



Strategic
Command

Global Support Organisation

Location Guide

North Germany



North Germany Guide - Index

Foreword

Pre-Arrivals

In-processing

Leave, Pay and Allowances

Welcome Guides

Education

Financial and Banking

Health Care

Pets

Vehicle Registration and Travel

Security

Telephones and Internet

Activities

Departures

Useful Contacts

Foreword by
Warrant Officer 1 Lee Arnold AGC (SPS)
Head of Location
National Support Element North Germany



Welcome,

Congratulations on your assignment to North Germany which supports 18 locations from our NSE in Goch located in the German state of North Rhine Westphalia. There will undoubtedly be many points of similarity between your host in-country military and the British military, yet there will also be areas of profound difference. Enjoy what is common to both and relish the differences.

Getting organised: next steps There are several administrative, planning and preparatory tasks required for your assignment to North Germany. Provided below is an overview of the actions required of you at the three main stages of receipt of assignment order, pre-arrival and arrival. Please use that document as your starting point for preparing for your forthcoming assignment. I hope that you will find the guidance useful in preparing for your move to Germany, however if you do have any queries, or need help or advice please do not hesitate to contact the team by email or telephone, we are available to offer any assistance.

Please let us know if there are any gaps in the information provided and what else we might usefully include regarding future location-specific requirements. As our people with lived in-location experience, your experience and input are invaluable in enhancing our ability to support your colleagues going to the same location after you.

This booklet should lay out all the information you need in order to get to us in good order, however if there is something we have not covered then please send us an email and we will endeavour to get you the answer. For all administrative/financial questions please contact the NSE on GSO-EJSU-NGermany-NSE-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk and a member of the team will get back to you.



**Strategic
Command**

North Germany – Pre-Arrivals

⬅ [Back to Index](#)



Strategic
Command

Key NSE information:

Passports. Ensure your passport is valid for a minimum of six months prior to any travel through Europe or UK/Overseas and within 10 years from date of issue. Best practice is to ensure a validity period of at least 12 months remaining when you report for duty in Germany. During your posting to Germany your UK passports can be renewed online. Detailed passport information is available [2025DIN01-007 MOD Provision of Passports](#)

SOFA ID / NATO ID Cards. A SOFA ID and NATO ID Cards cannot be obtained prior to your JPA Assignment Order date. Please submit SOFA applications for all accompanying personnel 3 months prior to arrival in Germany to avoid delays. If you are being assigned into a NATO position, your current unit must arrange your NATO security certificate for you. You must have a printed copy of this on arrival into Germany, failure to provide this could result in delays in the commencement of your assignment.

Accommodation. Your housing application (1132) should be submitted as soon as possible, please note that most housing is privately rented and is not available for those personnel in long term relationships. Consideration will be given to requests but housing is at a premium so choices may not always be available. Please do not proceed to Germany or book removals without being allocated an SFA/SLA by DIO.

Removals. The aim of Movement of personal effects is to enable service personnel and, where applicable, their accompanying dependants to move their personal effects at public expense within MOD limits. Respective application forms can be found at <https://grms-external.agility.com>. Regardless of the type or size of property being moved into, the service person is limited to a cubic metre allowance based upon SLA/SFA to which the service person is normally entitled in accordance with housing regulations.

Booking Travel. Date of arrival in country must be agreed between the SP and the gaining unit prior to any travel arrangements. Hotel accommodation may be required for those coming with families, approval for any German hotels should be obtained from the NSE by the losing unit prior to booking. You will be able to book your travel through your losing unit and GBT.

If you have not already done so, please ensure that you Register / Update your Details with [Global Business Travel](#) (used to be HRG). This will prevent delays with your booking for your move. Updating your details will also assist the Travel Cell whilst you are in post should you be required to attend courses or training during your time with us on UK business. Global business travel can be reached by email at: Cgcsupport.uk@amexgbt.com

Please do not hesitate to contact this office via email on GSO-EJSU-NGermany-NSE-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk should you require any further information or assistance.



Strategic
Command

Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA)

Please submit a SOFA application via the link in the pre-arrival's checklist on your proforma prior to arrival in Germany. This can be done up to **three months** prior to arrival.

You will require the following evidence for your and your dependants applications:

- Scan/image of passport(s)
- Passport style photo(s)
- Assignment Order
- Marriage Certificate (when requested)

The general legal status of non-German soldiers whose home country is a member of NATO is based on the NATO Status of Forces Agreement (NATO SOFA) rather than on European Union regulations and provisions. Under Articles III, IV, and V of the NATO SOFA, the following shall apply to soldiers of a NATO country stationed in another NATO country:

- The soldiers and their dependents shall be exempt from passport and visa regulations.
- The soldiers and their dependents shall be exempt from German regulations on the registration of residence.
- During their stay in Germany, the soldiers and their dependents shall not acquire any right to permanent residence or domicile in the territories of Germany within the meaning of the German Registration Act, or the German Driving License Ordinance (legal fiction under Article III, NATO SOFA).
- The right to residence in Germany is based on the NATO SOFA. The German laws on aliens shall not apply to NATO soldiers and their dependents.
- Soldiers shall only be required to produce their military ID card to identify themselves.
- Family members shall be identified as dependents of members of the force.
- The German Driving License Ordinance shall not apply to the soldiers and their dependents. In particular, Paragraphs 28 to 31 of the German Driving License Ordinance shall not apply since they are associated with the establishment of a domicile.
- The soldiers and their dependents shall not be required to acquire a German driving license. The Federal Republic of Germany shall accept as valid, without any reservation, the driving license issued by the sending State while members of a force are stationed in Germany (Article IV, NATO SOFA).
- The soldiers and their dependents shall not be exempt from German turnover tax (= value added tax);
- The soldiers and their dependents shall not be exempt from German income tax if they engage in any profitable enterprise in Germany (Article X, Paragraph 2, NATO SOFA)



Time	Action	✓
Immediately	<p>Assignment Order Received on JPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact North Germany NSE GSO-EJSU-NGermany-NSE-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk <p>Ensure Passport(s)/Visa(s) are in date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DESCOM Families Section should have made contact UKSTRATCOM-DefSp-DSCOM-FamSec@mod.gov.uk 	
Immediately	<p>Personal Administration Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CEA, renew your EC via CEAS - Family Welfare - Medical – Register with HEALIX - GHIC/E106 - Child Benefit/Tax Credits - Marriage Tax Allowance - Change of Postal address - Broadband contracts - Cancel utility bills - Cancel standing orders/direct debits - Personal/Family Insurance/PAX cover - Travel Insurance - Complete unit arrival proforma which includes a link to the Supportability DIN - Contact HoL for further information for any dependants who are over 18 not in full time education - Complete location specific paperwork: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SOFA Status Application - Personnel Data Sheet 	
Immediately	<p>Schooling considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apply for school places - Complete education clearance (0 – 18-year-olds) - 18 – 25 years must be in full time education to obtain SOFA status. 	
Immediately	<p>Family Pet(s) considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pet travel - Pet vaccinations/insurance - EU Passport/Health Certificate 	
Immediately	<p>Personal Vehicle considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Insurance - Transfer ownership of all vehicles not registered in the SP or UKBC's name. - FMT103 	
Immediately	<p>Complete MOD E1132 via this link and submit to DIO at SHAPE . Required for both SFA and SLA.</p>	
Immediately	<p>Spouse to attend supportability medical/dental appointments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reclaim GP admin costs on JPA expenses 	



Pre-Arrivals

[← Back to Index](#)

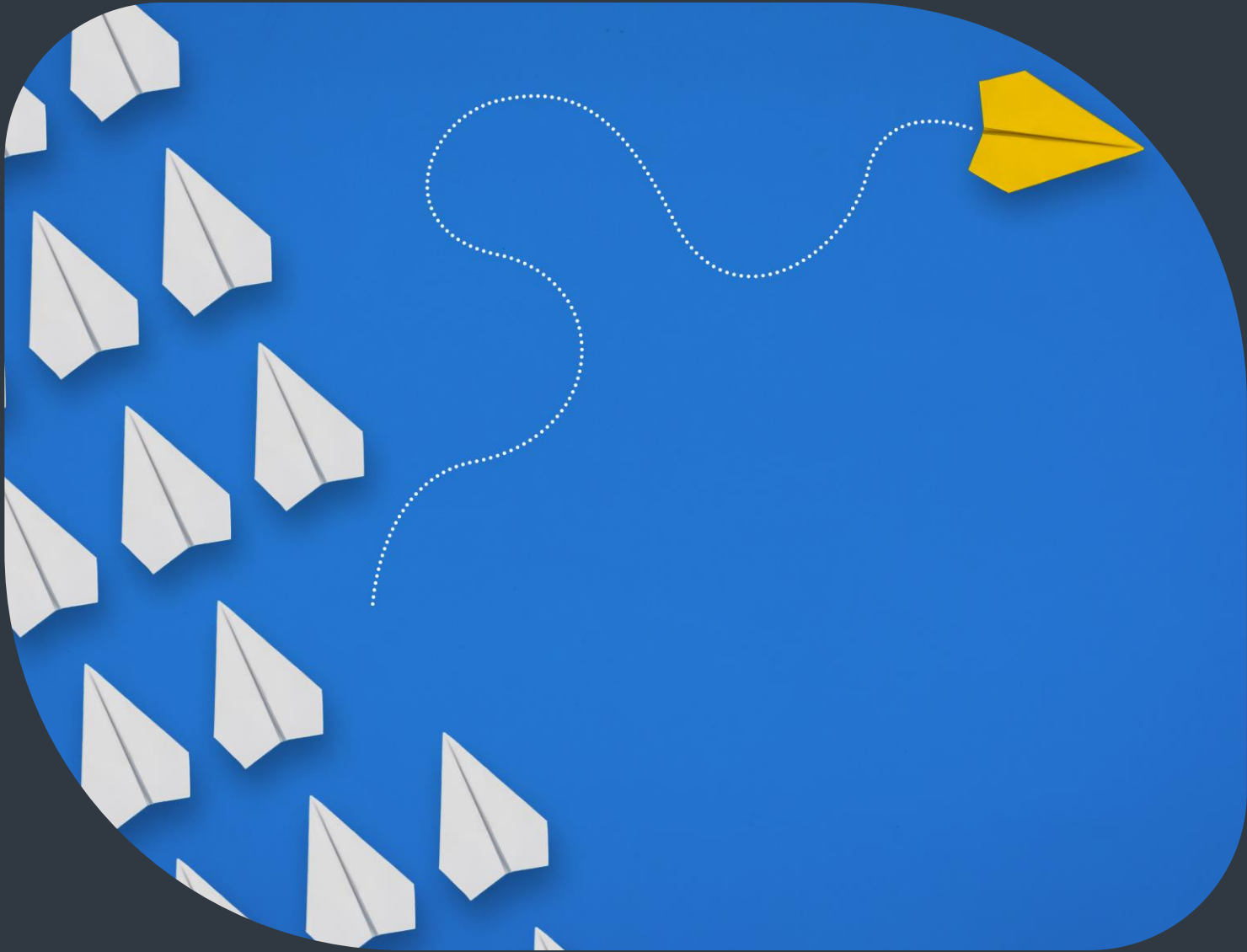
Time	Action	✓
45 Days prior to move	Confirm allowance entitlement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disturbance Expense - Global Mobility Allowance 	
30 Days prior to move	Confirm allowance entitlement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advance of Pay (if required) 	
4 Weeks prior to arrival	Make the necessary arrangements for 'dependant' adult children where necessary	
4 Weeks prior to arrival	Confirm SFA/SLA allocation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Postal address - Occupation date - Is Proxy 'March in' required? - Personal contents insurance 	
4 Weeks prior to arrival	Personal administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Check statement of earnings - Unit clearance certificate - Change of address Royal Mail/Unit - UK broadband contract - Bills/Standing Orders/Direct Debits - Personal/Family Insurance/PAX cover - Ensure that you have updated / registered your personal information with Global Business Travel 	
4 weeks prior to arrival	Vehicles Tax free vehicles imports- complete a F60 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU/UK Matrix Tests - Lights suitability for LHD - Familiarise yourself with BFGnet.de for all car processes - Retain any personalised number plates SOFA Fwd Temporary SOFA issued from FAM Sect to the NSE Gp Mailbox (Family's Only)	
NSE Arrival	Personal Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attend ID appointments as arranged by the NSE. 	



Strategic
Command

North Germany – In-processing

[← Back to Index](#)



Strategic
Command

In-processing

⬅ [Back to Index](#)

Timeframe	Action/Task	Comments	Action for SP or Spouse
Immediately	<p>Arrival Interview</p> <p>Update/Check Personal Administration:</p> <p>Update RWA / EC / NOK on JPA</p> <p>Complete arrival paperwork</p>	<p>You need to ensure you have with you the following documentation (unless sent in advance to the NSE):</p> <p>Passport(s)</p> <p>MOD 90</p> <p>Marriage Certificate</p> <p>Child(ren)'s birth certificate</p> <p>NATO Security Clearance (Certificate Copy to be with SP on arrival)</p> <p>V5 Logbook</p> <p>UK Matrix test</p> <p>European Matrix test</p> <p>Spouse/Children's NHS details</p> <p>You will receive:</p> <p>SOFA stamps in all eligible passports.</p> <p>Proof of Residency – for the Bank/Local businesses</p> <p>Information relating to allowances during your assignment.</p>	SP & Spouse
As soon as required	Consider opening a local bank account.	There are various choices for local banking, do your research and select the one that fits best for your needs. Once you have opened a Bank Account you must bring the bank details to the NSE Admin office who will then set up your JPA Banking information in accordance with your needs.	SP
Within 14 days of Arrival	Dog Registration	<p>There is a requirement within Germany that all dogs need to be registered with the local authorities. Please follow the link for further information relating to registering your dog.</p> <p><u>Microsoft PowerPoint - Goch_Pets_RegesteringDogs (ejsu.net)</u></p> <p>For pet queries please contact Laura.Jones500@mod.gov.uk</p>	SP

In-processing

⬅ [Back to Index](#)

Timeframe	Action/Task	Comments	Action for SP or Spouse
Within first 14 days of moving into Service Family Accommodation (SFA)	“Licence to occupy” to be signed and returned to DIO if the SFA was taken over by proxy. Return “14 Day Initial Defects Form” to DIO, listing any faults or defects to the property.	This can be sent directly to DIO.	SP
No later than 45 days	Register your vehicle(s) and trailers (caravans)	The GEO VLO in the EJSU N Germany office is ready to assist you through the process. The email address is: stacey.evans175@mod.gov.uk or telephone: 0049 2823 419 0832. Full instructions are available on the GEO VLO webpages https://bfgnet.de/vlo/vehicle-licensing.htm Business Support Operations Centre (I-Hub) - Supporting The Force and Evolving GEO Capability (sharepoint.com)	SP
Within first 6 weeks of arrival	Personal Administration Check Statement of Earnings Are you on the correct <u>LOA Rates</u> ? Are you paying the correct Accommodation Charge? Has your GYH(O)/Respite allowance been entered on JPA.	Report any issues to Goch NSE immediately.	SP

North Germany – Leave, Pay & Allowances

⬅ [Back to Index](#)



Strategic
Command

North Germany - Leave, Pay & Allowances

[← Back to Index](#)

NSE USEFUL INFORMATION

Whilst assigned to Northern Germany there are several allowances available to support the additional costs incurred when relocating to and living in Germany. This guide will provide you with an understanding of what is available and what is required to receive these allowances. Whilst this guide provides you with the basic information on each allowance, you must ensure you are fully aware of the regulations related to that allowance, which can be found in JSP 752, prior to making any claim.

Overseas Private Vehicle Provision (OPVP)

OPVP is provided to assist Service Personnel permanently assigned to and from an overseas location with access to a private motor vehicle. The provision may be used in one of the following ways:

1. To contribute towards administrative and vehicle depreciation costs when selling and buying a vehicle. You must be able to demonstrate that two separate financial transactions have taken place.
2. To contribute towards the charges incurred (up to the capped rate) when required to cancel a vehicle lease agreement.
3. To contribute towards the cost (up to the capped rate) of privately shipping one vehicle to and from the permanent overseas assignment location.

Global Mobility Allowance (GMA)

Is being trialled as a new way to receive a financial contribution towards expenses that arise when you move to or from an overseas permanent assignment. Visit [2025DIN01-056](#) for full details.

Disturbance Expense (DE)

DE contributes towards the necessary additional expenses that may arise when the Services require their personnel to make a qualifying move to or from a RWA on permanent assignment. This can be submitted up to 45 days prior to your move to and from Italy and is processed through JPA Self-Service. The rate of DE varies based on the location and accommodation type you are moving to and can be found within JSP 752.

Relocation Leave

When permanently assigned to an overseas location all personnel have an entitlement of 10 days relocation leave. This must be administered by the losing unit with the leave being taken prior to arriving at the new permanent duty station unless agreed otherwise with the gaining unit. Relocation leave must be taken within 6 months of the Assignment Order date. You should note that LOA is not payable whilst on relocation leave.

Advance of Pay

On assignment to and from an overseas location, a Service Person may apply for an advance of pay up to four months' net pay which is repayable over 12 months. This can be applied for prior to assignment or on arrival at the new duty station.



Strategic
Command

Local Overseas Allowance (LOA)

LOA contributes to the necessary additional cost of day-to-day living when assigned overseas. It is a comparison of the cost of living in the UK v the cost of living in the overseas location. LOA is processed by the National Support Element (NSE) as part of your arrivals process and can be processed no earlier than 6 days before the Assignment Order date.

As part of the LOA review, an additional allowance was brought in to assist those accompanied personnel running 2 vehicles in location. It is called the 2nd vehicle provision and is paid alongside your LOA. To receive this, you must provide the NSE with a copy of vehicle registration and insurance documents for both vehicles. The documents must be provided following the registration/insurance renewal for each vehicle, annually.

Respite Provision (RP)

RP contributes towards travel and accommodation costs for SP and accompanied family permanently assigned to an overseas station to achieve overnight respite from their duty station. This provision is awarded on an annual basis which is renewed on the anniversary of your Reporting for Duty Date (RDD). A full entitlement to the provision will still be awarded if you fall short of the entitlement anniversary.

Get You Home (Overseas) (GYH(O))

GYH(O) is aimed at reducing the separation of eligible personnel from close family, friends and UK lifestyle that result from a permanent overseas assignment. This is achieved by assisting towards the costs of a return journey to the UK or, in the case of non-British passport holders, to the country of domicile.

This allowance is awarded on an annual basis which is renewed on the anniversary of your RDD. A full assignment year is required to be awarded this allowance. Any travel to and from the point of departure or final destination may be claimed on top of this amount up to the current MMA rates for that journey. Personnel may elect to drive back to the UK and claim their GYH(O); in this instance the claim will be capped at the current rate.

Get You Home (European Commuting Allowance) (GYH(ECA))

The aim of Get You Home (European Commuting Allowance) (GYH(ECA)) is to support overseas service by reducing the impact of separation on Service personnel (SP) who undertake an unaccompanied assignment in a nominated country.

GYH(ECA) contributes to the cost of travel between an assigned Duty Station and a qualifying residence in the UK. The entitlement is up to 24 return journeys per calendar year. It is an opt-in allowance which SP may choose instead of the standard allowance entitlement for an unaccompanied assignment.

SP assigned to Germany are eligible considering they meet the below requirements:

- Are Regular, Full Time Reserve Service (Full Commitment) or Mobilised Reserves and
- Are single or elect to serve unaccompanied and
- Do not have a separate entitlement to return journeys to the UK as part of their assignment terms and conditions and
- Occupy service accommodation or substitute at their Duty Station including SP in receipt of Overseas Rent Allowance.

Leave Travel Days

Whilst assigned to a GSO supported location, you will be entitled up to 3 days leave per leave year to compensate for the time taken to travel to and from the UK on leave. This is broken down into 3 periods of 1 days and to qualify for this you must have spent 2 working days on leave in the UK. This must be recorded correctly on JPA for audit purposes.

Please do not hesitate to contact the NSE via email on GSO-EJSU-NGermany-NSE-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk should you require any further information or assistance.



Welcome

[← Back to Index](#)



Strategic
Command

Welcome to Germany

This handbook is designed to give you as much advice, help and information as possible about the local area. Though by no means exhaustive, its intent is to help you prior to your arrival and during your time here in North Germany.

Your tour here in Germany will offer you lots of great opportunities with regards to travel, recreation and a whole lot more. The customs, culture and way of life here are significantly different from what you may be accustomed to, and shopping, driving and dining are all a different experience. Some people may find this a little daunting at first but embracing the culture, food and people you meet will help ease the transition. We understand that moving yourself and your family to a new country can be extremely stressful, so our GSO staff are here to help you adjust and get settled.

Sponsorship

Your line manager will allocate a sponsor to assist with your arrival. Your line-manager will try to allocate someone who lives nearby, whether married or single, and they will be able to show you the local amenities to help you settle in more quickly.

Host Nation Liaison Officer

We are lucky enough to have a Host Nation Liaison Officer (HNLO) who is available to do translations of documents you receive in German and will also translate English into German where necessary.

Learning the language or just the basics will go a long way. Guten Tag (good day), Morgen (morning) and Tschüss (bye) are handy words to know. It can be considered impolite not to say 'good day' or 'goodbye' when entering or leaving shops or establishments. Shaking hands is also seen as an expression of politeness.



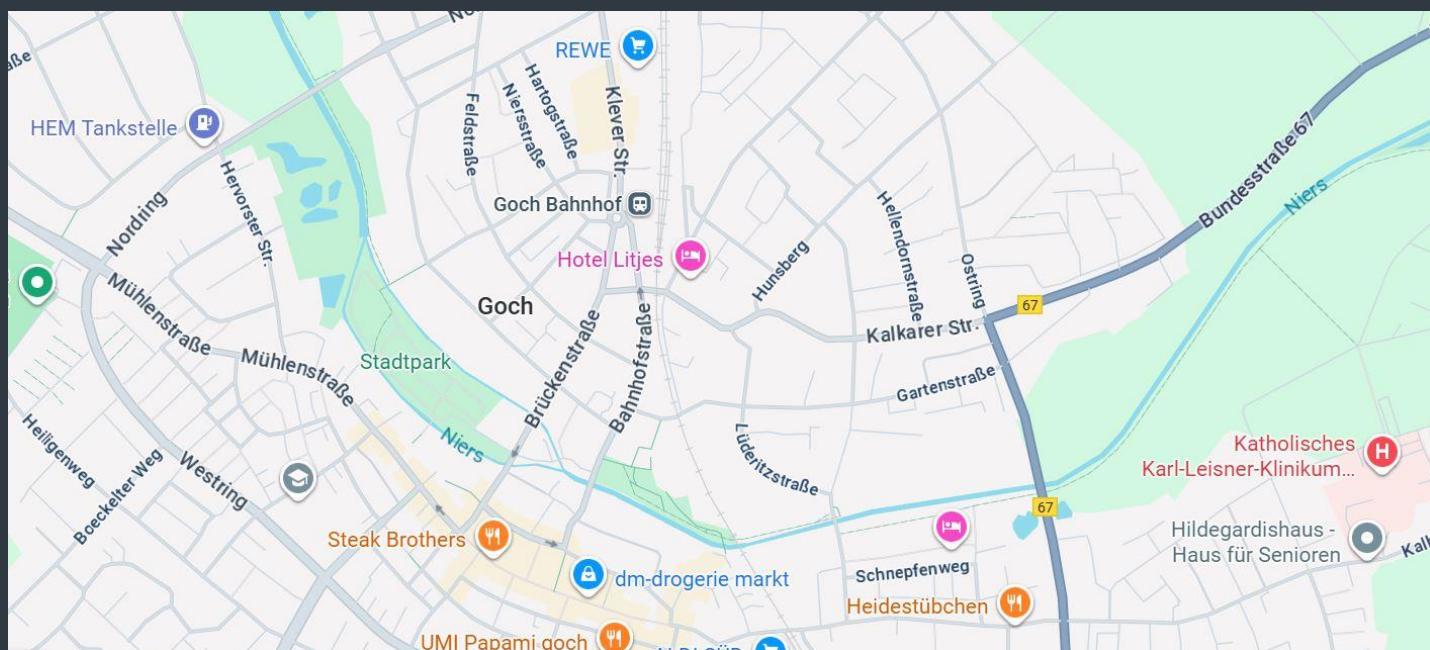
Goch - Welcome

[← Back to Index](#)

Goch is a town in the [district of Kleve](#), in [North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany](#). It is situated close to the border with the Siebengewald in [Netherlands](#), approx. 12 km (7 mi) south of [Kleve](#), and 27 km (17 mi) southeast of [Nijmegen](#). Goch is at least 750 years old: the earliest mention of Goch is in a document dated 1259. It was a part of the [Duchy of Cleves](#). During [World War II](#), the city was destroyed by Allied bombers during [Operation Veritable](#). Since reconstruction after the war, Goch has developed into a pretty market town on the river Niers with between 30 and 35 thousand residents offering a wealth of history, culture and recreational activities.

Combined Air Operations Centre (CAOC)

The Combined Air Operations Centre Udem was activated in 1993 as part of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation). It is subordinated to Headquarters Allied Air Command Ramstein. CAOC Udem is headquartered on the Paulsberg-Kaserne which is located 1 km from the town of Udem and approximately 12km from Goch. The CAOC's main role is Air Policing of NATO's Northern Air Policing Area.



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Command

Hamburg, a major port city in northern Germany, is connected to the North Sea by the Elbe River. It's crossed by hundreds of canals, and also contains large areas of parkland. Near its core, Inner Alster lake is dotted with boats and surrounded by cafes. The city's central Jungfernstieg boulevard connects the Neustadt (new town) with the Altstadt (old town), and is home to landmarks such as the 18th-century St. Michael's Church. Hamburg is the second-largest city in Germany after Berlin.

FÜHRUNGS-AKADEMIE DER BUNDESWEHR

The Führungsakademie der Bundeswehr (FüAkBw) / German Armed Forces Command and Staff College (GAF CSC) is located in Blankenese, a suburb of Hamburg. The GAF CSC is broadly equivalent to the Joint Services Command and Staff College (JSCSC) Shrivenham. It consists of two separate barracks: the Clausewitz-Kaserne (CK) and the Generalleutnant-Graf-von-Baudissin-Kaserne (GBK) . The Academy HQ is located in the CK, which is also where the Lehrgang General-/Admiralstabsdienst National (LGAN) and Lehrgang General-/Admiralstabsdienst International (LGAI) courses are delivered, i.e. the German equivalents of the Advanced Command and Staff Course (ACSC). British students attend the LGAN.



Münster

Münster is in the northern part of the state and is considered to be the cultural centre of the Westphalia region. It is also capital of the local government region Münsterland. Münster was the location of the Anabaptist rebellion during the Protestant Reformation and the site of the signing of the Treaty of Westphalia ending the Thirty Years' War in 1648. Today it is known as the bicycle capital of Germany. Münster gained the status of a Großstadt (major city) with more than 100,000 inhabitants in 1915. As of 2014, there are 300,000 people living in the city, with about 61,500 students. Münster's Central Station is on the Wanne-Eickel–Hamburg railway. The city is connected by Intercity trains to many other major cities in Germany.

Headquarters 1 (German/Netherlands) Corps

1 (German/Netherlands) Corps in Münster is one of NATO's High Readiness Forces Headquarters. We are capable of directing any mission of up to 60,000 troops at short notice – flexible forces including land, sea and air elements ready to move quickly to wherever needed. Multinational cooperation is an inherent part of our DNA. Germany and the Netherlands are our framework nations, but ten other NATO allies contribute personnel. This is why our motto is "Communitate Valemus" -Together Strong!



Strategic
Command

Rostock - Welcome

[← Back to Index](#)

The Hanseatic city of Rostock is famous for the Hanse Sail. Rostock is the largest city in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania with around 200,000 inhabitants. At the same time, the city on the Warnow River is one of the most important port cities in the Baltic Sea region: numerous ferries and cruise ships regularly call at the Rostock port. Basically, the people in Rostock accept new residents very quickly. It is good to adapt to the customs a little and to use the greeting "Moin", which is traditional in northern Germany and especially on the coast, throughout the day. A simple Guten Tag (good day) or Morgen (morning) will go a long way. It can be considered impolite not to say 'good day' or 'goodbye' when entering or leaving shops or establishments. Shaking hands is also seen as an expression of politeness.

German Maritime Forces (DEU MARFOR) and Laage Fliegerhorst German Maritime Forces, or in the NATO abbreviation simply DEU MARFOR, is a military command or task force. Its staff plans, supports and conducts multinational maritime manoeuvres and operations. In times of crisis, for example, NATO or the EU can activate the staff as a maritime headquarters to command multinational naval units. Taktisches Luftwaffengeschwader 73 "Steinhoff" is responsible for the training of Eurofighter pilots and groundcrew for the German Air Force (Luftwaffe). It is based at Laage Fliegerhorst, shares the runway with the civilian Rostock airport and is approximately 20 miles South of the city. As well as its primary training role, the squadron supports Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) duties and provides aircraft and personnel to support operations

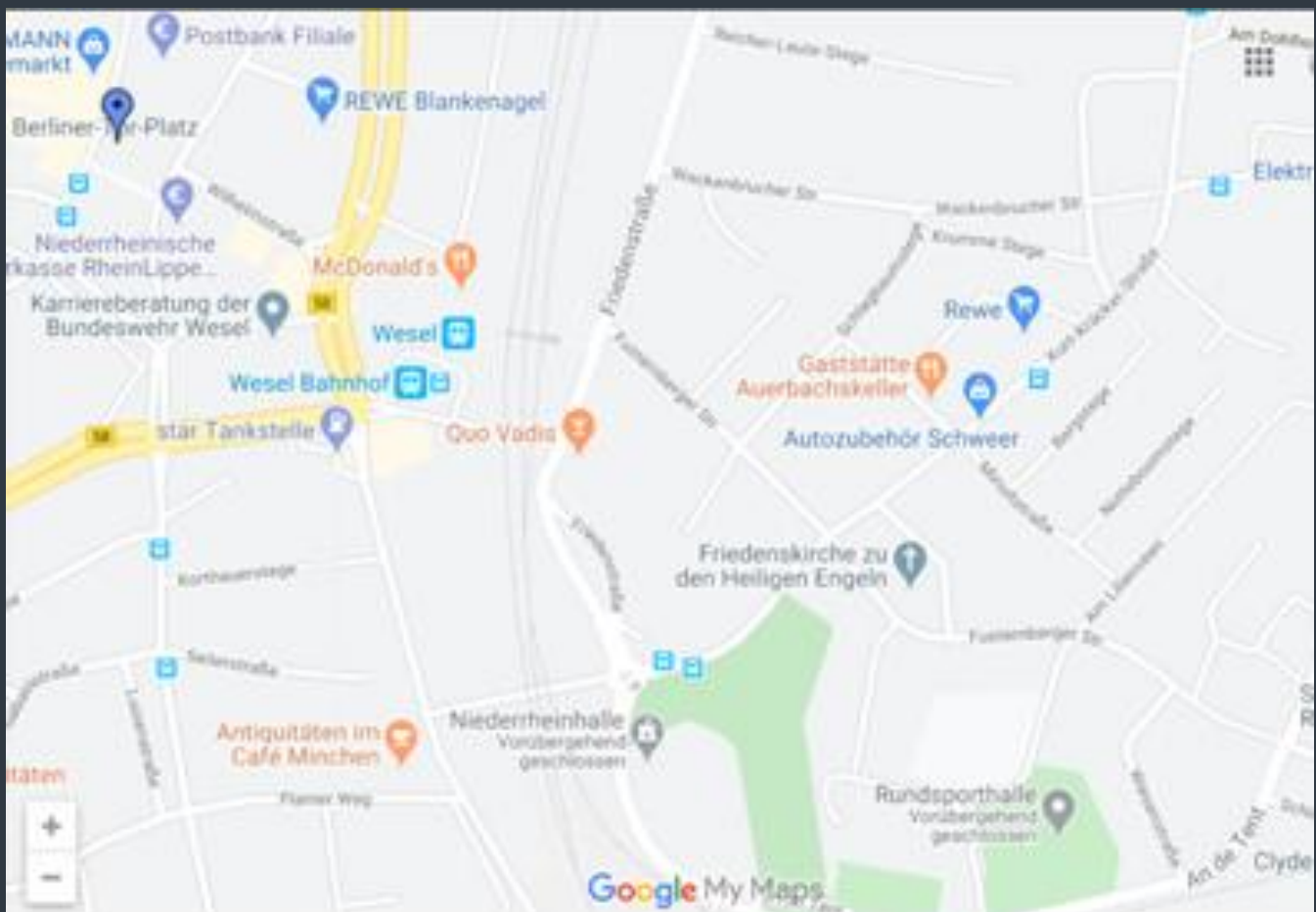


Strategic
Command

Wesel - Welcome

← [Back to Index](#)

Wesel is a city in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. It lies along the Rhine and Lippe rivers and the Lippe-Seiten Canal, northwest of the Ruhr. Because of its location near the rivers Rhine and Lippe, Wesel gained significance for its trade with the Netherlands and Westphalia and became almost as important as Cologne. Its location was also the reason why Wesel was destroyed almost completely during the Second World War. Wesel is located approximately 43.2Km from Düsseldorf Airport. In and around the local area you will hear the phrase Tschüss (bye) this is a local phrase from the surrounding area. A simple Guten Tag (good day) or Morgen (morning) will go a long way. It can be considered impolite not to say 'good day' or 'goodbye' when entering or leaving shops or establishments. Shaking hands is also seen as an expression of politeness. Schill Kaserne The Schill barracks is a barracks for NATO units in Wesel . It is named after Ferdinand von Schill (1776-1809). From 1965 it housed the rocket artillery battalion 150 and other units of the Bundeswehr. Schill barracks is located 6.6kms from the MQ's



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EDUCATION

Polite Notice

The German system can be very different to what you are used to when it comes to finding a Nursery (Kindergarten) or Childminder (Tagesmutter). You may be looking at a wait time of up to 1 year to get your child a place in Kindergarten, so it is recommended as soon as you arrive to register your child. Places are normally allocated every August, if you are arriving in the first half of the year you might have to wait until the following year for a place. The Kindergartens are cheaper than the UK and charges are linked to annual salary. Before you arrive in post, if you have any children of preschool age, it is recommended that you contact the NSE in the first instance. We can then offer support if needed.

Kindergarten

North Germany has an abundance of kindergartens. To register you will need your german address, not a BFPO address. Kindergartens are a popular option in Germany and there can often be long waiting lists. It is advised to go and visit Kitas around the area. Sometimes this allows you a space (if available) earlier. To register please use the link below.

<https://kita-online.krzn.de/KITA-Online/buerger/BuergerStart.action?fallbackGkz=520>

The primary language taught in the kindergartens is German. Kindergartens are on a par with UK nurseries, learning through play and developing social skills. A great way for your little person to learn a second language too. Children can stay in kindergarten until the age of 6 years. The next stage would be primary school if you would like your child to be in the German Education System.

Authority needs to be obtained from SHAPE to use schools.

Schooling for dependants of UK personnel in the local area is limited and will require transport to either travel across the border into the Netherlands and up to Arnhem, or southwest into Germany towards Duisburg/Dusseldorf. Both journeys take approximately 45-60 minutes, traffic dependent. St George's School in Duisberg provides a school Mini - Bus which picks up children attending from Friedenstrasse where the majority of families are housed. Places on the bus are allocated through application to the school directly. There are other options in terms of considering boarding in Germany or back in the UK.

School Fees/Administration

The point of contact with regards school fees is the budget assistant at GSO who can be contacted via email at: GSO-EJSU-NGermany-NSE-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk

Trading from Home

Guidelines on Trading from Service Families Accommodation (SFA) are found in JSP464 which is available to download by any user who has access to MODNet



← [Back to Index](#)

GOCH / WESEL SCHOOL OPTIONS

St. George's School Duisburg-Düsseldorf

Am Neuen Angerbach 90, 47259 Duisburg, Germany.

St George's School offers Preschool, Primary and Secondary education. Their curriculum is based on the National Curriculum for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This provides a broad, flexible and challenging framework which allows to develop reflective and knowledgeable learners who are ready for the demands of the future.

St George's Duisburg-Düsseldorf benefits from its leafy location directly on the border between the lively industrial hubs of Duisburg and Düsseldorf, houses a diverse community of pupils and their families. It offers an English-medium education to students of all ages, which culminates in the globally recognized International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. St Georges has a formal uniform policy purchased at individual cost.

Details about St George's School can be found at www.stgeorgesschool.com

Transport to the international school is by private arrangements. EJSU will provide MMA to the school **only for 2 journeys** (there and back) so if you are planning to drive your child/ren to school then return to Wesel, keep this in mind because you will be doing 4 journeys.

The Rivers International School

Parnassusstraat 20, 6846 RB Arnhem, The Netherlands.

The Rivers International School offers Preschool, Primary and Secondary education in the Netherlands. There are close to 45 nationalities and many languages represented and they seek to create a broad range of opportunities for children, whatever their background, to integrate and interact with each other. Their ethos of a harmonious multinational, multi-ethnic community learning to live and learn together is something they all value.

In Primary, pupils are following a programme based on the National Curriculum for England and Wales adapted for use with international children. In Secondary, pupils are following the International Baccalaureate Organisations (IB) Middle years and Diploma Programme. Rivers International School has a relaxed no school uniform policy.

Details about Rivers International School, including their curriculums can be accessed online at: <https://www.arnheminternationalschool.nl/>



Strategic
Command

Education – Hamburg, Munster, Rostock

← [Back to Index](#)

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF HAMBURG

The International School of Hamburg (ISH) is a co-educational, full-day, state-recognised supplementary school.

The International School of Hamburg is located in Hamburg's green west. The green and spacious campus is surrounded by the beautiful Hamburg Botanical Garden, some parks and a sports club.

International School of Hamburg (ISH)
Hemmingstedter Weg 130, 22609 Hamburg

For more information see: <https://www.ishamburg.org/>

Polite Notice

Children who speak German or are young enough to pick up the language quickly can attend local schools or 'Kindertagesstaetten' (KiTa) which are comprised of Krippe (creche), Tagesmutter (childminder) and Kindergartens (nursery schools). There is a Kindergarten at the GAFCS. There are 7 KiTa's in the Halstenbek area. You cannot apply directly to a KiTa. You must apply to the Rathaus (town hall) using this form: Kitaanmeldung. The email address for the Rathaus is KiTaPlatzvergabe@halstenbek.de

QSI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF MUNSTER

Salzmannstraße 152, 48159 Münster

Mission Statement:

Virtually every five year old comes to school eager to learn. The mission of Quality Schools International (QSI) is to keep this urge to learn alive in every child in QSI schools. Our schools are established to provide in the English language a quality education for students in the cities we serve. These students are the children of parents of many nationalities who have come to a foreign country, usually for a limited stay of a year or more. Some students are permanent residents, citizens of the host country.

We believe in providing an aesthetically pleasing physical surrounding under the charge of caring staff who believe their students will be successful.

For more information see: <https://www.qsi.org/munster>

ECOLEA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ROSTOCK

We set high standards at Ecolea - especially on ourselves: We want to promote the talents and abilities of our students as best as possible and prepare them for the challenges of a globalized and digitized world. It is not just about expanding knowledge and understanding, but above all about turning young people into creative designers of their future. We equally value the promotion of performance and character education. Respect, empathy and a sense of social responsibility are just as important to us as specialist knowledge, the ability to reflect and drive. These characteristics arise from lessons in which the focus is not on the subjects but on our students.



Strategic
Command



FINANCE & LEGAL

Banking

When you arrive in Germany, you will need a German bank account, which part or all of your salary can be paid into, and so you can make some direct debit arrangements for everyday bills. You have the option to split your pay into your UK and German account, the percentage of split is individual choice, and this can be actioned in the NSE office. Report to the NSE office once your German bank account is opened and complete a JPA E016b. You will need a German bank account if you want to set up a contract for telephone or internet services and reimbursement of NATO business T&S and mileage. Opening an account is very straightforward. All that is required is your national insurance number, passport and a letter of residency which can be issued by the HNLO. There are banking affiliations within the German banking sector. If you withdraw money from a Geldomat (cashpoint) which isn't affiliated to your bank you will incur charges. Deutsche Bank is affiliated with the Post Office so you will not incur extra charges using a Deutsche bank card at the Post office. It is useful for you to bring Euros with you as getting your card and pin number could take a week or two.

General Accounting Rate (GAR)

The GAR is the rate at which sterling is converted to the local currency by the military.

UK Credit & Debit Cards

It is possible to withdraw cash, with a UK credit/debit card, from a large network of cash point machines but a charge may be applied.

Legal Help

For UK matters: The Law Society (of the respective jurisdictions: England and Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland) maintains a list of solicitors by location and subject area. The lists can be accessed via the respective Law Society website.

England and Wales <http://solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk/>

Scotland <https://www.lawscot.org.uk/find-a-solicitor/>

Northern Ireland <https://www.lawsoc-ni.org/solicitors>

Military applicants wishing to instruct a Northern Ireland based solicitor should also contact their J2 Security Cell for a list of approved Northern Ireland law firms.

When you return to the UK, you will need to instruct a civilian solicitor.

For overseas matters: Guidance on overseas lawyers can be obtained from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) published List of Lawyers Abroad.

www.gov.uk/government/collections/list-of-lawyers





Please also read the Defence Global Practise (DGP) Patient Information Leaflet which contains important and relevant information for all DGP locations – Each family member is to have a GHIC prior to moving to Germany.

Your healthcare during this assignment will be delivered by Host Nation providers, with secondary care co-ordinated by Healix in conjunction with the DGP. You may also be referred into NHS services where appropriate.

This leaflet is designed to add local detail which may be useful as you arrive. Both Healix, your NSE and the DGP staff can support you in navigating the local healthcare system.

In the background the DGP manages your NHS registration and records if you are fully registered. The DGP also conducts military occupational health clinics and can provide UK MoD clinical advice and support for our patients and to Healix.

Healix Healthline

+44 (0)208 481 7800

healthline@healix.com

Defence Global Practice

+32 (0)6544 2280

UKStratCom-DMS-DPHC-DGP-Enquiry@mod.gov.uk

DGP TELEMEDICINE SUPPORT

You can reach the DGP on telephone or email. If you wish to discuss a local healthcare pathway, military occupational medicine, or send the DGP a secure and confidential message both eConsult and video-consulting are also available.

Before use, it is essential to highlight that the DGP is not set up to provide direct care as we have no referral or investigation rights in your location, so this is not a replacement for your host nation providers.



Strategic
Command



[← Back to Index](#)

In an Emergency - call 112

Primary Healthcare

You are free to choose your own GP although the DGP is more likely to be able to maintain your records and arrange direct billing system with practices commonly used by the UK population.

GOCH

Dr Krause, Dr Berger-Roscher and Dr Kojouharov
Gartenstrasse 4
47574 Goch
Tel: +49 (0)2823 25250
www.krause-goch.de

HAMBURG

Dr Rathjans
Friedrichstrasse
25469 Halstenbek
0049 0410144490
Joachim@rathjens.de

MUNSTER

Dr Peter Hartmann & Colleagues
PraxisPlus Münster
Steinfurter Strasse 56
48149 Münster
www.praxisplus.net
Tel: 0251 295 888 Fax: 0251 296 799

ROSTOCK

Gemeinschaftspraxis für Allgemeinmedizin
Bremer Straße 39f,
18057 Rostock

WESEL

Dr Nina Saathoff
Luebecker Str. 24
46485 Wesel
+49 (0)281 1633919

Out of Hours

If you require care that cannot wait until the next working day, then attend the local accident and emergency department.

NB. If you attend A and E or are admitted to hospital unexpectedly call Healix

If you need the support of a clinical team out of hours the Healix Healthline is 24/7. They may be reached on **+44(0)208 481 7800** and can also reach the DGP clinical team when required.



Strategic
Command

Prescriptions

If you receive a prescription, you can take it to the nearest Apotheke. You will have to pay for your medication and reclaim the cost, so please remember to keep your receipt as this along with a FIN07 is required to be submitted to DGP prior to reclaiming costs on JPA.

If you are prescribed medication for the first time, the Apotheek is only permitted to issue you with a 15-day supply. Most medication can be supplied for up to 3 months. Personnel who are not exempt from prescription charges, will be required to pay for the initial issue, but not for the supply over the 15-day period.

Info: 'Apotheke' is German for Chemist please look out for the sign below to find your local Apotheke. Please follow your Apotheke's guidance regarding ordering repeat prescriptions.



GOCH

Bahnhof Apotheke
Bahnhof Strasse 31
47574 Goch
Tel: 02823 2246

www.bahnhof-apotheke-goch.de

HAMBURG

Dr Rathjans
Friedrichstrasse
25469 Halstenbek
0049 0410144490
Joachim@rathjens.de

MUNSTER

Baumschulen Apotheke
Pharmacy
Friedrichstrasse 1a
25469 Halstenbek

ROSTOCK

Kröpeliner Str. 26-28,
18055 Rostock

WESEL

Engel-Apotheke
Kurt-Kraeckler Str 47
46485 Wesel.
Tel: +49 (0)281 51499



Health - Paediatricians

[← Back to Index](#)

GPs in Germany sometimes do not see children. If your child requires an appointment, then you may attend a host nation paediatrics service.

Parental and Children's needs should be met by German services, but we have a UK trained Health visitor based from SHAPE who can provide UK support should it be requested by the DGP.

- Childhood Immunisations
- Monitoring growth & development
- Nutrition and feeding
- Sleep, routines and toilet training
- Behaviour management
- Parenting questions

Goch

Dr Paas
Tulpenstraße 3
47638 Straelen
Tel: 02834 943100

<https://www.kinderaerztin-straelen.de/praxis>

Hamburg

Prof. Dr Kai Buhling
Ole Hoop 18
22587 Hamburg
0049040863525

Munster

Dr. med. Ulrike Koller
Frau Bade Baytar-Dagli
Frau Henrike Weishaupt
Dr. med. Sarah Buller (angest. Ärztin)
<https://www.frauenaerzteamprinzpalmarkt.de/>

Dr Georg Stefanowski
Kaiserring 15
46483 Wesel
+49 (0)281 14069

Immunisations

You should maintain a red book and be aware on assignment of when your child is due any immunisations. Notably, children attending German Kindergarten or schools must have had chickenpox after the age of one or have the Varicella (chickenpox) vaccination. The measles vaccination is also mandatory for all children attending German Kindergarten or schools. Please ensure that your child's red health book is kept current with all vaccinations and assessments.

Other Child-Focused Organisations



The DGP also work closely with the Department for Children and Young People (DCYP) for Speech and Language services; Educational Psychology and Educational Social work. We also have links to the British Forces Social Work Service when children or families need additional support.

**Strategic
Command**

Pregnancy

It is important that you let Healix know of your pregnancy in order that you can be linked into the local service. Ensuring your baby is registered with us will allow the DGP and Healix to ensure you are supported after birth. Your care will be delivered by a community based Frauenarzt (Obstetrician), and a hospital Obstetrician who work in conjunction with a Host Nation midwife.

MVZ Karl Leisner
Wiesenstr. 28
47574 Goch
Tel: +49 (0)2823 1646.

The midwifery service is provided at:

Rundum Kleve
Albersalle 43
47533 Kleve
Tel: +49 (0)2821 46421

HAMBURG
Prof. Dr Kai Buhling
Ole Hoop 18
22587 Hamburg
0049040863525

MUNSTER
Dr. med. Ulrike Koller , Frau Bade Baytar-Dagli, Frau Henrike Weishaupt, Dr. med.
Sarah Buller (angest. Ärztin)
<https://www.frauenaerzteamprinzpalmarkt.de/>

ROSTOCK
Drs. Reichmuth, Vandreier, Nowack
Bremer Straße 39f,
18057 Rostock

WESEL
MVZ Karl Leisner Dr Kauling and Dr Tahtaci
Wiesenstr. 28
47574 Goch
Tel: 02823 1646.

Health professionals will record your progress in a maternity record. In Germany this is called a Mutterpass. You will be given your Mutterpass and be asked to bring it to each medical appointment, the record will be updated by the Service Provider during your pregnancy. It is important to take your maternity record (Mutterpass) if you go to the UK (or other countries) so if you visit the midwife, hospital or GP whilst you are there, they can access previous information and record their findings.



SPECIALIST SERVICES

Women's health services

GPs in Germany do not manage problems relating to women's health. All women's health services, including a full midwifery and obstetric service, are provided by:

GOCH

MVZ Karl Leisner Dr Kauling and Dr Tahtaci
Wiesenstr. 28
47574 Goch

Tel: 02823 1646.

Opening hours: Monday–Friday 0800–1230hrs

Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 1400–1800hrs

HAMBURG

Prof. Dr Kai Buhling
Ole Hoop 18
22587 Hamburg
0049040863525

MUNSTER

Dr. med. Ulrike Koller , Frau Bade Baytar-Dagli, Frau Henrike Weishaupt, Dr. med.
Sarah Buller (angest. Ärztin)

<https://www.frauenaerzteamprinzipsalmarkt.de/>

Cervical screening

If you are due to have cervical cytology, please book your appointment with the local clinic or Healix can help you to arrange it in the UK. UK screening is preferred but you may elect to have screening at post.

It is important, if electing to have your cervical screening in Germany, that you recognise that although the service is of good quality, the continuity of information is less coherent than continuing with UK screening. If you would prefer to have cervical screening in the UK, ideally linked to a trip you are making anyway, this may be organised through Healix or DGP.

The DGP should be forwarded any results.



Strategic
Command

Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation

Once you have received a referral for physiotherapy from the Host nation GP, Healix should be informed and will provide you with a note of authorisation or link you to the providers with whom they have an invoicing relationship so that you can proceed with treatment. The following practice has been used in the past:

Pro Physio Goch GmbH & Co KG
Auf dem Wall 6
47574 Goch
+49 (0)2823 9294280
www.pro-physio.goch.de

Therapiezentrum Bonnema
Julius Leber Str 8
46485 Wesel
+49 (0)281 8110890
tzb-wesel-de.dsa-secure.de

Please ensure you have obtained an authorisation letter prior to commencing physiotherapy treatment so that you do not become liable for the bill.

Healix will review the indication for therapy and then sessions will be authorised. Typically, this will be reviewed after five sessions when a report from the treating therapist is required to authorise further sessions. The DGP will also be involved if there is any concern about a lack of progression or occupational implications for military personnel.

For military personnel, occupational health is a factor and commonly the DGP will offer a UK regional rehabilitation Unit referral and involve a GP to ensure the serviceperson is appropriately graded.

Occupational Health

Regular clinics will be conducted virtually and face to face review may be arranged if necessary.

Preparedness for military employment, deployment and routine medicals, including aircrew and other specialist medicals, is managed between the chain of command and the DGP.

Audiometry will also continue. Immunisation status is now available to commanders and individuals for the operational immunisations, but the DGP will also review readiness for role and highlight deficiencies where possible.



SECONDARY CARE

Referrals to Hospital / outpatient clinics

Should a GP refer you to another clinician, please make sure you let Healix know as soon as possible.

All referrals require approval prior to arranging an appointment at the hospital. This is partly to allow you to obtain a UK perspective on the treatment plan and to ensure that billing is organised with the provider. Once approved, Healix will contact you to send you a guarantee of payment letter.

If your hospital clinician recommends surgery or any other significant intervention, you should contact Healix following the appointment to ensure the plan is authorised, safe, coherent with UK NHS standards. They will support you in arrangements and payment.

Please send any reports or invoices relating to approved hospital care directly to Healix.

Consultant Advisors and Clinical Review

If a specialist recommends surgery or other significant treatment which may have an impact on your operational fitness, Defence Consultant Advisor (DCA) opinion may be sought. DCAs are military clinical specialists who provide decision support in terms of ensuring treatment is in line with UK best practice and also advising on any impact on occupational fitness.

Should the DCA decide that your long-term career prospects may be best served by a different approach, a referral to a UK-based team may be recommended.

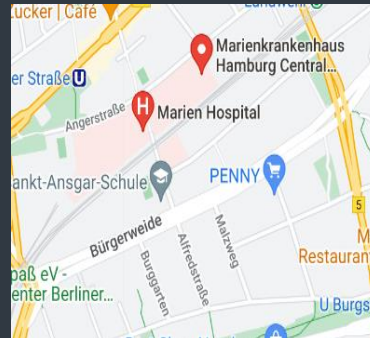
The DGP runs multi-disciplinary team meetings weekly between the doctors, medics, nurses and, if required, UK physio or health visitor. This allows management to be discussed as necessary between an experienced team. We recognise it can be challenging to have care overseas in a different language and culture. The aim is always to ensure that your treatment is safe, effective and in line with NHS standards.



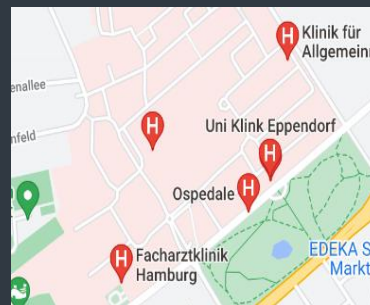
[← Back to Index](#)

Main Hospital Sites

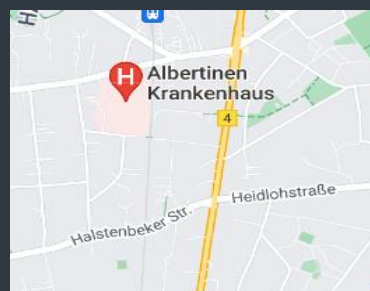
Kath. Marienkrankenhaus gGmbH
Alfredstraße 9
22087 Hamburg
040 25460



University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf
Martinistraße 52
20251 Hamburg
040 74100



Albertinen Krankenhaus
Süntelstraße 11a
22457 Hamburg
040 55881



Strategic
Command

[← Back to Index](#)

Main Hospital Sites

Wilhelm Anton Hospital
Vossheiderstr. 214
47574 Goch
Tel: 02823 8910



St Antonius Hospital Kleve
Albersallee 5-7
47533 Kleve
Tel: 028214900



Marienhospital Kevelaer
Basilikastr. 55
47623 Kevelaer
Tel: 02832 100



Helios Klinikum Krefeld
Lutherplatz 40
47805 Krefeld



**Malteser Krankenhaus
St Josefhospital**
Kurfuerstenstr. 69
47829 Krefeld
Tel: 02151 4520



**Strategic
Command**

Health – Hospitals Münster, Rostock

← [Back to Index](#)

Universitätsklinikum Münster
Albert-Schweitzer Campus 1
48149 Münster
0251 8355555
<http://www.ukm.de>



St.Franziskus-Hospital
Hohenzollernring 70
48145 Münster
0251 9350
<https://www.sfh-muenster.de>



Klinikum Südstadt Rostock
Südring 81
18059 Rostock
0381 44010
<https://www.kliniksued-rostock.de>



Strategic
Command

← [Back to Index](#)

Main Hospital Sites

Wesel

Marien-Hospital Wesel
Pastor-Janssen-Str. 8-38 46483 Wesel
Reception: 0281 1040
<http://www.marien-hospital-wesel.de>



Also close:

Wilhelm Anton Hospital
Vossheiderstr. 214
47574 Goch
Tel: 02823 8910



St Antonius Hospital Kleve
Albersallee 5-7
47533 Kleve
Tel: 028214900



Marienhospital Kevelaer
Basilikastr. 55
47623 Kevelaer
Tel: 02832 100



Helios Klinikum Krefeld
Lutherplatz 40
47805 Krefeld



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Pets & Registering Dogs

If you intend to bring your pet to Germany, you must include the details on your housing application form (Form 1132). You will be given guidance on the German Law regarding the keeping of pets and in respect of certain breeds that are banned in Germany.

You can no longer use a pet passport issued in Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland) for travel to an EU country or Northern Ireland. You can still use a pet passport issued in an EU country or Northern Ireland.

When travelling to an EU country or Northern Ireland, your pet needs:

- a [microchip](#)
- a valid [rabies vaccination](#)
- an [animal health certificate](#) unless you have a pet passport issued in an EU country or Northern Ireland
- [tapeworm treatment](#) for dogs if you're travelling directly to Finland, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Norway or Malta

These requirements also apply to assistance dogs.

Repeat trips to an EU country or Northern Ireland

Your pet will need a new [animal health certificate](#) for each trip to an EU country or Northern Ireland.

Your pet will not need a repeat [rabies vaccination](#) so long as it's rabies vaccinations are up to date.

You can enter or return to Great Britain with your pet cat, dog or ferret if it:

- has been [microchipped](#)
- has a [pet passport or health certificate](#)
- has been [vaccinated against rabies](#) - it will also need a blood test if you're travelling from an [country that is not 'listed'](#)

Dogs must also usually have a [tapeworm treatment](#).

Your pet may be [put into quarantine](#) for up to 4 months if you do not follow these rules - or refused entry if you travelled by sea. You're responsible for any fees or charges

Once you are living in Europe your UK issued pet passports can be exchanged for an EU pet passport for a fee by your local vet.

Check the rules of the country you're travelling to for any additional restrictions or requirements before you travel

www.gov.uk/taking-your-pet-abroad

Any questions on Pets or the Registration of Dogs can be directed to the NSE at GSO-EJSU-NGermany-AdminClk@mod.gov.uk or GSO-EJSU-NGermany-NSE-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk



Strategic
Command



Vehicles & Registration/De-Registration

[← Back to Index](#)

TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

Driving In Germany

If you wish to drive in Germany, you must carry a valid driving license, insurance and vehicle documents with you in the vehicle at all times. You are also expected to carry a first aid kit, red warning triangle and a hi-vis vest for each occupant of the vehicle. If the vehicle does not belong to the driver, written permission from the registered owner may also be requested. The minimum age for driving a car in Germany is 18. The European Highway Code training and testing programme (also known as the Matrix Test) is for those stationed in Germany who are entitled to drive in Europe. It is designed to help military personnel, civilian staff and family members to understand the differences in signage, rules and regulations when driving in Germany and to a lesser degree driving in Belgium, Holland and France.

Vehicle Registration & De-Registration

The GEO car registration & de-registration process may at first glance appear complex, but the process is relatively straightforward and the GEO admin assistant in the GSO N Germany NSE in Goch is ready to assist you through the process. The email address is: stacey.evans175@mod.gov.uk or telephone: 0049 2823 419 0832. Mon – Fri 0800 to 1200hrs (Local).

Full instructions are available on the GEO VLO webpage

<https://bfgnet.de/vlo>

<https://bfgnet.de/vlo/vehicle-registration>

<https://bfgnet.de/vlo/return-vehicle>

PLEASE contact DVLA if you own a personalised number plate prior to arriving in Germany, as it will have to be put onto retention . All V5s must not have a personlised number detailed on the form prior to arrival in Germany..

Aral Fuel Card

On receipt of the notification of registered number plate you will be able to logon to GEO homepage via bfgnet.de to register for your Aral fuel card, which will enable you to purchase tax free fuel at participating Aral garages. The card will be car specific and will include the car registration and your name and that of your partner (as required). The fuel card can only be used in Germany at participating garages. The cost of the card is €50 when you apply and then 40 Euro every year. It has been estimated that even for a small car you will only need to refill twice before the card has in effect paid for itself.

<https://bfgnet.de/fuelcard/aral-fuel-card.html>

NOTE: The expiry date on the Aral card is linked to the TuV (MOT) expiry date (end of that calendar month) of that vehicle.



Strategic
Command

[← Back to Index](#)

Car Insurance

On arrival, to register your vehicle, you are to provide proof of insurance (GEO recognized). All insurance documents must have either a BFPO address if using a UK based insurer or a SFA address if using a German insurer, as all insurance must be valid for residency in Germany. You may find that your insurance premium will be significantly higher compared to your UK insurance.

Car seats in Germany

Children must be at least 12 years old or 150 cm tall to sit in the front seat and/or use a regular seatbelt. Children under the age of 12 or 150 cm, must use an approved child seat

Parking in Germany

The German disc – die Parkscheibe – allows you free parking for a certain time in areas displaying this sign.



Winter (All-Season) Tyres

From the 1 January 2018, regulation related to winter tyres (**inclusive of all-season tyres fitted during winter months**) has come into force in Germany. Previously regulations allowed for winter tyres to be marked with either a snowflake symbol or the Mud & Snow (M&S) symbol. As of 1 Jan 18, winter tyres produced for sale and use in Germany must be marked with the Alpine symbol also known as the Three Peak Mountain Snowflake (3PMSF) symbol. This symbol determines that the tyre is produced in line with new quality standards of winter tyres. An example illustration of the Alpine symbol is provided below.



There is no set period for the fitment of winter tyres to vehicles; however, it is recommended winter tyres should be fitted to vehicles between the period of October – April. Winter tyres do not negate the need to have snow-chains fitted when compulsory.

Failing to have appropriate winter tyres fitted; when road traffic conditions dictate may result in a fine, a road traffic offence being registered against the vehicle driver and even affect the integrity of vehicle insurance.



Strategic
Command

Vehicles & Registration

[← Back to Index](#)

Drink Driving

The legal alcohol limit is zero for beginners (less than two years' experience or under the age of 21), professional drivers, bus drivers, truck drivers, and drivers transporting passengers commercially; 0.03% in conjunction with any other traffic offense or accident; 0.05% otherwise.

For cyclists, the limit is set at 0.16%, where not in conjunction with any other traffic offense or accident, cyclists face the same penalties as driving a car at that limit.

General Speed limits in Germany are set by the federal government.

All limits are multiples of 10km/h. There are two default speed limits: 50km/h (31mph) inside built-up areas and 100km/h (62mph) outside built-up areas.

The default speed limits in the **Netherlands** are 50 km/h (**31 mph**) inside built-up areas, 80 km/h (**50 mph**) outside built-up areas, 100 km/h (**62 mph**) on expressways (autowegen), and, as of March 16, 2020, 100 km/h from 6:00 to 19:00 and 130 km/h from 19:00 to 6:00 on motorways (autosnelwegen).

Useful Road signs



Priority Road



End of Priority Road



Priority Right



Priority at the next intersection



Merging Traffic from right



Direction of priority road



Priority over oncoming vehicles (white arrow indicates priority)



Priority to oncoming vehicles (Red arrow indicated need to yield to oncoming vehicles)



Strategic
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Cycling in Germany

Riding your bike in Germany requires you to have a road worthy bike with lights, reflectors, brakes and a bell to alert pedestrians that you are coming.

Cycling is very popular here in Germany and the Netherlands. There are dedicated cycle lanes, either for sole use by the cyclist or the pavement is divided for the pedestrian and the cyclist. Cyclists often use their bell to warn you of their presence. It is advised when walking to keep out of the cycle lane. Remember to cycle in the direction of the traffic, cycling the wrong way can result in a fine. Getting caught cycling whilst under the influence of alcohol can result in the German authorities confiscating your driving license.





Traffic Accident Guide

Stay Calm, Keep Safe: If you are in accident, it's important not to panic. Turn off your car engine. Turn on your hazard lights and get out of the car safely - exit from the driver side to avoid traffic (RHD vehicles).

Exit the Car Safely: Wear a reflective vest, secure the areas and place the warning triangle. Take all necessary measures to avoid further damage or casualties. This includes extinguishing a fire if necessary.

Don't Put Yourself in Danger: Use a torch at night. Keep a safe distance away from your car and away from the road or highway. Don't smoke or use mobile phones if there is a risk of petrol fumes in the air. Don't move any vehicle until the police have arrived, unless there is a chance of further injury if it stays in place.

Call for Help: The safety of everyone involved is always the priority. If you or anyone else has been hurt in the accident, call the emergency services immediately on 110. Be prepared to provide personal details, information concerning the type of accident, your location and casualties.

First Aid: Any person involved in an accident is obliged to aid casualties. • Provide first aid if you have sufficient knowledge • Actively assist casualties and seek help.

Take Down the Details: Once everyone involved is safe or being cared for, it's time to annotate exactly what happened. You will need to write down: • The date, time and exact location of the accident • The name, address and phone numbers of the other drivers • The make, model and registration numbers of any witness(es), including passengers • Details of injuries and attending police officers • The insurance details of the other drivers Take photos of the accident with your smartphone, showing the positions of the vehicles involved, and any skid marks and damage. If you do not have a camera on you, ask others in the surrounding area for one or draw a sketch of the scene. *The details mentioned are included in the standardised European Traffic Accident Report forms.

Don't Admit Liability: Whether you've had a minor prang or suffered something more serious, do not admit liability. Even if you think the accident was your fault, you shouldn't discuss details of an opinion with the other driver(s) without speaking with your insurance company.

Your Legal Responsibilities: Following a minor accident, it's possible to simply arrange a "Gentlemen's Agreement". This agreement can be settled if there were no injuries and no damage to public property (like road signs) as a result of the accident. In order to obtain all information required, you should use the standardised European Traffic Accident Report form.

Please Note: Ensure the safety and emergency equipment in your vehicle is up to date and in good condition. This applies especially for the First Aid Kit and the Fire Extinguisher. This equipment must be maintained frequently.



Personal Security

Uniform and other branded clothing must not be worn in public, or whilst travelling. This includes during transit to, or through, the Channel ports. Wearing anything that could possibly be affiliated to the military, and all evidence of MOD links on the vehicles, must be avoided.

Do not advertise you are British or British Military and when out and about keep your personal belongings safe and out of reach of wandering hands.

When transiting around try and stay within well-lit areas and where possible avoid walking alone. Consider informing whoever you are visiting that you are on your way and the route you are taking. Also consider informing someone where you are going and how long you expect to be.

At all times remain vigilant, do not get involved in local disputes and always follow the advice of Security Professionals. If you see anything suspicious or out of the ordinary report it. Any information is good information.

Anyone can be at risk. Contrary to popular belief men are more likely to be assaulted on their way home than women.

Trust your instincts – if something doesn't feel right let someone know.

In all instances, if you believe yourself to be in immediate danger call the police – 110

GERMAN EMERGENCY SERVICE: 110 (Medical/Police) or 112 (Fire)

Car Security

High visibility retro reflective jacket (safety jacket/ reflective vest) must be carried inside the vehicle when using it. In case of stopping of a vehicle in an area where waiting and parking are forbidden all vehicle occupants must wear a reflective vest for safety and by law.

Many of us will purchase new cars while serving overseas. A lot of new cars have keyless technology, mainly a convenience such as helping save time when carrying shopping bags or trying to duck out of the rain.

Thieves have now identified a way to scan and record keyless card details. To avoid having your car stolen it is recommended keeping your car key away from your front door, if possible, in a metal tin. This will help mask the digital signature of the key.



Use of Social Media

Most people think a Virtual Private Network (VPN) is just another way to watch UK TV in Europe.

It is also the best way to secure your internet; protect your personal information and the information you are sending/receiving when using the internet.

Wi-Fi hotspots that don't ask for a log on or password to use are particularly vulnerable to hackers who will intercept your information. This could lead to your identity being stolen or your bank details being copied.

It is recommended that you use a VPN to secure yourselves. Some are free and some you purchase. A paid for VPN provider is more secure than a free VPN, as free VPN providers tend to sell your information on to make a profit. Some VPN providers to consider are:

NordVPN

PureVPN

ExpressVPN

Internet Searches

The term 'let's Google it' is common place nowadays. But have you noticed that Google seems to already know where you want to look, and it knows what you have recently purchased? That's because they store your search information. If you want to remain anonymous, use these search providers:

Mozilla Firefox

DuckDuckGo

Qwant



Fitness Apps and Tracking Devices

Most of us use fitness tracking devices, be it via smart phone or through a smart watch. There is evidence to suggest that these devices are tracking our movements and sharing our data.

If you use these devices it is suggested that you follow these easy steps:

Lock down/apply privacy settings on any media account where location data could be available to prevent unauthorised/uninvited access.

Opt out of any heat map data collection or enable privacy zone functionality using application settings

Turn off GPS on any application when not required.

Phishing Scams

Phishing is a form of fraud in which an attacker masquerades as a reputable entity or person, through email and other communication channels, to induce individuals to reveal personal information such as passwords and bank account details.

Phishing scams have been around since the internet first existed and are not likely to disappear any time soon. There are however several ways you can prevent falling victim such as using Antivirus Software and Firewalls and thinking before you click.

For further information on cyber security advice to protect you and your family visit www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/information-for/individuals-families



Telephone and Internet

[← Back to Index](#)



Strategic
Command

Telephone and Internet

← [Back to Index](#)

Telephone Connections/Disconnections & Mobile Phones

The country code for Germany is +49. e.g.: 0049 (0)65 44 70 75

When dialling the UK from Germany dial: 0044 then drop the first zero from your number e.g.: 0044 (0) 2081 112222

Your sponsor should show you where and how to get internet service. The only thing you require to open an account are your bank details.

There are a number of internet and telephone providers which have shops in the centre of Goch, although Deutsche Telecom holds the monopoly on telephone landline contracts and internet services (looks like a T-Mobile shop, pink T). Companies mandate a minimum 2-year rental contract. A minimum notice of 3 months is usually required for termination. Early termination can incur charges. You can obtain a notification letter from the NATO HQ stating you are being posted and companies have been known to waive the outstanding contract charges.

Downloading movies and television through the German internet is heavily frowned upon by the German authorities. Internet providers will give names, I.P addresses and details of individuals to legal companies who will send fines for downloading such material. Fines can be up to €800 per offence.

Television

As an entitled member of the British Forces and the Civilian component BFBS offers a satellite TV service for your married quarter, more details at www.getbfbs.com

BFBS TV and Radio is available and provided free of charge. BFBS boxes are available through www.servicedesk@bfbs.com or UK + 44 0203 750 4567.

Up to 16 live channels including Sky sports 1 and 2. A full list of channels and a listing guide can be found online at www.bfbs.com.

BFBS TV and Radio is also available on the go via an IOS or Android app search BFBS in your app store.



Strategic
Command



LOCAL AREA INFORMATION

Leaflets & Guides

The CLO holds lots of leaflets as well as multiple guides (including City Guides) containing useful information on things to do in the local area. There are also maps as well as walking and cycling routes. For more information on the local area, please call into the NSE.

Eating Out

For a small town, Goch has an abundance of restaurants and catering for a plethora of tastes, all of which are at a reasonable price.

Cinema

<https://www.pathe.nl/bioscoop/nijmegen> A cinema in the Netherlands. Unless otherwise stated (please check website) all movies are shown in their original version with subtitles.
<https://www.kleverkinos.de/> Tichelpark Cinemas show a movie in its original version (OV) every Thursday evening at 8pm. Please check website.

Swimming and Sauna

<https://www.gochness.de/> Gochness offers facilities for swim training and has children's play pools and slides. There is an adjoining sauna complex. More information and prices can be found on their website.
https://www.centerparcs.eu/in-en/netherlands/fp_HB_holiday-park-het-heijderbos A Centre Parcs resort 20 minutes' drive from Goch.

Supermarkets

There are currently 13 supermarkets in Goch ranging in price as in the UK. Lidl and Aldi are the ones you may recognize. There's also Edeka, Netto and Rewe to name a few. A full list is available from the CLO.

Theme parks and Tier Parks

In the NRW region we are very lucky to have a wide range of parks and zoos to explore. Tourist information leaflets are available from the NSE.



Quiet days

Germans take their days off quite seriously and one example of this is the law that assures no unnecessary noise is made on Sundays and public holidays. It is recommended that you don't wash your car, cut the grass, make repairs or even hang up laundry. Most Germans still regard Sunday as a day of rest and with that all shops are closed except perhaps a bakery or two for Sunday Frühstück (breakfast). Quiet hours are stipulated as between 2200-0700 every day and all day on a Sunday.

Public Holidays

As a predominantly Catholic country Germany observes various holidays throughout the year. In NRW there are 11 days set aside as public holidays, 2 of which always fall on a Thursday. This then enables a 4-day weekend with the Friday known as Bridging Day (Brückentag) It is worth noting that different regions in Germany may have different public holidays.

Recycling

Schönenmackers are the dedicated refuse disposal organization for our area. All glass bottles, recyclable items and paper waste are to be separated, dustbins and crates are provided for refuse disposal as follows:

Brown bin: Garden waste and vegetable peelings

Blue bin: Paper and cardboard

Yellow bin: plastic and tins – washed out

Black bin: all other waste

Crates: glass bottles and jars must be separated by colour. Broke glass must not be placed in the crates and corks must be removed from glass bottles.

'Schadstoffe' e.g old batteries, electrical items, medication, oil and other chemicals are not to be disposed with your normal waste. There are certain days throughout the year where you can take your 'Schadstoffe' direct to Schönenmackers between set times.

Schönenmackers calendar is available online at: www.schoenmackers.de

Pfand system

The Pfand system in Germany means that consumers pay a deposit on glass and plastic bottles Don't throw away your empty bottles if they have the signal of "Pfandflasche" which means bottle deposit. This sign means that you paid an amount in advance, which is usually 25 cents per drink, which you can get back in most supermarkets through a machine.



[← Back to Index](#)

TAX FREE INFORMATION

Tax Free Shopping

Your NATO Sponsor will show you the process and take you to Kalkar where the tax office is located.

Tax Free Vehicles

Each entitled person is permitted to register only one new tax-free vehicle within any one-year period. In addition to one tax-free vehicle, one tax-free motorcycle/quad bike, moped or bicycle with auxiliary motor, may be registered within any one-year period. However, only one vehicle per 'Entitled person' per year can be exported to the UK free of tax.

Companies who offer tax free car sales:

www.forcescarsdirect.com

www.emctaxfree.com

www.griffintaxfree.com

Postal Services

Mail from the UK is received through the British Forces Post Office (BFPO) which is delivered and sorted through the NSE Goch. The BFPO system can be very slow.

Standard address format:

Service number, Rank, Name

Unit and Subunit

Goch/Wesel

BFPO 46

If you need a UK postcode for BFPO as some companies do not recognize BFPO addresses the format is:

Name

Unit

BFPO 46

Goch

BF1 0AT.

www.deutschepost.de

For posting within Germany, you can use deutsche post. Prices are similar to the UK postage system, and you will find a post office in most towns.



Strategic
Command

[← Back to Index](#)

LOCAL AREA INFORMATION

Shopping

Spitalerstrasse (Hospital Street) is an integral part of Central Hamburg's shopping district. The pedestrian zone runs parallel to the Mönckebergstrasse street and ranks among the ten most visited streets in Germany. Spitalerstrasse is where Hamburg citizens go for variety: from department stores to pharmacies and bank branches, from fashion to opticians to phone shops — it's all there. The heart of Hamburg's central shopping district connects Central Station with Rathausmarkt (City Hall Square). Spitalerstrasse is characterized by its attractive mix of stores housed in typical Hanseatic merchant buildings of grand proportions.

Supermarkets

Supermarkets in Hamburg range in price as in the UK. Lidl and Aldi are names you may recognize. However, REWE, Netto and Kaufland are all worth a visit.

There is an Aldi and an Edeka in town within a short walking distance of the MQ site.

Recycling

All glass bottles, recyclable items and paper waste are to be separated, dustbins and crates are provided for refuse disposal as follows:

Brown bin: Garden waste and vegetable peelings

Paper and cardboard

(tetrapak) and tins – washed out waste

Blue bin:

Yellow bin: plastic

Black bin: all other

Am Schützenplatz (a short walk from the house) has a small recycling area where you can take your glass bottles and cardboard.

Please refer to:

https://abfall.kreispinneberg.de/Service+_+Termine/Abfuhrtermine+%28alle+Orte%29.htm

for collection dates.



Strategic
Command

Hamburg – Activities

[← Back to Index](#)

Airports

Hamburg Airport 18km
Bremen 120km
Hannover 150km

Rail

www.bahnhof.de

The Halstenbek SBahn stop is at the end of the road and goes directly into the Hauptbahnhof (S3 line). If you want to travel to the Fuhrungs Akademie or the International School, you will need to change at Altona and the journey takes approximately 50 minutes. If you download the HVV app you can buy tickets online or you can buy them at the ticket machines in the station.

When travelling by train don't forget to stamp your ticket before travel. Machines are usually located on the platforms

Postal Services

Mail from the UK is received through the British Forces Post Office (BFPO). The BFPO system has been known to be very slow.

Standard address format:

Service number, Rank, Name

GAFCSC

PO Box 2020

BFPO 105

If you need a UK postcode for BFPO as some companies do not recognize BFPO addresses the format is:

Rank/Name

GAFCSC

PO Box 2020

BFPO 105

BF1 0AX

www.deutschepost.de

Deutsche post offer counter service, postage stamp machine and parcel collection. An efficient way of sending mail to the UK.

You can also get post delivered directly to your SFA address. This way, although more expensive than using BFPO, can often be quicker.



Strategic
Command

Hamburg – Activities

⬅ [Back to Index](#)

Places to explore:

HAMBURG DUNGEON
www.thedungeons.com

MINIATUR WUNDERLAND
www.miniatur-wunderland.de

HAGENBECK'S ZOO
www.hagenbeck.de

KUNSTHALLE
www.hamburger-kunsthalle.de

DEICHTORHALLEN
www.deichtorhallen.de

SEA LIFE CENTRE
Timmendorfer Strand
www.visitsealife.com

SNOWDOME BISPINGEN
Bispingen
www.snow-dome.de

ROCK CLIMBING
www.nordwandhalle.de



Strategic
Command

← [Back to Index](#)

LOCAL AREA INFORMATION

Shopping

Whether you have lots or a little money to spend, whether chic classics or top-fashion accessories, whether culinary delights or antiques, you will find things in Münster that you'd never find elsewhere. That's what makes shopping a real pleasure.

From Monday to Saturday, Münster's shops in the city centre are open until at least 7 pm. However, the big department and chain stores open their doors until 8 pm.

Cinema

<https://www.cineplex.de/>

<https://www.cinema.de/kino/kinoprogramm/muenster/open-air-kino-am-hawerk>

Swimming and Sauna

<https://www.stadt-muenster.de/sportamt/baeder>

Indoor swimming pool Ost

Mauritz-Lindenweg 101

48145 Münster

More information and prices can be found on the website.

Supermarkets

Supermarkets in Münster range in price as in the UK. Lidl and Aldi are names you may recognize. However, REWE, Netto and Bonus are all worth a visit.

Theme parks

Allwetterzoo

The all-weather zoo was reopened in 1974 as the successor to the old zoo in Münster. Back then, the zoo architects had the idea of connecting all the large animal houses with covered paths, the so-called all-weather walkways. This became the name "Allwetterzoo". But these corridors are not the only special feature in the all-weather zoo. With us you can experience animals "up close"! For example, when visitors are feeding elephants.

<https://www.allwetterzoo.de/>

Amusement park Sommerrodelbahn Ibbenbüren

Entry to the park grounds is free. "Collective entry" is not charged. You only pay for the individual attractions that you use (fairytale forest, summer toboggan run, trip around the world, bumper cars, oldtimer express).

You always pay this directly on site at the respective attractions. <https://www.sommerrodelbahn.de/>



Strategic
Command

[← Back to Index](#)

TAX FREE INFORMATION

Tax Free Shopping

There are two options for tax free shopping.
Through NATO, your sponsor will take you through this process.
UK via the NSE, upon arrival, the HNLO will discuss this process with you.
The full document on how to claim tax free goods is available from the NSE.

Tax Free Vehicles

Each entitled person is permitted to register only one new tax-free vehicle within any one-year period. In addition to one tax-free vehicle, one tax-free motorcycle/quad bike, moped or bicycle with auxiliary motor, may be registered within any one-year period. However, only one vehicle per 'Entitled person' per year can be exported to the UK free of tax.

Companies who offer tax free car sales:

www.forcescarsdirect.com

www.emctaxfree.com

www.griffintaxfree.com

Postal Services

Mail from the UK is received through the British Forces Post Office (BFPO). The BFPO system has been known to be very slow.

Standard address format:

Service number, Rank, Name

Unit and Subunit

PO Box 2034

BFPO 105

If you need a UK postcode for BFPO as some companies do not recognize BFPO addresses the format is:

Name

Unit

PO Box 2034

BFPO 105

BF1 0AX

www.deutschepost.de

Münster has a number of post offices.

The main one being:

Veestherrnweg 12 29633 Munster Service Point Stadtwerke Munster Bispingen GmbH

They offer counter service, postage stamp machine and parcel collection. An efficient way of sending mail to the UK.



Strategic
Command

Rostock – Activities

← [Back to Index](#)

LOCAL AREA INFORMATION

Leaflets & Guides There are several tourist information centres in the region. They offer leaflets and information in English. <https://www.rostock.de/urlaub/touristinfo.htm>

Eating Out

Experience culinary diversity at a restaurant in Rostock or Warnemünde. Whether you want to enjoy a rustic atmosphere in a hop cellar or indulge in Italian food, the Hanseatic City has a suitable location for every taste. You can even enjoy freshly-caught fish in the local restaurants. Whether it's a student bar or a posh restaurant, Rostock and Warnemünde have the ideal destination for every taste and budget.

Cinema

<https://www.cinestar.de/kino-rostock>

Check website for English language films.

There is an arthouse cinema in Rostock, Lichtspieltheater Wundervoll. LI, WU. They show movies from Europe and the rest of the world, which often don't find their way into the larger cinemas. You can also watch a variety of English movies there. <https://www.liwu.de/>

Swimming and Sauna

<https://hcc-rostock.de/> Offer a wealth of activities for the family including, mini golf, laser tag, bowling and a wellness centre. More information can be found on the website.

Supermarkets

Supermarkets in the Rostock area range in price as in the UK. Lidl and Aldi are the ones you may recognize. But why not try Edeka, Netto, Kaufland and Rewe to name a few.

Theme parks and Tier Parks

4,500 animals in 450 different species from all over the world live at the Rostock Zoo in nearnatural habitats which are surrounded by a unique park landscape. Founded in 1899, the zoo looks back on a long history and has evolved from a former Wildlife and Dendrological Garden to become the present-day largest zoo on the German Baltic Sea coast. <https://www.zoo-rostock.de/en/> There is a total of 16 animal parks in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, plenty to visit.



Strategic
Command

[← Back to Index](#)

LOCAL AREA INFORMATION

Leaflets & Guides

The CLO holds lots of leaflets as well as multiple guides (including City Guides) containing useful information on things to do in the local area. There are also maps, as well walking and cycling routes. For more information on the local area, please call into the NSE.

Eating Out

Wesel has an abundance of restaurants and catering for a plethora of tastes, all of which are at a reasonable price.

Cinema

<https://www.pathe.nl/bioscoop/nijmegen> A cinema in the Netherlands. Unless otherwise stated (please check website) all movies are shown in their original version with subtitles. <https://www.cometkinos-wesel.com/> Swimming and Sauna <https://baeder-wesel.de/unsere-baeder/rheinbad/> Immerse yourself in the wonderful water world and experience a holiday in the immediate vicinity of a very special kind. In the midst of the charming meadow landscape, just 2 km from the city center directly on the Rhine, you will find your very own swimming fun in the RheinBad. <https://baeder-wesel.de/sauna-spa/heubergsauna/> Experience relaxation in various saunas, Asian style. <https://www.gochness.de/> Gochness offers facilities for swim training and has children's play pools and slides. There is also an adjoining sauna complex. More information and prices can be found on the website. Supermarkets There is a huge choice of shops, ranging in price as in the UK. Lidl and Aldi are the names you may recognize. There's also Edeka, Netto, Kaufland and Penny to name a few. A full list is available from the CLO. Theme parks and Tier Parks In the NRW region we are very lucky to have a wide range of parks and zoos to explore. Tourist information leaflets are available from the NSE



Strategic
Command

Departures

[← Back to Index](#)



Strategic
Command

GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR IMPORTING A PRIVATE VEHICLE TO THE UK.

This information is only for personnel reimporting a personal vehicle to the UK from another EU member state (<https://www.gov.uk/importing-vehicles-into-the-uk>) for further guidance.

Contact the VLO Clerk at the NSE stacey.evans175@mod.gov.uk who will assist you through the process which will take approximately 28 days. Please contact the VLO Clerk prior to the 28-day point to ensure you are fully aware of what documentation will be required.

Personnel are required to deregister their vehicles prior to returning the vehicle to the UK.

NATIONAL INSURANCE CREDITS

For spouses who accompanied their partner overseas it is possible to apply for National Insurance Credits, which help fill the gap accrued during an overseas posting.

DE-SOFA-ING OF PASSPORTS

SOFA Stamps

The SOFA stamp should be removed prior to departure and handed to the Admin Clerk, along with SOFA cards and Dependant IDs.

NATO Travel Orders

The NATO travel orders have an expiry date, and it is recommended for personal security that these are destroyed upon return to the UK.

CERTIFICATE OF GOOD CONDUCT

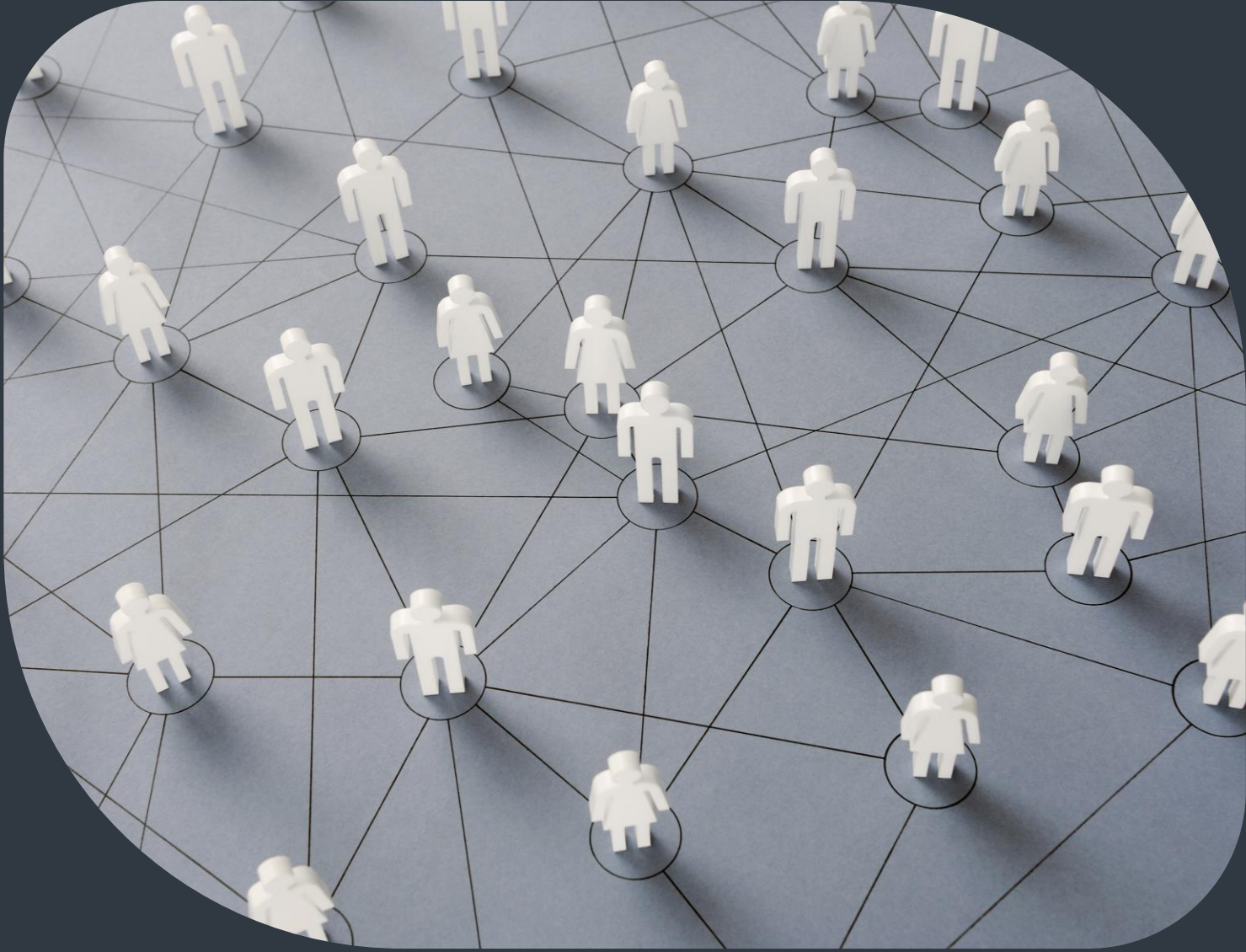
It is highly recommended that both military and spouses complete this process when departing Germany so that you are able to fill in any blanks with regards to your criminal record and your employment. It is especially important when applying for jobs, if you are planning on working with vulnerable people or children.

It is very easy to complete, and you usually receive the certificate within 2-3 weeks of applying. For more information on how to complete this please contact our Host Nation Liaison Officer (HNLO) Rossi on Roswitha.McNulty102@mod.gov.uk.



North Germany – Useful Contacts

[← Back to Index](#)



Strategic
Command

North Germany – Useful Contacts

[← Back to Index](#)

Useful Contact Numbers

Fire	110
Ambulance, Police	112
Head of Location	0049 2823 4190832 0049 (0)173 635 1755
European Welfare Officer	0032 478 97 02 8002 80
Host Nation Liaison Officer	0049 (0)2823 419 0837
Admin Clerk	0049 (0)2823 419 0837
GEO	0049 (0)2823 419 0837
Babcock Helpdesk (Goch)	0800 888 4242
EJSU Health Visitor	0032 65 44 58 24
Police Goch	0049 2823 1080
Padre (HQ GSO)	0032 65 44 8889 Mob 0032 473 629633
24/7 Hospital Hotline	0800 588 9936
CLO Goch	0049 (0)2823 419 0837
(JCCC) Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre	0044 1452 519951
NSE North Germany	GSO-EJSU-NGermany-NSE-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk



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Command