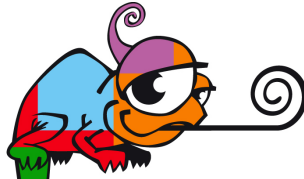


Berlin

Survival guide



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Welcome in Berlin!

Worrying about your arrival in this new country? No problem!

Absolutely has prepared a few tips for you...



1. Moving to Berlin

a. Where to live?

We won't advise you to live near the school, especially in one of the residence halls next to it... There is nothing to do around, apart from visiting Charlottenburg Castle and you will definitely regret to be so far from Berlin's lively places! Moreover you will soon discover it's not very difficult to find something better and maybe cheaper...

Here is some piece of advice:

➤ East Berlin

Prenzlauer Berg and **Mitte** are areas where most of ESCP-EAP students live: they are rather central and the school is nonetheless within reach (30-40 minutes maximum). Both are among the most bustling districts in Berlin and very young as well. Rents are cheap and most apartments already refurbished. There are a lot of places to go out, and we can promise you that there are too many to visit all of them in just a year... So, be prepared to stay in Berlin if you choose to live around.

Rents in Mitte can be a bit more expensive (yet reasonable) but it can also be a bit more difficult to find a room in the district in comparison with Prenzlauer Berg. But it's worth it. **Friedrichshain** is also very lively and young, although farther away from the school. The district is not entirely renovated yet and rents can therefore be cheaper.

Where to stay in Prenzlauer Berg? Between Rosa-Luxemburg Platz and Schönhauser Allee (U2) or Rosenthaler Platz and Bernauer Straße (U8)

Where to stay in Mitte? Hackescher Markt (S-Bahn), Alexander Platz (S-Bahn), Oranienburger Tor (U6), Weinmeisterstrasse (U8)

Where to stay in Friedrichshain? Ostkreuz (S-Bahn), Warschauerstrasse (U1), Frankfurter Tor (U5), Frankfurter Alle (S-Bahn)

➤ West Berlin

ESCP-EAP Berlin is in **Charlottenburg**: thus it could be interesting to target a flat in this area. However Charlottenburg is not the liveliest place in Berlin and you will quickly notice that going out will be much easier if you live closer to Mitte. Flats in North **Schöneberg** are mostly "Altbau" with high ceilings and a bit more expensive than in the East. Yet you will find numerous shops (Ku'damm, its shops and the KadeWe) and restaurants (around Wittenbergplatz and Nollendorfplatz) there.

Where to stay in Charlottenburg? Close to the school but once again, only if you are in dire straits

Where to stay in Schöneberg? Along the U2 line between Nollendorfplatz and Zoologischer Garten

b. How to find a flat share?

Finding a flat share (WG or Wohnungsgemeinschaft in German) in Berlin is quite easy, there are a lot of offers and you can find what you want in one week maximum.

i. Websites

Websites are the easiest and cheapest way to find an accommodation in Berlin. There are plenty of new offers everyday; if you check them once or twice a day and give a call as soon as you find an interesting offer, you shouldn't look for an accommodation too long. Don't waste your time and look at old property ads, the room won't be available anymore.

Here are the best websites to find a flat share or your own flat:

- www.studenten-wg.de
- www.wg-gesucht.de
- <http://berlin.studenten-wohnung.de>
- www.wg-welt.de
- www.wg-zimmer.biz
- www.wgcompany.de
- <http://kleinanzeigen.zitty.de/>
- www.berlinonline.de/tip/service/anzeigen/anzeigenmarkt/_bin/index.php/Wohnen

ii. Newspapers

You also find housing ads in Zitty and Tip (the Berliner Time Out). Zitty and Tip come out twice a month and cost around 2.50-3€.

iii. Housing agency

Of course you can also go to a housing agency. Fees can nonetheless be quite expensive, as they are based on how long you stay in the apartment (around one monthly rent for a six-month stay). Fees are not fix as they can be in London or Paris.

c. Some useful thoughts

➤ *Monthly budget*

Rent ("warm"): from 250€ to 350€ if you live in a WG in East Berlin and up to 400€ if you live in West Berlin or alone

Transport: around 50€

Food: 80€

Extras in Berlin: 100€

➤ *Heating*: Always check what kind of heating your flat has... and do not take one with Kohleheizung (coal heating). There are still some flats in which coal is used for the heating, which means the temperature of your room won't exceed 15°C in winter... This winter was especially mild, but Berlin is rather known for its harsh winters. So, make the right choice!

➤ *What's Kalt- or Warmmiete?* Always consider the Warmmiete, that is the rent all inclusive (charges, gas, electricity etc.)

➤ *Saniert/Unsaniert*: useful to know if your building has been refurbished or not...

➤ *What will you need?* Basically, you won't be required to give any documentary evidence to your landlord except a copy of your ID and maybe of your student card as well.

d. Transports

i. Public transports

➤ For you:

As an ESCP-EAP student, you are entitled to the *Monatskarte für Auszubildende (Azubis)*, whose cost is 50.50€ (zone AB) per month. Choose a Gleitende Karte so that your card will be valid 30 days after the date of purchase and not for the calendar month in which you bought it.

Before to buy your first monthly transport card, you have to go at a BVG (*Berliner VerkehrsGesellschaft*) desk. You can find one at *Alexander Platz* or *Zoologischer Garten* station. You will also need to prove you are a student and show your *Immatrikulationsbescheinigung* (student cards are not sufficient). Katrin Grimm (in charge of the Berlin student office) can give you one as soon as you arrive in Berlin. Don't wait for your first day back at school!

➤ For your friends or family:

Kleingruppenkarte: valid one day for up to 5 people, 15.40€ for zone AB

Wochenkarte: valid 7 days, 25.40€ for zone AB

Tageskarte: 6.10€ for zone AB

ii. *Berlin by bike*

Berlin has a great cycle lane network. So, if you enjoy cycling, do not hesitate! You can buy a second-hand bike in every flea markets (and there are plenty of them in Berlin as well!) for around 40€.

e. Opening your bank account

Before opening your bank account, you will need to register at the town hall of your district. This registration, also known as *polizeiliche Anmeldung* is compulsory. This also means you have to find an accommodation before opening your bank account as you need you tenancy agreement to register at the town hall.

You are entitled to a free of charge student account, which includes a debit card (EC-Karte) and a free Internet banking access.

Prefer to open your account in a Deutsche Bank, Postbank, Dresdner Bank, Commerzbank or Hypovereinsbank branch (but Deutsche Bank is nevertheless the best one) as you can withdraw cash in any of these five banks free of charge.

f. Mobile phone and Internet

i. *Mobile phone*

The cheapest pay as you go offer is provided by Symio. The starter set costs 19.95€ and includes a SIM card and 10€ free airtime. Calls cost 0.05€ from Symio to Symio and 0.15€ to other German networks and SMS 0.10€. Moreover, when you top up your phone with 15€, you receive 60 free minutes from Symio to Symio (120 free minutes when with 30€). Symio is an online provider, i.e. the starter set is to be bought online. Top up can be done per Internet or SMS.

ii. *Internet and Phone*

Alice is the most flexible Internet and telephone provider in so far as no contract is required. Look at "her" packages (from 20€ to 50€) to choose the one who fits your needs (www.alice-dsl.de/index.html).

1&1 is cheaper and its various special offers (free Wifi modem...) should be noticed. You will however be committed for 24 months: a contract transfer to the next flatmates is possible (www.1und1.de).

g. Health

As in London, do not forget to require your European health insurance card to your mutual insurance company before you move to Germany. If you go to the doctor's, you will just need to show your card, fill in some forms and pay a 10€ quarterly practice charge. This charge has to be paid once a quarter to each practice you visit. You can then be examined for free.

2. ESCP-EAP Berlin

If you have any issue regarding almost any topic (classes, accommodation etc.), feel free to contact Katrin Grimm, in charge of the student office at ESCP-EAP Berlin (katrin.grimm@escp-eap.de).

a. Classes

Classes begin at the beginning of September and end in February. There are 3 compulsory classes: VWL (economics), ABWL (strategy) and IBWL (international management). In addition to that, you have to choose 2 elective classes among advanced corporate finance, controlling, environmental management, human resources, information systems, IFRS and marketing. Be aware that in some of those classes, you would be asked to do a group project which can be time-demanding.

Exams take place as they go along: mid October for VWL, at the beginning of November for ABWL, mid December for all elective courses and at the beginning of February for IBWL.

Where to eat? Schlosspark Hotel next to the school (lunch buffet for 6€), kebabs (next to Westend station or Charlottenburg castle), sandwiches (2 bakeries on Sophie-Charlotten Strasse), pasta/pizza (Italian restaurant in front of Charlottenburg castle, next to the post office, around 6€)

Where to buy your books? All of them are available Dussmann, Friedrichstrasse 90 (S+U Friedrichstrasse)

b. Internships

ESCP-EAP Berlin's staff will give you the opportunity to adapt your CV and cover letters to German standards. Numerous workshops are organised to help you customize your cv, strengthen your cover letters, prepare interviews and assessment centers in German. These workshops aim at getting you ready for the famous "Recruiting days @ ESCP-EAP Berlin", two days in October during which you'll meet the bulk of German companies, not only in the banking sector but also in the industry field. Many German companies want to have a look at references from your previous internships: if you don't already have them, you should start gathering them asap!

A piece of advice: be prepared to attend these Recruiting Days as many students find their internship thanks to these contacts. Anyway if you don't find your internship there, your cv, cover letter and references will be ready for the second round of your search (be aware that, from January, you'll have other priorities - IBWL & ERP)

c. Sport

Football fans can take part in the academic football championship (TU-Meisterschaft). An ESCP-EAP team competes every year. The school always pays for the tournament fees and provides you with ESCP-EAP shirts. Hopefully, the ESCP-EAP will remain a sponsor of the football team even though Herr Haase (campus director) who used to

support it, is retiring. Just ask his successor or Herr Pape to take over from him! All information and practical details can be found on www.tu-sport.de

All students can also benefit from the TU (Technische Universität) sport offer which is very comprehensive (dancing, martial arts, team and racket sports etc.) and cheap (15-30€ for a semester). Visit their website: www.tu-sport.de

3. Living in Berlin: best of

a. Shopping

- *Shopping areas:* Ku'damm (S+U Zoologischer Garten or U Wittenbergplatz), Potsdamer Platz Arkaden (S+U Potsdamer Platz), Stadtmitte (U2), Schönhauseralle Arkaden (S+U Schönhauser Allee), Galleria Kaufhof am Alex (S+U Alexanderplatz)
- *Markets:* Hackescher Markt (Thursday 9am-6pm, Saturday 9am-4pm, S Hackescher Markt); Winterfeldplatz (Wednesday and Saturday 8am-1pm, U Nollendorfplatz); Maybachufer (Tuesday and Friday noon-6:30pm, U Kottbusser Tor)
- *Flea markets:* Arkonaplatz (Sunday 10-16 Uhr; U Bernauer Straße); Boxhagener Platz, Friedrichshain (So 10-18 Uhr; U Samariterstraße)

b. Art and culture

- *Free admission in State Museums:* every Thursday from 6pm to 10pm
- *Opera/Ballet:* if you enjoy going to the opera or the ballet, ask for a Classic card. The card costs 15€ and enables you to buy tickets at a price of 10€ for every show taking place at the Staatsoper, Deutsche Oper, Konzerthaus or Komische Oper. You just need to arrive one hour before the beginning of the performance to book your seat.
- *Berlin Unterwelt:* explore the undergrounds of Berlin, its "nuclear blast proof" bunkers and other evidences of the Cold war period. Various guided tours are offered: for more information, visit www.berliner-unterwelten.de

c. Restaurants and brunches

- *Lindenbräu :* A piece of Bayern in the middle of the Sony Center. This brewery could be seen as a tourist trap (prices are expensive when compared to East Berlin) but its location is unique! You can seat at the terrace on the third floor, enjoy the sight on Potsdamer Platz's Sony Center and benefit from the free wifi provided there. Choose your meal among the bulk of German specialties (from 7€ to 15€) and a special offer is made for beer drinkers: you win a free badge each time you ask for a "Mass", i.e. one liter Weissbier (6.50€). *In Mitte, Potsdamerplatz, Sony Center, S+U Potsdamer Platz*
- *Schwarzwaldstube :* The best Wienerschnitzel in Berlin! This restaurant provides you with various specialties (Maultaschen, Spätzle...) from South West Germany and the prices of East Berlin. *In Mitte, at the corner of Tuchowsky- and Linienstrasse, S Oranienburgerstrasse or U Oranienburger Tor*
- *Mr Vuong :* Fine and modern Vietnamese cuisine in a warm place. The menu changes every 2 days so that you never grow tired of it (all meals at 6.90€). You might have to queue but it never lasts long. If you are very thirsty, try a shake, they are absolutely delicious ! *In Mitte, Alte Schönhauser Str. 46, U Weinmeisterstrasse or Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz, S Hackescher Markt*
- *Habibi :* The best Döner Kebab you will ever eat in Berlin. It tastes as a home made hamburger can taste in comparison with the one you buy in a fast food. A must! *In Kreuzberg, Oranienstrasse 30, U Kottbusser Tor or Görlitzer Bahnhof*

➤ *Sushis (unlimited)*: Fresh sushi? Ja! All you can eat? Doppel ja! 12.50€? Every Saturday till 8pm... Lecker! *In Friedrichshain, Grünberger Strasse 90, U Samariterstrasse*

➤ *Caffe e Gelato* : Try the best handmade ice-cream of Italian tradition in Berlin ! *In Mitte, Potsdamer Platz Arkaden (1st floor), 7 Alte Potsdamer Strasse, S+U Potsdamer Platz*

➤ *1900* : Excellent brunch buffet on Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays. Around 8€ without drinks. Reservations are recommended if you are a lot to come. *In Prenzlauer Berg, Husemannstr. 1, U Senefelder Platz, Tel.: 0304422494*

➤ *Nola* : Nola is so well known for its brunches that you will need to book at least a week in advance! Swiss cheese, large choice of salads, meats and warm dishes, cakes, pancakes, it's worth it. Every Saturday, Sunday or bank holiday from 10am to 3pm. Brunch costs 11.50€ (eat as much as you want) or 1350€ (eat and drink as much as you want). *In Prenzlauer Berg, Veteranenstrasse 9, U Rosenthaler Platz, Tel. 03044040766*

➤ *Frida Kahlo* : Die mexikanische Wärme in Prenzlauer Berg... Do you need a break in your German immersion? A bit sun in a cosy place? Then discover one of the best Mexican restaurants in Berlin, right on the nice square Helmholtzplatz. The outside walls remind the casa azul en Mexico (a museum dedicated to the paintress) and the inside is decorated with Mexican paintings. You can enjoy Mexican meals from 5 to 12€ and on Sunday, a brunch for €8. The Frida Kahlo is also famous for its large choice of cocktails (happy hours from 6pm to 9pm, all cocktails for €450). *In Prenzlauer Berg, Lychener Strasse 37, U Eberswalder Strasse*

➤ *12 Apostel* : If the 12 Apostel had a favorite pizza, it would be those... Berlin is full of cheap restaurants, and the 12 Apostel is not one of the cheapest but it serves the best pizzas in Berlin (at a reasonable price nonetheless, 8-10€). Pizzas are delicious (and incredibly big, you can ask to share one if you want), so are the pastas. Always book if you want to have a seat and not to wait for ages... *In Charlottenburg, Bleibtreustrasse 49, S Savignyplatz, Tel.: 0303121433*

➤ *Gugelhof*: Dishes from Germany and Alsace in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Flammkuchen from 6.80€, Sauerkraut, Raclette, Fondue, various seasonal dishes... you won't be disappointed by the Gugelhof offer and the quality of its wines and cooking ! *In Prenzlauer Berg, Kollwitzplatz/Ecke Knaackstraße 37, U Senefelder Platz*

d. Bars

➤ *Erdbeer* : Wanna drink the best strawberry cocktails you have ever drunk or just rest on the red cushions ? The all red-coloured Erdbeer bar is your place ! *In Mitte, Max-Ber-Str. 56, U Rosa-Luxemburg Platz*

➤ *Zu mir oder zu dir* : 70s-styled decor, lots of sofas and cushions: a pleasant and comfortable place when you want to change the world or just to have a chat with your friends. Softdrinks and beers from 1.50€, wine from 2 € and cocktails from 4 €. *In*

Prenzlauer Berg, Lychener Straße 15, U Eberswalder Strasse

➤ *Tacheles*: Located on the 2nd floor of an artist squat, the place is quite unusual but typical for Berlin ! Do not hesitate to go in although it seems desert or intimidating. *In Mitte, Oranienburger Straße 54, U Oranienburger Tor or S Oranienburger Strasse*

➤ *Café Cinema* : Dark and old movie atmosphere, low prices and far from the tourist crowd but still in one of Berlin's most touristic area. Ideal on rainy afternoons. *In Mitte, Rosenthaler Str. 39, S Hackescher Markt*

➤ *Solar* : Panoramic view on Berlin: You've probably been to the Reichstag where you can enjoy a nice view on Berlin. But that's nothing compared to the fantastic view you will get from the Solar Bar, located on the 17th floor of the backyard building. What's more, you can enjoy it on a comfortable couch and with your favorite drink ! *In Mitte, Stresemanstrasse 76, S Anhalter Bahnhof or Potsdamer Platz*

➤ *Wohnzimmer* : Eine typisch-berlinerische Kneipe... On the Helmutzplatz you will find one of the most typical bars in East-Berlin. In this former house, you will feel immediately at home, savoring a beer in a comfortable sofa, chatting with your friends while contemplating the old-fashioned wall-papers. Cocktails can be bought from €3.50 and the average price for a beer is €2.50. *In Prenzlauer Berg, Lettestraße 6, U Eberswalder Strasse*

➤ *Ici* : Ein gemütliches Wohnzimmergefühl... In this quiet and cosy bar, we recommend you a glass of wine (around €7.50 for a 50cl jug), and particularly the Rioja Tinto (red wine). You can also eat good snacks, meals and selections of cheese for a reasonable price. *In Mitte, Auguststrasse 61, U Rosenthaler Platz or Oranienburger Tor*

➤ *Dr Pong* : Sporty and original concept - Play table tennis while having a drink. Beers from 2€ and cocktails from 4€. *In Prenzlauer Berg, Eberswalder Strasse 21, U Eberswalder Strasse*

➤ *Weinerei*: Its motto: Pay as you please. 1) You pay 1€ to get a glass 2) Eat and drink whatever is offered that pleases you (and spend some good time with your friends) 3) On your way out, on the counter, you will see a big glass bowl full of change. It is up to you to decide how much you want to put in that bowl to pay for what you ate and drank! Wine will be served until late at night but if you want to catch something to eat and be sure to have a place to sit down, you'd better be there around 7.30 p.m. *In Mitte, at the corner of Veteranien Strasse and Fehrberliner Strasse, U Rosenthaler Platz or Bernauer Strasse*

➤ *Morgenrot*: Kapitalismus zerstört... und andere emanzipatorischen Bewegungen. Berlin is known to be a very dynamic and intellectual city and the Morgenrot Cafe proves it. It describes itself as an open place for cultural and political debates. If you feel like you want to change the world, come to this famous squat for a breakfast, a drink, or a great "weird" party on week-ends. Drinks: 2€ for a beer. *In Prenzlauer Berg, Kastanienallee 85, U Eberswalder Strasse*

➤ *Other bustling streets:* Kastanienallee and Pappelalle in Prenzlauer Berg (U Eberswalder Strasse), Simon-Dach-Strasse in Friedrichshain (S+U Warschauer Strasse), Oranienstrasse in Kreuzberg (U Görlitzer Bahnhof)

e. Clubs

➤ *Tour de France* : Quand la musique est bonne ! Maybe there were many French people missing the sweet sound of their beautiful mother tongue, or maybe Germans love French music! Whatever the reason for organising such a party, it is not to be missed if you spend some time in Berlin! Once a month and for 6€, come and spend the night at the Roter Salon to dance on French music! Gainsbourg, Claude François, Louise Attaque, Noir Désir...they will all be there, even the ones you never heard before in a club! For more information please visit the Roter Salon program at www.roter-salon.de or the tour de France website www.le-tour.net *In Mitte, an der Volksbühne, Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz (U Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz)*

➤ *Watergate* : The best electro club in Berlin. Located on the waterside so that you can enjoy a beautiful view while dancing, electric atmosphere, the Watergate is attractive in every way for techno lovers. Admission: 8-10€. *In Kreuzberg, Falckensteinstr.49, S+U Warschauer Strasse or U Schlesisches Tor*

➤ *Rodeo*: At the rear of the old post office of Oranienburger Strasse, in an old bourgeois apartment, entrance is hidden as in many clubs in Berlin. Enjoy your beer (at the Berliner price) and electro music on the dance floor (even if small). There is a restaurant as well and sofas if you just want to have a chat with your friends. Admission: 6€. *In Mitte, Auguststrasse 5a, U Oranienburger Tor or S Oranienburgerstrasse*

➤ *Kulturbrauerei*: In an old brewery: clubs, bars, restaurants and cinema. Everything you need to spend another sleepless night. For more information on the program, visit www.kulturbrauerei-berlin.de *In Prenzlauer Berg, Knaackstraße 97/Sredzkistraße 1/Schönhauser Allee 36-37, U Eberswalder Strasse*

➤ *Sage Club* : Wie man die ganze Nacht in einer bisherigen U-Bahn Station feiert... It's the kind of strange place that you can find only in Berlin: a great venue for Berlin nightlife in a former tube station. The entrance is just at the top of the steps of the Heinrich-Heine-Straße tube station. The place is huge (4 rooms and several lounges to relax and chit-chat), with an "underground" decoration. Drinks are very cheap (2.50€ for a pint). If you are fed up with electro or techno music, please try "Rock at Sage": you will be able to enjoy live music in a very rock'n roll atmosphere. It takes place every Thursday, and what's best: free entrance and happy hour (2 cocktails for 1) if you get in before 10pm (so start queuing at 9:15pm)! *In Kreuzberg, Köpenicker Straße 76, U Heinrich-Heine Strasse*

➤ *Panorama Bar/Berghain* : Für einen faszinierenden Trip auf Technomusik in einem utopischen und hedonistischen Tempel. If you're easily offended by a thrash party, please stay clear from this place... But if you're looking for the best Berlin-type decadent nights, this is THE place to be. This gigantic club opens on Thursday night and stays open till Sunday afternoon. Try to come between 6am and 11am and you won't

regret it! One tip just for you: the doorman is very tough, so if you want to be sure to get in, try not to come in large groups, looking like nice, well-suited students. One more thing: the Berghain is known as a space of free expression for any kind of abuses... Now that you're warned, feel free to explore it! You may not like this place, but this is an absolute MUST to understand Berlin underground culture. Entrance fee: 12€. Drinks: 3€ for a beer, 5€ for a cocktail. *In Friedrichshain, Am Wriezener Bahnhof, S Ostbahnhof*

f. What else to do once you know Berlin like the back of your hand?

- Strandbad Wannsee: Have a sunbath 20 minutes away from Berlin... to have the feeling your summer holiday actually never ended... Admission ticket costs 2.50€. Open from April to September, S Nikolassee.

- Rent a bike if you haven't one and cycle into Berlin or Grünewald. Bikes can be rented at Alex (Panoramastrasse 1a, 10€ a day) or directly at the S-Bahn station Grünewald

- Fly to... or drive to... Dresden, the Baltic Sea (Usedom), Polen, Praha, Budapest...

