

## Student Guide to Saarbrücken

### **Studying**

Bring your notes from German first and second year and possibly European law

Don't worry about choosing all the modules before you get here, as you can go to a mixture of lectures and then decide

You don't find out the exam timetable until a month before the exams

The intensive 2 week language course (run by the International Office) at the uni was useful, as well as meeting people and giving you time to explore before term begins

It is not necessary to do the DAAD course as well as the intensive course because you get the same teachers and similar work

Some courses are only for Erasmus students and are easier to understand

You can also take courses through the Europa-institut which runs various courses on European law

There is a specific law library but you cannot take books out of there, for that you need to go to the SULB

### **Living**

Apply early for accommodation. Don't worry about finding accommodation for the second term because there is an agreement with Warwick so you can stay in university accommodation

- Waldhaus: self-contained room with shower room and 2 hobs and a fridge and halfway between town and campus. Regular buses to campus (every 5 mins) and only takes 5 minutes.
- Wohnheim D: own room, shared kitchen, toilets and showers and be prepared the toilets are unisex but on campus. There are heimbars at the halls, film and games evenings
- Guckelsberg and Dudweiler are further away
- If you have one, bring a long Ethernet cable for the internet because the port is by the door
- Microwaves or small ovens (for Waldhaus) are useful to bring or you can buy them here from Saturn in town

Remember to bring a number of adaptor plugs!

There is a good wood to run or walk in and a running track opposite Waldhaus

Take warm clothes for the winter as it gets very cold and snow is not unusual

Zis (Centre for International Students) organises trips every month from campus to places like Trier and Frankfurt. You can also rent pots, pans, plates and cutlery from Zis.

Christmas markets are wonderful, particularly Strasbourg and Trier! You can get special group tickets for the train particularly at the weekends.

There is an Irish pub in which you can watch some English football games

Everything shuts on a Sunday and Bank Holidays and beware of the 3<sup>rd</sup> October if you are arriving around that time.

There is a supermarket within walking distance of Waldhaus but it does not have the largest of ranges but you can take a bus to a bigger supermarket

The sports centre has a big range of activities including fencing and football but you need to sign up early.

Getting here there are several options:

- Flying with Ryanair to either Zweibrücken or Frankfurt-Hahn
- Flying with other airlines to Frankfurt-Main but that is a longer journey back to Saarbrücken
- Eurostar to Paris and fast train (ICE) to Saarbrücken

The youth hostel is just down the road if needed when you first arrive.

Most people set up a bank account when you arrive but if you are only here for a few months (ICP) then you can pay your rent in cash, so it may not be necessary to set one up. We chose Sparkasse and Deutsche Bank. Internet banking made need to be set up on your account so check if you want it. Nationwide and Barclays have special agreements with German banks so it does not charge you to withdraw from cash machines in certain places.

Your student card gives you free transport in Saarland. This includes all the buses, trams and trains within the area.