



## Good to know!

### Finding an apartment in Bremen



#### I am looking for an apartment...

... but how to find one? Here are some helpful tips and hints. First of all, it is important that you consider the following questions:

- Would you prefer to live alone, or in a shared apartment (short: WG)?
- How much money do you have for the rents?
- Which part of the City would you prefer to live in?
- How big should the apartment be and how many rooms do you want to have?

It is very difficult to find an apartment in Bremen. The more flexible you are, the faster you will find something. Nevertheless, it is also very important to pay attention to the state the apartment is in. Don't just accept any apartment.



#### What do I need to find an apartment?

- An email address: many landlords prefer to be contacted by email.
- Apartment eligibility permit (Wohnberechtigungsschein, short: WBS): this is a document for people who have little money to pay the rent. With this document, you can rent a cheap apartment. If you get money from the Jobcenter or Social Welfare Office (Sozialamt), you can get this paper for free. If you do not get any money from the Jobcenter or the Sozialamt, it costs 15 Euros. To get the WBS, you need a residence permit or German citizenship.

You can apply for the WBS here:

Die Senatorin für Klimaschutz,  
Umwelt, Wohnungsbau –  
Referat Wohnungswesen,  
Contrescarpe 73, 28195 Bremen

It takes about three weeks until you get an answer.

#### Tips and hints

- ✓ You have an appointment to view an apartment and you do not want to go by yourself? The Lotsenprogramm is there for you! Contact us in the Beratungscafé of Fluchtraum Bremen e.V.

#### Viewing an apartment

You got an appointment to view a place? Great! Look out for these things:

- Many people are looking for an apartment and therefore, it is important to make a good impression. So always be on time for the visiting appointments.
- Pay particular attention to mold or damp, musty smells in the corners above and below and in rooms such as in the kitchen, storage rooms or bathrooms.
- Has the apartment been renovated or does it need a lot of work?
- You can also take pictures of the apartment.



### Tips and hints

- ✓ Apply for the apartment eligibility permit before a visit, as it is best to present it directly.
- ✓ Make the application for the costs to be borne by the Job Center or the Office for Social and Welfare Services personally. You can then take the certificate directly with you and give it to the landlord.
- ✓ Do not pay any money to individuals to find an apartment! These offers are usually fraudulent. Often these apartments do not exist or are in very bad condition.
- ✓ Do not sign anything that you didn't understand completely.

### Residence status and searching for an apartment

- Your residence status is also important when searching for accommodation. If you have a residence permit, you can use the housing offers without restrictions, but this is not the case for people with Indulgence-status (Duldung).
- Some housing associations sometimes do not accept people with a Duldung and do not even place them on a waiting list. Then the only remaining option is the private housing market.



### Where can I find housing offers?

In Bremen you have three options: the internet, newspaper advertisements and notices or directly from the housing associations.

**Internet:** On the Internet you will find a variety of websites, where you can look for apartments. Here is a brief overview of the most important ones:

- "Schwarzes Brett" on the Website: [www.bremen.de](http://www.bremen.de)
- "Ebay Kleinanzeigen" /Ebay Adverts
- "WG Gesucht" (for shared apartments)
- Weser courier (Newspaper)
- Other websites: Immobilienscout24, Immonet and others

**Newspapers and notices:** Apartments can also be found in newspapers or directly on notice boards in public places. For example:

- Weser Kurier, Weser Report and other newspapers
- Notices on notice boards, for example in supermarkets or directly on the windows of apartments to be rented.

**Bremen housing associations:**

- Gewoba
- Vonovia
- Brebau
- Gewosie Bremen-Nord
- Espabau
- WGS Bremen
- Grand City Property Bremen-Nord, Tenever