

Hochschule Albstadt-Sigmaringen

Albstadt-Sigmaringen University



International Student Handbook

Contents

Welcome	2
Useful Contact Details	3
Living in Germany	
About Albstadt	4
About Sigmaringen	5
Albstadt-Sigmaringen University	
Campus in Albstadt	6
Campus in Sigmaringen	7
International Office	8
University Library	9
Refectory & Cafeteria	10
Preparing for your journey	13
How to reach the University	13
Accomodations	15
Accomodation in Albstadt	16
Accomodation in Sigmaringen	17
Formalities	
Registration in the city	18
Work permit	18
Health insurance	19
Driving License	19
Financial topics	
Bank account	20
Living costs	21
Studying	22
Leisure time	
International Team Activities	23
Sports	24
More useful information	
Public transport	25
Student discounts	25

Mini dictionary

26







Welcome

Dear International Student

Welcome to Albstadt-Sigmaringen University! We are pleased that you have chosen to spend a part of your studies at our university. We wish you all the best and a most interesting stay. We will do our best to support you during your time at Albstadt-Sigmaringen University!

With this student handbook, we try to make your life as an international student at our university easier, more interesting and less lonely. You will find information about organizational matters before and after your arrival. We want to give you important information, organize excursions and help you to get into contact with other students.

To study abroad is undoubtedly one of the most impressing periods during your studies and will bring lots of new experiences and skills for your own and your vocational life. At the same time, it takes courage and a great deal of commitment, flexibility and patience. During the first few weeks in a foreign country with a foreign language, it is possible to get a little bit shocked by all the new experiences. There will be lots of things that are different to your home country – from the simplest to the most difficult. We are here to help with all questions!

If you need further information for your stay at Albstadt-Sigmaringen University, do not hesitate to get in contact with the International Office.

Kind regards,

Conny Bast

Useful Contact Details / Emergency Numbers



Dialling code - Sigmaringen: 07571 dialling code - Albstadt: 07431

General practitioner (a doctor for general diseases)

Dr. med. Lennart Spengler Sonnenstraße 29, ALB **C** 07431 2031

Sparkasse Albstadt (bank account)

Marktstraße 32, ALB

**** 07433 13-0

Sparkasse Sigmaringen (bank account)

Leopoldplatz 5, SIG

C07571 103-0

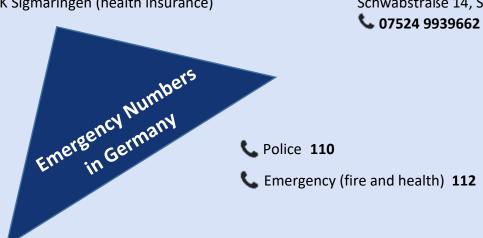
AOK Albstadt (health insurance)

Museumstraße 14, ALB

**** 07431 1223131

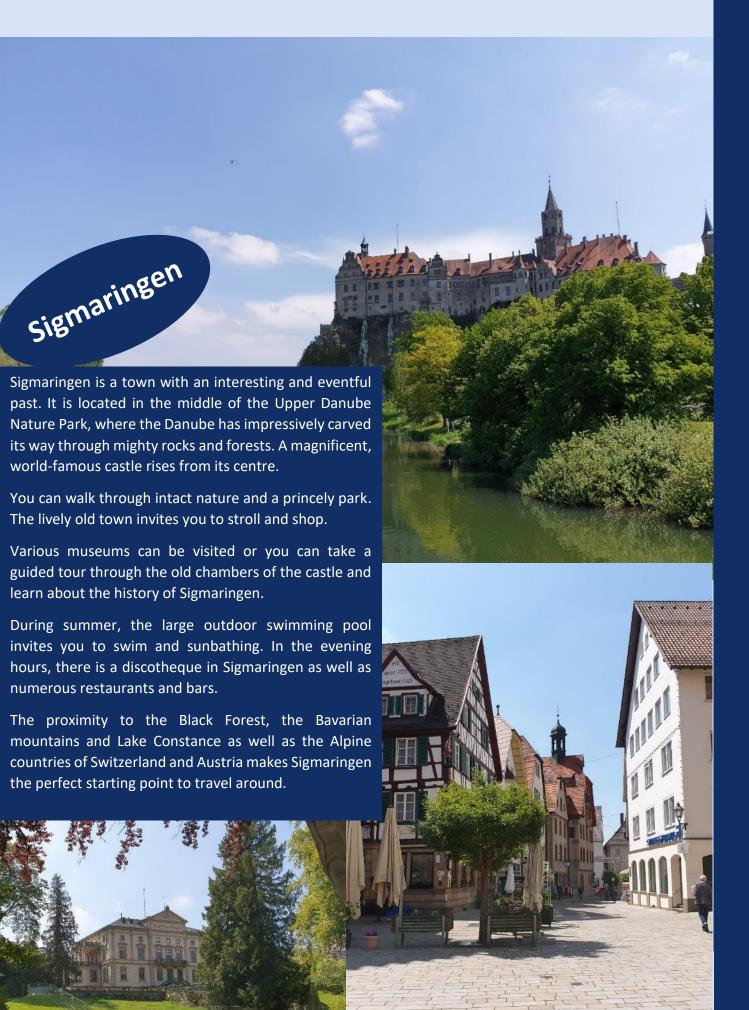
AOK Sigmaringen (health insurance)

Schwabstraße 14, SIG



Living in Germany

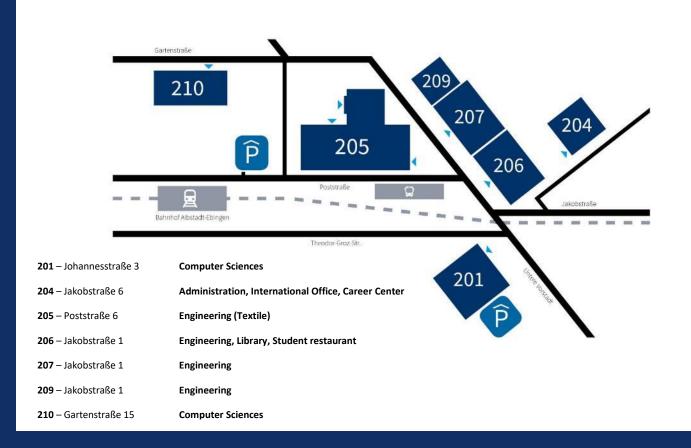


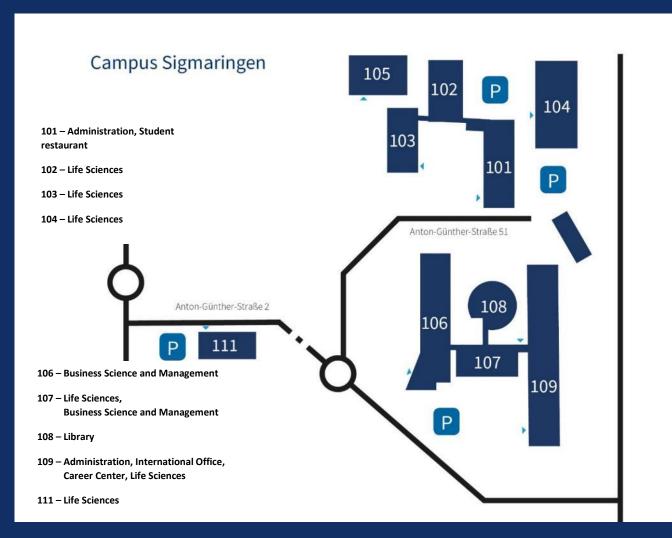


Albstadt-Sigmaringen University



Campus Albstadt







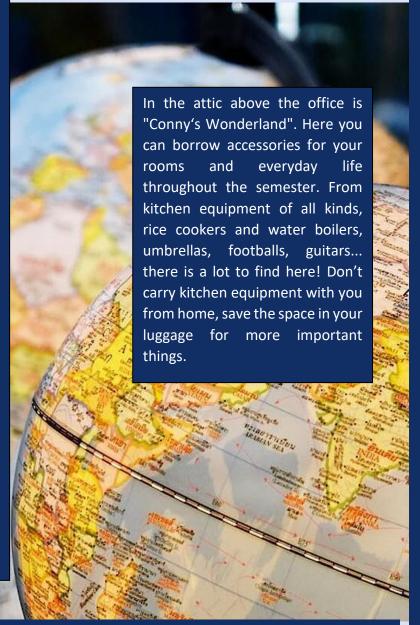
International Office

The International Office is the central point for all international students.

If you have any questions regarding studies, leisure time, accommodation or any other organizational issues, don't hesitate to ask.

The International Office shares office premises at both locations of the university (Albstadt, Sigmaringen) with the Career Center. We all work together, so don't hesitate to ask a colleague from the Career Center for help if the International Office is at the other campus location on that day. They can also advise and help you.

The International Office is also supported by students every semester. You will get to know some of your Student Buddies on the day of arrival. They are always available to give you advice and help. They will accompany you through the introductory weeks and take care of the planned activities on the weekends. Our Student Buddies usually come from different study courses, so they can also help with questions about study procedures.



	Albstadt			Sigmaring	gen
Administrative building (204): room 211		Administrative building (109): room 943			
+49 (0) 7571 / 732-9205		+49 (0) 7571 / 732-8281			
Office hours:					
Мо	09:00-12:00	13:00-15:00	Tue	09:00-12:00	13:00-15:00
We	09:00-12:00	13:00-15:00	Thu	09:00-12:00	13:00-15:00
Fr	by appointment	closed			

University Library

Both university locations have their own library facilities. A regular courier service between Albstadt and Sigmaringen enables students to access all media.

In addition to a large number of reference books covering every course of study, the library offers a high level of digital stocks, which can be accessed at any time from home via VPN connection.

The library participates in the nationwide interlibrary loan system. All external media can be ordered via this interlibrary loan system.

A few weeks before the exams, the opening hours of the library at both locations will be extended. Information on this will be provided in good time by e-mail and on our homepage.

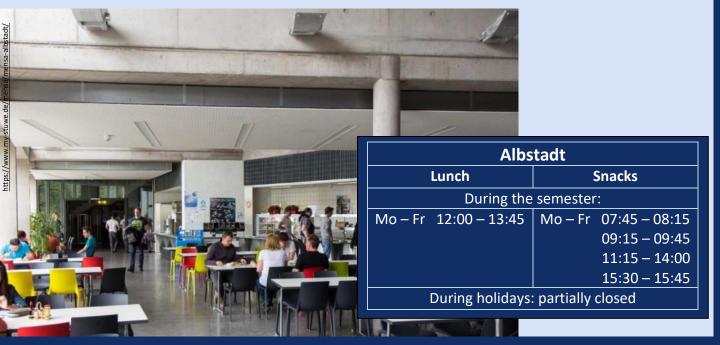
Borrowing the media is free of charge, you only need to show your student card, which replaces a typical library card. Remember to return the media in due time.



Albstadt		Sigmaringen		
Building 206		Building 108		
+49 (0) 7571 / 732-9180		+49 (0) 7571 / 732-8342		
	Opening hours during the semester:			
Mo – Thu:	09:00 – 19:30	Mo – Thu:	09:00 – 19:30	
Fr	09:00 – 14:00	Fr	09:00 – 14:00	
Opening hours during the semester break:				
Mo + Thu	09:00 – 12:30	Mo + Thu	14:00 – 17:00	
Tue + We	14:00 – 17:00	Tue + We	09:00 – 12:30	
Fr	closed	Fr	closed	



Student cafeteria (Mensa)



At both campus locations in Albstadt and Sigmaringen you can find a student cafeteria ("Mensa") which is operated by the student welfare service, Studierendenwerk Tübingen-Hohenheim.

You can buy various meals and snacks for a cheap price, both vegetarian/halal or with meat. At the cafeteria, you can additionally obtain various coffees, pastries, sandwiches and ice cream. Furthermore, there is a microwave to heat up your own food.

The easiest (and cheapest) way to pay is with your student ID card. There is a machine directly in front of the cafeteria where you can load money onto your student card. During the introductory weeks, you will learn how this machine is used. You can also upload your card directly at the cash desk. If you pay with your card, you will be charged the subsidized student price, but if you pay cash, you must pay the regular price which is about double the student price.

The daily changing menus can be found on the following website:

https://en.my-stuwe.de/refectory/refectory-albstadt/

https://www.my-stuwe.de/mensa/mensa-sigmaringen/

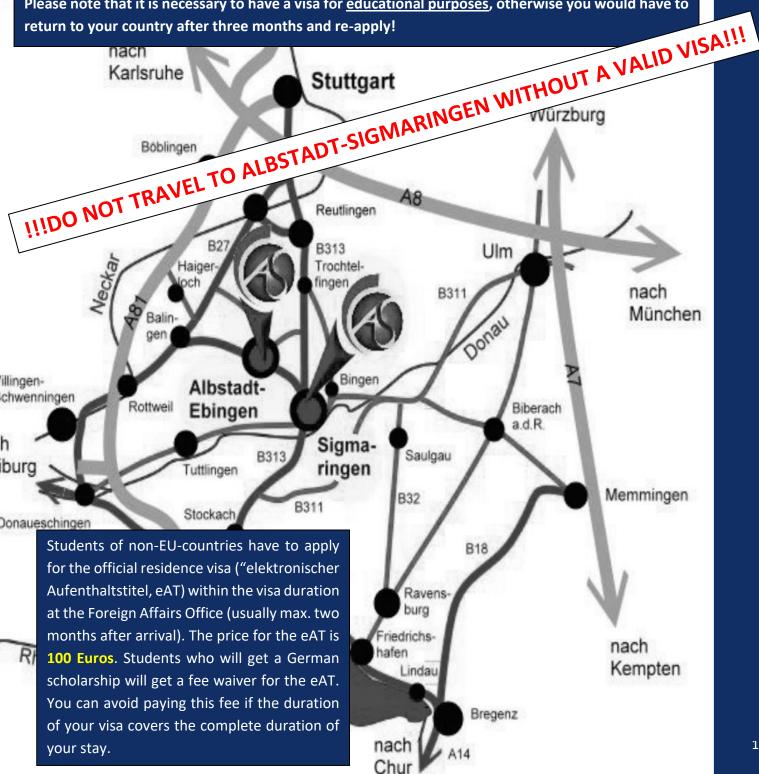
Sigmaringen			
Lunch	Snacks	ANALYSIS BEEN TO SERVE TO SERV	
During th	e semester:		
- Fr 11:30 – 14:00	Mo – Thu 09:30 – 10:15	1941 V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V	
	11:00 – 15:45		
		HERE	
	Fr 09:30 – 10:15	TO COM	
	11:00 – 14:15		1000
During holidays	s: partially closed		

Preparing for your journey

Entry permit and resistance permission

For EU-Members, no visa is required. Students of other nationalities have to contact the German Embassy or the German Consulate in their residence country. The authorization of visa can take several months, so please do not forget to apply early!

Please note that it is necessary to have a visa for educational purposes, otherwise you would have to



Check list

- Have you arranged your visa (if necessary)?
- Have you arranged your accomodation?
 - Have you arranged your health insurance? (if not, you can take out a German student insurance during the introductory weeks)
- Have you arranged a German bank account?

 (if not, it can be opened in Albstadt /
 Sigmaringen during the introduction weeks)
- If necessary, have you had your money changed into Euros? (also possible at the airport, ATM machines available in Albstadt and Sigmaringen)
- Do you have a mobile phone without a SIM lock? (non-EU-students will buy a German mobile phone SIM card with us directly on the day of arrival, EU students can use their home SIM cards thanks to EU roaming)
- Is your identity card/passport still valid?
- Remember to bring clothing for cold and warm temperatures (no matter which semester you come, you will always experience several seasons)
- If you have to take important medication, you should bring a document from your doctor.
- Digitize important documents (passport, identity card, insurance papers...)
- Have you planned your journey from your home to Albstadt/Sigmaringen? Do you have your plane ticket/train ticket...?
- Did you pay your administration fee?



How to reach Albstadt-Sigmaringen University

Both university locations can easily be reached by train. Even before you arrive, you can get information on the homepage of Deutsche Bahn AG:

www.bahn.de

You can also buy online tickets which might be cheaper. Otherwise, you can buy your ticket from the vending machine or at the passenger counter of the station.

Please note that all the tickets need to be bought before departure. You have to pay a fine if you buy the ticket during your train ride!

Normally, the train service is limited in the evenings and stops during the night.

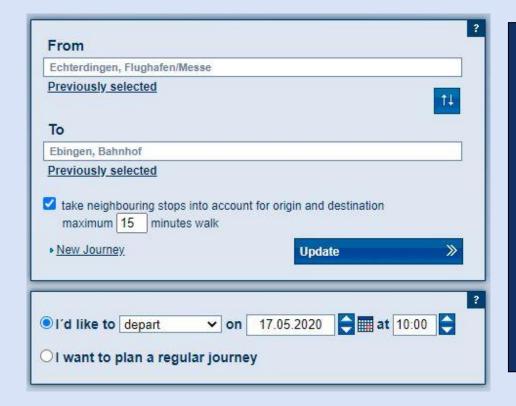
From Stuttgart Airport to Campus Albstadt-Ebingen/Sigmaringen

The cheapest and quickest option is to take a bus and a train. Directly outside the arrival hall in the airport you will see the signs to the bus stops.

If you don't have Internet on your mobile phone in Germany, find the appropriate connections before you leave or ask the International Office.

Of course you can always ask other people for help when you are on the road.

Open this link: https://efa2.naldo.de/naldo/XSLT_TRIP_REQUEST2 and change the language to English.



Choose "Echterdingen, Flughafen/Messe" as starting point and "Ebingen, Bahnhof" (for Campus Albstadt) or "Sigmaringen, Sigmaringen" (for Campus Sigmaringen) as destination. In the field below you choose your arrival date and the time of departure. Then choose

"Update".

International Student Handbook Albstadt-Sigmaringen University

The website will list several proposals in the mentioned period. When making your choice, pay attention to the interchanges, the travel time and the price.

Once you have chosen a proposal, you can open it and you will receive a step by step guide.

Don't worry, bus station and train station are usually very close to each other. Press the small map on the right side to get an overview.

If you are on the train to Albstadt, please make sure that your last stop is Albstadt-Ebingen and **not** Albstadt-Ebingen West!

You will get the ticket from the bus driver when you enter the bus. Make sure to tell him that you want to have your ticket until Albstadt-Ebingen or Sigmaringen, not only until your interchange point. It's the same ticket for both the bus and the train. The travel time takes 2 – 3 hours.

The prices vary depending on the day of the week and time of day. Usually the price stays below 10 Euro.



In Albstadt, the university campus is located directly around the train station. In Sigmaringen, on the other hand, it takes about 20 minutes on foot. It is important that you coordinate your arrival time with the International Office so that we can pick you up from the train station and take you to your dormitory. Afterwards, some documents will be processed in the office and then we will go to the supermarket together.

Accommodation



Accommodation Albstadt: Poststraße 22/1 or 2



Accommodation Sigmaringen: Schäferweg 30



This house belongs to the student welfare service and is 2 minutes away from campus. We offer apartments with small kitchen and own bathroom (298 Euros / months) as well as single rooms in shared appartments where 5 people share kitchen and bathrooms (268 Euros / month. For the apartments there is an additional fee of 17,50 Euro per month for the German radio licence fee. The shared flats can split this fee monthly. High-speed internet by cable (no WLAN) is included, but you need to buy your own bedding. Washing machines and dryers are in the house, usage is apprx. 1.50 Euro/usage.

Here again, every international student receives kitchen utensils from the International Office.



Dormitory administration

Frau Abinante Fina

phone: 07071/9697-29

mail: bettina.abinantefina@sw-tuebingen-hohenheim.de

The current contact details of the caretaker are always posted in the dormitory.

Formalities



Registration in the city

Every student has to register his/her residence at the town hall (Rathaus) within one week. There you have to fill out a form and show your passport.

Please do not forget to deregister when you finished your studies in Germany and you leave.

Registration and de-registration always takes place in the town hall of the city where you live.

You do not have to do this task alone, but in cooperation with the International Office.



Work permit

If you are a citizen of an EU country, you can work without restrictions.

As an international non-EU student, you are entitled to work 120 days a year full time or 240 days part-time per year. In your residence permit there will be an entry like the following: "Employment possible up to 120 days or 240 part-time days a year as well as working as a student assistant."

Should an employer for EU nationals require a certificate of free movement ("Freizügigkeitsbescheinigung"), it can be issued at the Immigration Office.



Health insurance

The university requires a certificate of health insurance. If your country belongs to one of the Contracting States (EU plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey and Switzerland), you can use the health insurance of your home country. Otherwise, you need to register for a health insurance in Germany.

Information on the insurance can be found at https://www.1averbraucherportal.de/versicherung/krankenversicherung/international#.

With a health insurance of a contracting state, you can go to the doctors with your "European Health Insurance Card" (EHIC) without any additional costs or bureaucracy. The regular fees will normally be covered by the public health insurance. Please note that the insured person will be treated by valid law according to the country of residence. That means that there may be additional payments to the doctor. Special services like a return transport to your home country are not included in the German health insurance. This is why it is important (especially for non-contracting states) to get an additional health insurance in your home country. Please seek information from your health insurance.

If you organise your own insurance, please make sure that it is not limited in any way!

During the introduction weeks you have the possibility to take out a German health insurance with the AOK. There will be a group appointment where you will be accompanied by a member of the International Office.

Driving License

If your home driving licence was issued in an EU or EEA state, you may drive motor vehicles in Germany (§ 28 FeV). Your home driving licence is recognised and you do not have to have it converted into a German document.

Any restrictions or conditions that apply to you in the country of issue are also legally binding here (e.g. "Only vehicles with automatic transmission"). Please note that your home driving licence is not valid here if you have not yet reached the minimum age prescribed in Germany for the vehicle category in question. If you exceed your entitlements, you will be liable to prosecution under German law in accordance with § 21 StVG.

If you are resident in Germany and your home driving licence was issued in a non-EU/EEA country, your driving licence is valid in Germany for a period of six months. After this period it is no longer recognised.

In case you are not going to reside in Germany for longer than 12 months and can prove this, you can apply to the driving licence authority for an extension of validity. The driving licence authority can extend the period by a further six months (§ 29 Paragraph 1 FeV).

If you want to rent a car on occasion, make sure that sufficient insurance is provided (for example fully comprehensive insurance)!

Financial topics



Bank account

We recommend that you open a bank account with us in Germany, as it has become apparent in recent semesters that some international bank accounts are not accepted by the machine that loads your student ID card. Of course you can also open your own online account! Make sure that the corresponding IBAN bank account number starts with DE, it won't work if your account is from another country.

We have been working together with Sparkasse in Albstadt and Sigmaringen for a long time. You will get a contact person with whom you can also talk in English.

You can pay directly with your bank card or pick up cash free of charge at the cash machine. You will also have an online banking access with which you can manage your bank transfers.

During the introductory weeks there will be an appointment at Sparkasse, where you will be accompanied by a member of the International Office. You will not have to set up your online banking on your own. To establish a bank account, you have to show your passport and your certificate of matriculation to the bank.

Please note, if your parents want to transfer money from a non-EU country, they need the following information from your bank account: IBAN, BIC and the address of your local Sparkasse.

Sparkasse Zollernalb
Marktstr. 32
72458 Albstadt-Ebingen

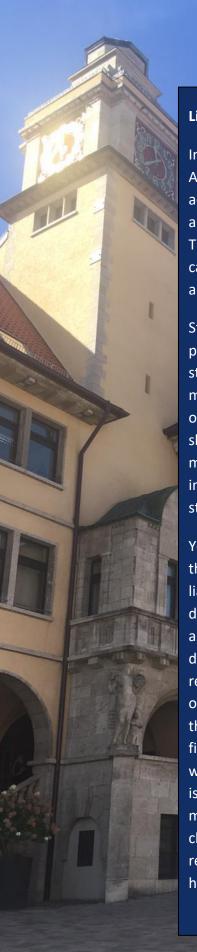
Phone: 07433/13-0

Kreissparkasse Sigmaringen

Leopoldplatz 5 72488 Sigmaringen

Phone: 07571/103-0

Although the Sparkassen bank account is not completely free of charge (about 3,50 Euro/month), you will always have a local contact person.



Living costs

In general, the living costs in Germany are affordable. Approximately, you need about 700 € for accommodation, food, health insurance, transport and leisure time as well as personal things per month. The German radio fees must be paid monthly, but you can share the 17,50 Euro in the shared flats. The apartments, however, have to bear the costs alone.

Students must pay an administration fee of 148,10 € per semester (as of 05/2020) which goes to the student welfare service, not to the university. The money is used to provide cheap accommodation in our student houses, subsidized food in the cafeteria, share of the student train ticket and much more, and must be paid by every student, German and international students alike (also by ERASMUS students) and is no tuition fee.

You also have to pay a key deposit for your room at the beginning of tenancy. The key deposit is a signed liability for the landlord. He can fall back to the key deposit when your rent or compensation obligations are not fulfilled. After termination of tenancy, the key deposit will be returned to the tenant if there are no rent or compensation obligations left. For rooms in our student houses the key deposit is 400 Euros and the money must be transferred together with the first rent once you receive your renting contract. It will be returned 2 – 3 months after the renting period is over. This is due to the fact that all bills from maintenance crews must be collected first, then checked for the rooms and then billed to the respective rooms. Only when this is done, the housing office will transfer the key deposit back.

Studying

Academic year

The academic year is divided into two semesters.

It consists of:

- a winter semester (WS) which starts on 1st of September and
- a summer semester (SS) which starts at the 1st of March.

The date on which the semester starts is not consistent with the date for the beginning of the courses.

The exact dates for the beginning of the courses, about holidays, vacations or the examination registration period are announced on the homepage of the university.

https://www.hs-albsig.de/studieninfos/im-studium/studentische-abteilung/semestertermine



Matriculation

At the beginning of studies, you have to be enrolled to your degree programme. All the important dates can be found in your certificate of registration.

The International Office will help you to fill in the forms for matriculation.

Here you have to prove that you:

- have paid the administration fee
- hold a valid health insurance
- hold a valid visa status for Germany.

You can verify the payment by a bank statement or an evidence of payment.

When you are matriculated, you will get a **student's card**. This chip card also serves as a library card, as identification for the printers, for paying in the cafeteria and at vending machines in the university building. One of the Student Buddys will explain and show you the functions in detail. The machine for loading money onto the student card is located in front of the cafeteria and on the 3rd floor of the Haux building.

In addition you will get a university e-mail address.

!!! Please have a constant look at your e-mails. All official mails of the university will only be sent to your university e-mail address!!!

Courses

The course content of Albstadt-Sigmaringen University is presented in different forms.

There are:

- lessons
- seminars
- internships
- exercises and
- different projects.

The timetable for the courses is called "Vorlesungsplan" and is accessible through Webuntis. We will explain the use of this software during the introduction week.

If you have selected your courses from different degree programmes, the International Office will help you to set up the timetable.

The time units of the courses are structured as follows:

1 st lesson	8.00 am - 9.30 am	
2 nd lesson	9.45 am - 11.15 am	
3 rd lesson	11.30 am - 1.00 pm	
Lunch Break		
4 th lesson	2.00 pm - 3.30 pm	
5 th lesson	3.45 pm - 5.15 pm	
6 th lesson	5.30 pm - 7.00 pm	

You can get a maximum of 30 ECTS—credits in one semester. More information about credits can be found in the examination rules and study regulations (StuPo). This is given to every student at the beginning of studies and can be found on the homepage, too.



Language courses

Language courses for different languages are offered in the context of "Mehr W".

The class on German as a foreign language is compulsory for every incoming student and is normally offered on different levels (beginners and advanced).



Leisure time



Look forward to many great activities, which the International Team will organize for you! The activities are guided by our Student Buddies and are free of charge as long as you register in time. The registration deadline for each weekend activity is the previous Thursday night at midnight. You are also welcome to bring your friends from the university. To do so, leave a +1 in our Facebook group before the registration deadline (the number will vary depending on the students you want to bring). Many exciting activities await you!

Sports

In addition to numerous fee-based sports clubs in Albstadt and Sigmaringen, both university locations also offer university sports. These include football, volleyball, yoga, dancing...

Check your university emails regularly, all information about the various offers will be announced here shortly after lectures start.

If you still prefer to go to a paid gym, please do not register alone! Usually the contracts here go over two years. With the support of our Student Buddies, we can negotiate the right contract with student discount for you.

More useful information

Public Transport (Naldo-Ticket for students)

Every student who is enrolled at Albstadt-Sigmaringen University can buy a reduced ticket for public transportation (bus, train).

With the "naldo-Semesterticket" you can use every train (excluded ICE) and bus in the whole *Naldo-* region free of charge 24/7 for a complete semester. Information on the range of the ticket can be found at:

www.naldo.de

The ticket is valid for the complete semester. You can get it at the train station in Sigmaringen and in Albstadt. There you have to show your certificate of matriculation and your German student ID card. The ticket is 104,90 € (as of 01/2020).

If you only want to travel during the weekend or in the evening after 7 p.m. during weekdays, then you can use your student ID as ticket in our region without buying an extra "Semesterticket".

Student discounts

If you are travelling without the International Office team, look out for student discounts. These are available in museums, cinemas, swimming pools, gyms, etc.

Always have your student card with you.

No student card – no discount!

Mini dictionary

Deutsch	Englisch
Hallo!	Hello!
Guten Morgen!	Good morning!
Gute Nacht!	Good night!
Auf Wiedersehen! / Tschüß!	Goodbye!
Bitte	You're welcome
Danke	Thank you
Entschuldigung	Excuse me
Ja	Yes
Nein	No
Sprechen Sie Englisch?	Do you speak English?
Wie heißt du?	What's your name?
Ich heiße und du?	My name is and your name is?
Woher kommst du?	Where are you from?
Ich bin aus	I'm from
Wie geht es dir?	How are you?
Ich verstehe nicht.	I don't understand.
Ich möchte	I'd like to have
Wo sind die Toiletten?	Where are the toilets?
Wie viel kostet das?	How much does it cost?

Willkommen an der Hochschule Albstadt-Sigmaringen!
Welcome to Albstadt-Sigmaringen University!