

Warning: Rental Scams

Unfortunately, international students searching for housing in a new country are sometimes targeted by fake apartment listings and rental scams. Scammers take advantage of the fact that students may not yet know the local rental market well.

To protect yourself, please read the following tips carefully:

Watch out for these red flags:

- Being asked to pay money before seeing the apartment.
- Messages written in awkward or unnatural German is often a sign of automatic translation.
- Rent that seems way too cheap for the area or size.
- Listings with only professional photos but no chance to visit in person.
- "Landlords" who say they're abroad and will send you keys after you pay.

Stay safe by following these tips:

1. Always visit the apartment yourself or ask someone you trust to do it for you.
2. Don't send any money before:
 - You've seen the place,
 - You've signed a rental contract with a verified landlord, and
 - You're sure the offer is real.
3. Never sign contracts you don't understand. If you're unsure, contact the International Office for support.

If You Suspect a Scam:

- Do **not** send any money.
- Take screenshots of emails, listings, or messages as evidence.
- Report the incident to the **police** and inform the International Office or send a mail to international.students@hsbi.de

Important:

In Germany, it is not common to pay rent or deposits via Western Union, PayPal (friends & family), or cryptocurrency. If someone asks for payment this way, it is likely a scam.

Please note that the International Office is not affiliated with the offers made by private property owners and acts solely as an intermediary. While we are happy to assist you in establishing contact, any rental agreement or contract will be concluded directly between you and the property owner. The International Office assumes no liability for the content, execution, or outcome of such agreements.

Kind regards
International Office