeberbestätigung](#)” (document issued by the property owner for registration purposes)!

Healthcare & Medical Services

General Practitioner (Hausarzt)

How to register:

- Call the practice in advance (some accept walk-ins, but many require appointment).
- Bring your **health insurance card** (gesetzliche Krankenkasse card).

When to go to Hausarzt:

- For general health issues, prescriptions, sick notes (for university/employer).
- Your Hausarzt can **refer you to a specialist** (Facharzt).

Languages: Some doctors in Göttingen speak English, but always ask when booking.

[Dr. Claudia Wagener](#)
Family Practice Physician

Himmelsruh 20, 37085 Göttingen
0551796609

Speaks English

[Dr. med. Burkhard Wagner](#)

ENT

Goethe-Allee 3, 37073 Göttingen
055157715

Speaks English

Health Insurance is MANDATORY in Germany! Make sure you have valid health insurance (public or private) before registration.



Emergency Medical Services

UMG (University Medical Center)

 Robert-Koch-Straße 40

 24/7 Emergency Room


 Walk-in for emergencies

 Emergency: 112

General Emergency Numbers

 Medical Emergency: **112**

 Police: **110**

 Medical On-Call: **116 117**
(Non-emergency medical help)

Buying a Bicycle

1. [eBay Kleinanzeigen](#)
Online marketplace app, wide selection, price range (30-100)
2. Student Network (through [ASTA](#))
Contact senior students or contact ASTA, Trusted sellers, often better prices, Check Whatsapp groups
3. [Swapfiets](#)
Renting is available from 17.90 per month, Quick in-store pickup available, free repair
4. Cycle guy
+49 17620500873, Innenstadt

Remember: Always buy a good bike lock! Bike theft is common in German university cities. Register your bike with the police for free.

Supermarkets in Göttingen

Budget Discounters

ALDI: Lowest prices, limited selection, weekly special offers

LIDL: Similar to ALDI, slightly more variety, good bakery section

PENNY: Budget-friendly, basic necessities, part of REWE group

NETTO: Discount chain, good for bulk shopping

Standard Discounters

EDEKA: Wide variety, fresh deli counter, quality products

REWE: Good selection, organic options, city center locations

tegut: Regional chain, quality focus, good fresh produce, expensive

Supermarkets in Göttingen

[map](#)

Indian/Asian Grocery Stores

Aliman, Poorana's, Himalaya, Go Asia

- Indian spices, rice, lentils, and frozen items
- Asian vegetables and specialty ingredients
- Halal meat options available
- Ready-to-eat snacks and sweets

Non-food Discount Stores

TEDi, Action, Woolworth, Euro Shop, KiK

- Decoration and seasonal items
- Household goods, Stationery, gift items
- Cleaning products, Kitchen supplies
- Seasonal clothings

Student Budget Tip:

Start with TEDi, Action, or Woolworth for dorm essentials (hangers, storage boxes, kitchen basics). These stores offer items at fraction of regular prices. Visit OBI (Kaufpark) for any DIY needs or furniture assembly tools.

Student Jobs

1. Working part time in Germany is plan for many of you.
2. You can find jobs in university and also there are other opportunity in goettingen such as odd jobs (in cafe and delivery partners)
3. Using [stellenwerk](#) website, is the best platform to find student jobs in uni they also have odd jobs offer.
4. You can definitely check websites like stepstones.de and linkedin to search for other job opportunities.
5. [Basic minimum pay](#) currently in Germany is: 12.82 €/hour
6. If you have student visa you can work 140 full days or 280 half days. That's roughly 20 hours a week.

Integration in German Society

- It is really important to integrate yourself with Germans and German Culture.
- It helps you in learning Deutsch.
- Also helps you with loneliness feeling far away from your home
- You have a group to interact with, have fun and
- There are some associations and NGO that you can put in your CV
- It help HR to understand that you are already familiar with german work culture.

Sports & Culture: Clubs for sports, music, dance, theatre, arts.

Volunteering: Support refugees, seniors, tutoring, environment, more.

Student Groups: Hiking, gardening, religious & interest-based communities.

Why Join?

- Meet people, learn new skills, have fun.
- Boost your CV & gain experience.
- Make a positive impact in the community.
- Access to networks & possible career opportunities.

Category	Examples
Sports (all summed)	Football (ASC, SVG, RSV), Basketball (BG Göttingen, ASC), Volleyball (SCW, Hainberg)
Dance & Music	Salsa-Tanz (Salseros Göttingen), Hip-Hop Dance Academy, Lindy Hop (Studentenwerk)
Choirs & Singing	UniCante (Pop choir), Belcanto Göttingen, Living Gospel Choir
Theater & Culture	Uni-Theater ThOP, Musa e.V. (cultural center), KAZ e.V. (socio-cultural center)
Volunteering – Social Institutions	Caritas Göttingen, Johanniter Hilfsdienst, German Red Cross (DRK)
Volunteering – Community Support	Göttinger Tafel (food distribution), Bahnhofsmission (help for people in need), UNICEF school breakfast project
Refugee & Migration Support	Bonveno gGmbH (refugee housing), Migrationszentrum Göttingen (translation help), My Future project (EVBD e.V.)
Nature & Environment	NABU Göttingen (nature protection), Internationale Gärten e.V. (gardening), Biologische Schutzgemeinschaft
Hiking & Outdoor	ASC Wandergruppe, Maria-Frieden Wandergruppe, Wander-Community Göttingen
Language Practice	Sprachen-Café Göttingen (DRK & Divalounge), Deutsch im Alltag (St. Godehard), International parent–child groups
Women & Families	Internationale Frauengruppe (Petri-Haus), Elternfrühstück (Elisabeth-Heimpel-Haus), Rucksack parent program
Church & Student Groups	Katholische Hochschulgemeinde (KHG), Evangelische Studierendengemeinde (ESG), Baptisten-Church Göttingen



Welcome to Göttingen! We wish you a successful academic journey.

Prepared by the Nirmiti (Indian Student Organization), Göttingen

For more information/queries, follow us on Instagram
([nirmiti.goettingen](https://www.instagram.com/nirmiti.goettingen)).

For more FAQs, you can check out Nirmiti's Website
([Nirmiti-Uni-Goettingen](https://www.nirmiti.uni-goettingen.de))