

Welcome Guide for International Students at the DHBW Mosbach

- Campus Bad Mergentheim-

DHBW Mosbach / International Office





Preface

Dear International Student,

Congratulations! You have successfully applied for a semester abroad at the DHBW Mosbach.

Going abroad is a great challenge, as you need to survive in an environment which is totally new and strange to you at first. You are exposed to a language you might not be familiar with, you need to settle into your accommodation, you have to get used to the weather and the food, you must learn the do's and don'ts, the attractions and risks around you, and, of course, you want to make friends and make the best of your stay.

This Welcome Guide is supposed to help you with this. It gives you background information about your place of study and provides you with tips and tricks. It has been written with the intention of being a useful tool for you.

We wish you a great time at the DHBW Mosbach!

Your International Office Team





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1 DHBW Mosbach and the Campus Bad Mergentheim

The university “Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg” (DHBW) has 9 locations in the federal state of Baden-Württemberg. One of those is the DHBW Mosbach with one campus in the town of Mosbach and one in Bad Mergentheim, which is about 60 km away from Mosbach. Since you have been accepted for an International Program on the campus in Bad Mergentheim, this guide will concentrate on this town and give you detailed information about what your life in Bad Mergentheim will be like. If you are participating in an International Program on the campus Mosbach, please refer to the respective Welcome Guide instead.

1.1 The DHBW Mosbach

The DHBW Mosbach offers a wide range of departments in the two faculties of Business and Engineering, and has over 3,500 students currently enrolled in courses.

The DHBW operates within the Cooperative Higher Education System, which means that the university works in partnership with private companies in the education process. During each semester, full-time students attending the DHBW Mosbach take theoretical classes on the university's campus (Theoriephase) for three months, followed by a three-month practical training period (Praxisphase) with one of the school's cooperating businesses. Thus, after joining you for the International Program, your German classmates will go back to their companies to work.

1.2 Bad Mergentheim



Mentions of Bad Mergentheim can be found as early as 1058 as the residence of the Counts of Hohenlohe, who afterwards deeded most of their lands to the Teutonic Order of Knights (Deutscher Orden). In the 13th century, the German Teutonic Order and the Dominican Order came to Bad Mergentheim. Bad Mergentheim earned town privileges in 1340 and became the official headquarters and home to the Teutonic Knights Grandmaster in 1525 when Horneck Castle, which was the residence at the time of the Deutschmeister, was destroyed.

The “Commandery Mergentheim” became their new headquarters. Two years later, the Deutschmeister also officiated as “Administrator of the Grand Masters in Prussia”, and so Mergentheim became the residence of the Grand Masters and Deutschmeister.

The knights' castle still remains, looking over the town. Today the castle is home to part of the DHBW Mosbach's campus. In the year 1809, the grandeur of the residency came to an abrupt end. By order of Napoleon

the religious orders area of Mergentheim was to be unified with the crown of Württemberg. Mergentheim became a Württemberg district authority but despite this declined into a small, insignificant country town. The town gained a new fame in 1826 with the discovery of mineral springs, after which it became one of the most popular health resorts in Germany. But not only members of the royal family resided here. It was on 13th October 1826, as shepherd Franz Gehrig was grazing his flock near the Tauber, that he noticed that his sheep huddled around seepage in the ground. The shepherd carefully sampled the water – it tasted bitter and salty. Gehrig announced his discovery to Kober the mayor at the town hall. They visited the spring on the same day with town councillors and the district authority doctor, Christian Friedrich





Bauer. They informed the district authority and initiated the first tests. The test showed that the water was comparable to the already famous Kissinger water.

The first Mergentheim spa season began on 23rd June 1829. From the most humble of beginnings the spa business developed over time and increasingly shaped the town. On 2nd August 1926, in the centennial year of the discovery of the mineral springs, the town was given the title "Bad", and from then on its official name has been "Bad Mergentheim".

The outbreak of World War II represented a major setback for the spa business. Bad Mergentheim became a military hospital town, but the town was also grateful for this as it meant that they were almost completely spared from shelling and air attacks from the heavy fighting in the Tauber Valley. In the following year, the spa town reported a sustained improvement and a steady increase in the number of spa guests. The peak was reached in 1972 with around 1.4 million over-night stays in 6.000 beds. Although the general conditions have worsened since then due to further legislative restrictions (health reforms), the spa town was still able to reach the figure of one million overnight stays again in the years between 1987 and 1995. With more than 100,000 guests and in excess of 900,000 overnight stays in the year 2001, Bad Mergentheim is still the largest spa town in Baden-Württemberg.

Currently a town of around 23,000 residents, Bad Mergentheim is located in the Tauber river valley, about a 45-minute drive west of Würzburg, a city in north-western Bavaria.



1.3 International Office Campus Bad Mergentheim

The International Office (in German: Akademisches Auslandsamt) for the Campus Bad Mergentheim can be found in "Schloss 2" directly in the castle.

During your semester here in Bad Mergentheim, you will get to know the following people, who will be happy to help you with all your concerns. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have before, during and after your semester in Bad Mergentheim.

International Office DHBW Mosbach Campus Bad Mergentheim

Address: International Office
Campus Bad Mergentheim
Schloss 2
97980 Bad Mergentheim

Anna-Magdalena Bröckl

Head of International Office Campus Bad Mergentheim

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2 Things To Do Before You Leave Home

After applying for a semester abroad through your home university, there are a few things you have to take care of. There are also some important documents that you should pack when you leave for Germany. After you have read the advice below carefully, you can also check out the checklist of things to pack, which is provided at the end of this guide.

2.1 Documents for Registration, Visa and Residence Permit

You are legally required to register with the local authorities during your stay in Germany. During the orientation week, we will organize an appointment for you at the town hall so that we can complete the registration together. **Please bring a copy of your passport, including your entry visa/stamp, or identity card, and a passport photo.**

You can find information on visa regulations on the official site of the German Foreign Service:

http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/EinreiseUndAufenthalt/03_Visabestimmungen/Visabestimmungen_node.html

Depending on your home country, you might additionally need to apply for a residence permit for which you will have to provide further documents. We will assist you with this. **Please make sure you have the necessary documents: financial security statement, proof of health insurance and a passport photo.**

Please check before you arrive to make sure that you bring all the documents with you:

http://www.internationale-studierende.de/en/on_arrival/residence_permit/

2.2 Insurance

2.2.1 Health Insurance

You are required to have German public health insurance coverage to be enrolled at a German university.

If your insurance from home covers you while abroad and offers unlimited coverage then it might be accepted and you can be exempted from German public health insurance. Please contact a German health insurer to have your insurance checked and to receive your exemption certificate.

Students from EU countries and countries with social security arrangements with Germany (e.g. Turkey) will be exempted but the insurance must be checked by a German public health insurer and they will issue an exemption certificate.

All students are eligible for public German insurance (gesetzliche Krankenversicherung). For example:

aok.de/kp/uni/information-for-international-students/

Here is a full list: [List of health Insurers](#)

There are also private insurance companies such as: www.mawista.com/en/health-insurance-for-foreign-nationals-in-germany/health-insurance-for-students/

However, please check that unlimited coverage is offered so that it is equivalent to German public health insurance and can be accepted.

Please make sure you have sufficient health insurance coverage before you leave home as costs, for example after an accident due to an emergency operation, can quickly mount up.



2.2.2 Other Kinds of Insurances

Besides comprehensive health insurance, the DHBW strongly recommends personal liability insurance and travel insurance for your stay in Germany. This insurance will cover you while in Germany or during any travelling that you may do while in Europe. **Please check if you need any additional insurance before you leave home.**

2.3 Packing

If you have any doubts about whether or not to bring something, leave it at home! Remember that anything you pack you'll have to carry. If you can fit everything in one backpack, you'll be a much happier traveller.

If you are flying to Germany, contact your airline in advance about weight limits, how many bags you are permitted, as well as their content. It may be cheaper to check a second bag than pay the fines if a bag is overweight – airlines like to make a lot of money this way, and can charge 15€ per kilo over the allotted amount. It might not be a bad idea to weigh your bags before arrival and departure, so as to avoid any unwanted extra costs.



Vacuum-sealed bags have worked wonders among students in the previous years. They are well worth their value, and can easily be reused. Remember to save some space for your souvenirs when you return home.

Deutsche Post DHL or another courier service is also another good way to ship goods home to lighten a student's load before travelling. Their prices, although not necessarily cheap, are lower than the airlines would normally charge if your bags are over the allotted weight limit. Additional information can be found on the DHL Deutsche Post website: <https://www.dhl.de/en/privatkunden.html>

Important papers as well as money should be kept with your carry-on. Photocopies of your most important documents should be packed in a separate piece of luggage. You could also consider getting a money belt or pouch. It is also a good idea to take some essentials along in your carry-on bag in case your luggage doesn't arrive with you. These might include toothbrush, change of socks and underwear, medication, etc.

And with your entire luggage – carry-on and laptop as well – make sure that you have everything labelled with your address in Germany, or use the address of the International Office at the DHBW. You can find the complete address for the International Office under Section 1.3 in this guide.

2.3.1 Driver's License

A driver's license (in German: Führerschein) which has not been issued in an EU country is usually valid in Germany for six months. Afterwards you can have the validity of your license extended for up to one year by applying at the Führerscheinstelle, Wachbacher Str. 52, 97980 Bad Mergentheim.

It is also good to carry your driver's licence with you for ID purposes.



2.3.2 Contact Information

Bring addresses and telephone numbers of everyone at home that you might need to get in contact with (friends, banks, university offices, academic advisors, etc.).

Type any emergency medical information on a piece of paper (preferably laminated) and keep it with your passport:

- Allergies to foods and medications, including dietary restrictions
- Current medications and dosages, details of chronic ailments
- Blood type
- Immunization history (tetanus inoculations, etc.)
- Whom to call in case of emergency
- Type of health insurance and policy number
- Address and telephone number of the International Office at the DHBW Mosbach which can be found in Section 1.3

2.3.3 Money

Make sure you have cash on you, preferably in the form of Euros. You can have some changed at a bank at home, at your departure airport, or you can wait until you land in Germany.



① Note: The best rates are usually given by your bank, whether in your home country or in Germany. Airports and travel agencies normally have extra fees and higher prices. Euros can be ordered upon request and can take between one and two weeks for delivery, because most banks don't keep foreign currency on stock in their vaults.

If you want to bring your cash card, make sure that it will work in Germany and Europe. Contact your bank for information about international withdrawal fees and transfer fees. Credit cards are a good idea, especially in cases of emergency, as some things like plane and train tickets, as well as other items can be purchased on the internet only with a credit card. The most common ones in Germany are VISA and MASTERCARD. Keep credit card numbers as well as the issuing company's phone number written down so that in the rare event that your card is lost or stolen – it can easily be cancelled.

① Carrying your money: It's best if you don't have it in an obvious place like in a purse or wallet, especially in large towns, train stations and airports. You can carry it in a money pouch that hangs around your neck or in your pocket.



2.3.4 Banking

While many stores in Germany don't accept credit cards, they will accept local bank debit cards. It is probably cheapest and easiest to set up a German bank account and then to transfer larger sums of money to avoid paying the fee charges over and over again, as most transfers cost flat rate fees (depending on your bank).

During the Orientation Days you will get information and assistance with opening a bank account at a local bank.

A German bank account is compulsory if you want to apply for and receive a grant from the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung (eligible students will be sent details of the application procedure once the semester starts)

To open a German bank account you will often need to provide an international tax number (US=Social Security Number), so please bring this with you.

ⓘ Blocked accounts: If you open a blocked account that requires your visa to unblock it, please note that it can take at least 4-6 weeks to obtain a residency visa! So you will not be able to unblock your account for several weeks!

2.3.5 Electrical Items

Please check if you need an adaptor in order to use electrical appliances or plug in your phone.

German electrical appliances operate on 220-volt current, which means that appliances designed to run on 110-120 volts, as used in the United States for example, will burn out if plugged directly into an electrical outlet. Although some radios, electric shavers, etc., may already be adapted for 220 volts, U.S. purchased appliances will need a voltage converter.



German electricity outlets are deep and only round-prong type plugs will fit, so be sure your adaptor kit includes round-prong plugs. It is easiest to buy adaptors before you arrive. Any questions regarding electronic devices and their ability to function internationally should be directed towards qualified electricians or department store personnel before you leave home.

2.3.6 Clothing

Winters are cold in Germany, and temperatures can regularly fall below freezing and it can snow. You might be walking more than you usually do, and a warm winter coat, sturdy and comfortable shoes/boots, lots of wool, and long underwear will keep you more warmer while doing so. An umbrella is necessary – you can find them in almost every store, but it might be a good idea to bring one with you.

Spring weather is very changeable, and the temperatures can fluctuate widely on a daily basis – again an umbrella might be a good thing to have. Summers tend to be very warm and often humid, so light clothes are needed.



2.3.7 Suggested Miscellaneous Items

You might also want to bring the following items:

- Prescriptions for eye glasses, contacts, contraceptives, and medications; if you are on a regular prescription, bring a supply that will last for the whole time you are overseas and a note from your doctor explaining your medical condition and medications.
- Small basic first aid kit
- Sewing kit (thread, needles, scissors, and safety pins)
- Sturdy umbrella
- English to native language dictionary (allowed during exams)
- Calculator (only non-programmable calculators are allowed in exams)

You can make a note of any other items you want to bring with you here:



3 Getting to Bad Mergentheim

Now that you have arranged everything at home and packed your bags, it is time to travel to Germany. Below you can find some advice on how best to get to Bad Mergentheim.

The nearest airports are Frankfurt am Main (FRA) and Stuttgart (STR). You can then take the train or a shuttle taxi to Bad Mergentheim.

3.1 The Train to Bad Mergentheim (From the Airport):

You can get general information about the train schedule and prices under this link:

<https://www.bahn.com/en/view/index.shtml>

From Frankfurt Airport: The train ride from Frankfurt Airport (follow the signs of "Frankfurt Flughafen Fernbahnhof" = "Long Distance Station"; there is a second station called "Frankfurt Flughafen Regionalbahnhof" which is a regional station with trains to downtown Frankfurt; this is usually NOT the right one to go to" to Bad Mergentheim takes about 3:00 / 3.30 hours.

There are trains every hour. You will have to change trains at Würzburg Main Station and sometimes also at Lauda. The train ride (normal fare without any reduction) will cost ca. 45 EUR. For discounts by booking tickets through the internet, please check the website above.

From Stuttgart Airport: The train ride from Stuttgart Airport to Bad Mergentheim takes about 2,5 hours including two train changes, one in "Stuttgart Hauptbahnhof" (main station) and one other one, depending on the schedule. For your departure station in the train schedule please choose "Stuttgart Flughafen/Messe".

3.2 Arriving by Shuttle Taxi (From the Airport):

You can also book a shuttle taxi in order to get to Bad Mergentheim from Frankfurt Airport or Stuttgart Airport. If you would like for us to make a reservation for a shuttle service the cost e.g. from Frankfurt will be 150 EUR per ride.



4 Housing

In Bad Mergentheim, we are finding rooms on the private housing market and/or in different dormitories for you.

4.1 Housing Expenses

Budget around 200 to 360 EUR a month – don't forget to factor in the cost of your safety deposit which usually equals one month's rent. The deposit must be paid when you move into your accommodation, so please have this amount available in cash at the very start of the semester.

4.2 Signing a Lease and Paying the Rent

It is common in Germany to sign a lease when you rent a room or an apartment. Rent is due on or before the first of the month and is normally transferred from the bank account of the renter to the bank account appearing on the lease. You can also make arrangements to pay in cash.

4.3 Energy Conservation

Germans are environmentally conscious and like to save energy (electricity, water, heat), and the associated costs, wherever possible.

Heating: Average room temperature in Germany is 20 degrees Celsius (68 degrees Fahrenheit). If you're cold, it's probably better to put an extra layer on, rather than to fiddle with the thermostat. Please air your room twice a day for 5 minutes and turn the heaters off before you open the window. Remember to close all the windows before you leave your room, especially if you have roof windows!

Water: Turn on the tap only when necessary as you have to pay for the amount of water that you use. Pay special attention to this when you are washing the dishes or brushing your teeth.

Electricity: If you're not using it, don't have it on. For example:

- Turn off all the lights when you leave the room or the apartment.
- Don't leave chargers plugged in when not in use.
- TV and Radio: If you're not watching it or listening to it, it shouldn't be on.

4.4 Guests and Visitors

If you have visitors coming, and you would like them to stay with you, first clarify it with your landlord or roommates. If they aren't allowed to stay with you, a list of hotels where they can stay can be found on Bad Mergentheim's website under the following address:

<https://www.bad-mergentheim.de/en/guests/accommodations/>



4.5 Useful Information on Recycling and Waste

Germany recycles a lot of its waste and the system for recycling bottles, glass, paper, packaging etc can seem complicated.

Yellow Bag (Gelber Sack): Anything with the Green Dot (Der grüne Punkt) on the package (except glass, paper, and cardboard which have extra containers, see below) can be thrown in the Yellow Bag. Make sure not to mix up the waste because otherwise the bags will not be picked up. English webpage: <https://www.gruener-punkt.de/en>

Paper (Papier), picked up about once a month (blue trashcan): all paper products such as cardboard shipping cartons, egg cartons, newspapers, copy paper, envelopes, etc.

Residual Waste (Restmüll), picked up once a month (black trashcan): things that can't be recycled or don't go anywhere else, such as food, used paper products like napkins, candles, old makeup, etc.

Hazardous Waste (Sondermüll) needs to be recycled at certain collection spots: items that can be potentially harmful to the environment and that do not have the Grüne Punkt on them, like batteries or electronic items (can be recycled at an electronic store).

Deposit (Pfand): Many plastic bottles and glass containers in Germany have Pfand on them. That means that there is an additional fee on bottles and containers which you can collect when they are returned, usually at a grocery store (at the cash register or in a separate section of a store) or at a Getränkeladen (stores selling just drinks). However you do it, as long as you return your bottles and containers, you will get your money back. Bottle deposits can quickly add up considering the deposit per bottle is usually around 25 cents.

4.6 Laundry Facilities

We are always looking for accommodation for our students that do have a washer and sometimes even a dryer.

Norge Reinigung, Härterichstr. 1, 97980 Bad Mergentheim

Michael Czeke und Jola Wendland: <http://www.waescherei-w-c.de/html/impressum.html>

① Note: The references of businesses made in this document are based on unsolicited comments from former students and do not represent endorsement by the DHBW Mosbach.



5 Life On Campus

5.1 House Rules on Campus

An English version of the House Rules of DHBW Mosbach can be found in the moodle classroom. Details will follow.

Please note: you will get an online introduction in the House and Laboratory Rules during your Orientation Session that refer especially to Campus Bad Mergentheim.

5.2 Opening Hours on Campus

Please note that the university buildings have opening hours. Outside of these hours, the doors are locked, so you cannot get inside.

Monday through Thursday	7:00 am to 8:00 pm
Friday	7.00 am to 6:00 pm

5.3 Parking

If you come to Bad Mergentheim with your car, please observe the following advice regarding parking:



Schloss: There is a paid parking garage, near the Schloss and about five minutes away from the DHBW.

Here you can find a list of available parking in Bad Mergentheim:
<https://www.bad-mergentheim.de/downloads/?aktuelles=1091>

5.4 Computer Facilities on Campus

5.4.1 Computers, Printers and Internet

Every DHBW Mosbach student receives an e-mail account, together with a user name and password to access the internet either through the computer labs or a personal laptop.

This information will be provided during Orientation soon after your arrival.



5.4.2 Setting Up a WLAN Connection on Your Laptop

You will find directions for this (in German) on the DHBW's website, but you'll receive guidance on this during Orientation.

If you have problems or need assistance, please ask us. We will help you to contact our IT services.



5.4.3 Printing

You need your student ID card to access the copy machine and printer. You can add money to your account at the machines found by the printers in the Computer Pool Rooms by inserting your student ID and following the directions on the screen.

Scripts for the lectures are copied by the "Copy Master" for the whole class.

5.5 Meals on Campus

We have an agreement with four different local restaurant, where students can eat lunch at a reduced price from Monday till Friday.

The menu for each week can be found on the Informational Board on the 1st floor.

❗ Note: A reservation by telephone in advance (by 10 a.m. that day) is necessary.

5.5.1 Pomodore e Basilico

Bahnhofplatz 1 / 97980 Bad Mergentheim
Phone 07931 958 8650.

5.5.2 delikat

Im Mittelstandszentrum / Johann-Hammer-Str. 24 / 97980 Bad Mergentheim
Phone 07931 12 14 506

5.5.3 Bali's Kebap

Poststraße 9, 97980 Bad Mergentheim
Telefon: 07931 563 264





5.6 Library

See information on campus libraries here: <http://bibliothek.mosbach.dhbw.de/>

Our staff will be able to help you with registration if you wish to loan books from the library.

Check the website for the current opening hours.





6 What To Do in Your Leisure Time

6.1 In Bad Mergentheim

6.1.1 Sights

Bad Mergentheim has lots of *Sehenswürdigkeiten* (sights) to offer. A few ideas are listed below and even more can be found by checking at the town website or on the Bad Mergentheim section of the DHBW website:

<https://www.bad-mergentheim.de/en/>

<https://www.mosbach.dhbw.de/en/international-office/international/about-us/>



Deutschordensmuseum: In addition to being home to the DHBW Mosbach's Bad Mergentheim campus, the castle also contains a museum documenting the history of the knights who built it, the town history of Bad Mergentheim, as well as an exhibit of the residential apartments, castle church and travelling art exhibits: <http://www.deutschordensmuseum.de/>

Kurpark: The Kurpark, a large park behind the castle, is a feature of every spa town in Germany, and Bad Mergentheim has one of the largest.

Marktplatz: The buildings, that frame the *Marktplatz* (town square) date back to the 1500s, when they were commissioned as residences by officers of the *Deutscher Orden*.

Münster Sankt Johannes Baptist: Standing on *Ledermarkt*, this church was inherited by the *Deutscher Orden* from the *Hohenlohe family* along with the town of Bad Mergentheim in the 1500s. After its renovation in 1983/1984, *Sankt Johannes* was acknowledged as a cathedral.

Wildtierpark Bad Mergentheim: A zoo or rather wildlife experience park with native animals in semi-natural landscape; 2-kilometer footpath, feeding programs; open daily 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m, in winter (November through mid-March) on weekends only; cost 10 EUR (no charge on your birthday).

<https://www.wildtierpark.de/en/>

6.1.2 Shopping

❗ Note: ALL stores except mini-stores at gas stations are **closed** on Sundays and public holidays.

Here you can find a list of discounters and supermarkets in Bad Mergentheim:

<https://www.supermarktcheck.de/supermaerkte/bad-mergentheim/1276/>

We also have a mall (**Activ-Center**) with several shops:

<http://www.activ-center-bm.de/www.activ-center-bm.de/index.html>

Bad Mergentheimer Wochenmarkt (Farmer's Market) on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm on the Markplatz.

Rupp's Fruits and Vegetables: Krumme Gasse 10



Bioladen: Organic food store at Mühlwehrstraße 29.
<https://www.facebook.com/bioladenMGH>

Moritz und Lux: bookstore on Gänsmarkt and Rupprecht Buchhandlung (bookstore) in the Burgstraße.

6.1.3 Sports

DHBW Mosbach-Sport

The DHBW Campus Bad Mergentheim has its own Fitness Room directly across from Schloss 10 next to the students dormitory. Opening hours: Monday through Friday (except Wednesday) 07:30 am to 10:00 pm, Saturday and Sunday 08:00 am to 10:00 pm; you need to sign the terms of use prior to first use at the administration department at Schloss 2, room 1.04

<https://www.mosbach.dhbw.de/service-einrichtungen/hochschulsport/angebote-am-campus-bad-mergentheim/#anchor-main-content>

Open gymnasium for independent ball games at the vocational school at Seegartenstraße 16, open on Monday from 08:00 pm to 10:00 pm; DHBW administration at Schloss 2 needs to be contacted beforehand for the keys.

Community Pools

Solymar: indoor swimming pool including mineral pools and sauna at Erlenbachweg; phone 07931 965 680; full break-down of prices for all the services offered can be found under their web address:
<http://www.solymar-therme.de/>

Städtisches Freibad Arkau-Kernstadt: outdoor pool at Schwimmbadstraße / Arkau 1; business hours: May through September, daily from 09:00 am to 08:00 pm
https://www.bad-mergentheim.de/de/freizeitgestaltung/freibad/staedtisches-freibad-am-festplatz-id_1266/



6.1.4 Books and Entertainment

Town Library (Stadtbücherei)

Bad Mergentheim's town library can be found at the Hans-Heinrich-Ehrler-Platz 35. A yearly membership is available for an 8 € fee. Phone 07931 57 4200

<https://www.bad-mergentheim.de/de/stadtbuecherei/>

Movies

Movie theatre in Bad Mergentheim: <http://www.kino-bad-mergentheim.de/>

Go-kart

Why not try the go-kart track in Bad Mergentheim? Located at Beim Braunstall 11, open Monday – Friday 05:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Saturday 2:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Sunday/public holidays 11:00 am to 11:00 pm

<http://www.kartbahn-mgh.de/>

6.1.5 Going Out

Bars and Restaurants

Here are a few recommendations of restaurants and bars (Kneipen) in Bad Mergentheim.

Café Europa – Italian restaurant and bar found on the Marktplatz, next to the old town hall

<http://www.europa-cafe.de/>

Rocklegende – music pub; Wolfgangstraße 2; May to September: open from 08:00 pm, October to

April: open from 07:00 pm, closed on Mondays: <http://www.rocklegende-mgh.com/>

P2 Eventcenter – disco: <https://www.facebook.com/p2eventcenter/>

Socializing in Bad Mergentheim

Like any university town, Bad Mergentheim has a student life, though the best way to find out what's going on is to associate with other students. You can contact the German students in the program with DHBW-related questions as well as with general information about Bad Mergentheim. Beside your contact in the Buddy Program, you can use the following to start socializing in Bad Mergentheim.

6.1.6 What's Up? How to Stay Informed

For further information about activities in Bad Mergentheim and the area, check the following sources:

Official Bad Mergentheim Website: <https://www.bad-mergentheim.de/en/>

Map of the town:

<https://www.unser-stadtplan.de/stadtplan/bad-mergentheim/kartenstartpunkt/stadtplan-bad-mergentheim.map>

Local Newspaper: Fränkische Nachrichten <https://www.fnweb.de/>



6.2 Day Trips in the Area

6.2.1 Heidelberg

Heidelberg is an old university town of about 143,000 inhabitants with a famous castle now in ruins overlooking the Neckar valley. Coming from Bad Mergentheim, it's best to get off at the Heidelberg-Altstadt station and walk from there into the Altstadt (old city center) which takes about 10 minutes.



Tourist Office: If you get off the train at the Heidelberg-Altstadt station, you will walk past the Tourist Office, located on the left side of the road, at Willy-Brandt-Platz 1. Alternatively there is an office at Heidelberg Hauptbahnhof (main station). Here you can pick up a town map and some tips on what to see in the town.

Hauptstraße and Gassen (Alleys): Heidelberg's long main street is lined with stores, bars and restaurants. You should also explore the alleys to the left and the right of it where you might find some of the more interesting things that Heidelberg has to offer, such as unique stores and student bars.

Schloss: The castle sits on a hill on the south bank of the river, overlooking the town. You have two options for getting to the top – either hike up the hill through the streets, or there is a historic tram that will pull you up – 7€ per person (5€ for students), but there are group discounts. The ticket prices includes entry into the palace.

Palace Tours: Once you reach the top, you are free to wander most of the ruins and the gardens, but if you want to see the interior of the castle, the entry fee is 7€ (4€ for students with ID card) and includes travel with the historic tram. It's possible to take tours of the castle for an additional fee, payable in the courtyard.

Current Events in Heidelberg: If you're interested in going to Heidelberg for some culture in the form of the theater, concerts, or to the movies, look up

<https://www.rnz.de/kultur-tipps/rnzett-hoehepunkte.html>

6.2.2 Burg Guttenberg



Take the train to Gundelsheim, and from there you have the option of either walking to the castle - a 30 to 40 minute hike -, or you can take a bus from Gundelsheim to Neckarmühlbach which will shorten your walk to the castle to 10 to 15 minutes.

Castle Museum: The exhibit, called Living in a Knight's Castle shows the daily life in the castle from the Middle Ages through the 1800s, complete with armor, a torture exhibit and the Bergfried (castle tower) that offers a commanding view of the countryside.

Birds of Prey: Guttenberg Castle is also home to the German Raptor Center (Greifvogelwarte in German). While visiting, it's possible to take a tour of the bird zoo and watch a show demonstrating the different species

Visiting Hours: April through October daily 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

<https://burg-guttenberg.de/>



6.2.3 Würzburg

Würzburg is located in north-western Bavaria, in the region formerly known as Franconia (Franken). Würzburg's main train station is located on the edge of town; from there a main street will lead you downtown to the historic district..

Tourist Office: The office is housed in the historic Falkenhaus on the town's Marktplatz, an attraction in itself; phone 0931/372398.

Residenz: Built in the 1700s as a luxury residence to rival palaces in France, the palace of the bishop-princes was recognized in 1981 as a world heritage site by the UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization). Severely damaged during World War II, it is now mostly restored and open for tours. You can participate in a tour (there are also tours in English available). <http://www.residenz-wuerzburg.de/englisch/residenz/index.htm>

Alte Mainbrücke: One of the bridges spanning the river Main, it is set with many statues of famous saints. Taking it across the Main away from the Altstadt will allow you visit the fortress Marienberg.

Festung Marienberg: Being the fortified residence of the Fürstbischöfe (bishop princes) of Würzburg from 1253-1719, Festung Marienberg was sacked by Swedish forces in 1631 during the Thirty Years War as well as damaged during the Second World War. The restored castle is now open to the public and contains a museum of Frankish history and 19th century art. Regular tours every day except Monday from April through October.

Web Address: <http://www.wuerzburg.de/en/index.html>



6.2.4 Stuttgart

The capital of Baden-Württemberg since 1952, Stuttgart's history dates back to the 10th century when it has its origins as a duke's stud farm – (in German: Stutengarten) which is reflected in the city coat of arms, a black horse. Stuttgart is not only worth visiting for shopping, its castles, churches, museums and parks are definitely worth seeing. Check out further information at <http://www.stuttgart.de/en/>

Tourist Office at Königstraße 1a, near the main station. <https://www.stuttgart-tourist.de/en>

Mercedes-Benz-Museum: The museum houses hundreds of different cars built during the company's 110-year history. Its address is – not surprisingly – Mercedesstraße 100. To get there, take the S-Bahn line S1 to Gottlieb-Daimler-Stadion, then follow the signs. <https://www.mercedes-benz.com/de/mercedes-benz/classic/museum/>

Porsche-Museum: The museum displays about 80 vehicles and many small exhibits... Guess what the address is: Porscheplatz 1 at Stuttgart-Zuffenhausen. <http://www.porsche.com/museum/en/>

The Cannstatter Wasen often hosts large festivals, including a Frühlingsfest (Spring festival) and an Oktoberfest, which is fast rivalling the one in Munich. Don't forget your Lederhosen or Dirndl!

<http://cannstatter-volksfest.de/en/landing-page/>





6.2.5 Mannheim



With approximately 315,000 inhabitants, Mannheim is the second-largest city in Baden-Württemberg, after Stuttgart. Mannheim is downstream along the river Neckar from the city of Heidelberg.

Mannheim is unusual among German cities in that – since the 16th century - its streets and avenues are laid out in a grid pattern, leading to its nickname "die Quadratestadt" ("city of the squares").

The bike and the automobile have been invented here and you can still drive along the world's first automobile journey (Bertha Benz Memorial Route).

Mannheim is one of the most popular shopping cities in the region. And for good reason: sophisticated boutiques, large chains, small

specialist shops, exclusive department stores - here you will find just what you are looking for, or maybe something you didn't even know existed.

Even when it comes to food, there is something for everyone's taste - with inhabitants from over 180 countries, the city always has a diverse range of cuisine on offer.

<http://www.tourist-mannheim.de/en/Home>

6.3 Sports in the Area

Soccer: TSG 1899 Hoffenheim is the Bundesliga (top league) team that is located closest to Mosbach. Matches are played at the Wirsol Rhein-Neckar-Arena in Sinsheim. Their fortunes vary each season, but they finished in the top 5 in the 2016/2017 season: <https://www.tsg-hoffenheim.de/en/home-en/>



Ice hockey: The SAP Arena in Mannheim is home to the Adler Mannheim who play in the DEL, Germany's top league. They regularly reach the play-offs and will be in the European League in 2018.

The Heilbronn Falken are in the second division.

Handball: The Rhein-Neckar-Löwen also play at the SAP Arena in Mannheim. They have finished as either champions or runners-up in the Bundesliga in the last 3 seasons.



Motor-racing: Hockenheim is the home a variety of motor racing events, including Formula 1, German Touring Cars, Oldtimers and many more.

Further afield, you can find many more top sporting teams in a variety of sports.



7 Useful Tips and Resources

7.1 German Holidays

Holiday	Date
New Year's Day (Neujahrstag)	January 1st
Three Kings' Day/Epiphany (Heilige Drei Könige)	January 6th (only in Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria and Saxony-Anhalt)
Good Friday (Karfreitag)	varies (in March or April)
Easter Monday (Ostermontag)	varies (in March or April)
May Day/Labor Day (Erster Mai/Tag der Arbeit)	May 1st
Ascension (Christi Himmelfahrt)	varies (in May)
Whit Monday /Pentecost (Pfingstmontag)	varies (in May or June)
Corpus Christi (Fronleichnam)	varies (in May or June)
Day of German Unity (Tag der Deutschen Einheit)	3 October
All Saint's Day (Allerheiligen)	1 November (only in Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, North Rhine-Westfalia, Rhineland-Palatinate and Saarland)
Christmas Day (Erster Weihnachtsfeiertag)	25 December
St. Stephen's Day (Zweiter Weihnachtsfeiertag)	26 December

Please keep in mind that shops and offices will be closed on Sundays and public holidays. For information about holidays during your stay in Germany, check out the following website: <https://www.ferienwiki.de/feiertage/de/baden-wuerttemberg>

Mail Offices (Deutsche Post)

The main Post Office in Bad Mergentheim is next Rail road crossing,

https://standorte.deutschepost.de/Standortsuche?standorttyp=filialen_verkaufspunkte&ort=Bad%20Mergentheim

<https://www.deutschepost.de/de.html>

7.2 Public Transport

The Deutsche Bahn (DB) is Germany's public train transportation system. It is made up of the trains that connect German cities with one another and with international destinations. Besides the Deutsche Bahn, there are public transport systems within cities managed by local public and private organizations and companies, such as S-Bahn, U-Bahn, Straßenbahn (trams), and buses.

These regional public transport system often cover not only urban areas, but wide regions around the cities. Mosbach and Bad Mergentheim both belong to the Verkehrsverbund Rhein Neckar (VRN) – the Rhein-Neckar transport network – reaching from near Würzburg all the way to the French border past Heidelberg and



Mannheim. Depending on your destination – which might be within or outside the VRN region – different ticket price systems apply.

VGMT: <https://www.vgmt.de/>

7.2.1 Deutsche Bahn (DB)

If you are planning a trip to a destination outside the VRN region, such as Stuttgart, Munich or Berlin, you need to get a train ticket from the Deutsche Bahn. Before you actually get your ticket, you need to search for your best connection. For that it is best to go to www.bahn.de, the Deutsche Bahn's webpage.

Here you can get your detailed connection plans for both national and international destinations. In order to get such a "Verbindungsplan", enter your starting point and your destination.

<http://reiseauskunft.bahn.de/bin/query.exe/en>

If there is no ticket office at a train station, there will be a vending machine from which you can buy a ticket and print out your journey plan or Verbindungsplan. Just follow the directions on the screen – they are available in English as well.

①Note: You can find special offers here:

<https://www.bahn.com/en/view/index.shtml>

The Deutsche Bahn often has offers or discounted tickets if you book a long time in advance or travel at unpopular times. If you don't use the high-speed ICE trains, there are special tickets for long distance travels at the weekends. For example, the "Schönes-Wochenende-Ticket", "Quer-durchs-Land-ticket", or the "Baden-Württemberg-Ticket". The website will advise you about all the different conditions for each type of ticket.

7.2.2 Verbund Rhein-Neckar (VRN)

If you are planning a trip to a destination within the VRN or HNV regions (for example to Heidelberg or Mannheim), you need to get a train ticket from the VRN. You can also get these from the vending machines at the station (just look for the three-digit code of the town you would like to go to displayed on the screen of the vending machine and type it in).

7.3 Long distance travel in Germany and Europe

As well as trains (Deutsche Bahn) there are also long distance bus companies such as Postbus, Flixbus or Eurolines that link major cities within Germany and Europe. Oftentimes, these bus tickets are cheaper than the train. You can find out about possible connections via <https://www.busradar.com/?currency=EUR>

There are also several low-cost airlines that fly from German airports such as Ryanair, Germanwings, Eurowings, AirBerlin, and Easyjet. However some airports may be far from the city it flies to so you may lose time and money on transfers. Internet searches are the easiest way to find the best offers.



8 Emergency Contacts and Phone Numbers

If you have any questions or problems, you can always contact the International office (see section 1.3).

If there is a real emergency, please call 112.

112 is the common emergency telephone number that can be dialed free of charge from any telephone or any mobile phone in order to reach emergency services (Ambulances, Fire & Rescue Service and the Police) in the European Union (EU), as well as several other countries in the world.

Fire Department (Feuerwehr)	Emergency Phone Number: 112
Ambulance (Rettungsdienst)	Emergency Phone Number: 112
Police (Polizei)	Emergency Phone Number: 110 or 112
Emergency Medical Service in Bad Mergentheim (Ärztlicher Notdienst in Bad Mergentheim) Available when the local doctor's office is closed	Phone: 116 117
Hospital Bad Mergentheim (Caritas Krankenhaus Bad Mergentheim) Address: Uhlandstr. 7, 97980 Bad Mergentheim	Phone: 07931 58 0



9 Checklist of Things to Bring With You

- ☐ Passport/Identity card + 1 photocopy + 2 passport photos
- ☐ Health Insurance: EHIC Card or details of insurance
- ☐ Documents for visa and residency permit (if required)
- ☐ International Tax number
- ☐ Important contact details for your home bank, credit card, university, DHBW, etc.
- ☐ Copies of important documents
- ☐ Driver's licence (if you want to drive in Germany)
- ☐ Medical information, medication & copies of prescriptions
- ☐ Euros, Credit card
- ☐ Adapters for electrical items
- ☐ English/native language dictionary, non-programable calculator, umbrella
- ☐ This guide + Infopacks 1 & 2

WE HOPE YOU HAVE A GREAT TIME AT THE DHBW MOSBACH INCLUDING CAMPUS BAD MERGENTHEIM AND WE ARE VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU HERE!





10 Imprint and Disclaimer

Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg Mosbach

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