

# FAQs "Wohngeld" (Housing Allowance/ Housing Benefit)



Am I eligible for Wohngeld? And if so, where and how can I apply? Questions like these often arise regarding Wohngeld during your studies. In our overview, we try to provide the answers to most of these questions.

**Please keep in mind, that these are only hints, therefore our list does not claim to be complete.**

## Note, international students:

Please make sure to contact our social counselling service before submitting an application, as certain services may have a negative effect on your residence status.

## What is "Wohngeld"?

Wohngeld supports people with low incomes with their housing costs and must be applied for at the local housing allowance office (Wohngeldbehörde). However, students are rarely entitled to Wohngeld.

The legal regulations can be found in the so-called Wohngeldgesetz (WoGG) and in the Wohngeldverordnung (WoGV).

## Is it possible to get Wohngeld in addition to parental maintenance or BAföG?

**No.** The basic requirement for students to be able to apply for Wohngeld is a BAföG rejection „on the merits“ and thus no entitlement to BAföG (see § 20 paragraph 2 Wohngeldgesetz). However, students who do not receive BAföG because their parents' and spouse's income or their own income/assets are too high are excluded from Wohngeld. In this case, the parents and spouses/ life partners are obliged to pay maintenance.

**An important exception could be:** A member in the joint household is not a student, e.g. a child. The exception does not count for shared flats – with a contract in a shared flat you count as an individual.

## Students can apply for Wohngeld if, for example:

- they are studying a second degree,
- they are pursuing doctoral studies,
- they change their course of study after the 2nd semester and then are no longer entitled to BAföG,

- they exceed their prescribed period of studies NOT because of a recognised reason like an own illness, pregnancy, taking care of children, care for a relative
- they have not been able to present sufficient credit points (ECTS) for a positive proof of performance after their 4<sup>th</sup> or 5th semester (according to § 48 BAföG),
- they receive BAföG exclusively as a loan for graduation.

**Note:** Before applying for Wohngeld, a BAföG application must ALWAYS be submitted. Whether you are or are not entitled to BAföG support is determined by the responsible office for educational support (Amt für Ausbildungsförderung) at the place of study. The refusal of BAföG is then considered as proof to the Wohngeldbehörde.

## What monthly income do I need to prove?

Since Wohngeld is only a subsidy to the housing costs, the applicant must prove that sufficient income is available to cover the basic monthly living expenses (e.g. for food, health insurance, study expenses). The purpose of paying Wohngeld is to enable eligible students to cover their monthly rental costs. This mentioned proof of coverage of living expenses must be provided monthly by the applicant in order to be entitled to Wohngeld. It is difficult to calculate an exact amount for the costs of living, as this depends on many individual factors such as the number and age of household members. It is best to calculate different possibilities with the online “Wohngeldrechner” (Housing Allowance Calculator) of the Senate Administration of Berlin.



### Website Wohngeld calculator:

<https://ssl.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de/wohnen/wohngeld/diwoformular.shtml>

(Select the federal state of Saxony at A.1. At A.2 please select your city/federal state)

## What counts as income?

- loans or credits (bank or private)
- maintenance from parents, spouses/life partners
- wages earned from a job or profit from self-employment
- own child benefit
- monthly withdrawals of the same amount from a savings account
- half-orphan pension
- (one-time) cash gift from family members

**Attention:** Mixed financing is especially popular with students, e.g. loan, job, pocket money from grandparents. All income must be listed.

**Note:** A regular monthly income makes it easier for the application procedure and minimizes the risk of paying back money to the Wohngeldbehörde. When submitting the application, a forecast of the expected income for the coming year must be given. After the income is drawn, the assumed income is compared with the actual income in the reference months. The result could be an additional payment from the authority but also a reclaim from you for already paid housing allowance.

## What about the place of residency?

Wohngeld can be applied for the apartment where you have your centre of life – usually for the apartment where you have registered your main residency (§2 WoGG).

## Where can I apply for Wohngeld in Leipzig?



### Website Wohngeldbehörde:

You will find more information and contact details on this website (only in German):  
<http://www.leipzig.de/wohngeld>

# Social Counselling Service



## Contact

Studentenwerk Leipzig — Social Counselling

Post address: Goethestraße 6, 04109 Leipzig

E-Mail: [sozialberatung@studentenwerk-leipzig.de](mailto:sozialberatung@studentenwerk-leipzig.de)



[www.studentenwerk-leipzig.de/beratung-soziales/sozialberatung](http://www.studentenwerk-leipzig.de/beratung-soziales/sozialberatung)

## Your Advantages

- ✓ detailed advice on your individual situation, support for making your decision
- ✓ consultation is free of charge, anonymous consultation upon request
- ✓ We are sworn to professional secrecy

The social counselling team of the Studentenwerk Leipzig will also be happy to advise you on other possible social benefits - e.g. half-orphan's pension, parental allowance, maternity allowance or ALG I/ Bürgergeld.