



Country guide for new EPIET/EUPHEM fellows

[Robert Koch-Institut, Berlin]

[Hannover]

[Munchen]

[GERMANY]

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Source:

<http://epietalumni.net/activities/countries-guide/>

Please note: This is a living document. If you find any information to be incorrect or out of date, or there is anything you wish to add, please amend the guide (and date it accordingly) and send the new version to your cohort representative for uploading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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EARLY ON AND GETTING STARTED

1. Registration in Germany

Residence permit/card (if needed) & Visa (if needed)

As an EU-citizen, you have the right to live in any EU country if you work there.

During the first 3 months of your stay, your host country cannot require you to register your residence. You can do so if you wish. After 3 months, your host country may require you to register your residence with local authorities, to show that you're working there and obtain a document confirming your right to stay.

Source: https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/residence/residence-rights/index_en.htm

Registration, incl. social security number/ID/Person number

Germany requires all residents to be registered at an address, and you are expected to register within two weeks of arrival (and unregister from your previous address). The registration is essential in your big move, because it is the starting point for many administrative procedures (taxes, social security).

This registration (*Anmeldung*) is done at the municipality office (*Bürgeramt*). You will also get your tax ID (*Steuer ID*) at this time if you do not already have one. If you change apartments you will have to reregister. You can find the address, book an appointment, and find more information on the Bürgeramt closest to you or to RKI at: <http://www.buergeramt.info/berlin.htm>. It is recommended to book an appointment for an *Anmeldung* for your first week, even if you haven't found an apartment yet - you can easily cancel the appointment, while getting a new one might be harder. If you didn't manage to book one in advance, keep an eye on the calendar because other people might cancel their appointment. You have most chance to get an appointment if you check the calendar early morning or late afternoon when appointments are refreshed. Also, check out the different locations in the city.

To the Bürgeramt, you'll need to bring:

- The form '*Anmeldung einer Wohnung*': download and print the PDF form for your *Anmeldung* here (don't expect it to be at the Bürgeramt): <https://service.berlin.de/dienstleistung/120686/>
- Your passport, a copy of your civil status, the flat contract and a signed confirmation from your landlord with the date that you will move in (form by Bürgeramt, online).

Note

- If you state you have a religion in this form you will have to pay church tax (*Kirchensteuer*)!
- Some/most Bürgerämter do not speak English (so it can be useful to bring somebody who speaks German)

2. Finding accommodation

It is worth reaching out to current and new fellows: because everybody is moving, there are also apartments that become available when you will need one. C2017 and C2018 fellows managed to sublet or take over the apartment from fellows who moved out of Berlin! Unfortunately, C2019 and C2021 fellows did not take over the flats from previous fellows.

Rent is cheaper in Berlin compared to most other capital cities in Western Europe, but this is changing. Be prepared to have to view many flats before you are successful in securing one.

Areas to live

You will work in the area Wedding. When considering transport times on Google Maps do remember that these may actually be considerably longer in real life, particularly in the winter months. If you like to cycle then this is an excellent way to get around Berlin and possible for most of the year.

Close to work:

- Moabit, up and coming and very close
- Mitte, with lots of shops and cafés, around Alexander Platz, very popular and therefore more expensive
- Kreuzberg an area full of life but a bit further away
- Prenzlauer Berg is very family friendly
- Wedding can be cheaper but still nice

Further away:

- There are many great areas to live in – it depends on your preferences. Go explore if possible. Current fellows will be happy to guide you and it is best to check with one of them if you are unsure about the area you are looking at.

Type of housing

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. Renting a furnished apartment can be as expensive as renting an empty one and buying furniture, especially if there is a commission involved. Compare the total price over the two years for a better measurement.

Apartments in Germany usually come without kitchen interiors. So:

- Bring your own
- Buy your own (e.g. at IKEA or second hand)
- Buy the one that is already there (a so called *Ablöse*) if the former tenant wants to sell it.
- Find an apartment that includes a built in kitchen (*Einbauküche* or EBK) available as search option in most internet flat search engines.

WG's are very common in Germany. A group of people share an apartment. '*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.

Terms – when looking for a flat

The rent (*Miete*) is made up of *Kaltmiete* (core rent) + *Nebenkosten* (additional costs), that together constitute the *Warmmiete*. Make sure which type of rent is listed in the ad. It may be worth working out what the cost will be over the whole two year period in addition to the monthly rental.

- *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 deposit (*Kaution*) is common when renting an apartment. It is usually two-three months Kaltmiete, and is returned when you move out. You usually receive interest for the money that is being held for you.
- Commissions (*Provision*) are non-refundable, and can be up to 2.38 months Kaltmiete. The fee is due upon signing the lease. Not all flats require a commission to be paid.
- *Dauerauftrag* means that the bill is withdrawn from your account automatically. Is preferred by some landlords.
- *Ablöse* – Things you can buy from the former tenant, usually subsidized prices, but less often negotiable. Common for kitchens (*EBK, Einbauküche*).

Necessary documents to get accommodation – contract

To apply to rent a flat you need a copy of your passport, information about your income and prove that you have no previous debts for the apartment or public utility payments. A letter from RKI detailing your income and employment status is usually enough for some landlords (if you don't have the contract yet), but not all. In addition, many landlords like a SCHUFA (credit report). Getting a flat can be difficult if you are unable to provide a SCHUFA. Some landlords are also willing to accept SCHUFA equivalent documents from your country of origin.

Make sure the rent, Nebenkosten, the state of the apartment (damages) and what is included (built in kitchen, bath tub, etc.) is stated clearly 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. Prices vary wildly for seemingly similar flats so check with a local if the price doesn't seem right as it might not be. You will might also need to open a German bank account in order to deposit the security deposit for your flat. Alternatively, if you have European bank account (in Euro or different currency) you can also transfer security deposit for the flat.

Important tip:

Once you have found a house, get a name tag for your mailbox (intercom) as soon as possible. In Germany the mail is only allowed to be delivered if the name on the mailbox is exactly the same as the name on the mail!

Amenities: Internet, Telephone, Gas, Electricity, Water, Heating

Internet and Telephone

Most companies offer both internet (DSL or Cable) and telephone (Festnetz), and it's usually cheaper if you get both from the same company. For some companies a telephone connection and free calling with landlines within Germany comes as a bonus nowadays. Some even offer free calling with landlines for the entire EU. Some also offer mobile phone services. Check24 is a good place to compare deals. Check with other people living round the area which firms give you the best reception. One fellow found that some companies had no reception at all in their flat. Another thing to consider for installing internet is that there may be quite a delay when you move in to getting it installed. At best you are looking at 4-6 weeks, some companies take even longer. Usually cable based internet can get installed more quickly (even within a week) than the ones that use telephone lines. This may affect which mobile contract you take as you can use your mobile as an internet hotspot with some contract/phone combinations. (Some companies also offer special temporary internet dongles for the time it takes them to install or deliver your internet connection.) You might want to consider getting a very cheap prepay phone until you have all the requisite documents to get a contract phone as will need one in

your flat and bank search. Alternatively, you can also consider upgrading your phone plan to be able to hotspot yourself when you have issues during (or after) internet instalment in your apartment.

Companies

- Fonic
- Vodafone, cable based internet, various (high) speeds available.
- O2
- Base
- Alice – complicated, bad reviews
- Deutsche Telekom, has good reviews, only offers internet using telephone lines.
- Kabel Deutschland

Television

Everybody pays for public radio and television; you'll receive a bill automatically (Rundfunkbeitrag).

Electricity

You can use the Check24 website to figure out who will provide you with the best deal for your specific flat. Once you get your flat, you should arrange a contract with an electricity company within 5 weeks. Otherwise you will be appointed to a standard company that is often not as cheap as the best deals you could get. (Should you wait longer than 5 weeks and get the standard supplier, that contract is easy to get out of. They only require a two week notice to get you out of the contract)

Some electricity firms:

- Vattenfall
- Lichtblick -www.oekostrom.de
- Eprimo (don't get a contract with them, very bad service)

To sign up (online or on the phone) you need your address and the number on your meter (Zählernummer) (which you should get from the land lord, or can see on the meter).

Gas

You can use the check24 website to figure out who will provide you with the best deal for your specific flat. Once you get your flat, you should arrange a contract with a gas company within 5 weeks. Otherwise you will be appointed to a standard company that is often not as cheap as the best deals you could get. (Should you wait longer than 5 weeks and get the standard supplier, that contract is easy to get out of. They only require a two week notice to get you out of the contract)

Some gas firms:

- Eprimo (don't get a contract with them, very bad service)

Furniture and household goods

- There are three IKEAs in Berlin (note you cannot use your credit card to pay in IKEA in Berlin)

- 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.
- Saturn and Media Markt for electrical items etc.

If you don't have a car in Berlin you can use a furniture taxi to transport your goods home. Previous fellows experience with the IKEA-own delivery service has been consistently extremely poor. Ikea now offers a 'drive yourself delivery van' at reasonable prices. You can also find furniture and household goods offered close to your place on social media (i.e. Facebook groups such as 'Expats in Berlin', or on apps in your neighbourhood such as 'Nebenan').

Useful websites

Housing

It is common for companies to advertise apartments at the same sites as private individuals. Ads from individuals are usually without commission, whereas companies usually charge a fee for the mediation.

- <http://www.wg-gesucht.de/> (apartments and flat shares)
- <http://www.studenten-wg.de/> (flat shares with students)
- <http://www.immowelt.de>
- <http://immobilienmarkt.sueddeutsche.de>
- <http://www.immobilienscout24.de>
- <http://www.planethome.de>
- <http://www.kurzfuendig.de>
- <http://www.city-mitwohnzentrale.com>

TIP: at least 4 EPIET fellows at RKI have found flats using www.immobilienscout24.de. A useful feature is the "Umkreissuche", where you can enter an address you want to live close to – e.g. you can enter the address of the RKI (DGZ-Ring 1, 13086) and then e.g. look for flats within 5 km distance. You can also search by area. Mitte and Prenzlauerberg are the popular areas, also rather close to the Institute. If you want to sublet an apartment whilst you are looking for somewhere more permanent you can also look on EBay. One EUPHEM fellow found the flat (fully furnished and bills included) using <http://www.wg-gesucht.de/>. [This is the website for temporary accommodation, however it is possible to find a flat on this website for whole ECDC program. Just search for the flat that people want to rent for a year \(or longer\) and then email the landlord/landlady why you are coming to Germany, how long you need a flat and a few sentences about yourself.](#)

3. Reimbursement of expenses

- Check the 'Administrative Guide for ECDC Fellowship EU-track' for the exact regulations that apply to your cohort.
- You will have to pay your removal expenses yourself, and then claim them back via the institute. Therefore, it is recommended to contact the person who is in charge of the grant agreement at the institute beforehand, to talk things through for smooth reimbursement.
- You will need to get three quotes from removal companies for RKI, who will then generally approve the cheapest one which meets your needs. There are many websites around that are linked up with removal companies that let you request and compare quota at several companies at the same time.

- The reimbursement is only possible during, and not before, the fellowship (i.e. date on your contract).

If you are moving from non-EU country (e.g. UK) you can also apply for reimbursement. You need to submit three quotes (from any EU capital to the place in Germany) to the ECDC administrative. You can choose your own removal company

4. Finances

Bank account

While European legislation and IBAN and BIC bank account numbers facilitate quick (and usually free) money transfers across the border, many institutions will still ask for a German bank account. Therefore, it is recommended to open one as soon as you have found a place to live.

Before getting a bank account you need to have a German address and be registered at the Bürgeramt – see above. There are many banks to choose from, including internet banks (often free of charge):

- ING-DiBa (free account including EC and Visa card, online only, but good service & app)
- Postbank
- Berliner Volksbank
- Deutsche Bank (it's not free, but doesn't require Bürgeramt)
- Tomorrow bank (green bank, free account including EC card, user friendly app)

Good to know

- Cash (*Bargeld*) is the way to go in Germany! The canteen at work, bars, restaurants, etc usually only accept cash. You will be able to pay by card in the supermarket and bigger shops. However, in the past year this has changed and more places will also accept card.
- If you want to be able to pay by card in Germany - an EC-card is basically 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.
- 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.

Taxes

After registration at Bürgeramt (*Anmeldung*), you will automatically receive your tax ID (*Steuer ID/Persönliche Identifikationsnummer*) by mail on your new address. Taxes depend on your relationship status and income. If you are registered at a church, you will also pay church tax (*Kirchensteuer*). For help with your income taxes you can join the income tax association (*Vereinigte Lohnsteuerhilfe* <https://www.vlh.de/>), or if your situation is straightforward you can do it easily yourself online (<http://wundertax.de>). Another option (but more expensive and often unnecessary) is a tax advisor (*Steuerberater*) for your annual tax returns. The tax year runs with the calendar year in Germany and if you do your own returns they will be need to be done by May (later in the year if you are using a tax advisor).

Tax authority:

Bundeszentralamt für Steuern: http://www.bzst.de/DE/Home/home_node.html

5. Administration

Contract

- Your contract will refer to the collective agreement TVöD-Bund (*Tarifvertrag für den Öffentlichen Dienst Bund*), which you can find online.
- Please note that all paperwork (contracts, etc) will be in German and that most people at HR only speak German. If your German skills are not yet good enough, bring someone or ask the PAE secretariat for help.

Salary corrections

You can check your salary correction with the ECDC Fellowship Office. As an indication, check the 2020 correction factor here, around page 16:

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/6939681/7067177/Eurostat_Intermediate_Report_2021+FINAL.pdf/fa590327-4cb1-4de7-91fa-d5022f98d335?t=1622016296614

Your contract will probably refer to *TVöD Bund* salary scale E13 (*Entgeltgruppe*), step (*Stufe*) 1 or 2, depending on your previous work experience: <http://oeffentlicher-dienst.info/tvoed/bund/>

Pension (public/private)

The German state pension is organised by the *Deutsche Rentenversicherung*. Furthermore, you will build up pension through the *Versorgungsanstalt des Bundes und der Länder (VBL)*. You will automatically sign up through HR, when you are signing your contract and completing many forms.

Master's in Applied Epidemiology (MSAE)

- The Master Programme doesn't require much additional work – a few homework assignments following the modules, and a final report on what you've been doing the past two years. Each semester (6 months) you'll have to pay for enrolment at the university.
- The 2022 summer fee for enrolment at the university including semester ticket (i.e. free public transport in Berlin) was € 312,89 (around € 112 without semester ticket).
- Before the start of the fellowship, the PAE secretariat will email you with the question whether or not you would like to sign up. During matriculation you will also be able to sign up for a student ticket. This will enable you to travel within all three zones in Berlin (see Public Transport below).
- You will need your university and secondary school certificates for MSAE (Master Study program in Applied Epidemiology), as well as proof of health insurance (in case you have not yet turned 30 in which case proof of Health insurance is not needed). The PAE secretariat will help you with this during the introduction week at RKI.

6. Insurance

There are brokers for health, accident, private liability (and possible other) insurances, which without cost help you to find the most suitable health insurance. BIAC (<http://www.biac.de/>) and HanseMercur (<https://www.hansemercur.de/>) are brokers that helped previous fellows. Be prepared to sign a lot of forms, allowing the broker to e.g. legally represent your interests.

A useful website to compare insurance providers and schemes (and many other things) is: <https://www.check24.de/>

Health insurance

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. In Germany, people are insured through collective (*Gesetzliche Krankenversicherung, GKV*) or private (*Private Krankenversicherungen*) health insurance, determined by your income. Your income is likely to be under this threshold for private insurance, therefore you will need to register at a collective health insurance provider.

Recommendations/suggestions

There are state owned and managed health insurance companies (*Krankenkassen*), for instance the Techniker Krankenkasse (<http://www.tk.de/>), as well as private ones (like HanseMerkur or Barmenia). The private ones are usually more expensive – but provide better terms (*Leistungen*).

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?

Travel clinics/where to get vaccinations

In Germany, you can contact medical specialists directly, without a referral. For vaccinations and health check-ups related to work, contact the RKI *Betriebsarzt*. You will receive an invite to go to the *Betriebsarzt* during your first week at RKI.

Travel insurance

Information about ECDC Travel Insurance

ECDC travel insurance is provided by Cigna International Health Services. All staff and sponsored meeting delegates travelling on behalf of ECDC are covered by this insurance. The insurance takes effect as from the time one leaves their home/office for the meeting/mission and ends upon return to home/office. Times outside this period, including durations with private deviations, are not covered.

Coverage includes, among others, medical expenses as well as costs for repatriation in case of personal accident and/or serious illness, theft, riots etc. For medical expenses, the travel insurance is a complimentary insurance. Any costs or damages that are not covered by the primary insurance (private, national or corporate) will be supplemented by the travel insurance upon a written declaration that such expense had not been covered.

Please note that the ECDC Travel Insurance is only a "top-up" insurance and everyone are expected to have a travel insurance (professional or private) already.

It is recommended to always bring your European Health Insurance Card when travelling in Europe.

Source: ECDC EVA

Travel health insurance

Central (www.central.de) 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. It might also be possible to have a travel health insurance included in your health insurance. For example, the exclusive partner for Techniker is Envivas (<https://www.envivas.de/en/products-and-services>). The costs are approximately the same as with Central.

Accident insurance

There are many insurance companies to choose from for accident insurance (*Unfallversicherung*). Brokers can help you signing up for this as well or alternatively use an online price comparison website. However, it might be good to look into the possibility of keeping your current accident insurance or expat insurance, if you have a good and cheap accident insurance in your home country, which will also cover you abroad.

Liability insurance

Liability insurance (*Privathaftpflicht*) insures you against costs incurred by accidents and negligence. It is very common to have this in Germany and reasonably cheap. Again you can check on price comparison websites such as Check24 to identify what is most appropriate for you.

Different suppliers include:

- VHV
- Central

Expat insurance

Additional insurances exist for expats exist.

For the Netherlands: <https://www.oominurance.com/>

7. Leaving the country

Suggested removal companies

Places to deregister from

When leaving Berlin, you will need to deregister at Bürgeramt between 7 days before and 14 days after your move: <https://service.berlin.de/dienstleistung/120335/>

AT WORK

8. Robert Koch-Institute (RKI), Berlin

All fellows will attend the introduction week, the laboratory module, and several fixed days a year at RKI, even if you will be working at state level.

Getting to & from the City/Institute

The RKI Department of Infectious Diseases is located in Seestrasse 10.

Most people come to work by bike, or public transport:

- S Bahn: 50 or M13 Virchow-Klinikum (directly outside)
- Westhafen (10 min walk)
- Bus: 160 stops directly outside (stop Virchow-Klinikum)
- U Bahn: U9 Amrumer Straße or U9 Westhafen (10 min walk)

Your office space

Depending on your first project(s), you will be placed in one of the units (*Fachgebieten*) within the department of infectious disease epidemiology (*Abteilung 3, Infektionsepidemiology*).

Access card

An electronic card will give you access to the building (outside and inside) and the bike parking. You will receive a separate key for your office.

Laptop and mobile

You will receive a laptop from RKI, a headset, and a mobile phone (not EUPHEM fellow). With this, it is possible to work from home and read your email and view your calendar. You will not be able to do this on your private laptop or phone.

Remote Access

You can access your email account and RKI server through your RKI laptop and virtual desktop, using a softtoken (an app on your mobile phone called SecurID generates access codes).

Holidays

If you want to plan a holiday, you need the approval from your supervisors (including project supervisors), and submit your request through intranet. You will also need to ask a colleague to stand in for you during that period and add this person's name to your request.

Public Holidays

Depend on the Bundesland.

Working Time

Apart from your meetings, you are free to plan your own working hours anytime between 6.00 and 21.00 hours. You'll use a stamp card to register your time when coming in and leaving. This also allows you to work longer/shorter days as you like, as long as it ends up around 39 hours/week (468 *Sollminuten*), excluding breaks.

Lunch

- Most people have lunch with colleagues from their unit (*Fachgebiet*) in the canteen, at 12.00 a clock. You can only pay cash.

- As EPIET/PAE fellows, it can be nice to set a day for a lunch with fellows from both cohorts (e.g. each Thursday before the PAE meeting).
- Other places to have lunch nearby RKI:
 - Rudolfs (next door)
 - Kubi (Vietnamese, Torfstraße 18)
 - Spice (Vietnamese, Föhrrer Straße 11)

9. Munich

To be updated.

10.Hannover

To be updated.

LIVING IN GERMANY

11.Culture (dos and don'ts)

Don't be afraid of the Germans. Even though they might appear reserved, they usually are very friendly and eager to help you in every matter. Appraisal is scarce and pretty toned down. But if a German says you did ok, that's pretty much "what an amazing job you did!" elsewhere. They might want to start talking German with you early on. While this causes headache in the beginning it brings you into the language quickly. Generally speaking you might expect them to be straight forward and to the point. Yet, as everywhere else, all the people at your institute have their own character, it is hard to give one manual how to approach a typical German, so you got to find out for yourself.

12.Public transport

Public transport is reasonably priced in Germany especially if you book ahead (see online for the best deals). German train website: Deutsche Bahn, www.bahn.de

Berlin

The BVG (*Berliner Verkehrsgesellschaft* <https://www.bvg.de/en>) runs the U-Bahn, busses and trams in Berlin. The DB (*Deutsche Bahn*) runs the S-Bahn, and coordinates traffic in the region. The BVG and DB 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 and ticket prices. There are also two good iPhone apps worth a download to enable you to get around quicker: search for GVB and Berlin Tube.

A student semester ticket (see under Master of Applied Epidemiology) enables you to travel in all three zones (A, B, C) in Berlin!

13. Cycling in the city

Cycling is an easy way to get around Berlin. Consider getting a bike for your work commute and spare time if you do not already have one.

14. Language schools

- To get started, *Deutsche Welle* has great material to learn German, online (desktop & mobile): <https://www.dw.com/en/learn-german/s-2469>
- Check the 'Administrative Guide for ECDC Fellowship EU-track' for the budget that is allocated for language lessons over the different time periods of your fellowship, and ask the financial department in your institute how they have formulated this in the grant agreement. There is a budget for German language lessons that you take during the fellowship. In 2018, €1500,- was the maximum amount that you can use for language courses, and it could be claimed during the first year only.
- You will be able to arrange private or group classes. With the amount of travel there is with EPIET, private lessons are recommended (especially in the beginning).
- Choose a school that is reasonably close to work or home, as you might be going there a lot.

Berlin

There are many language schools (*Sprachschule*) to choose from in Berlin. The C2017 and C2018 fellows went to Nativa Akademie (www.nativa-akademie.de), which is relatively close to RKI. Check the possibility to (partially) take lessons during working hours with Katharina Alpers. The *Sprach- und Kulturbörse* at the Technical University also offers attractive courses (www.skb.tu-berlin.de/).

15. Recreational Activities, sports, worth visiting, meeting people

Germany

- For meeting people: <https://www.meetup.com>
- ToyTownGermany – www.toytowngermany.com
The ex-pat community – a lot of things are happening, check out the forum and tag along for a beer, a book-reading or a run.
- Gympass will allow give you access to a lot of sports clubs for a low rate, when you are registered at Charité (you are, if you are enrolled in the MSc): <https://www.gympass.com/de>

Berlin

- If you want any information about Berlin, its maps, swimming pools, cinemas etc. this is a good website: <http://www.berlin.de/>
- Flohmarkt im Mauerpark
- On Sunday: Cinema without subtitles
There are plenty of possibilities to see a movie without subtitles in Berlin. Look for OmU, which tells you that the movie is in the original language with German subtitles. Cinemas, which are good for OmU include:
 - Hackischer hof Kino: <http://www.hoefekino.de/>
 - Cinemaxx

- Other large movie cinemas

16. Supermarkets

Supermarkets in Berlin have lots of local smaller branches:

- Rewe
- Netto
- Kaiser
- Lidl
- Edeka
- Aldi
- Kaufland
- Spar
- Bio company (for organic food)
- LPG (also organic food)
- REAL is a bigger supermarket

The big department stores are:

- Galeria Kaufhof – at Alexander Platz
- KaDeWe – by Kurfürstendam

Kurfürstendam is a shopping street in the former West Berlin. It is very beautiful around Christmas when it is decorated with lights. It has high end shops in the end with KaDeWe and all the expensive shops when going towards Adenauerplatz (West).

Mitte and Prenzlauer Berg are two other great shopping areas. Here you can find anything from high-street shops to small local designers etc. Enjoy discovering the shops around your area!

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

17. Moving in with a family

Berlin is a great place for children. There are plenty of international schools and Kindergartens and lots of fun activities to keep them occupied. There is a child room at the RKI for last minute child care issues. Most Kindergartens are free, or of low cost. If you are thinking about coming with your family we would highly recommend that you speak to one of the current fellows who can give you more detailed information. It can be difficult to get a spot in a Kindergarten, and it is recommended to start the search early.

CONTACT

18.Key contacts at your institute

Secretariat

Juliette Zunk (ZunkJ@rki.de) takes care of the EPIET/PAE secretariat and is a wonderful contact person for most of your questions.

HR

Ask Katharina Alpers/Jan Walter/Juliette Zunk.

Finance

Ask Katharina Alpers/Jan Walter/Juliette Zunk.

19.Contact information of current and previous fellows

Feel free to contact the current fellows. They have lots of additional information that they are happy to share with you.

Name	Cohort	Email	Nationality, moved from→to	Moved with partner/family
Lynn Meurs	2017	MeursL@rki.de	Dutch, Belgium → Berlin	With family
Sonia Boender	2018	BoenderS@rki.de	Dutch, Amsterdam → Berlin	With partner
Ida Sperle	2020	Sperle-heupeli@rki.de	Norwegian, Copenhagen → Berlin	With family
Henriek Prins	2021	prinsh@rki.de	Dutch, Rotterdam -> Berlin	Alone
Katarzyna Schmidt	2021	schmidtk@rki.de	United Kingdom, Manchester -> Berlin	Alone