

## FAQ

*... here we have compiled a list of questions that we are frequently asked. If you cannot find the answer to your question in this list, please feel free to see us in person.*

### **But first ... Who was Helmut Schmidt?**

Former Chancellor Dr. h. c. mult. Helmut Schmidt (1918 – 2015), a native of Hamburg and honorary citizen of his hometown, has been the namesake of our university since 15 December 2003.

During his time as Minister of Defence (1969–1972), Helmut Schmidt founded the universities of the Federal Armed Forces in Hamburg and Munich in 1972; both universities began teaching on 1 October 1973.

As a visionary and political pragmatist, Helmut Schmidt thus had a decisive influence on the image of the modern Bundeswehr, turned the officer's profession into an academic one, and created an important educational institution for a modern, academically well-trained leadership level in the Federal Armed Forces.

His decision to establish the Bundeswehr universities was significantly influenced by his personal experiences as a young officer in the German Wehrmacht. During an exchange with students at the university, which he always enjoyed, he responded to a young officer cadet's question about the 'why' with 'Never again stupid officers'.

## CAMPUS

### **HSU/UniBw H is a military security area – what does it mean?**

Helmut Schmidt University/ UniBw H is one of two universities under the jurisdiction of the Federal Ministry of Defence; as a military security area, special security regulations apply here.

The campus is closed to public transport and access to the university grounds is generally via the main entrance on Holstenhofweg, where security personnel carry out identity checks – it is therefore essential to carry your identity card or a different form of identification with you.

You will then be granted access to the campus grounds as part of the pass exchange procedure.

### **Where is the campus located?**

The HSU/UniBw H campus is located in Jenfeld, a district in the east of Hamburg.

You can find directions [here](#)

## How do I get on campus?

As the campus is a military security area, special security regulations apply.

Members of the university have access to the grounds via several entrances using their transponder (dongle).

Guests and persons who do not have a transponder (dongle) should use the main entrance of HSU/ UniBw H on Holstenhofweg. Security personnel at the guard will check your identity at the entrance, so it is essential that you carry your ID or a different form of identification along.

## Can I park on campus?

Members of HSU/ UniBw H can park on campus if they have a parking permit. Visitors and guests are only permitted to park after registering in advance and leaving their ID at the guard; we recommend contacting your host in advance.

## Where do I find something to drink and eat on campus?

[Here](#) you will find all the options on campus.

## Do I have Wi-Fi on campus?

Guests and visitors have free access via FreeHSU.

## Where do I find the Welcome Office?

The Welcome Office is located in the main building (H 01) on the first floor, directly next to the staircase of the RED SQUARE, rooms 1301 and 1302.

# HOUSING

## Can I get accommodation on campus?

There is a small number of guest rooms available for visiting fellows and guests, which can be used for a short period of time for a small fee, subject to certain conditions and availability.

If you are interested, please contact the Welcome Office at [welcome@hsu.hamburg](mailto:welcome@hsu.hamburg)

## Is it possible that my partner/family live with me on campus?

Unfortunately, that is not possible, not even for a short stay.

### **Are pets allowed in the guesthouse?**

No, pets of any kind are not allowed.

### **How are the rooms furnished?**

The rooms are simply and pragmatically furnished with a bed, a table, a chair, a wardrobe, a small refrigerator, a TV, Wi-Fi and a small bathroom.

There is a well-equipped common kitchen on the living area with a stove, a fridge and a microwave – but no dishes; cutlery, crockery, pots etc. must be provided by you and taken away when you move out.

The strict observance of the usual hygiene regulations is required for the use of the kitchen!

### **Do I need to bring bed linen?**

No, bed linen and towels are provided and can be changed weekly.

### **Is there a television in the room?**

Yes.

### **Will my room be cleaned?**

Yes, the room is cleaned daily.

### **Can I do my laundry on campus?**

Unfortunately, this is not possible. The nearest laundromat “Andis SB Waschcenter” is located at Manshardtstrasse 113 in 22119 Hamburg; it is open Monday to Friday from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

### **Electricity: What plugs (adapters) do I need?**

The sockets in German homes are designed for type F and type C plugs – also known as Euro plugs – (220-240 volts/50 Hz a/c). You may need to bring an adapter with you.

### **Can the university help me find accommodation in Hamburg?**

Unfortunately, HSU/UniBw H is unable to assist you in finding accommodation.

[Here](#) you will find further information and links to housing portals.

## CHILD CARE

### Does HSU/UniBw H have its own toddler group?

Yes, every Monday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, the toddler group meets in our **Catholic University Community (KHG)** in Maximilian-Kolbe-Haus, Oktaviostrasse 76, 22043 Hamburg; registration is required at [khg@hsu.hamburg](mailto:khg@hsu.hamburg)

### Does HSU/UniBw H have its own nursery?

No, HSU/ UniBw H does not have its own nursery, but it does have reserved places (known as "Belegplätze") at two nursery schools (KiTa) located in the immediate vicinity of the university. For the AWO KiTa in Stoltenstraße, the minimum age for your child is 1 year, and for the WABE KiTa in Elfsaal, it is 26 weeks.

**AWO KiTa:** Stoltenstrasse 52, <https://www.kita-awo-hamburg.de/kita/kindertagesstaette-stoltenstrasse>

**WABE KiTa:** Elfsaal 20/Raja-Ilinauk-Str. 8a, <https://www.wabe.de/standort/wabe-kita-elfsaal/>

These reserved places are available to members of the university; to claim your entitlement to a nursery place, you first need a so-called nursery voucher, which you can apply for online at the City of Hamburg service portal or in person at your local district office. Further information can be found here

<https://www.hamburg.de/politik-und-verwaltung/behoerden/bsfb/familie/kinderbetreuung/start-35660>

If you have specific questions about the two nursery schools and the application process, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## MOBILE PHONES/ INTERNET

### How does mobile phone service work in Germany?

There are two ways to equip your mobile phone with a German SIM card: you can either purchase a prepaid card or sign a contract with a mobile phone provider.

With a mobile phone contract, you choose a specific tariff from one of the many mobile phone providers and pay the corresponding price each month. It is important to note that some contracts have a minimum term. This means that you cannot terminate the contract during this period and must pay the agreed price until the end of the minimum term.

The same applies if you sign a telephone and internet contract for your home. In addition to different tariff conditions, there are often hidden costs such as connection fees, fees for a security package or the provision of a router. Here, too, contracts are usually concluded for a minimum term.

## BANK DETAILS

### Do I need a bank account?

If you will stay in Germany for a longer period of time and have also registered your place of residence here, it is advisable to open a German current account.

If you receive a salary from HSU/ UniBw H, you are required to open a German bank account, as HSU/ UniBw H can only pay salaries into German accounts.

You can choose between a branch bank and a direct bank. While branch banks are usually located locally, direct banks conduct their banking business digitally and online.

For salary payments, you must open a current account; these are available with different terms and conditions and different fee models (fee-based/free of charge). We recommend that you take advantage of the advisory services offered by the various banks. Some banks also offer this service online and in English. To open an account, you will usually need a valid passport and/or residence permit, your registration certificate and your tax identification number.

## INSURANCE

### What kind of insurance do I need?

The insurance system in Germany is very complex and too complicated for us to answer with legal certainty.

Health insurance is compulsory in Germany, regardless of personal circumstances and status.

There are other types of insurance, particularly social insurance, that are compulsory, and there are types of insurance that are optional.

If you are coming to HSU/UniBw H as an employee, you will find your contact persons in Department IV, where you will receive comprehensive advice.

For all other internationals, we are happy to assist you at the Welcome Office.

For further information please look at <https://www.euraxess.de/germany/information-assistance/social-security-and-optional-insurances>

## END OF YOUR STAY IN GERMANY

### What do I need to bear in mind when leaving Germany?

#### Bank account

If you do not plan to return to Germany, we recommend that you close your bank account.

You can do this either in person at your bank or by post. If you do this by post, you must provide the account number and the account holder(s) of the account to be closed, as well as the bank details (IBAN, BIC, SWIFT, etc.) and the account number of the account to which the remaining balance or interest is to be paid. In addition, the date and signature(s) of the account holder(s) are required. In the case of termination at the bank, all joint account holders must be present, and the remaining balance is usually paid out in cash. There may be a fee for closing the account.

#### Insurance

Most of your insurance policies will have been taken out for a limited period covering your stay. These policies usually expire and do not need to be cancelled; however, we recommend that you check with your insurance provider to ensure that this is the case and that there will be no automatic renewal.

If you have insurance policies that are not limited in duration, you must cancel them – please note the cancellation periods. Here, too, we recommend that you contact your insurance provider in good time to clarify the situation.

#### Residence

If you leave Germany, you must deregister your residence at the Residents' Registration Office/Customer Centre. You do not need an appointment to deregister.

If you move within Germany, simply register at your new place of residence – your deregistration in Hamburg will then take place automatically.