

How can I find an apartment in Berlin?

I. Preparations

1. **Get yourself an email address** – the format „first name surname“ is most common in Germany. Many providers offer free email accounts. [ProtonMail](#) is a particularly secure one.
2. **Get a postal address** – the address of a friend/acquaintance or even an [institution](#) is sufficient if you can receive mail under their name and with c/o in front of your name.
3. **Find ways to learn German** – You can register for a [free German courses](#), find a [language tandem](#) or register for an [integration course](#).
4. **Open a basic bank account in Germany** – every bank in Germany is obliged to offer this. However, some banks do charge administration fees for their basic bank accounts.
5. **Try to get a job with social insurance contributions** - This means the job should earn at least 450 € per month and you and your employer pay social and health insurance contributions.

II. Steps towards finding an apartment

1. **Apply for social housing entitlement „Wohnberechtigungsschein“ (WBS)** – apply to your [local social housing or local authority office in your district](#). The WBS is valid for 1 year.
2. **Apply for a SCHUFA credit score statement** – You can apply [online](#) oder by sending this [form](#). Regularly SCHUFA costs 29,95 € or you can [get it for free](#) (takes longer).
3. **Ask your current/previous landlord for a confirmation that you owe no rent** – if you are renting from another tenant, the main tenant can issue this.
4. **Get all your documents copied and scanned and put them together in a folder** – save all the documents as a single PDF-file. The file name should contain your full name.
5. **Print and put all your documents together in a physical folder for viewings.**
6. **Look for apartments on the homepages of housing associations** – public or charitable housing associations in Berlin are more likely to offer apartments at fair rents.
7. **Complete the application form of the housing association / landlord** – save the completed form on your phone.
8. **Contact the landlord, express interest in the apartment** – write an email or use the contact form on the website
9. **Attend the viewing appointment** – this is a condition to have a chance at getting the apartment. Bring all your documents and hand them to the landlord/agent.
10. **Send all your documents to the landlord electronically** – send them via email or upload them to the website.
11. **Wait to hear back from the landlord** – be patient and don't keep contacting the landlord/agent in between.
12. **Sign your rental contract** – [here is what to watch out for](#)

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III. Documents (obligatory)

- ID / Passport / Visa
- Proof of income for at least 3 months
 - Salary slips
 - Confirmation from Agentur für Arbeit / JobCenter about social benefits you're receiving
 - OR – bank statement with savings
 - OR – statement/proof of guarantee by a sponsor
- SCHUFA credit score statement

IV. Documents (optional)

- Confirmation that you owe no rent (Mietschuldenfreiheitsbescheinigung)
- Social housing entitlement (Wohnberechtigungsschein (WBS))
- Questionnaire for interested tenants

V. Further available support

1. Further information about finding housing in Berlin:

- [General info about housing in Berlin](#)
- [Info about housing search](#)
- [Information for tenants](#)
- [Free tenancy law advice in your district](#)
- [Support if you were discriminated against during your housing search](#)

2. Wenn du Wohnungsbaugesellschaften / Vermieter suchst:

- [Berlin public housing associations \(DEGEWO, GESOBAU, GEWOBA, HOWOGE, STADT UND LAND, WBM\)](#)
- [Housing cooperatives in Berlin](#)
- Offers from private landlords [ebay Kleinanzeigen](#), [Immo Scout24](#)

3. Wenn du wohnungslos bist und Unterstützung bei der Wohnungssuche brauchst:

- [Social housing support office in the Berlin districts](#)
- Support in case of housing emergencies / pending homelessness
- [GEBEWO Soziale Dienste Berlin](#)
[SozDia Wohnungsnotfallhilfe](#)
[Internationaler Bund](#)

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