



## Welcome to Seeheim!

Are you new to the area?  
Never lived in Germany before?  
Then the following information might be useful for you:

If you should need further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the **Welcome Team**  
**SISS:**

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**1. Vorsitzender**

Klaus-Jürgen Hoffie  
Staatsminister a.D.

**2. Vorsitzender**

Christel Fleischmann

Kreisbeigeordneter des Landkreis Darmstadt-Dieburg

**Schatzmeister**

Herwarth Brune



Deutschland  
Land der Ideen  
Ausgewählter Ort 2007



## EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

Police: 110

Fire station: 112

Emergency doctor: 112

## HOSPITALS:

- Kreiskrankenhaus Seeheim-Jugenheim , 64342 Seeheim-**Jugenheim**, Hauptstraße 30, Tel.: 06257-5080
- Städtische Kliniken, 64283 Darmstadt, Grafenstraße 9, Tel.: 06151-1070
- **Alice Hospital, 64287 Darmstadt, Dieburger Straße 31, Tel.: 06151-4020** – this hospital is very well known for the ‚children emergency center‘, so you might keep this name and address in reach. Also for future parents, this might be the place to go to for giving birth.

## PHARMACIES:

There are pharmacies in almost every smaller town, however they are usually open from 8:30 to 12:30 p.m., and from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m.; Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.! The pharmacies in the city center of bigger cities (Darmstadt/ Frankfurt.) are usually open all day (8:30 a.m. until 06:30 p.m.) from Monday to Saturday. For emergencies there is one pharmacy that is opened after store hours in the area. They usually have a link ‚Notdienst‘ (= on duty for emergencies) on their webpage. Once you have figured out the closest pharmacy to your home, I am happy to help you to find the right link. So you are all set for unexpected sickness.

## DOCTORS:

As there are many different specialists you might want to see, I would recommend that you ask around amongst the school community. Usually there is someone who can recommend an English-speaking doctor in your area. There is as well a list of doctors that have been recommended by SISS parents. We are happy to forward that list to you.

## DRIVERS LICENSE:

Depending on the country you are coming from (EU or NON EU), you might have to get your driver license translated, you might need to pass a test, or you are able to keep your license and drive in Germany. For details there is information on the website of ADAC (German AAA). As usual the information is in English. Let us know if you need information about driving in Germany. We are happy to check that for you! Please provide us with information where it was issued, how long it is still valid, which vehicles you are allowed to drive.

## LIVING:

Most known websites to look for a flat/ house are:

[www.immobilienscout24.de](http://www.immobilienscout24.de)

[www.immonet.de](http://www.immonet.de)

[www.immowelt.de](http://www.immowelt.de)

Those websites normally ask for a zip-code or the name of the town. Further through the program you are able to choose between renting/buying (mieten/kaufen) and flat/house (Wohnung/Haus).



SISS is lucky to have a very successful real estate agent amongst the parents. Have a look at the website: **[www.immoprofi-zahedi.de](http://www.immoprofi-zahedi.de)**. Mr. Zahedi and his team have helped many of our parents to buy or sell their properties. They work very discrete and professional. Although 'ImmoProfi Andre Zahedi' does not offer a lot of places to rent, it might be worth calling or e-mailing his team, to check if something is coming up. Most of his staff speaks English! They also know the area very well and might be able to give you a 'heads-up' on prices and fees that you will have to face moving to Germany. On the website you can also find a lot of good photos of the properties they are selling. This should also help you to get an idea of the style of living in Germany.

Be prepared to put down quite a bit of money for finding a home. If you are renting a place, you usually face extra costs of up to 4 (net) months of rent for the owner's deposit and the estate agent. If you plan on buying a property the estate agent usually charges 5-6% of the asking price. Sometimes the companies you are working for take care of the deposit and eventually of the estate agents costs as well. **ASK THEM!** There is also a 'word-of-mouth' market for properties and flats, however you will have to be **here** before becoming part of it. Have a look at the information boards at school as well.

If you are renting a place (house or flat), the water and electricity normally are already set-up for you. You will have to choose a new provider and let them know the necessary details by e-mail or phone (make sure you know where the meters are – normally you check the meter numbers with your landlord, so both of you know at what point you are taking over). The garbage costs and other extras are normally covered with the 'Nebenkosten'. It is a certain amount that is added to your rent every month. You will have to take care of electricity, water and heating by yourself. This is normally done with an estimate depending on previous usage. If you use less than the person/ family before, the costs normally get deducted after the first year, so the companies do not have to reimburse a huge sum to you at the end of the year. If you use more than the previous tenant be prepared for a bill in January from the provider of electricity, water and heating!

Be prepared to 'buy' the kitchen of any rental apartment from the previous tenant for a certain amount (depending the size and age of the electric devices)!

For any questions regarding the important topic of 'living', please do contact us if you feel like you need some more information. There is so much more to add, however we wanted to keep this list 'basic'.

## APPLIANCES:

If you move to Germany from a country that uses a different voltage system, you might want to replace your appliances (or sell the old ones in your current location). To shop for new appliances we have 2 big companies here in Germany: Media Markt ([www.mediamarkt.de](http://www.mediamarkt.de)) and Saturn ([www.saturn.de](http://www.saturn.de)). They do have an online-shop, however only in German. If you know the brand and the item you need, you can maybe figure out how much the item would be. If that is not an option, go to the store closest to you. Both of them have branches in Darmstadt! Currently there are still a lot of American soldiers in the area who are being shipped out of Germany- these folks are often getting rid of their German appliances for very little. The website to check is <https://www.class-world.eu/>

## LANGUAGE LESSONS:

<http://www.berlitz.com/Contact/Welcome-to-Berlitz/85/countryid--31>

<http://www.fuu-darmstadt-languages.eu>

<http://www.goethe.de/ins/de/enindex.htm>



The first two companies have offices in Darmstadt, the last one (Göthe-Institut) offers language lessons in either Frankfurt or Mannheim/ Heidelberg.

Although language lessons might not be your first priority, consider learning some basics before you move here, or once you arrive. A lot of Germans can understand English now-a-days, however they might not feel confident to talk to you in English. The older people (>60) are normally not able to communicate in English at all (with some exceptions of course). So make sure you buy a language guide and mark the most important words like: grocery store, milk, names of fruit and vegetables, flour, sugar, salt, rice, noodles, potatoes.... things that you use every day, and will appear on your first shopping list!

## GROCERIES:

For food shopping you have the choice between several big chains:

- -REAL ([www.real.de](http://www.real.de)) – biggest grocery stores in the area, food, health & beauty care, DIY , home & garden...!
- -REWE ([www.rewe.de](http://www.rewe.de)) – food, some health & beauty care, journals
- -EDEKA ([www.edeka.de](http://www.edeka.de)) – food, some health & beauty care, journals
- -LIDL ([www.lidl.de](http://www.lidl.de)) – discount store, food, few beauty care articles, inexpensive
- -ALDI –(SÜD) ([www.aldi-sued.de](http://www.aldi-sued.de)) – discount store, food, few beauty care articles, inexpensive
- -PENNY ([www.penny.de](http://www.penny.de)) – discount store, food and a few beauty care articles, inexpensive
- -NETTO ([www.netto.de](http://www.netto.de)) – discount store, food and a few beauty care articles, inexpensive
- -ALNATURA ([www.alnatura.de](http://www.alnatura.de)) – **organic** food, health & beauty care articles.

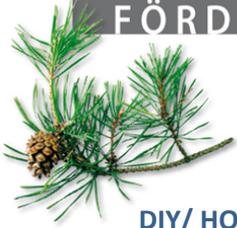
In most towns and villages you find at least one bakery and a butcher for fresh baked goods and meats. Many towns offer markets with fruit and vegetables (some of them on Saturday only, others all week). Most of the above listed supermarkets have their own 'organic' line for **some** of the products.

## LIBRARY:

Darmstadt has a library with lots of English books. You can find details about renting books and other procedures in the link below:

[http://www.darmstadt.de/fileadmin/Bilder-Rubriken/Leben\\_in\\_Darmstadt/bildung/stadtbibliothek/pdf-dateien/3.01\\_Ausleihe\\_A\\_-\\_Z\\_August\\_2014\\_englisch.pdf](http://www.darmstadt.de/fileadmin/Bilder-Rubriken/Leben_in_Darmstadt/bildung/stadtbibliothek/pdf-dateien/3.01_Ausleihe_A_-_Z_August_2014_englisch.pdf)

Address: Justus-Liebig-Haus; Bachgasse 2; 64283 Darmstadt



## DIY/ HOME IMPROVEMENT:

Anything you might need to give your flat/house and garden a finishing touch will be offered at:

- -OBI ([www.obi.de](http://www.obi.de))
- -TOOM Baumarkt ([www.toom-baumarkt.de](http://www.toom-baumarkt.de))
- -Farbenkrauth ([www.farbenkrauth.de](http://www.farbenkrauth.de))
- -HORNBAACH ([www.hornbach.de](http://www.hornbach.de))
- -BAUHAUS ([www.bauhaus.info](http://www.bauhaus.info))

If you still need some furniture, check out [www.ikea.com](http://www.ikea.com) for details in English. They will guide you to the website in German if needed.

There is also a huge furniture store just off from highway A5:  
Segmüller Weiterstadt ([www.segmüller.de](http://www.segmüller.de)), Im Rödling 2, 64331 Weiterstadt  
Tel. 06150 136-0

## SCHOOL:

**Office hours** of SISS Primary are from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. (Primary office phone number: 06257-970350. Mrs. Bookey (06257-9703600) manages the office of SISS Secondary from 8:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. **Please always make sure school administration gets all the changes of your personal situation (new address, new phone number...)!**

SISS can be reached by **public transport!** There is a tram (No. 6/8) passing close to campus that would cover children living in Alsbach (not Alsbach-Hähnlein), Jugenheim, Seeheim, Malchen, and several areas in Darmstadt. There are busses servicing the area of Bickenbach, Ober-Beerbach, Nieder-Beerbach, Stettbach, Hähnlein (not on the same regular basis as the tram). The villages of Bickenbach, Alsbach, Malchen and Seeheim-Jugenheim also offer bicycle paths to school, which are very well frequented during school hours. This information might be useful for older children. **Keep this in mind when you go on your house-hunting tour!**

Do you have younger children that are in need of a **pre-school**? The SBS campus also offers a pre-school just next door to the SISS Primary and Secondary building. You can reach the International Pre-School (**not part of SISS**) via the following e-mail: [contact@preschool.ladadi.de](mailto:contact@preschool.ladadi.de). There is the possibility to sign-up for a German Kindergarten in your village as well. Once you are officially registered in Germany, your youngest family members are entitled to a spot in a Kindergarten of the town/ village. Times of operation might vary. Some offer afternoon activities, some close after midday. This depends on the size of your village/ town. The standard age group for Kindergarten is 3-6 years, however some of them also offer their services for smaller kids.

Please feel free to ask for the list of our Parent Representatives of the different classes. Each class elects 2 parents who support the class with communication (important dates & activities, class bake sales, teacher questions, general concerns, etc.). These parents generally serve 1 year. Elections are at the beginning of every school year.



### SISS COMMUNITY:

During the school year there are all kinds of different events taking place at SISS. From the 'Walkathon' fundraiser to the International Festival; from Bake Sales to Toy Sale; from Halloween Party to Christmas Market – we have it all!

There is a SISS parents '**Facebook**' group. If you want to be added, please contact Mrs. Monique Tauber directly via 'State International School Seeheim (SISS) Parents'. She is the Facebook admin and will be happy to add you to the list!

We will not take care of anything related to visas, passports, title of registration or health insurance. Please check with your company HR Department for support in these areas.

We hope you are going to enjoy your time in Germany and at SISS. Please contact us for any kind of information you need. We will try our best to support you and your family in the beginning of your stay in Germany, until you are happy to go your own ways. Once you get here, we can also help you find sports clubs for you and your family members, music lessons, restaurants...! We will be happy to assist you with the above mentioned topics as well as the rest of your 'TO DO' list. This document is just a basic overview of things we thought you might need to know first thing.

Should you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would be happy to support you during your first weeks in Germany and beyond!

#### Your Welcome Team SISS

SILKE WESP ([wespengermany@gmail.com](mailto:wespengermany@gmail.com))

MARTINA CROPP ([mcropp@pobox.com](mailto:mcropp@pobox.com))

FRAUKE GUIRE ([frauke@guire.net](mailto:frauke@guire.net))

Welcome team SISS

*If you found this little document helpful, please let us know. Is there something missing that would have made your transition easier, or that you would have loved to know beforehand? – send us a little note. Our goal is to make your start in Germany and at SISS as successful as possible. Thank you for your supportive and honest feed-back. We will use it to improve our services.*