Karlsruhe – worth your while!

So, you’re studying or doing an apprenticeship in Karlsruhe? Welcome! This youthful, vibrant city is not only a great place to study, but also to live. Reason enough, surely, to strike roots – and make it your primary place of residence. Particularly since Karlsruhe city council has come up with several special ideas to help you settle in: you will receive a one-off voucher for a “Studi- oder Azubikarte” – the student or apprentice season ticket for public transport in Karlsruhe (“KVV”), shopping vouchers worth 50 Euros. You will also be given the chance to win one of the bikes that have been specially designed for new inhabitants of Karlsruhe. A voucher for an exclusive two-month trial period of a subscription to the bike hire scheme by Swapfiets is also part of the Welcome Package.

Your Primary Place of Residence?

Officially, the definition is “main place of residence”. Anyone moving into a flat is obliged to register within two weeks with the local registration authority (“Einwohnermeldeamt”). If those who are obliged to register have places of residence elsewhere in Germany, they must declare upon registering which of their homes is their primary place of residence. Their primary place of residence is the place at which they spend the majority of their time – the main focus of their lives. Let’s be honest – in the course of your education, don’t you spend most of your time in Karlsruhe? There are all sorts of advantages to be had by declaring Karlsruhe as your primary place of residence.

Were you aware of this?

- **Identification cards** can only be issued or changed at your primary place of residence; German passports are also issued at the holder’s primary place of residence.
- You are only eligible for a **residents’ parking permit** if Karlsruhe is your primary place of residence.
- For the **GEZ** (TV/radio licensing authority) the question of primary or secondary place of residence is irrelevant.
- If you have your own **car** it must be registered at your primary place of residence.
- The entitlement of parents to **child benefit** is unaffected by the location of your primary place of residence.
- **Health insurance**, **nursing care insurance**, **German pension insurance**, and **life insurance policies** are independent of the primary place of residence. In the case of personal liability insurance, domestic students or apprentices are generally covered by their parents’ insurance up to the age of 25 years (in some cases to the age of 27), even when their primary place of residence is where they receive their education. What prevails for insurance policies is the General Terms and Conditions. In the case of **vehicle insurance**, there may be differences in the classification of regions.
- **Income tax cards** always come from your principal place of residence.
- **Tax returns** are dealt with by the tax office at your principal place of residence.
- As far as **tax concessions** for parents are concerned, it is not a Requirement for children to have their parental home recorded as their primary place of residence.
- The **right to vote** can only be exercised at the voter’s primary place of residence.

Kontakt

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Relocate now to receive gifts!

Welcome Package for students and trainees!
**Sign up for exclusive gifts!**

Your education in Karlsruhe — whether at a university, a training company or vocational school — is the start of a whole new stage in your life. Karlsruhe will become the focal point of your life — and it makes sense to make it your primary place of residence. As you must have noticed, Karlsruhe has a whole lot more to offer than "just" universities, apprenticing companies and vocational schools: great pubs and beer gardens, all sorts of different cultural, sporting and leisure activities, the Rhine, lots of green areas in the city; and the Black Forest, Pfalz and Alsace regions are also on the doorstep. Planned with streets radiating in fan shape from a palace, Karlsruhe "the fan-shaped city" attracts thousands of future qualified employees every year. Everyone contributes to the life of the city, and everyone should feel at home here.

With the "Science Bureau of Karlsruhe", the Welcome Package, we offer you a perfect start by allowing you to explore the city on the move and redeem shopping vouchers in retail, gastronomy, and cultural and leisure facilities. The package is available to students of all Karlsruhe universities and trainees whose training company and/or vocational school is located in Karlsruhe.

**1 Season Ticket for Public Transport**

You will receive a voucher for a student and apprentice season ticket for Karlsruhe public transport (KVV). This will give you immediate mobility in your adopted city, allowing you to travel free of charge for 6 months, experiencing for yourself how well Karlsruhe’s tram network works. You can even use it to travel up to 100 km into the surrounding areas.

**5 Shopping Vouchers**

You will also receive shopping vouchers to the value of 50 Euros. These can be redeemed at over 850 points of acceptance in Karlsruhe and the region — in retail outlets, in gastronomy, service providers and cultural and leisure facilities.

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**Win a Draisler Bicycle**

**Draisler bicycle lottery**

When you register to make Karlsruhe your primary place of residence, you will find a lottery ticket in your Welcoming Package. With it you could win one of the exclusive bicycles in the prize lottery, which have been designed especially for new inhabitants of the "fan-shaped city", and are not available from retailers. The winners will then of course be mobile during their studies in Karlsruhe. After all, Karlsruhe is the birthplace of Freiherr von Drais, inventor of the bicycle! The winners will be informed by email.

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**It couldn’t be easier!**

To receive the Welcome Package, you must be a resident of Karlsruhe. Due to the Corona Pandemic, registration will only take place online on the city of Karlsruhe website.

You will need the following to apply for your Welcome Package:
- completed and signed registration form
- power of attorney for the bicycle courier
- completed and signed application for the Welcome Package
- copy of your identity card (or passport)
- certificate of your accommodation
- and your matriculation certificate, training contract or vocational school certificate

You can find the corresponding forms under: [www.erstwohnsitz-ka.de](http://www.erstwohnsitz-ka.de)

All filled out documents have to be send by e-mail to: buergerdienste@oa.karlsruhe.de

After examination of your documents, you will receive a notification with the request to make an appointment at Bürgerbüro Karlsruhe via E-Mail. During the appointment you will receive a written confirmation of your registration and a new address label for your identity documents. The Welcome Package will then be sent to you by a commissioned bicycle courier delivered.

At the beginning of each academic and training year, the issue of the Welcome Package also includes a student and trainee desk. You will find all information about this on our website in autumn.

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All important information about the registration of your primary residence, the issue of the Welcome Package, whether your training company will be present or for the bicycle lottery you can find under: [www.erstwohnsitz-ka.de](http://www.erstwohnsitz-ka.de)