



## Housing Information for Free University

### **Applying for University Housing:**

Some time after you submit your Free University application and it is processed, you will receive an e-mail directly from Free University regarding the housing options they offer (Unterbringung). You will be provided with the following university-sponsored housing options and a link to the online application:

- **Single-occupancy apartments at Celciusstrasse**
- **Studentenwerk dorm buildings**
- **Studentendorf Schlachtensee (not recommended)**

Refer to Your Program Guide for detailed information regarding these options, as well as private housing: <http://www.eap.ucop.edu/pub/guidebooks/1112/Germany.pdf>

**Note that we strongly discourage you from seeking a room at the Studentendorf Schlachtensee.**

You can read more about the housing options here:

<http://www.fu-berlin.de/sites/en/unterbringung/optionen/index.html>

### **Advice on Housing in Berlin:**

Dormitories are the simplest solution for finding housing, and they are comparatively cheap. However, previous students strongly recommend against living in the dorms for the following reasons:

- They are on the outskirts of the city
- Dorms tend to be isolated and distant from the universities, shops, clubs, cheap ethnic restaurants, and other desirable aspects of student life
- Dorm life in Berlin is not the same as the UC dorm experience; there is seldom a community that interacts together

The study center encourages students to find a Wohngemeinschaft (WG), or collective living situation, with German-speaking students. It would be the best way to become fluent, and to connect to German student life.

If you want to find a room in a WG, you will probably not be able to begin your search in earnest until you get to Berlin and can meet with potential housemates in person. While you are looking, you can live in a youth hostel or choose to do a Zwischenmiete (sublet a room in a WG while one of the residents is out of town). You will usually search for your WGs online. If you want to see an example of a website for a WG search, go to <http://www.wg-gesucht.de>. The study center will be sending detailed information and many more WG websites later. For students attending the ILP, it is to your advantage that you will be in Berlin before the semester starts. The search is a great chance to see how students in Germany live.

If you do not feel comfortable waiting until you arrive in Berlin to secure your housing, you should consider signing up for the dorms once you are contacted by Free University.

Please refer to the Housing & Meals section of **Your Program Guide** for more information.