

WELCOME GUIDE

-

INFORMATION FOR  
INCOMING STUDENTS

# WINTER SEMESTER 2022/23



# CONTENT

1. Contact persons
2. Lecture times
3. Before your arrival
  - 3.1 Enrolment
  - 3.2 Visa
  - 3.3 Accommodation
  - 3.4 Health insurance
  - 3.5 UW/H e-mail account
4. First days in Witten
  - 4.1 Registration with the authorities
  - 4.2 Bank account
  - 4.3 Welcome events
  - 4.4 Semesterticket
5. How to
  - 5.1 Get a bicycle
  - 5.2 Use your smartcard
  - 5.3 Learn German
  - 5.4 Work with UWE
  - 5.5 Receive your course material on moodle
  - 5.6 Join an initiative or a sport program
  - 5.7 Heat & ventilate properly
6. Good to know
  - 6.1 List of English-speaking doctors
  - 6.2 Emergency numbers



# CONTENT

- 6.3 Useful social media links
- 6.4 Cultural facts & specific German laws
- 7. Getting to know Witten
  - 7.1 Cafés, Restaurants & Bars
  - 7.2 Things to do in Witten
- 8. Impressions & pictures



# CONTACT PERSONS

## UW/H POSTAL ADDRESS

Witten/ Herdecke University



Alfred-Herrhausen-Straße 50  
D-58448 Witten



<https://www.uni-wh.de/>

<https://www.uni-wh.de/en/uwh-international/exchange-students/>



## INTERNATIONAL OFFICE



Eike Tauch  
International Coordinator



FEZ Room 2.178



+49 (0)2302 926-9705



[International-incoming@uni-wh.de](mailto:International-incoming@uni-wh.de)



Tim Rauschenberg  
Student Assistant & PPE B.A. Student



[International-incoming@uni-wh.de](mailto:International-incoming@uni-wh.de)



Sarah Alschner  
Student Assistant & PPE M.A. Student



[International-incoming@uni-wh.de](mailto:International-incoming@uni-wh.de)



# GOOD TO KNOW



## ESN International Network

The Erasmus Student Network Witten/Herdecke (ESN) offers support and organises activities and trips for international students: You can reach ESN via e-mail: [esn@uni-wh.de](mailto:esn@uni-wh.de) and Instagram (@esnwittenherdecke). You can find more information [here](#).



## LOCAL ERASMUS INITIATIVE

 Erasmus Student Network (ESN)  
Witten

 [esn@uni-wh.de](mailto:esn@uni-wh.de)



# LECTURE TIMES & NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

04.10.2022  
start of  
semester and  
welcome  
event



04.10.2022  
start of courses



01.11.2022  
Allerheiligen/  
All Saint's Day

26.12.22 -  
06.01.23  
Weihnachtspause/  
Christmas break



26.-27.12.2022  
1. & 2.  
Weihnachtsfeiertag/  
Christmas Day

27.01.2023  
end of courses



Exams can be  
scheduled until  
31.03.2023



# BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL

## ENROLMENT



To register at UW/H, you need to hand in several documents and forms. Please fill in the attached forms for your enrolment and send them back to us via [e-mail](#) until **September 1<sup>st</sup> for the following winter semester** or **March 1<sup>st</sup> for the following summer semester**.

## VISA (if required)



Information regarding visa regulations can be found on the homepage of the [German Federal Foreign Office](#) or the local foreigners' registration offices (Ausländerbehörden). The [International Office](#) of UW/H is happy to help with questions of visa application and procedures.

Students coming from Australia, Israel, Japan, Canada, New Zealand, South Korea or the United States can enter the country without a visa. If you stay in the country for longer than three months, you must apply for a German residence permit. The same applies to students from Andorra, Brazil, El Salvador, Honduras, Monaco and San Marino. They may enter the country without a visa if there are no plans to work in Germany afterwards.

As a non-EU international student, you will have to go through a process of applying for a long-term student visa to enter and study in Germany for a period longer than 90 days.



# BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL



Typically, the list of documents that are required when applying for a visa comprises but is not limited to the following:

- An appointment with the Embassy/Consulate
- A properly filled in application form with a cover letter
- An acceptance letter from the University
- A valid passport
- A proof of financing (currently 861€/month). Subsistence can be proved as follows: blocked account/ sponsorship/ scholarship/ detailed bank account statement of parents/guardians with affidavit proof of their support)
- A proof of student health insurance (typically grouped in with your blocked account provider)
- A proof of accommodation (may not be necessary)
- Few biometric passport photos (typically 2- but check with the respective embassy/ consulate)
- Possible proof of language (TOEFL/IELTS)

For visa application, check [this link](#) out.

For more details on blocked account/ financial proof, click [here](#).

For more details about visa, please visit [this page](#).



# BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL



This student visa is valid for up to 90 days. Once you arrive in Germany, you should register with the German city where you live and apply for a residence permit within the first 2 weeks of your stay. Please note that you cannot enter Germany as a student with a tourist visa (the conversion is not possible). In order to register, you must contact the Citizens' Advice Center (in German: "Bürgerberatung") of the German city you move to. For the residence permit you have to contact the Foreigners' Registration Office (in German: "Ausländerbehörde").

**REST-DIRECTIVE (applies to NON-EU students with a residence permit issued by another EU member state)**

If you hold a **valid residence permit for study purposes for another member state of the European Union** (except for **Denmark and Ireland**), you can study in Germany without a visa for up to 360 days. Please be aware that the residence permit needs to be valid throughout your stay in Germany. This facilitated mobility applies to students who come to Germany within the frame of a university cooperation, such as Erasmus+.

**You need to hand in the required documents at least 40 days before your planned entry into Germany.**

You can find a list of the required documents [here](#).

The livelihood of students is considered secured if they have a monthly amount of **861 EUR**.



# BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL

Subsistence can be proven as follows:

- Scholarship
- Payment of a security deposit into a blocked account at a financial institution that is permitted to conduct banking business in Germany and from which only a portion of the total amount paid in divided by the number of months of stay may be disposed of each month (e.g. one seventh of the amount paid in for a stay of seven months)
- Declaration of commitment, e.g. to be submitted to a German embassy or consulate abroad.
- A written confirmation from the parents (information in the letter: amount, period, date and signature) and a copy of the passport. Evidence of how the student will receive the money (e.g., bank statements with corresponding transfers).
- Bank statements, not older than 3 months

## ACCOMMODATION



As Witten/Herdecke University does not have a student dormitory, all students are responsible for securing their own living accommodations in Witten themselves.

There are two options to find housing while staying in Witten:

**a. Find a room in a shared flat with other students (called WG in Germany)**

Most students in Germany live in a shared flat with other students. You can find current offers for rooms in shared flats here: [Wg-gesucht.de](https://www.wg-gesucht.de)

- Facebook Groups:

[Marktplatz UWH](#)

[Share & Care Witten](#)

# BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL



If you are interested in a room that you found online, contact the members of the shared flat and introduce yourself. In Germany, these messages are very specific. Try to make the message as personal as possible. The more personal, the higher the chance they'll get back to you. It should be no problem to write the message in English, as most students speak English. If you have difficulties writing such a message, we have provided a template beneath:

Hi guys,

My name is ... and I am an international exchange student from ....

I will start my studies at Witten/Herdecke University this fall/spring, so I am currently on the search to find a room for my time in Witten.

I would describe myself as....

I am looking for a WG with the following criteria or qualities:.....

If you'd like to get to know me via an Online WG-Casting (e.g. Zoom, Skype, etc.) or if you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me via WhatsApp/Telegramm/etc. Here is my phone number: ....

Best and see you soon,

## b. Find your own flat

If you do not want to live in a shared flat, you can also try to find your own apartment. Common websites for finding a flat are:

- ImmobilienScout24.de:

<https://www.immobilienscout24.de/Suche/de/nordrheinwestfalen/ennepe-ruhr-kreis/witten/wohnung-mieten>

- Ruhr Nachrichten Wohnungsportal:

<https://immo.ruhrnachrichten.de/mieten/witten>

# BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL



- ImmoWelt:

<https://www.immowelt.de/suche/witten/wohnungen/mieten>

If you write to landlords directly, please write a more formal message. Introduce yourself as a renter and state how long you plan to be in Witten. Please note, that landlords may not necessarily speak English. Nevertheless, you can of course start off by sending an English message. If you encounter language barriers, feel free to get in contact with the International Office.

*Please note:* The earlier you start with your apartment search, the easier it will be to find a place that suits your needs! If you need any assistance in finding accommodation, please contact us at [international-incoming@uni-wh.de](mailto:international-incoming@uni-wh.de).

## HEALTH INSURANCE



### a. Which form of Health Insurance do I need?

All international students who enrol at Witten/Herdecke University must have proof of health insurance that covers their study visit in Germany. Please make sure that you have sufficient health insurance coverage. There are the following possibilities to prove health insurance in Germany:

#### 1. Students from Europe with a compulsory health insurance in their home country

Students from EWR/EU-countries and students from countries with which Germany has a social insurance treaty (former Yugoslavian states, Switzerland, Turkey, Tunisia) need to show one of the two following documents:

- The Form AT/11; E111; E128 (International Foreign Medical Insurance Record Card) issued by your local medical insurance in your country

# BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL



OR

- A copy of the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) issued by your local medical insurance in your home country
- 2. **Students from Europe with a private health insurance in their home country & students from non-European Countries**

Students must either obtain a health insurance through a public insurance (also called “German compulsory health insurance”) or buy a private health insurance for their time of studies in Germany:

- **Public Health Insurance (in German: “gesetzliche Krankenversicherung“):**  
Public health insurance through a state health insurer of their choice: Student rates range between 100 Euro - 110 Euro/month. The advantage is that the insurance covers you for all medical and emergency dental treatments and hospitalization and you pay nothing on top. If you are interested in information on a German compulsory health insurance, please contact the International Office.
- **Private Health Insurance (in German: “private Krankenversicherung“):**  
Private health insurance policy that covers you while studying in Witten. Please note that a travel insurance is not sufficient. The private insurance must cover you for a residential stay in Germany.

Attention: Students with a foreign /a private health insurance for Germany need to be released from the German compulsory health insurance requirement.



# BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL



For the enrolment procedure it is extremely important that you send us a scan of your proof of health insurance and the respective form for an exemption from the German compulsory health insurance by September 1 for an enrolment for the Winter Semester or March 1 for an enrolment for the Summer Semester, respectively. Please note that the exemption from the German health insurance obligation cannot be withdrawn and is valid for the entire time of your stay in Germany. Students exempted from the German health insurance obligation must arrange in advance for a reimbursement of potentially high medical costs from their private health insurer. Please check carefully in advance which insurance coverage your private health insurer is offering.

## **b. Which insurance company should I choose?**

Please note that we (the international office) are legally not allowed to do any advertisement for any sort of insurance company. But of course, we can give you some tips and recommendations. However, you are yourself fully responsible for choosing a health insurance company and for reading and agreeing with the terms and conditions. Let's start with the tips then:

### **1. Public Health Insurance (in German: "gesetzliche Krankenversicherung")**

This option is more expensive than the private option, mostly around 100-110 Euros a month for students. Examples are the insurance companies "Barmer", "AOK" or "TK". Despite the price, they come with the advantage, that they are very easily accepted by doctors and that you pay monthly and not in advance.

### **2. Private Health Insurance (in German: "private Krankenversicherung")**

This option can be a little cheaper, for example around 40 Euros a month with the insurance company "Mawista".



# BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL



It comes with the advantage of being cheaper, but it may also carry the disadvantage that you have to pay everything in advance (and not monthly). So, you would need to have a bigger amount of money ready in liquid form.

Please look up the respective conditions in detail. Here you can find more information on "[Mawista](#)".

Companies like Fintiba, also offer health insurance coverage in combination with a blocked accounts for those who need it. You pay an admin fee and in return they make the process as easy as possible for you- More details [here](#).



# BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL

## UW/H E-MAIL ACCOUNT



Most of the UW/H communication will take place via your UW/H E-Mail Account. We hence kindly ask you to unlock your E-Mail Account as soon as you have been enrolled and to check your incoming E-Mails daily.



# YOUR FIRST DAYS IN WITTEN

## REGISTRATION WITH THE CITY OF WITTEN (applies to **ALL** incoming students)



Once in Germany, all international students have to register with the City of Witten within two weeks after arriving in Germany. All international students (also EU-citizens) must register with the Resident Registration Office (in German: “Bürgerberatung”).

Required documents are:

- Landlord’s/ landlady’s certificate (in German: “[Wohnungsgeberbescheinigung](#)”)
- Passport

Students from non-EU-countries who entered Germany with a visa must also apply for a residence permit (in German: “Aufenthaltsbewilligung”) at the Foreigners’ Registration Office (in German: “Ausländerbehörde”) after their registration.

Required documents are:

- Certificate of study (“Studienbescheinigung”)
- Proof of health insurance coverage in Germany (“Krankenversicherungsnachweis”)
- Proof of income (“Einkommensnachweis”)
- Biometric picture (“biometrisches Foto”)
- Registration fee (Euro 100,-)

Both offices, “Amt für Ausländerangelegenheiten” and “Bürgerberatung” are located in the Witten town hall (address see below).



# YOUR FIRST DAYS IN WITTEN

## BÜRGERBERATUNG (English: Resident Registration Office)

Rathaus/ Town Hall Witten  
Markstraße 16  
+49 (0)2302 581 0

It is recommended to make an appointment in advance, see

<https://www.witten.de/rathaus-service/buergerservice/infos-von-a-z/dienstleistung/show/erreichbarkeit-der-buergerberatung/>

## AUSLÄNDERBEHÖRDE (English: Foreigners' Registration Office )

Rathaus/ Town Hall Witten  
Markstraße 16  
+49 (0)2302 581 3379

[auslaenderbehoerde@stadt-witten.de](mailto:auslaenderbehoerde@stadt-witten.de)

## BANK ACCOUNT



For opening a Bank Account, online based banks are worth looking into as they do not require as much paperwork. For a German bank account, you usually need your certificate of enrolment, visa and proof of registration with the local municipality. In general, there are many online and in-person bank options available. You can find more information on banking [here](#).

## WELCOME EVENTS



Our **Welcome Events** are organized for all new students of Witten/Herdecke University. You will get acquainted with your new fellow students, the university and Witten. Further information on our welcome events will follow at a later stage.

# YOUR FIRST DAYS IN WITTEN

## SEMESTERTICKET



Every student who enrolls at Witten/Herdecke University has to purchase the so-called *Semesterticket*. The price for the winter semester 2022/23 will be published on the following website shortly:

<https://www.hochschulwerk.de/leistungen/semesterbeitrag-und-semesterticket/>

Please note that you only have to purchase the *Semesterticket*. You do **not** need to pay the *Sozialbeitrag*.

Recipient: Hochschulwerk

Bank: Sparkasse Witten,

BIC: WELADED1WTN

IBAN: DE70 4525 0035 0000 0966 69

Purpose: Incoming Student + your name



### a. Activating the Semester Ticket

This semester ticket allows you to use local public transportation in North-Rhine-Westphalia without paying extra charges.

After your enrolment process has been completed you will receive a QR-code via e-mail from our IT department ([BIT-Support@uni-wh.de](mailto:BIT-Support@uni-wh.de)).

You have to scan the code with the "SeTi" app or save the QR code on your mobile phone and then upload it as a file within the app.

Download the "SeTi" app from the [Apple Store](#) or the [Google Play Store](#). Make sure you have at least the version 2.1.8 (iOS) or 2.3.0 (Android) on your mobile phone.



# YOUR FIRST DAYS IN WITTEN



## b. Validity of the ticket

The local public transport includes city and regional buses, subways, trams, and regional trains of the Deutsche Bahn. Check [this website](#) for more details.

The ticket is also valid at night, on weekends and during semester break. Please note: You cannot use ICE and IC trains with the ticket.

There are special regulations concerning the “VRR Area” which is a network region to which Witten is assigned.

## c. The Apps

You can download the following Apps for free to check German Public Transport

- Mutti App (for regional transport, mainly buses and trams) for [Apple](#) and [Android](#)
- Deutsche Bahn Navigator App (mainly for national transport and trains) for [Apple](#) and [Android](#)

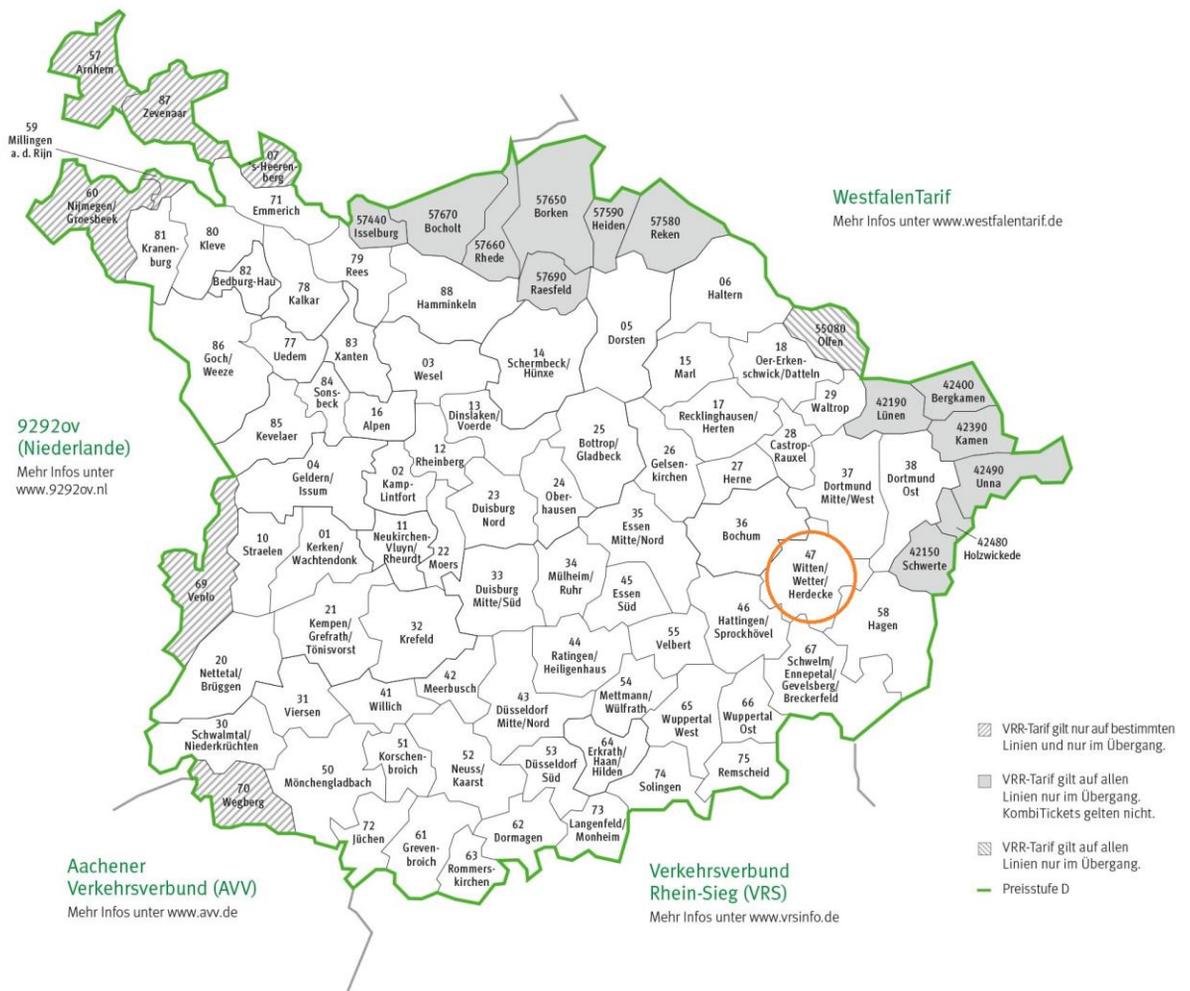


# YOUR FIRST DAYS IN WITTEN



## The VRR Area:

- After 7 p.m., on weekends and public holidays you can take someone with you on your ticket. You can only take someone with you in the VRR area, not in whole NRW
- You can take a bicycle for free all day within the VRR Area
- The VRR Area is pictured in the illustration below (Witten is marked in the orange circle)



# HOW TO...

## GET A BICYCLE



Uwe Fielicke (Ardeystr. 38, 58452 Witten) offers rental bikes for 10€ per month.

## USE YOUR SMARTCARD

You receive your Smart Card after you have successfully completed the enrolment process by the *Registrar's Office* (in German: "Studierendensekretariat").

The Smart Card fulfils many purposes during your time at UW/H, such as :

- **Student ID Card:**  
First and foremost, the card serves as your Student ID Card. You may use it to get a discount student price for cultural events or to prove your student status elsewhere. As the card has no picture, it is helpful to always carry your ID with you to make sure that you can prove your identity
- **Cafeteria/Vending Machines:**  
The card also allows you to buy food at the cafeteria or vending machines in the University. In order to top up your card with money, you can use the machine in between the two vending machines in the main hall of the University
- **Library:**  
The card also allows you to borrow books or other materials from the library. In order to do so you first have to unlock your library card with the staff once during the regular opening hours. They will then explain the further process of borrowing books to you in more detail

# HOW TO...

- Access to University:

If you enter the University on the weekends, e.g. for studying or for a weekend seminar, your card also provides 24/7 access to the University. In order to open any door, just check for a little scanner next to the door and hold your card in front of it. At the University's main entrance, you can find the scanner on the right-hand side of the main door, next to the smoking area

- Printing:

You can also use your Card to use one of the University's printers. In order to top up your printing account with money, please use the machine in between the two vending machines in the University's main hall. You can then either print via Mail or via Web Interface. For printing via E-Mail, just send the document via E-Mail to [print@uni-wh.de](mailto:print@uni-wh.de) and then access the document by holding you Smart Card on the marked field on the respective printer. For printing via Web Interface, please visit [this website](#). More Information on printing click [here](#)



## LEARN GERMAN

UW/H offers weekly German courses for non-native speakers in cooperation with the Ruhr-Universität Bochum (RUB). The courses are aimed at international students and doctoral candidates (regular enrolment and participants in exchange programmes). The courses offered include general language and scientific language courses, language courses for specific purposes as well as courses on selected special topics (e.g. regional studies).

- You can participate in up to 2 courses per semester (1 general language course + 1 course from another category), provided that you have the required level. General information on the German course offer can be found [here](#).
- 
-

# HOW TO...



General language courses at levels A1-A2 take place twice a week and are worth 4 ECTS. All other courses take place once a week and are worth 3 ECTS. If you are interested in taking German classes, please send your course wishes to [international-incoming@uni-wh.de](mailto:international-incoming@uni-wh.de) until September 1st (winter semester) or March 1st (summer semester).

## WORK WITH UWE

All information related to your courses is centrally managed via the UWE portal. You can log into UWE [here](#).

### a. Choose your courses

You can see an overview of all courses by selecting your Faculty on the left-hand side. Then click on “Courses”. If you click on a respective course, it will allow you to see the details of the course, such as the course description and the course timetable.

### b. Register for your courses

If you want to register for the course, please click on the respective course and then choose “Course Criteria & Registration” and then on “Register/Anmelden”. If you have successfully registered for a course, it will appear on your profile. In order to see if this is the case please click on “your name” (on top of the right side) -> “Course Registration”.



# HOW TO...



## c. Register for exams and obtain grades

You can register for an exam by clicking on a course in UWE and then choosing “Exam Dates & Registration” -> “Register/Anmelden”. If you have successfully registered for an examination, it will again appear on your profile. In order to see if this is the case please click on “your name” (on top of the right side) -> “Exam Registration”. After you have successfully completed an exam, you can find your exam results by clicking on “Your name” (top right side) -> “Exam results”.

## d. Print an enrolment certificate

If you need an Enrolment Certificate, which confirms that you are currently studying at UW/H, e.g. for your insurance, you can receive such a certificate by clicking on: “Your name” (top right side) -> “Documents” “Certificate of Enrolment” -> “Print”.

## e. Additional information

A detailed guide on how to work with UWE can be found in UWE by clicking on “My Application” -> “Submission of application” -> “Important information for registration” -> “Handbuch\_UWE\_für\_Studierende.pdf”

## RECEIVE YOUR COURSE MATERIAL ON MOODLE

All information related to your course material is centrally distributed via the Moodle portal. You can log into Moodle [here](#).



# HOW TO...

## JOIN AN INITIATIVE OR A SPORT PROGRAM



ESN International Network: International students are welcome to join the [Erasmus Student Network Witten/Herdecke](#)

Other Initiatives: [Here](#) is an overview of many other initiatives that might be interesting for you.

Sport programs: The Hochschulwerk e.V. offers a broad programme for our students free of charge. Sports from football, tennis, body workout to dance classes. Students can also join the sport programme at the Ruhr University Bochum. For further information [here](#).

## HEAT & VENTILATE PROPERLY

Germans are known for taking their ventilation really seriously. This can be quite a surprise as people coming from abroad where it's not part of the culture. In Germany it is expected that you will ventilate the room at least once or twice a day. Reasons for this is to stop mould and protect the building (because mould is quite a big issue). If you don't do it the chances are high you get mould which can be very expensive to remove, it's also bad for your health and your landlord will see you responsible for that. We had a lot of these cases in the past so to avoid this from happening again in the future here is a little guide for you.

What does "proper" heating and ventilation mean? Please follow these basic tips:

 a) Reasonable – even heat

 The ideal temperature for living and recreation rooms should be around 21°C. Mostly this is position 3 on the thermostat valve.



# HOW TO...



The walls should be sufficiently warm and not radiate cold. At night, therefore, only reduce the heating, do not turn it off fully. If there is an automatic night setback, there is no need to change the thermostatic valve.



## b) Control humidity



In living rooms, the humidity should not exceed 60%, otherwise there is a risk of mould in corners and behind closets. Causes of too high humidity can be: plants, aquariums, cooking fumes, shower vapours or laundry drying. Therefore, if possible, do not dry laundry in bedrooms or living rooms; use suitable drying rooms in the house. If there is no suitable drying room make sure that you open the windows after you finished drying every few hours to let the wet air out.

## c) Do not block radiators



Curtains or screens in front of the radiators avoid heat radiation into the room and increase the heating bill. Concealed thermostatic valves can not regulate properly.



When ventilating, always ensure complete air exchange. In the warm season, when the heating is off, you can hardly do anything wrong in the apartment. In winter, be careful: avoid tilted windows in heated rooms! The ventilation effect is only moderate, but mould growth above the windows is promoted.

## d) Ventilation duration



It is best to open the windows wide for three to five minutes several times a day.

As soon as the air in the room is cold: close the windows again! Then the warm, moist room air is replaced by dry, cold outside air without the furniture and walls cooling down.



# HOW TO...



## e) Do not “co-heat” rooms



Keep the doors, especially to the bedroom, closed as much as possible so that warm moist air from the bathroom or kitchen does not get into the colder bedroom and condense on the outer walls. Especially behind large closets, mould can form unnoticed.



When the door is closed, the thermostatic valve on the radiator should be set accordingly to avoid cooling. In the bedroom, exceptionally, the window can remain tilted at night (then turn off the radiator at night).



# GOOD TO KNOW

## LIST OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING DOCTORS

Uni Ambulanz UWH (Doctors)

+49 (0)2302-926-38001

Alfred-Herrhausen-Straße 44, Witten

Zahnklinik UW/H (Dentist)

+49 (0)2302-926 601

Alfred-Herrhausen-Straße 44, Witten

Dr. Young-Hu Chun (General Practitioner)

+49 (0)2302-60288

Erlenweg 25-27, Witten

Dr. Jörg Seisler (Dentist)

+49 (0)2302-56774

Beethovenstr. 6, Witten

Dr. Anette Hagemeister (Gynaecologist)

+49 (0)2302-888028

Ruhrstr.37, Witten

For further research check out [this link](#).

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

*Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Fire Brigade: 112*

The number 112 is a pan-European emergency number for EMS and fire brigade and can be used in whole Europe to for any situation related to serious medical problems or fire-related incidents. You can also call an ambulance (in German: Krankenwagen) through this number.

# GOOD TO KNOW

## *Police: 110*

The number 110 can be used to contact the police throughout Germany and will direct you to the closest police station.

More Information [here](#).



## USEFUL SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

### *Useful Instagram Accounts:*

UW/H	@uni_wittenherdecke
Initiativlabor (Student's initiatives):	@initiativlabor
ESN Witten/ Herdecke	@esnwittenherdecke

Check out your favorite initiatives or restaurants, they may all have Instagram Accounts, which they use to communicate.

### *Useful Facebook Groups:*

UW/H: <https://de-de.facebook.com/UniWH/>

ESN Witten/ Herdecke: <https://de-de.facebook.com/esn.witten>

### *Marktplatz UW/H:*

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/161184514022200/?ref=share>

### *Share & Care Witten*

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sharecarewitten/?ref=share>



# GOOD TO KNOW



## CULTURAL FACTS & SPECIFIC GERMAN LAW

Be aware that shops in Germany are closed on Sunday's. Take this in consideration when booking your flights because public transport works differently on Sunday's.

Germany has a tipping culture. When going to a bar or restaurant, it is common to at least round up the bill. E.g. a bill of 11,80€ = 12,50€ or 13€. The higher the bill and of course, the better the service, the more you tip.

Everyone in Germany had to learn English at school. But be aware that the older generation might have not spoken since they left school and struggle. Especially in rural areas it can be a problem. The best way to get around is to learn German. 😊

Also, Germany take their traffic rules quiet seriously, this includes not crossing red lights etc. For most lecturers, the "Du" in conjunction with the first name is acceptable in English.

Please, do NOT download any movies or TV series online! It'll cost you a couple of thousand Euros in Germany as it is strictly controlled.

For some more fun characteristics of Germans, check out [this buzzfeed article](#) 😊



# GETTING TO KNOW WITTEN

## CAFÉS, RESTAURANTS & BARS



### Cafés

- *Raum Café*  
Raum Café is located in the „Wiesenviertel“, which is the most popular neighborhood for students in Witten. Most students meet up at Raum Café to study, have a coffee, chat and drink. The WiFi password is the name of the coffee machine. There even is an extra study room around the corner – just go to the counter and ask for the key.
- *Café Extrablatt*  
Café Extrablatt offers good coffees, cakes, lunch and dinner at all times of the day. Sundays till Thursdays they have their cocktail happy hour.
- *Kijamii*  
Kijammi serves fresh fair-trade coffee from Tanzania and was even founded by UW/H students. They also serve great cakes!
- *Milchmichl*  
Milchmichl is also a great place to go for a coffee. They provide a space to enjoy coffee and cakes in a cozy atmosphere.

### Restaurants:

- *Knut's*  
Knuts is located right next to Raum Café - they even share a beer garden together. Knuts mainly offers delicious organic food and nice drinks and is hence very popular among Witten students.
- *Trattoria Pavaroti*  
This authentic, Italian Trattoria offers the best Pizza in Town. On a warm summer evening you can even enjoy their outside area on Rathausplatz.



# GETTING TO KNOW WITTEN



- *Syrisches Haus*

Syrisches Haus offers traditional Syrian food, like falafel or humus. As their prices are very reasonable, it is especially popular among students.

- *Nam King*

Nam King is an Asian restaurant which offers sushi, noodles or other Asian dishes. All their food is available for Take-Away as well.

## Pubs/ Bars:

- *Alte Post*

Alte Post is the oldest and most traditional Pub in Witten. They offer beers, cocktails and everything you need for a night out. Alte Post is visited by students as well as by locals of all age groups.

- *KlimBim & Casa Cuba*

Similar to Alte Post, KlimBim and Casa Cuba both also offers beers, cocktails etc. and is visited by students as well as locals.

## Clubs:

- Kitten is a bar/club run by students and part of the UNIKAT. The Unikat team organizes many other events during the semester. You can find more info's and events on their Facebook or Instagram page.

- As mentioned at the beginning, Witten is situated in the largest urban area in Germany, and third - largest in the European Union , which is why it is so easy to travel to our neighbour cities for a good night out. Here are some suggestions.

### Bochum:

- Bermunda triangle (in German: "Bermudadreieck"). There are many nice bars and restaurants with great atmosphere



# GETTING TO KNOW WITTEN

- Bermuda triangle (in German: “Bermudadreieck”). There are many nice bars and restaurants with great atmosphere
- Clubs:
  - Rotunde
  - Trompete
  - Schumacher club

Dortmund:

- Clubs:
  - Untergrund
  - Apartment 45
  - Riff
  - View / Dortmunder U
  - Nightrooms (with the ESN-Card you get in for free on Fridays)

## THINGS TO DO IN WITTEN

Hohenstein:

- Beautiful forest to go for a walk, play football, volleyball, table tennis or have a picnic. At the Hohenstein, you can enjoy a beautiful view over the “Ruhr” river
- Don't forget to stop at the beautiful *Hammerteich* on your way.

Muttental:

- The beautiful Muttental is great for going on a hike and enjoying some beautiful nature. Along the walking track, you can find many old coal mines and find out about the Ruhrareas's culture

# GETTING TO KNOW WITTEN



- Please note: It is important to stay on the walking tracks, as offside tracks may be in danger of collapsing due to former coal mines underneath.

## Kemnader See:

- is a lake close to Witten, which comes along with a beach bar and a public swimming pool (“Freizeitbad Heveney”). You can also go on a little boat cruise, hire a pedal boat or just go for a nice walk around the lake.

## Rheinischer Esel:

- It is a bike lane on a former railway line, which reaches from Bochum to Dortmund and crosses Witten on its way. It is great for biking, skateboarding or for going on a run.
- You can find other bike routes in the NRW area [here](#).

## Walks along the River Ruhr:

- Nachtigallbrücke: a landing bridge provides easy access to enjoy some sun near the water.
- Kanu-Verein Witten: The canoeing club Witten offers another green area, which is used by many students and locals to take a sun bath near the water.

## Exploring the NRW area:

- If you feel like exploring the NRW area outside of Witten a little bit more, a good place to start exploring the area is the official NRW tourism website, which you find [here](#).

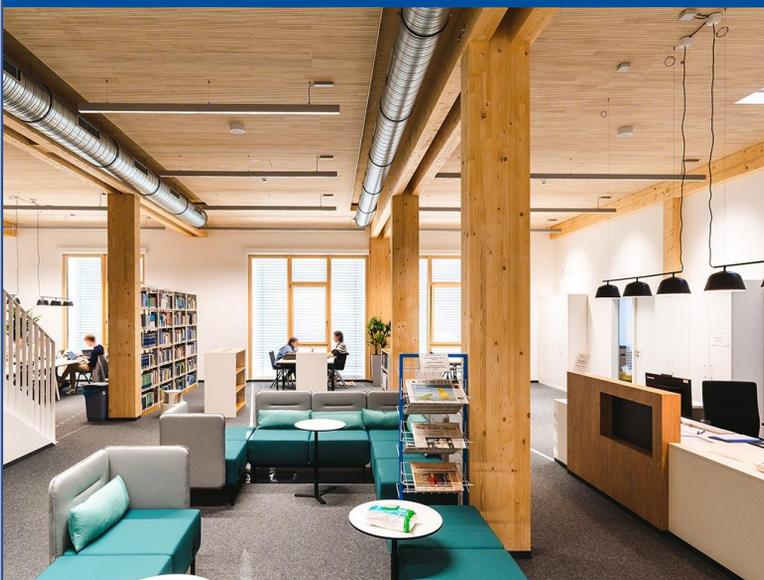
- Culture

The NRW Area also offers a lot of culture. Whether it may be a city trip to visit Dortmund, Bochum, Düsseldorf or Cologne (which you can all reach for free with your semester ticket) and do some shopping, or a trip to one of the many museums or theaters in the area, the area has a lot to offer. You can find an overview of cultural trips here:



# IMPRESSIONS & PICTURES

## STUDYING IN WITTEN



# IMPRESSIONS & PICTURES

## WITTEN & THE REGION



We are looking forward to  
welcoming you to Witten soon!

