



# Country guide for new EPIET/EUPHEM fellows

# Bayerisches Landesamt für Gesundheit und Lebensmittelsicherheit LGL

Germany

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## Please note:

This is a living document. If you find any information to be incorrect or out of date, or if there is anything, you wish to add, please amend the guide (and date it accordingly) and send the new version to your cohort representative for uploading onto the EAN country guides website. Thank you.

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## First things first

#### Get an financial buffer

Moving to a new country means many extra expenses. ECDC will reimburse your moving expenses and tickets as your insurances – but this can take 4-8 weeks. You will also get a per diem for the three-week introductory course (if taking place on site, not online), but this might also come quite late. To get most apartments, a deposit of 2-3 month's rent is usually required. As such, if you have a financial buffer of about 1-2 month's salary available in an account, this will make the first few months a whole lot stress free!

## Start early

Finding an apartment can take quite a while, especially if you have special requirements or want something nice. Researching and choosing between banks, insurance providers and apartment also takes a lot of time – as does the packing up at home – so start early.

#### **ECDC Admin**

Administrative papers that can prove useful (in original and scanned versions):

- Copy of your passport(s)
- Bank statements which state your name, account number, IBAN and BIC number
- Proof of health insurance
- Letter from your state pension agency outlining your opportunities to be insured/making pension payments while living abroad supported by a grant
- A letter from ECDC explaining employment status
   Such a letter can be useful in all sorts of areas. We are paid from abroad, but
   live in Germany, professionals not students (unless enrolled in the Master
   Programme), do a fellowship and are paid by a grant, but are not connected
   with a university, contracted by ECDC, but working at LGL, but without being
   employed, etc which can confuse lots of civil servants/companies/banks etc.
   You should get a letter from ECDC as soon as your fellowship/host site
   agreements have been signed; if not, contact the EPIET Programme Office
- A similar letter can be obtained from the HR department at the LGL stating the before tax and after tax (i.e. brutto/netto) salary, which is obligatory for apartment search

#### General info on Munich

Munich online - http://www.muenchen.de

Your guide to everything. From residency forms to concert tickets. Good info about moving to Munich – and the web page is also available in English.

ToyTownGermany – <u>www.toytowngermany.com</u>

For English-speaking expats in Germany. Click your way to Southern Germany – Munich. A lot of info on everything an expat needs to know. I recommend getting an account to be able to join the forum discussions!

The Prinz Guide Magazine is published once a year and contains Munichs "Top Picks" with regards to restaurants, gyms, shopping, etc. You'll find it in most grocery stores and at news agents.

## Your Home away from home

#### **Decide about removal**

The first thing to decide on, is if you want to bring all your things from home to the host country and rent an empty apartment – or just bring the essentials and instead rent a furnished apartment? Note: the majority of flats in Munich are completely empty. Renting a furnished apartment can be as expensive as renting an empty one and buying furniture, especially if there is a commission involved or have to buy a complete kitchen. Compare the total price over the two years for a better measurement.

If you decide to do a removal, start looking for removal companies right away. ECDC is not permitted to release details on companies that have been approved in the past; therefore, the removal process can be a significant administrative burden. To aid you in choosing a company, previous fellows have made a list of companies previously approved by ECDC for their own removal. This list is available on the EAN website at <a href="http://www.epietalum.net/forum/27">http://www.epietalum.net/forum/27</a>. Many of these companies have already submitted Legal Entities and Financial Identification forms in the past, which should make the approval process quicker as so long as nothing has changed, you should not have to resubmit them. If you end up using a company that was not on the list, please update the list accordingly so that future fellows can benefit from your experience (there are instructions on the website on how to update the list). (I, Liza Coyer, cohort 2021, only rented a van to move my stuff myself, and double-checked with LGL's HR department before the final booking to confirm reimbursement).

Remember – you might have to live somewhere while your things are in transit, which can take a couple of weeks. Therefore, you could:

- a) Consider sending things before starting the fellowship, and temporarily live with a friend/family in your own country, or
- b) Find a (temporary) furnished apartment (i.e. sublet, AirBnB) for the first month and only bring your essentials, or
- c) Schedule the removal so that your things are in transit while you are in the 3-week introductory course, and hope for the best...

## Living arrangements

#### WG ("Wohngemeinschaft")

WG's are collectives (i.e. a group of people sharing an apartment or house) that are very common in Germany. "Zweck-WG" means a more study-oriented

WG, whereas "Kein Zweck-WG" indicates that the tenants like to meet up in the kitchen and talk the night away over a glass of wine.

#### Student apartments

Since Munich has many universities, student apartments are common. The EPIET-programme should be enough to classify you as a student. Otherwise the Master's programme (see below) definitely works.

- The main provider is Studentenwerk: <a href="http://www.studentenwerk-muenchen.de/wohnen/">http://www.studentenwerk-muenchen.de/wohnen/</a>. The apartments/rooms often have a 1-2 semester waiting period.
- Another company is UniApart (<u>www.uniapart.de</u>) that rent fully furnished apartments where everything is included in the rent (heating, water, electricity – and internet & phone!) you only bring your own towels, bed linens, shower curtain and kitchenware.

#### "EBK" (Einbauküche)

One thing that is good to know about the German housing market is that apartments usually come without kitchen interiors. As such, you have the following options:

- 1) Bring your own, or
- 2) Buy your own (e.g. at IKEA or second hand), or
- 3) Buy the one that is already there (so-called "Ablöse") if the former tenant wants to sell it. (The advertisement will usually mention this. Make sure to confirm beforehand how much they would like to sell it for and ask for receipts), or
- 4) Find an apartment that includes an EBK. This is available as search option in most internet flat search engines.

#### Areas to live

The Epidemiology department within LGL has recently moved to central Munich at Lazarettstraße 67. LGL's main site is still in Oberschleißheim, which is also where the laboratory is located. Make sure to double check where your main location is! (as of 2022, all EPIET/PAE fellows are located in the Lazarettstraße).

The Lazarettstraße is 7 min and another 5 min walk from Munich Central station by tram 20, or alternatively a 3 min and 5-10 min walk by metro U1 or U7 (closest stop is Maillingerstraße). The site at Oberschleißheim is a 20 min train ride from Munich central station to Oberschleißheim (S1) with a 5 min bus ride (292) or a 15-20 min walk to the site.

If you will be mainly working in the lab, you could live closer to work in Oberschleißheim (cheaper, but rural and far from Munich), Feldmoching (one S-Bahn-stop away from Oberschleißheim or 5km walking/running/cycling, and has the benefits from a U-Bahn connection [U2]) or Moosach (also on the S1 and connected to the U3-line).

Alternatively, or if located mainly in Lazarettstraße, the following areas of Munich are recommendable:

 Schwabing: student district, with lots of small shops and cafés. Very popular and therefore more expensive

- Lehel: old town Munich, pricy
- Maxvorstadt: nice area with many restaurants/cafés, close to the university and very central
- Isarvorstadt-Ludwigvorstadt: more trendy, along the river, very nice.
- Haidhausen and Au on the east side of the river, nice, but further away from the institute.
- Sendling: a bit further out, more residential and affordable, but nice (especially around Harras) with some more alternative spots and close to nature

#### Tips on the boroughs:

http://www.muenchen.de/Stadtleben/Accommodation Residents/12244/02abo roughsinfrastructure.html

#### Internet sites to find a place

It is common for companies to advertise apartments at the same sites as private individuals, so make sure who has placed the ad!

Ads from individuals are usually without commission, whereas companies usually charge a fee for the mediation.

- <a href="http://www.wg-gesucht.de/">http://www.wg-gesucht.de/</a> (apartments and flatshares)
- <a href="http://www.studenten-wg.de/">http://www.studenten-wg.de/</a> (flatshares with students)
- www.immowelt.de
- http://immobilienmarkt.sueddeutsche.de
- www.immobilienscout24.de
- www.planethome.de
- www.kurzfuendig.de
- <a href="http://www.mrlodge.de/">http://www.mrlodge.de/</a> (agent for landlords and companies)
   <a href="https://www.mrlodge.de/">Mr Lodge provides furnished apartments for limited periods of time (usually 1-48 months). There are always apartments here, but they are quite expensive. A deposit and a commission to the agent is required.
- ToyTownGermany <u>www.toytowngermany.com</u>
   For English-speakers in Germany. Click your way to Southern
   Germany Munich. Ads from expats for expats.
- Facebook groups, such as "Munich Expat Rooms, Flats, Roommates, Rent", "Munich-International Friends" and "Munich | Girl Gone International"

#### Financial terms

The rent ("Miete") is made up of "Kaltmiete" (core rent) and "Nebenkosten" (additional costs), that together constitute the "Warmmiete". Make sure to check which type of rent is listed in the advertisement. Nebenkosten usually include heating and water, sometimes hot water expenditure or parking, but rarely electricity - plus all the costs for managing the apartment building, washing machines, elevator, waste disposal, etc. Electricity is usually not part of the Nebenkosten (see below). Always check what is included!

A "Kaution" (deposit) is common when renting an apartment. It is usually 1-3 months Kaltmiete, and is returned when you move out. You usually also receive rent for the money that is being held for you. It is possible to put the

deposit money on a special savings account on your name, so you can even get interest for that, but you cannot retrieve the money without the confirmation from the landlord/landlady (this is a special "Kautionskonto").

If you make use of an agency that finds a place for you, commissions are non-refundable, and can be up to 2,38 months Kaltmiete. The fee is due upon signing the lease. Important: since June 2015, the client who asked and contracted the agent has to pay commission/fee to the real estate agent ONLY if you hire the agent, they find a flat for you and you sign the contract as the result of this search! If you find the flat by yourself (internet, newspaper etc.) but the flat owner has an agent showing and dealing with the renting, the flat owner has to pay the fee of the real estate agency. Be sure to check who pays the agent's fees before signing any agreement.

Some landlords/ladies prefer a "Dauerauftrag", which means that the bill is withdrawn from your account automatically.

Sometimes advertisements will specify "Ablöse", which is a generic term used for things the former tenant wants to sell and commonly used for the kitchen ("EBK, Einbauküche"). Usually, these are less negotiable (especially when there are multiple people interested in the place..)

### Qualifying for a flat and signing the contract

The housing market in Munich is quite tight. It is not uncommon to have some information prepared about you to give to the house owner before or during a viewing. I (Liza Coyer, c2021) prepared a little booklet with some information about me, past 3 months of bank statements including income, and new contract.

Some agencies or owners also ask for a "SCHUFA", which is a credit check to prove that you have no previous debts for apartments or public utility payments. If you have not lived in Germany previously, you cannot get this. If you do not have it, usually it helps a lot to provide more information about your financial situation.

Make sure the rent, nebenkosten, the state of the apartment (damages) and what is included (EBK, bath tub, etc) is stated in the contract. It is not uncommon for apartments to be newly painted when a new tenant moves in. Check if you are required to repaint the place before moving out.

## **Electricity**

Some electricity firms:

- Stadtwerk München <a href="http://www.swm.de/">http://www.swm.de/</a> Biggest provider in München
- Naturwatt
- Lichtblick -www.oekostrom.de
- E.on Enerie Deutschland www.eon.de
- ... [to be extended]

To sign up (online or on the phone), you only need your address and the number on your meter (Zählernummer), which you should get from your landlord/lady.

## **Internet and Telephone**

Most companies offer both internet (DSL) and telephone (Festnetz), and it is usually cheaper if you get both from the same company. Some also offer mobile phone services.

#### Companies

#### Fonic \*recommended\*

Fonic offers mobile phone services (telephone and smartphone options) as well as mobile broadband at fixed rates as well as capped rates. What is good about Fonic is that they have very cheap rates for calling abroad! They can also reload your card automatically if your balance drops below a certain level.

- Vodaphone
- O2
- Base
- Alice complicated, bad reviews
- Deutsche Telekom (T-online) really bad reviews
- 1und1 they have internet, telephone, television and mobile phone options. Spetial offers if you are younger than 28.
- Mnet a local munich internet and telephone provider. Offers even cheaper internet contracts without a telephone landline
- Lycamobile prepaid mobile SIM cards, NOT recommended, They
  proved to be not compatible with the online bank account (unable to
  recive mobile TAN numbers necessary for any manipulation with the
  account) due to some random reason.
- ... [to be extended]

#### **Television**

Since 1.1.2013, a contribution for the public television and radio is obligatory, which is paid per flat (about 18 euro per month). Therefore, if you opt for a WG, this might already be included in the rent. If you decide to rent a flat alone, after the registration at the Burgeramt within few weeks you will receive post from the ARD ZDF Deutschlandradio where you can choose for what timespan you want to pay, quarterly, half-year or yearly.

## Furniture and decorating

- There are two IKEAs around Munich.
- Kaufhaus (chain of department stores found all around town) has everything you need from light bulbs to curtains.
- Butlers has a lot of decorative items for the home.
- Conrads has electrical items etc.
- Also try ToytownGermany for ads on second hand furniture

## Registring at the Bürgeramt

Germany requires all residents to register at an address. This registration ("Anmeldung") is done at the Bürgeramt. If you change apartments, you will have to repeat the procedure.

- You can book your Anmeldung and download all forms at <u>Residence</u> <u>Registration (muenchen.de)</u> if you live in Munich. If you live in Oberschleißheim, check the local Bürgeramt there.
- You will need to take your passport, and the completed registration form and "Wohnungsgeberbestätigung" (confirmation of your landlord/lady permitting you to register at that address).
- If you state, you have a religion in the registration form, you will have to pay church tax!
- If your grant is tax free in Germany you do not need to get "Steuerkarte".
- Some (most) Bürgerämter have no English speakers so if German is a
  problem then it might be a good idea to know exactly what you want to
  say or take a German speaker with you.

EU-citizens do not need to apply for residency, but you can ask for an official confirmation of your right to be in the country by filling out a form (Selbstauskunft zur Freizügigkeit von Unionsbürgern) available from the Kreisverwaltungsreferat:

http://www.muenchen.de/Rathaus/kvr/ausland/euschweiz/117810/index.html

#### **Finances**

## **Contract and salary**

You will receive a contract from LGL with the salary according to the ECDC regulations. Your net salary will be €2,200\*correction factor. The correction factor can be found here (What is the European Commission Correction Coefficient > European Union Employment Advisor (euemployment.eu)). Important is that ECDC bases the correction factor on the year that the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) was signed with LGL and is not adjusted yearly. The latest FPA was signed in 2019 and is valid for 4 years. This means that the correction factor is currently 1.103. You can ask further questions about salary to Fellowship Agreements or LGL's HR department.

Your actual monthly salary might be a bit lower than what is stated in your contract. In Bavaria, because LGL is a state institute, their employees are required to pay another ca 60 euros in the pension fund, which they will get back later on in the form of a higher pension. However, if you are staying there less than 5 years, you have the option to opt out, either signing some papers in advance or, at the end of your fellowship you can get the money back. HR department is very helpful at the LGL and can provide you with answers and explanations on this bureaucracy.

## **Taxation of grant?**

Check whether the grant is a matter of tax in your country. Usually there are agreements between two countries about double taxation, where you can find

also point about situation when the money comes from the third country. Contact your local tax authorities, who might give you further advices.

#### Tax authorities in Germany:

- Bavaria Bayerischen Landesamt für Steuern (BayLfSt): http://www.finanzamt.bayern.de/lfst/
- Germany Bundeszentralamt für Steuern: http://www.bzst.de/DE/Home/home\_node.html
- (I, Hélène Englund cohort 16, got my answer from the regional level.
- I, Durdica Marosevic cohort 2015, did not have the double taxation, just paid taxes in Germany, everything was arranged by the HR at the LGL; same for me, Liza Coyer c2021)

#### **Bank account**

There are many banks to choose from:

- Deutsche Bank
- Postbank
- HypoVereinsbank
- Commerzbank
- Norisbank

- DAB Bank
- Berliner Bank
- N26
- ... [to be extended]

#### Hints:

- I (Liza Coyer, c2021) was able to get a N26 bank account prior to my move to Munich, which was very helpful for HR-related purposes before I was officially registered.
- Check and compare the yearly/monthly fees and fees for international transfers!
- Check the fees for withdrawing cash at ATMs. Depending on which bank you have, you can withdraw money free of charge from some, but not others.
- Some of the banks have joined together in the CashGroup and allows you to make cost free withdrawals from any bank in the group.

#### **EC-card**

If you want to be able to pay by card in Germany - an EC-card is a necessity. The stores do not have to pay as high fees to the banks when you pay by EC, as compared to VISA/Mastercard/etc, and therefore EC-cards are usually the only option. The ticket machines for local transport also ONLY take EC.

#### Reimbursements from ECDC

ECDC will reimburse your expenditures "based on true costs with justification of expenses and within a ceiling of 1,000 Euros per month for the duration of the fellowship. (That is for both insurances and pensions). So please, look into that so you do not end up paying a large pension that we will not be able to reimburse."

You can have two accounts active at ECDC. A helpful tip is to ask for the reimbursements into the account that would suit your financial flow and currency.

Reimbursements may take a couple of weeks, so it can be good to send in the reimbursement form as early as possible.

ECDC can set up an automatic transfer to your account, for recurrent payments that you make and that ECDC reimburses (i.e. health insurance, pension payments, etc). Ask them to set it up, and provide proof that your payments are recurrent.

#### Insurances

#### Pension

Pension insurance really depends on what is applicable in your home country. That is usually most beneficial to you.

To quote ECDC: "Participating in the state pension is suggested. If you are unable to contribute to a state pension or are disadvantaged by doing so, private pension payments can be reimbursed by ECDC following justification and approval." Owing to the grant scheme, it can be difficult to arrange pensions in both your home and host country. If you are finding it particularly difficult to arrange a pension, contact the EPIET Programme Office and explain the situation, as alternative arrangements can be made in certain circumstances (e.g. a locked bank account that is not accessible to you during your fellowship).

#### **Broker**

Because it is a jungle out there – there are brokers for health and accident (and other?) insurances, which without cost help you to find the most suitable health insurance.

BIAC (<a href="http://www.biac.de/">http://www.biac.de/</a>) is one such company that helped Sandra Dudareva (cohort 15) as well as Hélène Englund and Sofie Lassen (cohort 16). Be prepared to sign a lot of forms, allowing the broker to e.g. legally represent your interests.

#### **Health insurance**

#### German Krankenversicherung

In Germany you need to arrange your own health insurance. It is not only important, but also mandatory in some cases, e.g. when attending a German university (see more about the Master Programme below).

There are state owned and managed health insurance companies (Krankenkassen), for instance the AOK (http://www.aok.de/bayern/), as well as private ones (like HanseMerkur). The private ones are usually more expensive – but provide better terms (Leistungen). However, for the private ones you need to earn more and it is a lot harder (almost impossible) to switch to a public one afterwards.

Durdica Marosevic (cohort 2015) and Liza Coyer (c2021) were both insured by the TK - Techniker Krankenkasse, which is the company recommended by

the HR department at the LGL. HR will send you the forms so everything can be arranged before arrival.

Things to compare, before choosing:

- Yearly/monthly cost?
- Cost for first visit per quarter year?
- How much of the costs for hospitalization (stationäre Behandlung), outpatient visits (ambulante Behandlung), physiotherapy, dental care, optician, vaccinations, etc. will the Krankenkasse reimburse?
- Is there a ceiling or a minimum level up to which you have to pay everything yourself?
- Do they have a reduced price for students and/or persons below a certain age (when applicable)?
- What are the benefits?

#### Signing up

If you have a private health insurance in your home country, bring with you your old health insurance card and/or statement from your previous health insurance company. You might need it when arranging health insurance in Germany. If you do not have that, you will most likely have to have a medical examination (and maybe also a blood analysis), before the insurance company takes you on as a client.

Hint: if you have had health problems they may pose a problem for signing up for a new insurance. However, what you do not tell them – they won't know, and there is no way they can find out... So, if your problems are now healed and gone – don't mention it. If you have a chronic condition, then of course it must be mentioned.

#### International options for health insurance

If you have health insurance in your own country, you may be able to extend it to an international policy, which could be the simplest and cheapest option.

If not, a scheme many EPIET fellows have used in the past is <a href="https://www.expatplus.com/English/Personal/international-healthcare-medical-insurance-individual-expats.htm">https://www.expatplus.com/English/Personal/international-healthcare-medical-insurance-individual-expats.htm</a>. Set up for expats, so pricier but fits our situation well (e.g. repatriation if necessary, etc).

Other international health insurance agencies include:

- <a href="http://www.axappphealthcare.co.uk/international/personal/private-medical-insurance/?intcamp=1">http://www.axappphealthcare.co.uk/international/personal/private-medical-insurance/?intcamp=1</a>
- http://www.bupa-intl.com/

## **Accident insurance (Unfallsversicherung)**

Insurance companies:

- VHV
- ... [to be extended]

BIAC Brokers can help you signing up for this as well.

#### **Travel insurance**

You will be insured through ECDC on all travels ordered/arranged by them (i.e. modules, conferences, missions, etc.).

Check if the insurances in your home country can be extended.

Central (<u>www.central.de</u>) has good travel insurances for you when living in Germany, but travelling abroad (for instance – on vacation, or home over the weekend). Costs only 10€/year and has been approved by ECDC before.

#### **Liability insurance (Privathaftpflicht)**

Very common to have. Insures you against costs incurred by accidents and negligence.

Different suppliers, e.g.:

- VHV
- Central
- HUK
- ... [to be extended]

## **Language Schools**

There are a number of language schools to choose from in Munich, but the prices vary a lot, from ca 35 €/UE (Unterrichtseinheit, 45 min) to 60€/UE.

The less each lesson costs – the more lessons you will get (reimbursed by ECDC, and because of the price differences it can be worth shopping around. Mentioning that you have a limit for what your "employer" will reimburse can actually could make them adjust the price. It is worth a try!

All forms of studies are tax free in Germany, so you and the school do not have to bother with financial identification forms to have classes billed without tax. A normal reimbursement is easier.

If you arre a beginner, consider group classes, that will give you a basis.

If you already know some (or a lot) of German, a good way to improve and fine tune your language skills is to take private lessons. \*recommended\* Then you'll work with your weak spots – and not be limited by what the group as a whole knows. You can also take your work reports and presentations to class and sharpen the expressions.

Even though you know German, consider taking lessons anyway. You can study and write an exam to have your language skills certified. And have the costs reimbursed.

#### **Schools in Munich**

Dialog Sprachschule \*recommended\*
 Ca 36-40 €/UE. I had private classes with Fr. Doris Meier, a good teacher with a good teaching concept.

Sprachschule Aktiv
 Goethe Institut
 Berlitz
 InLingua
 Ca 33-35 €/UE
 Ca 60€/UE
 Ca 55 €/UE

DeutschAkademie ?

Google "Sprachschule München" for more options.

Tip: Choose a school that has good local communications to work or home, as you might be going there a lot.

## Master studies in applied epidemiology

The Master Programme does not include a lot of extra work: a few homework assignments following the modules and a final report on what you have been doing the past two years. Each term you will have to pay a fee (ca 100 €) to the university.

You will need your university and secondary school certificates for MSAE (Master Study program in Applied Epidemiology) with a certified translation into English or German, as well as proof of health insurance. You can also hand in certified copies ("beglaubigte Kopien") that you can make at the RKI during the introductory days or at LGL.

## **Getting around – local communications**

#### **MVG / MVV**

The MVG (Münchener Verkehrsgesellschaft) runs the U-Bahn, busses and trams in München. http://www.mvg-mobil.de/

The MVV (Münchener Verkehrs- und Tarifverbund) runs the S-Bahn and coordinates traffic in the region. http://www.mvv-muenchen.de/

The MVG and MVV are interlinked, the tickets are valid on all means of transport, and they have a joint travel planner. Check out either website for travel planner, rail and bus network maps, ticket prices, etc..

Is the S-Bahn on time? Probably not... but here you can check it out: <a href="http://reiseauskunft.bahn.de">http://reiseauskunft.bahn.de</a>

All of them provide now also apps for your mobile phones. Very useful!!

#### Tickets:

• Sorry – there are no student tickets/prices in München.

All tickets can be bought at service centers at Marienplatz, Sendlinger Tor and Poccistrasse. Then there are ticket machines at the entrance of all S- and U-Bahn stations – as well as on the trams for short-, oneway, 1-day and 3-day tickets. These machines however only take coins or small bills.

#### **IsarCard**

For regular weeks and months, the IsarCard is recommended. It allows you unlimited travel for a week or month, within the number of Rings you choose. From the central point in München to Oberschleissheim you need Rings 1-6. By buying weekly/monthly tickets (instead of yearly) you can adapt them to modules, vacations, etc. You get the IsarCard from computer terminal-like

machines at most S- and U-Bahn stations, but will need an EC-card (i.e. not VISA or Mastercard) to pay, or from the red Deutsche Bahn-machines at most S-Bahn stations, Hauptbahnhof and the Airport.

#### IsarCardAbo

Ride 12 months – pay for 10 – or 8! Sounds nice? Then sign up for a subscription online or at the MVG Service center at Marienplatz. You will need a German bank account and the account details with you.

#### Streifenkarten

A slip with 10 strips that is good for occasional travels (or when the next month starts on a Wednesday and you want to get the IsarCard for the whole month – or when going outside your chosen number Rings (e.g. to the airport)). Costs less than getting a oneway ticket, and without needing change for the machine.

#### Cycling

The Bavarians like cycling, especially along the river Isar, so getting a bike for your spare time might be an idea. (Or bring the one you have at home with your removal!). A bike can also get you to the institute, depending on where you live and how far you are willing to cycle.

If you are mainly working in Oberschleißheim, consider having a bike to take you between the site and the U/S-bahn-stop.

#### Getting to the LGL

The Lazarettstraße is 7 min and another 5 min walk from Munich Central station by tram 20, or alternatively a 3 min and 5-10 min walk by metro U1 or U7 (closest stop is Maillingerstraße). The site at Oberschleißheim (Veterinärstraße 2) is a 20 min train ride from Munich central station to Oberschleißheim (S1) with a 5 min bus ride (292) or a 15-20 min walk to the site. The S1 goes between Ostbahnhof and Munich Airport, and the 292 between Sonnenstraße and Garching. NB. The 292 in both directions stops at the same stop, so make sure you take the right one.

## Getting around - Regional

Deutsche Bahn, www.bahn.de, for regional trains.

#### Fun

ToyTownGermany - <u>www.toytowngermany.com</u>

The expat community – a lot of things are happening, check out the forum and tag along for a beer, a book-reading or a run.

DAV – Deutsche Alpenverein - <a href="http://www.alpenverein-muenchen-oberland.de/">http://www.alpenverein-muenchen-oberland.de/</a>

A nice way to get out into nature is through the DAV. They arrange walks, hikes and courses all year round. Their course programme is updated and available online. Join section München.

## Cinema without synchronization!

**Cinema Museum Lichtspiele** Lilienstrasse 2 \*recommended\* See the current programme at <a href="http://muenchen.movietown.eu/">http://muenchen.movietown.eu/</a>

## Shopping

#### Sendlinger Tor, Marienplatz and Isartor

The big streets going between these three places are the big shopping streets. Mainly clothes.

#### Glockenbachviertel & Gärtnerplatz

Area with smaller stores and cafés.

#### Olympia Einkaufszentrum

The mall in Münich.

## Still wondering?

Feel free to contact these fellows:

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