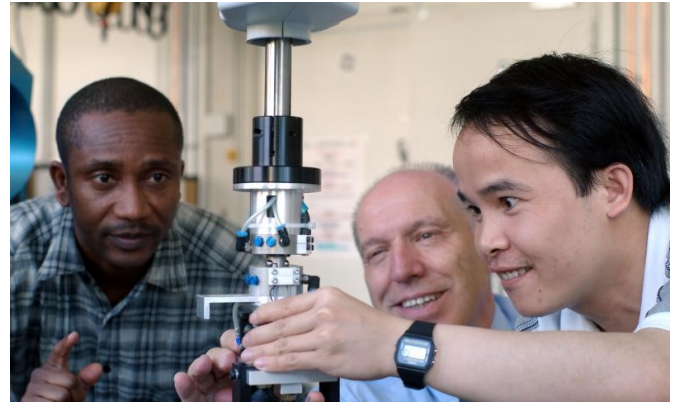




Studying in Siegen

Details relating
to "registration"





The City of Siegen grants a public transport allowance equivalent to the price of a Regional Semester Ticket (currently EUR 123.10) to those students who register their principal residence in Siegen for the first time. The same applies to those students who have already registered in Siegen as their secondary place of residence and subsequently change this status from secondary to principal place of residence.

This leaflet provides answers to some of the most frequently asked questions relating to new registrations and changes in address.

Why do I have to register in Siegen or provide notification of a change in address?

In line with the provisions set out in the Federal Act on Registration (Bundesmeldegesetz), anyone who moves into a residence is obliged to register with the local registration authorities. Under the provisions of the Act, "moving into a residence" means that such a residence is used for the purpose of living or sleeping on a somewhat regular basis. A residence is defined as any closed space used for living or sleeping, i.e. also a room in student halls of residence, a shared house/flat or any form of subtenancy.

When and where do I have to register?

Essentially, registration shall take place within two weeks of moving in, but registration at a later stage will not necessarily result in an administrative fine. Registration is free of charge and can be completed at one of the four Bürgerbüros (citizens' centres) in Siegen. For details about the Bürgerbüros, opening hours and the necessary documents or forms, please visit the following website: www.siegen.de/buergerbueros.

When do I have to register my principal residence in Siegen? Can I choose?

Here, too, the Federal Act on Registration provides specific answers. If someone has multiple residences, one of these residences shall be his or her principal residence. There is no right of choice in this case. Instead, the type of residence is determined on the basis of actual use, i.e. the residence predominantly used is considered to be the principal residence. Exceptions to this rule only apply to married couples, registered partners and parents of underage children (minors). In these cases, the principal residence is considered to be the residence mainly used by the family.

The extent of use is generally determined for a period of one year by simply comparing the days of use of the residences.

Other factors such as the size of the residence, social ties or personal preferences are irrelevant, as are associated advantages and disadvantages for the person affected.

Have you registered yet?

When registering your principal residence, the City of Siegen will reimburse you - once - for the cost of a Regional Semester Ticket as a special welcome (currently EUR 123.10). Simply present the confirmation of registration and your student ID at the AStA office of the University of Siegen and the amount will be transferred to your bank account.

For further information, please contact:

AStA der Universität, phone: (0271) 740-4600, or visit:

www.asta.uni-siegen.de.



Second home tax?

As from 1 January 2015, a second home tax is levied when you register a secondary residence.

see: www.siegen.de/zweitwohnungssteuer.

What are the consequences of transferring your principal residence to Siegen?

...with regard to BAföG benefits?

In the case of students, the Studierendenwerk (student services organisation) affiliated with the University is responsible for granting benefits; the student's place of residence is irrelevant. For further information, please visit:

www.studierendenwerk-siegen.de.

... with regard to child benefit?

Entitlement to child benefit is independent of the principal place of residence. The only factors of importance are age and personal income. For further information, please visit:

www.arbeitsagentur.de

[»Privatpersonen« | »Familie und Kinder«].

... with regard to tax benefits for parents?

Registration laws are of no relevance to tax benefits for parents. Child allowances, education allowance and tax-specific benefits for homebuilders are granted if there is a common residence. Registration with a secondary residence is sufficient in these cases. For further information relating to these topics, please visit:

www.arbeitsagentur.de

[»Privatpersonen« | »Familie und Kinder«].



... with regard to insurance policies?

Health insurance, nursing/care insurance, pension insurance and life assurance are independent of the principal place of residence. Unmarried children who have reached the age of majority (18 in Germany) usually remain covered by their parents' liability insurance for as long as they are not financially independent.

This insurance cover usually ends upon completion of studies or upon reaching the age of 25. Some insurance contracts include clauses whereby the insurance cover is linked to membership of the parents' household. If you change your principal place of residence, it is advisable to take a closer look at your insurance documents or obtain information from the insurance company.

... with regard to the issuance of a residents' parking permit?

To ensure that residents in areas with a difficult parking situation are able to park near their homes, some districts of Siegen have designated residents' parking spaces. As a rule, you can only obtain a residents' parking permit to use these parking spaces if you are registered with your principal or secondary residence in the district concerned.

see: www.siegen.de/anwohnerparken.

... with regard to housing benefit?

An application for housing benefit can be made for principal and secondary residence. For further requirements and exceptions, please see:

www.siegen.de/wohngeld.



... with regard to voting?

The active right to vote can only be exercised at the principal place of residence.

... with regard to passports and identity cards?

When registering your principal residence, the address in the documents is simply changed; you will not have to request any new documents.

After the expiry of the period of validity, however, new documents are only issued at the principal place of residence.

... with regard to taxes I have to pay?

Your income tax (if you have taxable income) will be paid by your employer to the tax office specified on your electronic income tax card/income tax certificate. Whether you are registered with a principal or secondary residence is of no relevance to the level of taxation.

... with regard to radio and TV licence fees?

The obligation to pay licence fees exists irrespective of provisions relating to registration. For further details and information of the possible exemption from licence fees, please visit:

www.rundfunkbeitrag.de.

... with regard to foreign students?

Students who maintain their home abroad alongside their domestic residence cannot establish a secondary residence in Siegen. Irrespective of the scope of use, you must register your principal residence in Siegen. If you have several residences in Germany, the same regulations apply as for German citizens.

The immigration authorities at the location of the principal residence are responsible for issuing and renewing residence permits.

Any other questions?

Should you have any further questions, please get in touch with a member of the Universitätsstadt Siegen team. We look forward to assisting you.

All the best for your studies in Siegen!



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Bildnachweis: © Universität Siegen, Stadt Siegen
Stand: September 2023