

# Housing Guide

## Finding Housing in Karlsruhe

updated September 2026

*This overview summarizes the most important contact points, housing options, and online resources for finding accommodation in Karlsruhe – from dormitories to “Wohnen für Hilfe” (Housing for Help) and private rental platforms.*

### 1. Key Basics for Housing in Karlsruhe

- The largest provider of dormitory rooms is the [Studierendenwerk Karlsruhe](#).
- In the Mensa foyer, the Studierendenwerk also offers the “beratungsWerk” as a contact point for all students looking for accommodation – whether a dormitory room or private housing.
- Newspaper listings are another classic resource for the search.
- Anyone moving to Karlsruhe or Pforzheim to study must register with the relevant residents’ registration office within 2 weeks (see [Bürgerbüro Karlsruhe](#)).

### 2. Wohnen für Hilfe (Housing for Help)

Instead of paying rent, students commit to helping their hosts with everyday tasks. Students only cover the resulting incidental costs (e.g. utilities).

#### Who Offers Housing?

| Host Type                                                                                           | Typical Tasks                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Older people</b>                                                                                 | Grocery shopping, help around the house and garden, walking the dog, leisure activities (personal care services are excluded) |
| <b>Families</b>                                                                                     | Help with homework, activities with the children, help around the house                                                       |
| <b>People with disabilities</b><br><i>(Hagsfelder Werkstätten und Wohngemeinschaften Karlsruhe)</i> | Support with everyday tasks and leisure activities                                                                            |

#### Process and Conditions

- Both students and hosts describe their preferences and interests in detailed questionnaires.
- Hosts specify the help they need; students note which kinds of help they’d like to provide.

- Students are also required to provide a certificate of enrollment as well as information on relevant experience and motivation.
- Rule of thumb for the amount of help: 1 m<sup>2</sup> of living space corresponds to 1 hour of help per month (exceptions are possible but must be agreed in advance).
- For the duration of their stay, the student is covered by accident and liability insurance through the Studierendenwerk.
- Wohnen für Hilfe continues until the housing agreement ends or the student finishes their studies. After that, a new agreement must be negotiated if the student wants to keep living there.

### Good to Know

- Rooms close to the university are rather unlikely – but there's usually good access to public transport.
- The placement service is free of charge.

More information: [sw-ka.de/wohnpartnerschaften](https://sw-ka.de/wohnpartnerschaften)

## 3. Dormitories in Karlsruhe

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### Studierendenwerk Dormitories

Overview and online application: [sw-ka.de](https://sw-ka.de) – Dormitories

### Private Dormitories

- Hans-Freudenberg-Kolleg – [hfk-online.de](https://hfk-online.de)
- Hermann-Ehlers-Kolleg – [hek.whka.de](https://hek.whka.de)
- Hans-Dickmann-Kolleg (HaDiKo) – [hadiko.de](https://hadiko.de)
- Domus7 (formerly Karl-Hans-Albrecht-Haus) – [domus7.org](https://domus7.org)
- Kolleg am Ring (formerly a nurses' residence) – [kar.whka.de](https://kar.whka.de)
- Evangelisches Studentinnenwohnheim (women only) – [ev-studentinnenwohnheim.de](https://ev-studentinnenwohnheim.de)
- Studentenwohnheim Hans-Wolfgang-Heidland-Haus – [weechstrasse.de](https://weechstrasse.de)
- Familienheim Karlsruhe eG – [familienheim-karlsruhe.de](https://familienheim-karlsruhe.de)
- Insterburg - <https://www.insterburg.org/en/index.html>

Summary of all options (AStA KIT): [asta-kit.de](https://asta-kit.de) – Housing Search

## 4. Room, Apartment, or Shared Flat (WG) from Private Landlords

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Usually more expensive, but easier to find and more individual than a dormitory room.

- [WG-Gesucht.de](https://wg-gesucht.de)
- Studierendenwerk room placement service – [sw-ka.de/privatzimmer](https://sw-ka.de/privatzimmer)
- [Quoka.de](https://quoka.de)

- [Kleinanzeigen.de](https://www.kleinanzeigen.de)
- ImmobilienScout24 – [immobilienscout24.de](https://www.immobilienscout24.de)
- Immowelt – [immowelt.de](https://www.immowelt.de)
- Studipilot – Studierendenwerk Facebook group for private room listings: [facebook.com/Studipilot](https://facebook.com/Studipilot)

## 5. Emergency Accommodation and Personal Advice

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- AStA Emergency Accommodation – [asta-kit.de/notunterkuenfte](https://asta-kit.de/notunterkuenfte)
- Youth Hostel Karlsruhe – [jugendherberge.de](https://jugendherberge.de)
- Airbnb – [airbnb.de](https://airbnb.de)
- Studierendenwerk's Wohnungsscout – personal advice for students who haven't (yet) found a dormitory place: [sw-ka.de/wohnungsscout](https://sw-ka.de/wohnungsscout)

## 6. Safety Notice

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 **Beware of dubious providers:** When searching for housing, students repeatedly fall victim to fraudulent listings that demand payment in advance, before any lease has been signed or viewing has taken place.

Never pay anything in advance, and report suspicious listings to the Studierendenwerk or the relevant platform.