

Housing & Schooling

The FrankfurtRheinMain region offers various **housing options** that extend far beyond the well-known cities. It is worth considering the smaller towns or municipalities nearby as rental prices tend to be lower and the larger towns can be easily reached by public transport.

The easiest way to find a flat in the region is via **housing advertisements** on online portals. It is important to note that you often have to apply for a flat in advance before you are given an appointment. To do so you need a folder with all of the important documents such as proof of salary, insurance or creditworthiness.

Another factor which may be important when choosing a place to live is **childcare facilities** and **schools**. It is important to note that there is a three-tier school system in Germany. To help ease integration, state schools often offer **language support for children** with limited or no knowledge of German. In addition, there is a wide range of international and bilingual schools and childcare facilities in the region. An overview can be found here.

Integration

A **knowledge of German** is very important to help you integrate. For every day use, a basic knowledge at A2 level is often sufficient to get by and make some contacts. In order to work and study, however, you will need at least B1 level of German. In addition, the official language at all authorities is German only.

A particularity of the German language is the personal form of address with **„Du“** or **„Sie“**. „Sie“ is the polite form which is often used in a business context or when you do not know the other person very well. „Du“ tends to be used when you have known someone a long time and are on more familiar terms. The older or more senior person will let you know if you can say „Du“.

Another way to make new contacts and help you integrate are **international communities**. The FRM region is well-known for being international: people from over 180 different nations live here. International Communities help newcomers to make contacts and find their way in their new home. You will find cultural societies here as well as business networks. Joining a club can help you to make new contacts as common interests in German sports and social clubs connect people. You can find an overview here.

Rules

Recycling and protecting the environment are an important topic in Germany. Most waste is either recycled or composted. Each household is responsible for **separating** its own **waste**, which is sorted according to materials in up to four different bins. Some towns also have yellow bags. Further information on recycling as well as the collection schedule for the different bins can be found on the website of your local town or municipality. Further information on recycling can be found here.

There are also certain rules for living together. **Quiet time** starts at 10 p.m. and ends at 6 or 7 a.m. as well as all day on Sundays and public holidays. During this time, activities involving loud noise should be avoided e.g. very loud music or manual tasks such as drilling.

Another peculiarity is the **TV licence**, which finances public service TV and radio channels. It must be paid by each household. Generally, you will receive a letter to register for the TV licence a few weeks after you have registered your address with the citizens' centre / registration office or town hall.

Good to know!

Housing
It is important to note that a kitchen and bathroom do not count as an extra room. In housing advertisements, the kitchen and bathroom are in addition to the number of rooms indicated. A fitted kitchen is not always included. You either have to buy one or you may buy the kitchen from the previous tenant. Housing advertisements contain a lot of abbreviations which are explained again in detail here.

Deposit and rental contract
When renting a flat, you will have to pay a deposit. This may be up to three times the basic monthly rent and serves as security for the landlord. If there is no damage to the flat when you move out, you will receive your deposit back. A rental contract should be thoroughly checked before signing, in particular, the minimum rental period, the level of service charges and the notice period. Further help and advice can be obtained from the local Tenants' Protection Association (Mieterschutzbund).

Opening hours
Please note that most shops are closed on Sundays and public holidays.