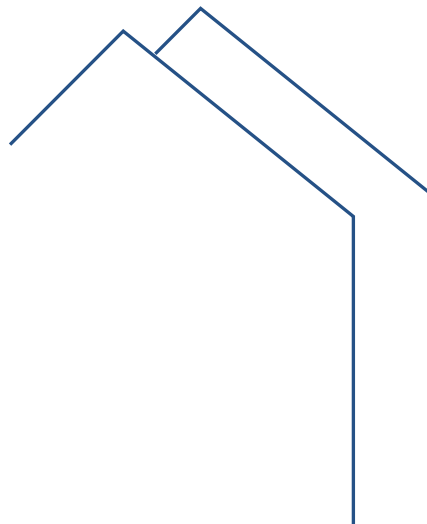


Living in Rostock



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Foreword

Dear students,

The Allgemeine Studierendenausschuss (General Students' Council), AStA for short, welcomes you to our university and the beautiful Hanseatic and University City of Rostock.

You're probably very excited about starting university. Surely you're curious to find out about all the fun things you can do in Rostock. Or maybe you have a lot of questions about finding a place to live. Maybe you'd rather party. Or perhaps you'd like to explore the city's cultural institutions.

No matter what's on your mind- with this reader, we want to give you an overview of various topics. We want to introduce you to the city and its districts, the Studierendenwerk (Student Services), housing associations, the Kulturticket (culture ticket), and a variety of cultural activities available in Rostock.

If you still have any questions after going through this reader, the AStA is there to assist and advise you. We are your point of contact for social issues, like financing your education, or balancing university and being a parent. We're there for you if you have questions about academics or organizing your studies. We take care of cultural matters and organize a variety of events. We tackle the topics of sustainability, political education, and issues facing international students. We're concerned with equality and inclusivity and combat discrimination together with you. We have members who work in all of these areas and are always there for you.

But for now, we just want to tell you that we hope you'll have a fun and successful time at the University of Rostock.

To stay informed about our events and receive information we think is important for students, go ahead and follow us on instagram @asta_unirostock or visit our website (www.asta-rostock.de/en).

Yours sincerely - AStA

Hanseatic and University City of Rostock

Welcome

Welcome to the Hanseatic and University City of Rostock- we're so happy that you've chosen to study here. The University of Rostock is over 600 years old, making it the oldest university in the Baltic region and one of the oldest institutions of higher education in all of Germany- and now, you're a part of it. "Traditio et Innovatio," tradition and innovation, is the university's motto, which is embraced and embodied in over 170 different majors. Go ahead and start your day at one of the Baltic Sea beaches, which are now within reach. For many, living and studying where others vacation is just a dream, but for you, it's reality.

To ensure an easy start and few worries at the beginning of your studies, we've compiled all important information about living in Rostock here in this reader.



STADTMITTE With 18,500 residents, Stadtmittte (city center) is Rostock's second-largest district, encompassing the historical city center as well as the Steintor area. Besides the shopping street with lots of stores, there are also many buildings worth a visit, such as the University of Rostock's main building and the Abbey of the Holy Cross. The city harbor, with its many storage houses and plenty of seating, is a great spot to spend an evening by the water with friends.



HANSAVIERTEL The heart of the Hansaviertel is the Ostseestadion (Baltic Sea Stadium), home of soccer club FC Hansa Rostock. The Hansaviertel is a small but popular area to live in, with villas and apartment blocks. Its easy access to public transportation and variety of grocery stores, as well as its proximity to the forest Barnstorfer Wald, the ice skating rink, and the Neptune indoor pool, make the Hansaviertel a sought-after district.

Districts¹

Looking for a place to live always starts with one important question: "Where exactly should I move?" After all, you haven't properly gotten to know the city yet! In order to help you make the right decision, we're introducing you to all the important districts of Rostock.



KRÖPELINER-TOR-VORSTADT The KTV is the beating heart of Rostock. Lots of bars, restaurants, and trendy pubs are located in this hip district, named for the Kroepelin Gate. With about 19,000 primarily young residents, most of them university students, the KTV is a popular district to live in.

¹ All figures taken from the city of Rostock's catalog of districts: <https://rathaus.rostock.de/Statistik/Stadtbereichskatalog/atlas.html>.



SÜDSTADT Rostock's southernmost district currently has about 15,000 residents and is in high demand for students. Because a lot of university facilities, like the Südstadtcampus, the Campus Library Südstadt, and various dorms are located in the Südstadt, and the A20 highway, the central bus station, and Rostock Central Station are all closeby, this district attracts many students and young families.



REUTERSHAGEN Named after North German author Fritz Reuter, Reutershagen is a mixed-use area with single-family homes, high rise buildings, and prefabricated concrete apartment blocks, but also plenty of green space. Because of its low building density, proximity to downtown, and a good selection of stores, Reutershagen is a well-liked neighborhood to live in.

BIESTOW Formerly an independent village, Biestow has been a district of Rostock since 1950. It contains mostly multi-family homes, but also some rental apartments. Biestow is characterized by its rural character and the accessibility of both the highway and downtown Rostock.



GARTENSTADT/STADTWEIDE A pure residential and recreational area, the Gartenstadt (garden city) is made up primarily of duplexes and townhouses. This district also encompasses large parts of the Barnstorfer Wald and Rostock Zoo.

GEHLSDORF Gehlsdorf is a more upscale area to live in, with refurbished old villas and recently built houses. This district is characterized by its long waterfront featuring lots of yacht and sailing clubs, and a stunning view of the city harbor, especially at night.

BRINCKMANSDORF Named after author John Brinckmann, the suburb Brinckmannsdorf, which is home to the infamous "Knallerballerweg" consists mainly of duplexes.

HOME TO THE INFAMOUS "KNALLERBALLERWEG"



TOITENWINKEL Toitenwinkel is one of the newest residential areas in Rostock, with a mix of prefabricated apartment buildings and newer residences. Students can easily find affordable housing here, and the tram connects Toitenwinkel to downtown.



DIERKOW Dierkow is made up of the subdistricts Dierkow-West, Dierkow-Ost, and Neu-Dierkow. While Dierkow-West and Dierkow-Ost were developed primarily with single-family homes and duplexes, Neu-Dierkow consists mainly of prefabricated concrete apartment complexes built to satisfy the huge demand for housing in the 1980s. An increase in greenspaces, lower building density, and the downsizing of apartment buildings have made the area more attractive. Cheap rents, good accessibility by tram, and a solid assortment of stores make Dierkow a great option for students.



EVERSHAGEN Though dominated by prefabricated concrete apartment blocks, Evershagen has become an attractive district thanks to extensive renovations, improvements to the surrounding area, and the development of new housing. Its convenient location by the city highway, easy access to public transportation, and relatively cheap rents make Evershagen a popular place to live.



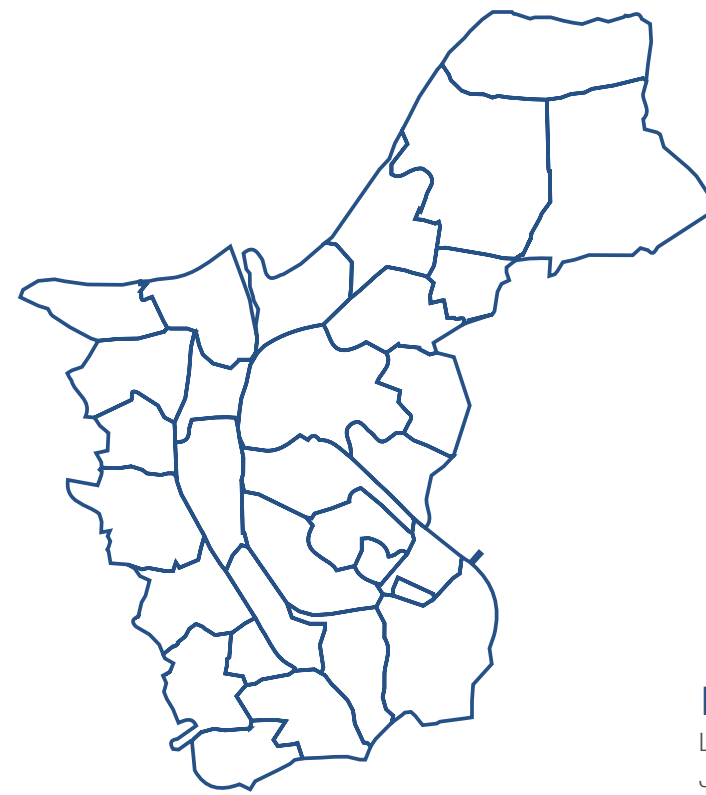
GROSS KLEIN Groß Klein is the newest district in the northwest of Rostock; today, nearly 13,000 inhabitants live in this area next to the Warnow. In the south, Groß Klein borders the IGA Park. Most of the prefabricated apartment buildings have been modernized, downsized, and have had balconies added to them.



LÜTTEN KLEIN Home to 17,000 people, Lütten Klein is one of the biggest districts. With the city highway, an S-Bahn station (suburban railway), trams, and buses, Lütten Klein is well connected to the rest of Rostock, and most of its older buildings have been refurbished. There are plenty of shops, doctors' offices, and a movie theater. These amenities have turned Lütten Klein into the urban center of northwest Rostock and made it one of the most sought-after districts. Lütten Klein's great location and inexpensive rents attract lots of students.

SCHMARL

With just 8,400 residents, Schmarl is Rostock's smallest district. Its center features a shopping center, schools, and sports facilities. Little by little, Schmarl's prefabricated apartment blocks are being modernized. Inexpensive rents, as well as proximity to the IGA park and Warnemünde, and good public transportation, all contribute to this district's popularity.



WARNEMÜNDE The Baltic Sea resort Warnemünde is one of Rostock's northernmost districts and home to 8,000 people. It's a traditional seaside resort, with a 100 meter-wide, kilometers-long sandy beach and plenty of maritime charm. Primarily characterized by tourism, Warnemünde is a magnet for visitors and cruise ship passengers. For visitors and natives alike, Warnemünde is one of Rostock's best-loved districts. Living right by the Baltic Sea does, however, come at a steep price.



LICHTENHAGEN With 14,000 residents, Lichtenhagen is one of Rostock's bigger districts. Just like Evershagen and Lütten Klein, Lichtenhagen is connected to the S-Bahn, tram lines, and the city highway, making quick journeys downtown and to Warnemünde possible. Lichtenhagen encompasses two parks and is surrounded by garden plots. The housing renovation is well underway, but long apartment blocks and prefabricated concrete high rises can make the area seem rather monotone and intimidating. Contrary to its image in the media as a "ghetto," partially caused by the xenophobic riots of 1992, this district is much more inviting nowadays and is becoming a valid option to consider when looking for housing.



Services Services

Rostock-Wismar Student Services supports students of the higher education institutions of Rostock and Wismar. Student Services' duties include:

- Operating canteens and cafeterias
- Managing residence halls
- Study financing and financial aid (BAföG) counseling
- Social and psychosocial counseling
- Advocating for students' cultural and social interests
- Providing childcare for students with children
- Fulfilling the needs of students with disabilities and chronic illnesses
- And supporting international students and students who are refugees, asylum seekers, or immigrants²

A new city, new people, and far away from family and everything you know- the topic of student housing can be especially difficult for those at the beginning of their studies. Student Services provides affordable accommodations for students, operating various residence halls with more than 2000 spots (and counting!). For first-year students, it can be a good idea to live in the dorms at first, get to know the city, and then start a targeted search on the private housing market. Especially at the beginning of the semester, the housing market can be very competitive. Living in a residence hall, you can embark on the search of your dream apartment or flatshare on your own time. With a room in one of the residence halls, you have one less thing to worry about while starting university and a new chapter in life.

² See 2016 Rostock-Wismar Student Services constitution



Rostock-Wismar Student Services



Overview



Rostock Innenstadt – St.-Georg-Str. 101



Rostock Südstadt – Max-Planck-Str., Haus 1-5

Residence halls³

In general, dorm rooms are completely furnished with a bed, closet, shelf, desk, chair, and ceiling lamp. The residence halls are typically made up of shared suites, with two, three, or four residents sharing a bathroom and kitchen. Renting a single room or one-person apartment is also possible. Accommodations accessible for students with disabilities are available as well; for these, you should contact Student Services directly. Residents share the responsibility for keeping their suite clean while professional cleaners take care of the rest of the building.

The residence halls are equipped with laundry rooms with washing machines and dryers, as well as a sufficient amount of bike stands. Additionally, a limited number of car parking spots are available to rent. Some residence halls have their own gyms and offer sport and recreational activities. The following table shows a compact overview of the locations of the⁴residence halls, the number of rooms, and the cost of rent. For more information, you can check out the Student Services website. More concrete info about all residence halls can be found on the “Accommodations” page.

Student Services website: www.stw-rw.de/en.html

Rostock-Wismar Student Services Residence Halls			
Locations in Rostock	Address	Number of Rooms	Rent in €
	Gerhart-Hauptmann-Straße 16 Downtown	56	242 - 317
	St.-Georg-Straße 10 Downtown	156	156
	St.-Georg-Straße 104-107 Downtown	60	256
	Ulmenhof Kröpelinertor-Vorstadt	46	273 - 428
	Möllner Straße 11/House 1, 2 Lichtenhagen	105 House 1 108 House 2	210-230
	Albert-Einstein-Straße 28/29 Südstadt	250	238 - 338
	Erich-Schlesinger-Straße 19 Südstadt	163	236 - 288
	Max-Planck-Straße, Haus 1-5 Südstadt	528	236 - 301
	Friedrich-Barnewitz-Straße 12 Warnemünde	101	253 - 273



No matter which residence hall you choose—they each have their upsides, and sometimes downsides. Some make getting to class easy with great tram or S-Bahn connections, others are located close to a canteen or library, or just a short distance from the beaches of Warnemünde.

³ All figures taken from the Rostock-Wismar Student Services website: <https://www.stw-rw.de/>.
⁴ See <https://www.stw-rw.de/de/studentisches-wohnen.html>.

How do I get a room in the residence halls?

If you want a room in one of the Rostock-Wismar Student Service residence halls, you'll have to fill out an application with Student Services. Applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. The sooner you turn in your application, the more likely it is that you'll receive an offer of accommodation. Turning in multiple

applications does not increase your chances of getting a room. Especially at the beginning of the semester, there is only a limited number of available spots in the dorms, and many students want one. The wait time for a room in a residence hall in Rostock is about three to six months, so you should apply as soon as possible. Not to worry though- there are always some students who have been offered a room and decide to attend a different university shortly before the semester begins. This usually causes a few more spots to open up right before classes start.



Rostock Südstadt – Erich-Schlesinger-Str. 19

THE APPLICATION PROCESS⁵

We've summarized the application process for you:

1

Apply (online, using this link or directly through the Student Services website)

Ø Link to the application form: <https://tl1host.eu/SWHRO/#home>

2

After turning in the application, you'll receive a confirmation email

3

As soon as a room is available for you, you'll receive an email from Student Services (so check your inbox regularly)

4

With the offer of accommodation, you'll be sent a contract

5

Send the signed contract back to Student Services (along with all requested documents)

6

The contract only becomes effective once it has been signed by Student Services (usually doesn't happen until all required documents have been submitted)

7

Finally, Student Services will send you all the information necessary for moving in

WHEN DO I NEED TO APPLY?

For the winter semester, spots in the residence halls are allocated starting JULY 15.

BEGINNING OF THE APPLICATION PERIOD:

WINTER SEMESTER:

- University of Rostock students: APRIL 1st
- students of other institutions: MARCH 1st

SUMMER SEMESTER:

- University of Rostock students: OCTOBER 1st
- students of other institutions: SEPTEMBER 1st

⁵ See <https://www.stw-rw.de/de/studentisches-wohnen/antragstellung.html>

Besides Rostock-Wismar Student Services, there are also some private companies offering housing for students. Some of these accommodations are more expensive than the rooms provided by Student Services. Here's a short overview of the biggest suppliers in Rostock.

Privately Provided Student Accommodations			
Locations in Rostock		Number of Spots	Rent in €
	Südstadt Provider: „WIROtel“	45 × single apartments 5 × double apartments	330 - 470
	An der Elisabethwiese Provider: „WIROtel“	47 × single rooms 4 × three-room-apartments	254 - 337
	Vögenstraße 2 Provider: „Studinest“	72 × student apartments 26-64 m ²	400 - 970

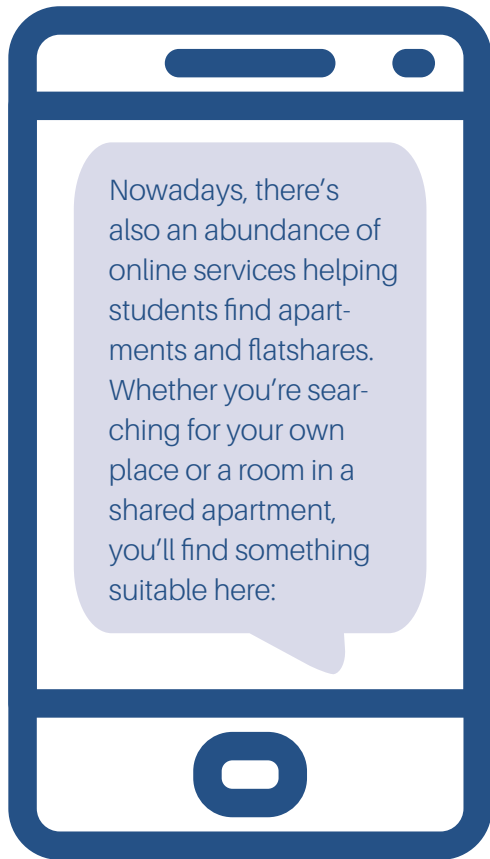
Housing associations

Other important providers of living space for students are the local housing associations. There are plenty of listings from a variety of different associations. Prices vary a lot, depending on the location of the apartment and the company renting it out, so it's wise to compare listings. The housing market in Rostock is very competitive at the beginning of the semester. Especially the one and two-room apartments popular with students are rare. Sometimes, it can be a good idea to find a three or four-room apartment and share it with friends. Even the largest housing

associations sometimes have waitlists for apartments; it's a good idea to start searches with several associations at the same time. You'll be notified as soon as an apartment matching your criteria becomes available. Check out a wide range of listings and go to as many apartment showings as possible to ensure that you'll find your ideal apartment fast.



Housing Associations					
Locations in Rostock		Address	Phone Number	Email	Website
	WIRO Wohnen in Rostock mbH	Lange Straße 38 18055 Rostock	+49 381 4567-0	info@WIRO.de	wiro.de
	Wohnungsge-nossenschaft WARNOW eG	Vogelsang 14 18055 Rostock	+49 381 12333	info@wg-warnow.de	wg-warnow.de/
	Wohnungsge-nossenschaft UNION eG	Alfred-Schulze-Straße 22 18069 Rostock	+49 381 8076-0	info@union-rostock.de	union-rostock.de/
	Baugenossen-schaft Neptun eG	Goethestraße 3, 18055 Rostock	+49 381 24202-0	info@bg-neptun.de	bg-neptun.de
	Wohnungsge-nossenschaft Schifffahrt-Hafen Rostock eG	Goerdelerstraße 21 18069 Rostock	+49 381 8081-0	info@wgsh.de	wgsh.de/
	Wohnungsge-nossenschaft Marienehe eG	Hellingstraße 10 18057 Rostock	+49 381 2424510	office@wgmarienehe.de	wgmarienehe.de
	Neue Rostocker Wohnungsge-nossenschaft eG	Schiffbauerring 33/34 18109 Rostock	+49 381 12381-0	service@neue-rostocker.de	neue-rostocker.de
	Wohnungsge-nossenschaft Rostock-Süd eG	Am Vögenteich 27 18055 Rostock	+49 381 40562-0	info@wg-sued.de	wg-sued.de



ONLINE RENTAL LISTINGS

- www.wg-gesucht.de
- www.meinestadt.de/rostock/immobilien/wohnungen
- www.studentenwg.de/Rostock,wg.html
- www.immonet.de/
- www.wohnung-rostock.de
- www.immowelt.de/
- www.wohnraumkarte.de
- www.immobilo.de/mieten/wohnung/rostock
- www.semmelhaack.de
- www.immobilienscout24.de
- AStA-Bettenbörse
www.asta-rostock.de/startseite/bettenboerse/



Cost of Living

The cost of living in Rostock is relatively low in comparison with other German cities. The university's estimate is 700€ per month. The actual costs can vary depending on your lifestyle.

Once per semester	Semesterb fee ~ 200€
Monthly expenses	
Housing	≈ 250 - 350€
Health insurance	≈ 100€
Groceries	≈ 150 - 300€
Other	≈ 50 - 100€
Food	
Canteen	≈ 2 - 5€ per meal
Restaurant	≈ 5 - 20€ per meal
Bakery	≈ 2 - 5€ per meal
Bars & clubs	≈ 3 - 8€ per drink

Welcome Payment

Every student who moves to Rostock for their studies receives a welcome payment of 150€. Rostock may not previously have been registered as your main residence.

To claim your welcome payment, you just have to take your proof of enrollment and registration certificate to your local registration office. If you're already going to the registration office to register your move to Rostock, you only need to bring your proof of enrollment. The welcome payment is a nice bonus at the start of your studies, and you shouldn't leave it unclaimed.

FREE CULTURE



In the city of Rostock, music and theater aren't just consumed and celebrated- they're also taught. The **Rostock University of Music and Drama (4)**, or hmt, is one of 24 German music academies. It hosts many events open to the public, spanning the genres of orchestral music, opera, and pop concerts. The former Franciscan monastery now home to the hmt also merits a visit. Those interested in modern music can attend live concerts at the **M.A.U. Club (5)**. Well-established bands of all genres, as well as musical newcomers from Rostock, grace the club's stage. The M.A.U. Club also regularly hosts various workshops.

The **alternative youth center JAZ e.V. (6)** gives all young people the opportunity to get socially, youth-culturally, and administratively involved in Rostock.

The Kulturticket has more opportunities and facilities whose events you can take advantage of. Take a look at its website: www.kulturticket-rostock.de.

Kunsthalle Rostock (7), **Compagnie de Comedie (8)**, **Zwischenbau (9)**

Since the 2018-2019 winter semester, all students at the University of Rostock benefit from the **Kulturticket (culture ticket)** initiative.

You can visit countless cultural events for free using just your student ID, and each year, more cultural institutions join the project.

With musical theater, concerts, dance performances, and plays, **Volkstheater (People's Theater) Rostock (1)** is the heart and soul of Rostock's cultural scene. The gallery **Kunsthalle Rostock** is always worth a visit, whether you're an art lover or new to the world of art. Exhibitions change regularly and often feature young artists, so there's always something new and interesting

to see. This former East German object of prestige exhibits the work of nationally and internationally renowned artists and photographers, with a focus on the Scandinavian and Baltic area.

The **Rostock Cultural History Museum (2)** is located right in the heart of the city, next to the university's main building. It contains an extensive collection of cultural and artistic artifacts pertaining to life in the area of Mecklenburg-West Pomerania. If exploring life on earth isn't enough for you, you can attend free observation events and lectures at the planetarium **Sternwarte (3)** Rostock.



kulturticket

IMPRINT

INFORMATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH §5 TMG

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Rostock, October 2020