



## ■ Welcome Guide

# Facts & Figures

Federal State	Baden-Württemberg
Area	62.16km <sup>2</sup>
Population	23000
Language	German
Currency	Euro
Religion	Christianity
Climate	Continental
Time Zone	Central European Time GMT +1



Dear International Exchange Student,

Congratulations! You have successfully applied for a semester abroad at 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 with international room-mates, you have to get used to different weather and food, you must learn the dos 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.

It is normal to feel anxious and nervous, even a little overwhelmed, before embarking on your semester abroad. These are normal feelings, especially if you have never been abroad or away from friends and family before. Reach out to your buddy and fellow students before you arrive and know that everyone feels the same sense of trepidation and excitement.

Within days of arriving you'll wonder what you were so worried about. Students regularly tell us that their semester was the best experience of their life.

We wish you a great time at DHBW Mosbach!

Your International Office Team



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## International Office Team: Mosbach Campus (Incomings)

The International Office, Mosbach campus is located in D-Building, Oberer Mühlenweg 2-6. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have before, during and after your exchange semester.



**Nadja Markof**

Head of International Office

Office: D-0.150

Phone: +49 (0)6261 939-289

Email: [nadja.markof@mosbach.dhbw.de](mailto:nadja.markof@mosbach.dhbw.de)



**Jenni Loudon**

International Programs Manager / IPB & IPE  
(organisation & administration of IPB/IPE)

Office: D-1.100

Phone: +49 (0)6261 939-547

Email: [jennifer.loudon@mosbach.dhbw.de](mailto:jennifer.loudon@mosbach.dhbw.de)



**Verena Bauer**

International Programs Manager / IPB & IPE  
(scholarships, housing, excursions)

Office: D-1.100

Phone: +49 (0)6261 939-264

Email: [verena.bauer@mosbach.dhbw.de](mailto:verena.bauer@mosbach.dhbw.de)

## Mosbach & DHBW Mosbach

The town of Mosbach began life as a Benedictine monastery and the first written record of its existence dates back to the 9th Century. A larger community grew around the monastery and it received the rights of a free city in the 13th Century. Mosbach reached its first great heyday in the 15th century as the residence of the Counts Palatine Otto I and Otto II.

Mosbach has been a home to traditional craftspersons and artisans whose influence can still be seen in the many half-timbered houses and buildings in the town center. These date back to the 16th Century making Mosbach a regional and national tourist location.



Brewing was also an important focus in Mosbach's history. The legacy lives on in the Alte Mälzerei (Old Malthouse) which overlooks the town and which has been renovated into Mosbach's community, conference and arts center.



With around 25,000 residents, Mosbach is located in the Neckar valley on the edge of the Odenwald; a mountain range in northern Baden-Württemberg and southern Hesse. Along the river between Heidelberg and Heilbronn, you will find many quaint villages and towns, as well as castles, all overlooking the valley.

### DHBW Mosbach



The university Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg (DHBW) has 9 locations in the federal state of Baden-Württemberg. One of these is DHBW Mosbach, which has one campus in the town of Mosbach and another in Bad Mergentheim. Since you have been accepted to an International Program on the Mosbach campus, this guide will give you detailed information on life in Mosbach.

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

The DHBW operates with the Cooperative Higher Education System, which means that the university works in partnership with private and public companies in the education process. During each semester full-time students learn the theory of their studies while on campus (Theoriephase) for three months. This is followed by a three-month practical phase (Praxisphase) at the student's training company, also called a Dual Partner of the university. The students alternate theory and practical phases throughout their studies.

Your German classmates will join you for the International Program during one of their theory phases and then return to their company to apply their newly acquired knowledge.

## Things to do before you leave home

Once you have received confirmation of your place on one of our International Programs, there are a few things that you need to take care of. There are some important documents that you need and must pack when you leave for Germany. Read the advice below carefully; a further checklist is at the end of this guide.

### Documents for registration, visas & residence permits



You are legally required to register with the local authorities during your stay in Germany. We will organize an appointment for you at City Hall so that we can complete registration during Orientation Week. **Please bring your EU-Identity card or a copy of your passport, including entry stamp/visa.**

You can find information on visa regulations on the official site of the [German Foreign Office](#) or on [study-in-germany.de](#)

Depending on your home country (especially USA & Korean students), you might be able to apply for a residency visa after your arrival in Germany. You enter Germany or the Schengen area visa-free as a tourist and apply for the residency permit after registering at City Hall. We will assist you with the process and you do not need to do anything in advance.

You require:

- financial security statement
- proof of health insurance
- biometric passport photo

Please note that it is your responsibility to check visa requirements and to obtain the correct visa. Failure to do so might mean that you have to leave Germany before the end of the semester or be refused entry to Germany. Further details can be found at [www.internationale-studierende.de](#).

### Health insurance

To be enrolled at a German university you are legally required to have German public health insurance. We cannot enrol you in the program without it.

All students are eligible for public German health insurance (gesetzliche Krankenversicherung). Our Factsheet gives further information and a list of insurers.

German public health insurance means that you will be entitled to the same full range of medical and health care, including doctors and hospitals, as German residents. There are no deductibles. As medical costs can quickly mount up, especially in an emergency, having full coverage is essential.

If your insurance from home covers you while abroad and offers unlimited coverage then you might be entitled to an exemption. Please contact a German public health insurer to have your insurance checked and they will issue an exemption certificate if your insurance qualifies.



Students from EU countries and countries with social security arrangements with Germany (eg. Turkey, Switzerland, etc) will be exempted but your insurance must be checked by a German public health insurer who will issue an exemption certificate.

The exemption certificate must be sent to the IP-office to enable enrolment at DHBW Mosbach.

## Things to do before you leave home

### Other Insurances

The DHBW Mosbach strongly recommends that you have personal liability insurance and travel (including cancellation) insurance for your stay in Germany.

### Packing



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

Contact your airline to check weight limits, costs for excess baggage and if there are restrictions on contents. It might be cheaper to pre-pay an extra bag rather than to pay at the airport. Weigh your bags before departure to avoid extra costs.

Vacuum-sealed bags or compression packing cubes are great ways to save space. They are well worth their value and can be reused. Remember to save space to take souvenirs home.

Deutsche Post/DHL or other courier services are another way to ship items home to lighten your load. Their prices might be cheaper than airline costs for additional bags. Price comparison sites can be found online.

Important documents and money should be kept with your carry-on. Keep photocopies of important documents separate. Save scans of important documents in a cloud so that you can easily access them. It is also a good idea to pack some essentials in your carry-on bag in case your luggage doesn't arrive with you. These might include toothbrush, socks/underwear, medication and prescriptions.

Make sure all luggage is labelled with your address in Germany, or use the address of the International Office at DHBW Mosbach.

### Electrical Items

#### **Purchase adaptors for electrical appliances and chargers.**

German electrical appliances operate on a 220-volt current, which means that appliances designed to run on 110-120 volts (eg. in USA) will burn out if plugged directly into a German electrical socket. Although some devices may already be adapted for 220 volts, US-purchased appliances will need a voltage converter.

German electricity sockets are deep and only round-prong type plugs will fit, so make sure your adapter kit includes the correct prong type. It is easiest to buy adapters in your home country.



### Clothing

Winters in Germany are cold, sometimes with snow and temperatures below 0°C even during the day. You will probably be walking more than usual and a warm coat, sturdy shoes/boots and wool clothing will keep you warmer. An umbrella is also a good idea - you can buy one in many German stores.

Spring weather is very changeable and temperatures can fluctuate widely on a daily basis. An umbrella is definitely advisable for Spring showers. Summers tend to be warm and humid so light clothes are needed.

## Things to do before you leave home

### Money

Make sure you have cash, preferably Euros, when you arrive. You can change money at your home bank or at the airport.

The best exchange rates are usually given by your bank either at home or in Germany. Airports and travel agencies normally charge additional fees and have higher prices. Euros can be ordered and can take 1-2 weeks for delivery as most banks don't stock large amounts of foreign currency.

If you want to bring your cash card, make sure it will be accepted in Germany and Europe. Contact your bank for information about international withdrawal and transfer fees. Credit cards are a good idea as some online purchases, such as plane and train tickets, can only be purchased with a credit card.

The most common and accepted cards in Germany are VISA and Mastercard. Keep details of card numbers and the issuing company's phone number so that it can be easily and quickly cancelled if the card is lost or stolen.

Payment systems such as ApplePay are gaining popularity but are not accepted everywhere. A contactless payment chip on your bank card is also useful.

When you carry money and cards, make sure you do so securely especially in busy public place such as city centers, train stations, tourist attractions, etc. Mosbach and Germany are safe and such events are rare but caution is always advisable. Using a money pouch around your neck or which attaches to your belt is useful.



### Banking



While many stores in Germany don't accept credit cards, they will accept bank debit cards with the EC symbol. It is probably cheapest and easiest to set up a Germany bank account and to then transfer a larger sum of money from home. This will result in fewer bank charges (depending on your bank).

During the Orientation Week you will get information and assistance with opening a local bank account. A German bank account is compulsory if you want to apply for and receive a scholarship from the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung (details are sent at the start of the semester).

To open a bank account you may need to show your visa and to provide an international tax number. US students must provide their Social Security number. Please bring this information with you.

**Blocked accounts:** you might be required to open a blocked account for your visa application. Check the requirements to access the money as it can take several weeks to obtain your residency permit. Please avoid accounts offered by BAM as students report that they are unable to access their accounts. More information on how to open a blocked account and for details on providers and fees can be found [here](#).



### Driver's License

A driver's license (Führerschein) which has not been issued in an EU-country is valid in Germany for six months. You can have the validity of the license extended for up to one year by applying to the Führerscheinstelle, Anton-Gmeinder-Str. 29, 74821 Mosbach.

Carrying your driver's license to use as picture ID is a good idea.

## Things to do before you leave home

### Contact Information

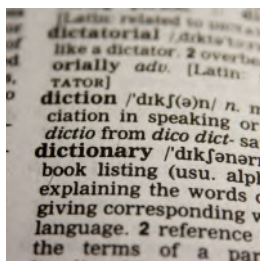
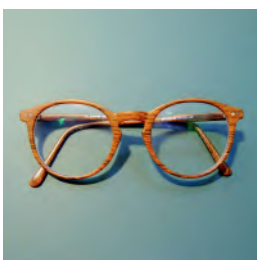
Bring addresses and telephone numbers of everyone at home that you might need to get in contact with (friends, banks, university offices, academic advisors, etc.).

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 (Covid-19, tetanus, etc.)
- Whom to call in case of emergency
- Health insurance and policy number
- Address and telephone number of the International Office at the DHBW Mosbach:  
Oberer Mühlenweg 2-6, 74821 Mosbach. Tel: +49(0)6261 939-543



### Miscellaneous Items



Don't forget the following items:

- Prescriptions for glasses, contact lenses, contraceptives and medications; if you are on a regular medication, bring a supply to last the whole semester and bring a note from your doctor explaining your medical condition and medications. Keep the letter with you in case you need to show it at airport security.
- Small basic first aid kit
- Sewing kit (thread, needles, scissors and safety pins)
- Umbrella
- English to native language dictionary (allowed during exams)
- Calculator (only non-programmable calculators are allowed in exams)

Use this space to make a note of any other items you want to bring:

## Getting to Mosbach

Below you can find some advice on how to get to Mosbach.

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

### By train (from the airport)



You can get general information about the train schedule and prices under this link: [bahn.com/en/](https://bahn.com/en/)

**From Frankfurt Airport:** The train ride from Frankfurt Airport to Mosbach (Baden) takes about 2 hours including one train change at Mannheim Hauptbahnhof. For your departure station in the train schedule please choose "Long Distance Station"="Frankfurt Flughafen Fernbahnhof", **not** "Regional Station"="Frankfurt Flughafen Regionalbahnhof".

**From Stuttgart Airport:** The train ride from Stuttgart Airport to Mosbach (Baden) takes about 2.5 hours including two train changes, one in "Stuttgart Hauptbahnhof" (main station) and one in "Bad Friedrichshall". For your departure station in the train schedule please choose "Stuttgart Flughafen/Messe".

**IMPORTANT!**  
Mosbach main station  
is "Mosbach (Baden)"

Mosbach-Neckarelz &  
Mosbach-West are the  
stops before!!

### By shuttle taxi (from the airport)

You can also book a shuttle taxi in order to get to Mosbach from Frankfurt or Stuttgart airports.

The following companies offer shuttle taxis:

[taxi-herrmann.net](https://taxi-herrmann.net)  
[schleckmann-online.de](https://schleckmann-online.de)  
[buchung.sun-booker.de](https://buchung.sun-booker.de)

Other providers can be found online.



### Car Hire



There is a Sixt rental outlet in Mosbach where you can return a rental. Other rental companies have outlets in Heilbronn and Heidelberg.

Read the conditions before booking to check that you meet the minimum driver's age. Also read up on German traffic regulations.

Note that you will be charged for any damage to the rental car, for returning the car later than agreed, and sometimes for any extra mileage. A low deposit can mean a large excess payment if the car is damaged.

German Autobahns (freeways) have a reputation for not having speed limits. This is not true!

There are many speed restrictions and many mobile radar speed traps on the Autobahn and side roads. Some also measure the distance between cars and check if you are using a mobile device or wearing your seatbelt.

Any traffic fines will be charged to your rental and credit card.



## Accommodation

In Mosbach, we have apartments for international students located close to the center of Mosbach. The apartments are just a few minutes walk from the campus and is close to all the shops, supermarkets, bars, as well as the train and bus stations. The shared apartments have either shared or single rooms. The apartments and floors are shared by male and female students living together and sharing facilities

### Housing Expenses

Budget around 200€ to 400€ a month – don't forget to factor in the cost of your deposit which equals one month's rent. The deposit must be paid when you move in so please have this amount available in cash at the very start of the semester.

You will also have to pay a one-off payment for media usage of 52€. This is something that everyone in Germany has to pay as a contribution towards the state-run radio and TV-stations.



### Signing a lease and paying rent

It is usual in Germany to sign a lease when you rent a room or an apartment. The first rent payment and deposit is due on the first day of the program. The monthly rent payment dates will be scheduled in the timetable.

The rent (exact amount) must be paid in cash. If you leave your room and shared facilities clean and tidy, we return your deposit when you move out.

### 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 at least 5 minutes regardless of the outside temperature 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.

## Accommodation

### Guests & Visitors

If you have visitors coming, and you would like them to stay with you, first clear it with your landlord and roommates.

If they aren't allowed to stay with you, a list of hotels where they can stay can be found on Mosbach's website under the following address:

[mosbach.de/en/Culture+Tourism-p-1284/Accommodation Eating+Out.html](https://mosbach.de/en/Culture+Tourism-p-1284/Accommodation+Eating+Out.html)



### Recycling & Waste disposal

Germany recycles a lot of its waste and the system for recycling bottles, glass, paper, packaging etc. can seem complicated. Student tutors will be assigned to help you understand and use the system correctly



**Yellow Bin (black trashcan with yellow lid):** 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 Bin. Make sure not to mix up the waste because otherwise the trash will not be picked up and you will have to sort it!

English webpage: [howtogermany.com/pages/recycling.html](https://howtogermany.com/pages/recycling.html)

**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 every other week (black trashcan): things that can't be recycled or don't go anywhere else, such as food, used paper products like napkins, sanitary products, candles, old makeup, etc.



**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 collect when they are returned, usually at a grocery 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.

Glass containers with no Pfand must be thrown in the central recycling centers or bottle banks. The nearest one to the international apartments are by the Finanzamt or on Wasemweg. If you have a lot to recycle, ask a classmate with a car to help you.

### Laundry Facilities



A washer and dryer are available in the apartment buildings. There is a small charge for each use and you need to purchase a card from the house janitor. The card can be charged online. You will get the cost of the card back when you return the card.

To minimize cost and to be energy efficient, only wash when you have a full load. Each student provides their own detergent.

There is also a laundromat in Mosbach: Waschsalon Pico-Bello at Eisenbahnstr. 12. [waschsalon-piccobello.de/](https://waschsalon-piccobello.de/)

## Life on Campus

### House Rules on Campus

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

Details are included in the moodle instructions at the beginning of the semester.

### Opening Hours on Campus

Please note that the university buildings have opening hours. Outside of these hours, the doors are locked.

#### Buildings on Lohrtalweg/main campus:

Monday through Thursday 7:00 am to 7:30 pm  
Friday 7:00 am to 6:30 pm

#### Buildings on Oberer Mühlenweg (D-Building):

Monday through Thursday 7:30 am to 7:00 pm  
Friday 7.30 am to 6:00 pm



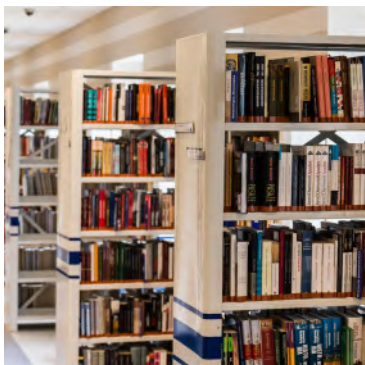
### Parking

Lohrtalweg: There is a paid parking garage, near the hospital and about five minutes away from the DHBW. The garages under the DHBW buildings are for employees only and not for student use.

D-Building on Oberer Mühlenweg: There is a parking lot behind the DHBW building that offers free parking, with some parking spots reserved for university employees. There is a large paid parking lot to the side of the building that does not belong to the DHBW, but is also available for use (charged per hour).

If you have a car with you, please contact the IPB Team before you arrive to arrange parking permits.

### Library Facilities on Campus



See information on campus libraries here:  
[DHBW Mosbach Bibliothek](#)

Your buddy 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.

## Life on Campus

### Computer Facilities on Campus

Every student at DHBW Mosbach receives an email account, together with a user name and password to access the intranet either through the computer labs or with a personal computer or device.

This information is provided at the start of the semester.

### Setting up a WLAN connection on your device

You will find instructions in German on the DHBW's website. You will receive a guide on how to set up your account during Orientation.

If you have any problems or need assistance, please ask your buddy for help. If necessary, they can help you to contact IT-Services.



### Printing



You need your Student ID card (Campus Card) to access the copy machine and printer.

You can charge your account at the machines found by the printers in Buildings A & B on the main campus. Follow the instructions on screen.

You will receive your ID card during Orientation as well as a guide on how to use and charge your card.

## Meals on Campus

### Midday Meals



You can buy discount vouchers at the library for 2.70€ per voucher. The Student Services organization adds 2.70€ so that the voucher has a total value of 5.40€.

This can be used to pay for lunchtime meals at several local restaurants during the week. If the meal costs more than 5.10€, then you have to pay the difference in cost.

### Cafeteria

Sandwiches, bretzels (pretzels), sweets and drinks can be purchased at the cafeteria on the Lohrtalweg campus. There is also a pizza vending machine.

Every morning from 9 am to midday additional items are sold at the counter.

There are also many bakeries, cafés and supermarkets in Mosbach offering a range of food and drink to take-out or eat-in.



## What to do in your leisure time

### Mosbach



Despite its small size, Mosbach has some interesting things to do and see, especially in the Altstadt (old town). The Tourist Information Centre (Marktplatz) has historical walking tours and as well as information on other sites and events in the region.

Marktplatz (market square) is the heart of the old town. A farmers' market, with fresh fruit and vegetables, bread, cheese, honey and more, takes place every Wednesday and Saturday morning. The square is surrounded by half-timbered houses (Fachwerkhäuser) that small German towns are famous for.

Rathaus (City Hall) hosts the local authorities including the Registration and Foreigners departments as well as the Mayor's office. The Rathaus together with the clock tower, are historic buildings in their own right.

St. Juliana church (Stiftskirche) is one of the few churches in Germany that is used by Catholic and Protestant worshippers. After the Reformation, the church was shared by both congregations, with the Catholics using the chancel while the Protestants used the nave. Around 1708, the church was divided in half and a wall was built in the middle of the church. The church is still used by both groups today and recently the wall was reopened to allow group services.

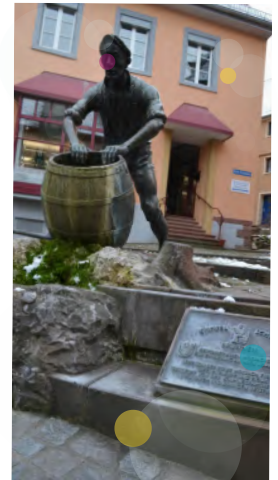
Hexenturm - Denkmal or Witches Tower monument can be found near the train station. A memorial plaque marks the spot where three women were convicted, beheaded and burnt for being witches in 1629. The tower remained until 1834.

Schloss (Castle) was built by Count Otto 1 in the 1400s. A residence is a better description of this privately-owned building tucked away in the narrow streets behind the Altstadt.

Brunnen or springs can be found running through and underneath the streets of Mosbach around the Marktplatz. In the summer, the water flows as a small stream along the streets.

Synagogenplatz (Synagogue square) memorial marks the spot where the synagogue stood until it was burnt by the Nazis during Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass) on 9th November 1938.

Glocken (Bells) are part of Mosbach legend. The City Hall bell rings every Friday night at 8 pm to honour the Mosbach soldiers who died in World War 1. The same bell also rings every night at 10:45pm and there are two stories surrounding why. The first says the bell was rung to tell all the drunkards that it was time to return home. The second relates to Countess Johanna who got lost while hunting in the summer. Her husband, Count Otto I ordered that the bell be rung to guide her home and then every night to help other lost travellers.



### Shopping

Note: ALL stores except mini-stores at gas stations, cafés & restaurants are closed on Sundays & public holidays

Larger grocery stores are open Monday to Saturday, opening between 7 and 9 am and closing between 8 and 10 pm.

A list of local grocery stores is in the Tips and Resources section of this guide.

Non-food stores open around 9:30 am and close at 6 pm, Monday through Friday. Stores may close earlier on Saturdays, sometimes at 12:30 pm.

Stores in large cities often open at 10 am and close at 6 or 8 pm.

## What to do in your leisure time

### Sports

The DHBW Mosbach offers a range of sports, including free courses on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

#### DHBW Mosbach Sport

There are also details on the notice board in the cafeteria. Ask your classmates for advice or set up your own events.



#### **Community Pools**

Mosbach has an indoor and an outdoor swimming pool: both can be found near the Jahn-Sporthalle where the DHBW sport activities are held.

Indoor pool at Jean-de-la-Fontaine-Str. 10; business hours: Monday closed, Tues, Thurs & Fri 2 to 8:30 pm, Wed 3:30 to 8 pm, Sat 10:30 am to 5 pm, Sun 8 am to 1 pm.

Outdoor pool at Hammerweg 3; open 1 May to 30 September 9 am to 8 pm

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, tickets must be purchased online in advance.



#### **Gym**

Student membership is available at SmileFit gym (Eisenbahnstrasse), BodyTalk (Zum Stadion 18) and Muskelkater (Alte Neckarelzer Str. 16a).

Remember to cancel your membership before you leave Germany to avoid unwanted payment demands.



### Bars & Restaurants

Here are a few recommendations for restaurants and bars in Mosbach:

Ludwig's - restaurant/bar/café with discount Cocktail Night every Wednesday as well as themed party events. Mon-Thurs 9:30 am to midnight, Fri & Sat 9:30 am to 2 am, Sunday 9:30 am to midnight.

Mosbacher Brauhaus - local micro-brewery and beer garden. Open daily 11 am until late. Regional food and local beer.

Kandelschuß - bar with billiards and darts, opposite D-Building. Open daily 6 pm to 1 am.

The StuV (student events team) organise events for all students. Look out for the posters around campus.



### Movies

The movie theater (Kino), Kinostart Filmpalast Mosbach is in Mosbach-Neckarelz close to the train station (Bahnhofstr. 1).

Once a week, a top film is shown in original language, usually English.

There are large multiplex cinemas in Neckarsulm, Heilbronn, Heidelberg and Mannheim.



## What to do in your leisure time

### Heidelberg & Mannheim

Heidelberg is an old university town with a famous, partially ruined, castle overlooking the Neckar valley. Take the local train from Mosbach and get off at the Heidelberg Altstadt station to start walking along Europe's longest pedestrian zone through the town center.

The long main street is lined with shops, boutiques, bars and restaurants. Explore the alleys left and right to discover more of Heidelberg's treasures. Don't miss the famous bridge and climb the Philosophen Weg or Philosopher's Way to get outstanding views across the old town and to the castle.



Heidelberg's most famous landmark is the castle, up on the hill on the south bank of the river. Either hike up the hill or take the historic funicular railway to the top. Once at the castle, you can wander amongst the gardens and ruins and admire the view. You can tour the interior of the castle and there is a combined train and entry ticket.



Mannheim is the second largest city in Baden-Württemberg and is just along the river from Heidelberg. It is known for its industry and this is where the bike and car were invented - you can even drive the route taken by Bertha Benz when she drove the first ever car!

Nicknamed the "Quadratstadt", Mannheim's city center has a block or grid system with numbers and letters instead of street names. Famous landmarks are the water tower and the residence. It also has a large and diverse range of shops and restaurants.

### Neckar valley, castles & Burg Guttenberg

The Neckar valley is littered with castles and forts, many of which are still inhabited. In Neckarzimmern, you can visit Burg Hornberg - you can hike through the forest from Mosbach and then enjoy "Kaffee und Kuchen" on the terrace overlooking the valley.

Burg Guttenberg, on the other side of the river, is home to the German Raptor Center. You can tour the zoo and watch the daily flight shows with their vultures and other large birds of prey. In late winter/early spring you can watch the flight training at weekends for free.



### Würzburg

Heading eastwards from Mosbach, you can reach Würzburg in north-western Bavaria. Würzburg is a small historic city with a relaxed but lively atmosphere.

The Residenz, built in 1700 to rival those in France, is a UNESCO world heritage site. It is open if you want to tour the inside.

The Alte Mainbrücke (Old Main river bridge) takes you from the old town across the river to the Festung Marienberg. Look out for the many statues of saints as you cross.

The Festung (Fortress) Marienberg was the fortified residence of local nobility in the 18th century. The fortress is open to visitors.



## What to do in your leisure time

### Stuttgart

The state capital of Baden-Württemberg since 1952, Stuttgart has a long history. The name originates from the 10th century Duke's stud farm (in German Stutengarten) which is why the black horse appears on the city's coat of arms and Porsche badge!

The Porsche and Mercedes Benz museums are well worth a visit even if you are not a huge car fan.

The Cannstatter Wasen hosts several large festivals throughout the year including a Frühlingsfest and an Oktoberfest. Stuttgart's Wasen (Oktoberfest) is fast rivalling Munich's and has fewer international guests for a more authentic experience. Don't forget to wear your Dirndl or Lederhosen!



### Further afield



There is so much to do and see that it is difficult to narrow things down: the Black Forest, Neuschwanstein, Munich, Cologne, Frankfurt, Berlin, Hamburg.....

France, for example Strasbourg, is couple of hours away, the Swiss and Dutch borders are around 3 hours drive, Austria is around 4 hours by car..... Mosbach really is in the heart of Europe and you'll never be stuck for places to visit.

If you want a break from travelling, go hiking on one of the many trails around Mosbach. The Neckarsteig is a hiking route along the Neckar valley that goes right through the town.

### Top Sports



Soccer: TSG 1899 Hoffenheim is the closest Bundesliga team to Mosbach. Their stadium is in Sinsheim. Stuttgart also has a Bundesliga team.

Ice hockey: The SAP Arena in Mannheim is home to Adler Mannheim, who regularly compete for the German title. Heilbronn Falken are in the second division.

Handball: The Rhein-Neckar-Löwen also play at the SAP Arena in Mannheim and are also a championship-winning team.

Motor Racing: the Hockenheim ring is home to a variety of motor racing events including Formula 1 and German Touring Cars.

Basketball: Top teams can be watched in Heidelberg, Ludwigsburg and Würzburg.

## Useful Tips and Resources

### German Public Holidays

Holiday	Date
New Year's Day (Neujahrstag)	January 1st
Three King's Day / Epiphany (Heilige Drei Könige)	January 6th (only in Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria & Saxony-Anhalt)
Good Friday (Karfreitag)	Varies (in March or April)
Easter Monday (Ostermontag)	Varies (in March or April)
May Day / Labor Day (Erster Mai)	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)	October 3rd
All Saints' Day (Allerheiligen)	November 1st (only in Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, North Rhine-Westfalia, Rhineland Palatinate and Saarland)
Christmas Day (Erster Weihnachtstag)	December 25th
St. Stephen's Day (Zweiter Weihnachtstag)	December 26th

### Mail Offices (Deutsche Post)

The main post office in Mosbach is next to the SmileFit gym on the other side of the rail tracks to the city center.

### Grocery stores

General opening hours are Monday to Saturday, 8 am to 8 pm but can vary according to each store. Grocery stores are not open on Sundays. Only small grocery outlets at gas stations will open on Sundays and are usually expensive.

- REWE is in the city center in the Bachmühle part of town. Opening hours: 7am - 10pm
- Aldi is on the other side of the rail tracks, behind the Mosbach Brauhaus
- Netto is on the other side of the rail tracks, behind the Post Office
- Lidl is further along the main street past the International House on Odenwaldstrasse.
- Kaufland & REWE: larger stores are located further out of town.



## Useful Tips and Resources

### Public Transport

The Deutsche Bahn (DB) runs Germany's public long distance train transportation system. It runs the trains that connect German cities with one another and with international destinations.

Local public transport networks within cities or regional areas which are run by local public and private companies. These include services like the S-Bahn, U-Bahn, Straßenbahn (trams) and buses.

Mosbach belongs to two transport areas. The Verkehrsverbund Rhein-Neckar (VRN) covers the Rhein Neckar area and stretches from near Würzburg to Heidelberg, Mannheim and across to the French border.

The Heilbronn network (HNV) includes Bad Mergentheim, Schwäbisch Hall and extends to south of Heilbronn.

Within each network the price depends on the number of zones that you will travel through. There are also group tickets available. Check the websites for deals and the right tickets. Tickets can be purchased at the machines at the station.

VRN: [www.vrn.de](http://www.vrn.de)

HNV: [www.h3nv.de](http://www.h3nv.de)



### Deutsche Bahn & BahnCard

If you are planning a trip outside the local travel zones (VRN or HNV) then you will need a ticket for Deutsche Bahn (DB). Search the Deutsche Bahn's website for the best deals and to book your ticket: [www.bahn.de](http://www.bahn.de)

You can also book trains to international destinations. For example, you can travel direct to Paris from Mannheim.

The Deutsche Bahn often has offers or discounted tickets if you book several weeks in advance or travel at unpopular times. If you have time for a slower journey, there are special discounted tickets for travel that does not include the high-speed ICE trains.

The BahnCard offers you discounted travel of 25% or 50% depending which option you purchase. Sometimes even the BahnCards are discounted. Remember to cancel your BahnCard subscription before leaving Germany as the subscription renews automatically. Non-payment of an auto-renewed subscription will result in lawyer fees and debt that you have to pay if you travel back to Europe in the future.

### Long distance travel in Germany & Europe



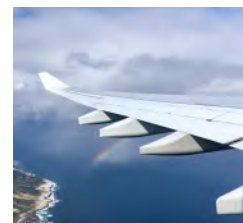
As well as the Deutsche Bahn, there are also long distance bus companies such as Flixbus, Postbus or Eurolines that link major cities in Germany and Europe.

Bus tickets are often cheaper than the train. The website [www.busliniensuche.de](http://www.busliniensuche.de) will give you possible connections.

Flixbus are planning on launching a train service as well.

Several low cost airlines such as RyanAir, EasyJet, Germanwings, Eurowings and AirBerlin fly from local airports. Note that some of the destination airports are far from the nearest city.

Internet searches are easiest way to find the best offers.



# Emergency Contacts & Phone Numbers

If you have any questions or problems, you can always contact the International Programs team.

If there is a real emergency, please call 112

112 is the common emergency phone number for the emergency services (ambulance, police, fire service) in the European Union. It can be dialled free of charge from any telephone or mobile phone.

Service	Phone Number
Fire Department (Feuerwehr)	112
Ambulance (Rettungsdienst)	112
Police (Polizei)	110 or 112
Local Doctor: Dr. Eckert	06261 916764
Emergency Doctor Service (available evenings & weekends)	06261 19292
Hospital (Kreiskrankenhaus Mosbach)	06261 83-0

# Checklist

- Passport / National Identity Card + 1 photocopy
- German public health insurance (or EHIC)
- Covid-19 vaccine certificate
- Documents for visa & residency permit (if required)
- International Tax number (USA: Social Security number)
- Important contact details: home bank, credit card, DHBW...
- Copies of important documents
- Driver's licence
- Medical information, medication, copies of prescriptions
- Money: Euros & credit card
- Adapters for electrical devices
- English/native language dictionary
- International Student Identity Card ([www.isic.org](http://www.isic.org))

## Imprint & Disclaimer

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Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University  
Lohrtalweg 10, 74821 Mosbach, Germany

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**WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU  
TO DHBW MOSBACH!**



**Contact us:**

[IP-Mosbach@mosbach.dhbw.de](mailto:IP-Mosbach@mosbach.dhbw.de)

