



## The social infrastructure of the German higher education system: Student Services in Numbers

**960 student restaurants , 190.928 places in halls of residence, 8.750 places in childcare, 2.05 billion Euros in needs-based financial aid (BAföG) in 2015. The German National Association for Student Affairs (Deutsches Studentenwerk, DSW) points out the sheer volume of services provided by the 58 student service organizations in Germany – the Studentenwerke. Secretary general Achim Meyer auf der Heyde: “Student services form the social infrastructure of the German higher education system”.**

960 facilities of campus catering, including more than 400 canteens, 190.928 places for students in halls of residence, 8.750 places in childcare for children of studying parents, more than 2 billion Euros of federal BAföG aid disbursed in 2015. These and more figures can be found in a new publication.

The brochure “Studentenwerke im Zahlenspiegel 2015/2016” (*Facts and Figures of German Student Services 2015/2016*) gives detailed information about how the 58 student services organisations implement the social dimension of higher education according to their legal tasks.

DSW secretary general Achim Meyer auf der Heyde explains: “The student services are non-profit, social service providers of the public education sector. According to their tasks under public law, they promote the social, economic, cultural and health interests of all students in Germany higher education, they offer a broad and differentiated portfolio of services. They are the heart of the social infrastructure in the German higher education system.”

Their portfolio covers a wide range of students’ living conditions, including dining services, halls of residence, childcare, BAföG, social and psychological counselling, public transportation tickets for students, and specific service and advisory offers for international students as well as the promotion of cultural student activities

### **Key figures of the 58 German student service organizations in numbers:**

- 19.576 staff members
- 190.928 places in halls of residence
- 2.053 billion Euros BAföG in 2015 by order of the states and the federal government
- 23 Studentenwerke offer employment service for students
- 34 Studentenwerke offering the semester ticket
- 53 Studentenwerke provide favorable loans or emergency funds for students in financial distress
- 960cafeterias, restaurants, bistros and coffee bars with 240.899 seated place ( annual turnover in 2015: 436 million Euros)
- 55 Studentenwerke offer wheelchair accessible places in halls of residence
- 53 Studentenwerke offer special housing offers for students with children
- 43 Studentenwerke make housing referral to offers from private housing providers



- 8.759 places in 222 facilities for childcare (4.127 places for children up to 3 years, 2.750 places for children between 3 and 6 years)
- 46 Studentenwerke offer psychological counselling
- 47 Studentenwerke provide social counselling
- 31 Studentenwerke provide legal advice to students
- 46 Studentenwerke provide counselling for students with disabilities or chronic illnesses
- 43 Studentenwerke operate housing tutors programs or residence hall advisors schemes to support the inclusion of international students and students' activities
- Culture: 24 theater stages, 29 rehearsal rooms for student groups, 14 photo labs, 31 galleries, 24 pubs with a cultural program, 29 organizations with cultural courses or workshops, 28 organizations with cultural festivals and competitions
- 24 Studentenwerke provide sports facilities for students

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