



Berlin Student Support Guide 2023 Entry

MetFilm School Berlin Student Support Guide

MetFilm School is a world-leading film, television and online media school which offers undergraduate, postgraduate and short courses in London, Berlin, and Leeds.

If you're nervous about leaving home, moving to a new country, or just want specific information about our facilities, we've compiled some useful information that we hope will help you plan ahead for your time as a student and adjust to student life after you've arrived.

Our mission is to inspire a new generation of creative professionals. We bring the education and screen industries together in a creative environment, driven by great teaching and practical, hands-on experience, led by inspiring tutors.

Looking to build your future in the screen industries? MetFilm School Berlin is the perfect place to turn your passion into practice. Working closely with leading industry professionals, we offer students from around the world an intensive, career-focused, practical training experience in a fearless and diverse environment. All of our courses are taught in English. German skills are not required in order to study at MetFilm School Berlin.

MetFilm School Berlin

Our Berlin campus is based at BUFA Studios, one of the oldest film studios in Europe, in the Tempelhof/Neukölln area of Berlin. Our students benefit from state-of-the-art facilities and art training spaces, including a fully equipped 1,500sq ft studio, two standing sets, a 5:1 surround sound screening room, and post production suites.

With around 98% of our students coming from abroad, you will find a highly international and inspiring environment at MetFilm School Berlin, giving you the opportunity to connect with aspiring filmmakers all over the world.



MetFilm School Berlin

Our Berlin campus is based at the famous BUFA Studios, known for productions including *The Golem*, *Nebenan*, and *Emil and the Detectives*.

Germany boasts a thriving local film industry, a film-friendly shooting climate, and world-class facilities more regionalised than in the UK.

Berlin is not the only industry hotspot in Germany: Munich, Cologne, and Hamburg are also home to German and International production companies and TV channels such as Constantin Film, Bavaria Film, Turner Broadcasting, Sky, RTL, and many others.



A Guide to the Area

Studio Babelsberg in Potsdam is one of the country's main production facilities. The oldest largescale studio complex in the world, countless renowned filmmakers have worked with Studio Babelsberg, engaging the studio to produce legendary films including *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, *Inglourious Basterds*, *Bridge of Spies*, and *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay*.

Students also have access to the Library of Deutsche Kinemathek (Museum for Film and Television) at Potsdamer Platz. To learn more visit deutsche-kinemathek.de/en

You can also get involved with Berlin through local blogs:

- Berlin Food Stories – Food
- Cee Cee – Lifestyle, activities, events
- Finding Berlin – Food, events, summer guides
- iHeartBerlin – Art, fashion, entertainment

Berlin makes it easy to get around. Public transportation runs 24/7, and trains, buses, or even ferries will take you anywhere you need to go.

MetFilm School students are also eligible for a discounted monthly ticket, currently running at €58 per month.

The BVG website has a wealth of information on city transport and prices: bvg.de/en

Prefer cycling instead? Swapfiets is a service providing bicycles for a fixed monthly fee, starting from €18,90. The bike will be delivered free of charge to you, where and when, and if it breaks, the team will provide a new working bike to you within 48 hours.



Markets

Mauer Park

The flea market at Mauer Park is the biggest in the city, packed with furniture booths, artists' tents, and street food stalls. The market is also famous for its Open Air Karaoke in the summer. Set in the massive park in Prenzlauer Berg, it's a popular spot to pick up vintage goods from around the world.

Nowkölln

Known as a trendy spot popular with young expats in the area. A long, vibrant set of stalls and stages - you can pick up handmade accessories and vintage clothing.

Markthalle Neun

Set in the heart of Kreuzberg, drop by on a Thursday to catch street food pop-ups, or they often run a Sunday brunch market.

Boxhagener Platz Market

Known for its bohemian charm, the Sunday market has great second-hand furniture and old records. There are lots of great neighbouring restaurants to check out too!

Kollwitzplatz Farmers' Market

Stock up on fresh fruit, veg, and flowers at the Kollwitzplatz Farmers' Market every Thursday. Kick-off is at 12pm to guarantee farmers can harvest their produce on the same day they sell.

Food & Drink Recommendations

Berlin offers an endless choice of amazing bars and restaurants with culinary delights from all around the world. Below are a small selection of local favourites:

Bars

- **Das Hotel** – cosy bar with candelights, good drinks, and great music with indie parties
- **Klunkerkranich** – bar on top of a shopping mall, ideal for a late afternoon cocktail
- **Das Gift** – bar with Scottish pub food and weekly quizzes
- **Villa Neukölln** – weekly salsa and swing dances in the back ballroom, as well as film events

Cafés

- **Myxa Café Berlin**
- **House of Small Wonder**
- **Roamers**
- **Five Elephant**

Restaurants

- **Masaniello** – Italian
- **Umami** – Vietnamese
- **Cocolo Ramen** – Japanese
- **Villa Rixdorf** – German
- **Café am Neuen See** – Beer Garden and Restaurant

Cinemas

Most cinemas show films in English or with English subtitles:

- OMEU – Original with English Subtitles
- OmU – Original with German Subtitles
- OV – Original Version

Open Air Cinemas (Summer)

- Freiluftkino Hasenheide
- Freiluftkino Kreuzberg
- Freiluftkino Friedrichshain
- Kino am Potsdamer Platz

Indie Cinemas

- Kino International
- Wolf Kino
- Il Kino

Upon Arrival in Berlin

Setting up residency in Berlin is a two-step process (one-step if you hold EU/EEA citizenship):

1. Registration (Anmeldung): You need to register your current residence with the authorities. Be sure to take your identification and confirmation of rental agreement (Wohnungsgeberbescheinigung) to the appointment.

You will receive a Confirmation of Residency (Meldebescheinigung) - keep it safe, you will need it more than once. You need to have registered with the local authorities before you can take any other administrative steps. You can find a good explanation of this at: settle-in-berlin.com/anmeldung

2. Residence Permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis): Non-EU/EEA nationals will need to apply for a residence permit if your studies in Germany are longer than 90 days. You can find helpful information on the process here: settle-in-berlin.com/germany-visa

Mobile Phone Providers

In Germany, SIM cards are sold separately from the phone, so make sure your phone is "unlocked" before you go to Germany. SIM cards can be obtained in supermarkets, or local stores for around €10. They come with no minimum costs and no minimum commitment.

If you have already submitted your Anmeldung and opened a bank account, you are able to sign for a contract at one of the following Germany mobile phone contract providers: T-Mobile, Vodafone, O2 and 1&1. These providers often provide a 1- or 2-year contract.

It is possible to take out a SIM card only contract in Germany. This is more suitable if you already have a phone and just want the service.

If you order and activate your sim card online, you will need to go through an identification process with a Meldebescheinigung and your passport before you can use it. Each provider has different ways but most of them can do that via connecting you to a special service dedicated to that via webcam, or via a post office. For further information visit settle-in-berlin.com/mobile-phone-germany-providers

Internet Providers

In general, don't sign up for internet plans that are strongly promoted, as they often come with drawbacks.

How to sign up with an internet provider:

- Find the offer that best suits you
- Enter your address on the website to check for available speeds in your building
- Enter your personal information
- Wait for contract confirmation
- Receive your modems (Wifi Routers)
- Wait for a technician to open your line (up to 14 days)

You might need to pay a one-off fee for the price of the router or other equipment being provided, and fees for 'processing your contract' to finally open your account. For further information visit settle-in-berlin.com/internet-in-germany-providers

Setting up a Bank Account

In order to pay your rent, you will need a Girokonto (a transactional account) where your expenses and earnings go to. N26 is the best option for a bank account in Germany. It offers the Girokonto with no fees attached, a free credit card, free withdrawals worldwide, and free online banking and international money transfers, with customers support available in English.

You can open the account online in a few minutes with a webcam. Although it is a digital bank, it also offers the same guarantees as traditional ones.

Common banking abbreviations:

- Grundpreis: Basic Fee (monthly fee for having a bank account in the first place)
- Dispokredit: Overdraft (when you withdraw more money than you have, up to a certain limit. Usually costing 7-11%.
- Überziehung: an overdraft not limited by any conditions
- Bareinzahlung: Cash Deposit
- Kontoauszüge: German banks are legally required to send you a monthly account statement, giving you an overview of activity on the account

Health Insurance

Health insurance is mandatory in Germany. Your insurer will give you a health insurance card, which you should take to every doctor, dentist and specialist appointment to be scanned.

For EU/EEA nationals: verify that you have the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). If you do, you will not have to take out additional health insurance.

For Non-EU/EEA nationals: MAWISTA Student is a Health Insurance company for language students and university students in Germany; with costs starting from €25 per month.

For further information visit mawista.com/en/health-insurance-for-foreign-nationals-in-germany/health-insurance-for-students/

Find a doctor who speaks your language: settle-in-berlin.com/find-english-speaking-doctor-berlin-near/

German Public Health Insurance TK offers rates for students at roughly €10 per month: tk.de/en

German TV Tax (Rundfunkbeitrag)

Each household in Germany is required to pay a German TV tax in order to finance the production and broadcasting of content by public channels. It costs €18,36 per month, and payment can be done by visiting rundfunkbeitrag.de

Employability

MetFilm Futures

At MetFilm School we concentrate on employability right from the start. You will have access to our dedicated careers advice department, MetFilm Futures, who focus on supporting you and ensuring you develop the skills needed to succeed in the industry.

Students and graduates of MetFilm School access the following:

- **Career Surgeries:** weekly, one-to-one career surgeries take place to advise students on their career paths.
- **Festival Support:** MetFilm Futures aim to teach and empower all students to navigate the festival and commercial worlds to maximise the opportunities for their videos and online content.
- **Masterclasses and Seminars:** Students are invited to masterclass and industry seminars with special guests across all disciplines who discuss their work, current issues and changes within the screen industries. Previous guests include: Sir Roger Deakins, Sarah Gavron, Sally Wainwright and Colin Trevorrow.
- **Competitions:** MetFilm Futures publishes and runs film competitions that give students the opportunity to produce content with awarded budgets and for clients.
- **Talent Pool:** MetFilm Futures connects students and graduates with upcoming opportunities including full-time jobs, freelance contracts, internships and placements.

Student Outreach Ambassador

Graduates have the opportunity to become a Student Outreach Ambassador, a team that delivers practical and engaging workshops on and off campus to a range of schools and colleges across the UK. You also represent MetFilm School at careers fairs and UCAS Events.

This programme will enhance your CV with a broad range of employment experience, earn a generous wage and work flexibly and develop a range of skills such as presenting, public speaking and delivering practical learning.



Finding part time work while studying

A part-time job can be helpful for some extra cash in your pocket, and in some cases can even be great for your CV!

Make sure that you comply with any job regulations set out in your Student Visa.

1. Look for a part-time job before uni starts

Start searching for part-time positions online and applying for jobs before you start university to avoid peak job-hunting season.

2. Make sure your CV is up to date

It is worth having a few different tailored CVs if you're job hunting as employers can spot a generic CV from a mile away!

Finding jobs once graduated

1. Gain Experience

Gaining relevant experience is crucial for introducing you to the skills you need and help develop them further. Experience can come in a number of forms: internships, volunteering, work placements and work shadowing.

2. Network

'It's not what you know, it's who you know'. By making yourself and your ambitions known to those already in the industry, you'll be considered for future job vacancies or work experience opportunities. You can start networking from home and attend relevant events and career fairs. You can also connect with professionals and organisations through LinkedIn.

3. Prepare for the interview

Ensure you take time to prepare for an interview; this will help you speak clearly and confidently, leaving the interviewer with a great first impression. It is important to research the company, to plan answers to typical interview questions and think about the questions you would like to ask the employer.

Creative Industry Job Portals

- Monster
- StepStone
- CreativeCity
- Mandy
- Dasaug (Media and Advertising)
- Mediajobs.de (Media)
- Crew United



Student Support Services

MetFilm School wants you to have a fulfilling education experience, so the support we offer is aimed at helping you to reach your potential. Whether it is practical, personal or academic support that you need, help is available from the moment you arrive and easily accessible.

Student Advice Service

The Student Services team are here to help you navigate life at MetFilm School. If you need to speak to someone about registering with local facilities such as doctors, setting up a bank account, or if you need general advice on finances, funding, visa issues or your academic status, then we can help.

You can call, email or turn up in person for assistance during the School's regular opening hours. More information on how the team can help is provided during your induction periods.

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Counselling

Our dedicated student Counselling Service offers a free and confidential service to any student who needs it – including individual counselling, group sessions and general wellbeing advice.

Sessions are delivered both online and in-person, giving students flexibility and choice about the way they access the service. These 50-minute sessions offer a confidential, safe space for you to discuss and share whatever is going on in your life at the moment – a place for you to explore how you can improve some of the immediate challenges affecting your schoolwork or general wellbeing.

You can book a session or simply ask for some advice by contacting counselling@metfilmschool.ac.uk

Togetherall

MetFilm School students can access Togetherall, our mental health and wellbeing portal. Togetherall is an anonymous community where members can reach out for support with their mental health. Access is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. You will be able to access trained professionals, self-assessments and resources and a wide range of self-guided courses to complete at your own pace.

Your access to Togetherall becomes available during the Pre-Induction Programme, before you formally begin your studies at MetFilm School.



Disability Support

Disabled and Neurodiverse Support at MetFilm School

MetFilm School wants all students to have equal access to their course and the facilities. The Student Services team and its dedicated Disability & Wellbeing Adviser provide confidential, specialist advice to help address any physical, study or communication barriers students may find in the learning environment. Student Services work hand in hand with academic staff to support students with a wide range of disabilities including:

- neurodiversity and specified learning differences (such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADHD)
- mental health difficulties (such as depression, bi-polar disorder)
- long-term medical conditions (such as HIV, cancer, multiple sclerosis)
- hidden disabilities (such as diabetes, asthma, epilepsy)
- sensory impairments (such as visual impairment, hearing impairment)
- mobility or physical impairments (such as paralysis, arthritis)

You can register with the team during enrolment, or at any time during your studies. Alternatively, you can book an appointment with a member of the team to discuss your circumstances and support arrangements.

We encourage students to disclose disability or support needs as early as possible, so the correct support can be set up to help you reach your full potential. If you have disclosed a disability or learning support need in your application, you will be asked for further information during the online enrolment process.

If you need adjustments for the induction and pre-induction periods, please let your admissions manager know or contact the school via the email address below.

Students can disclose or discuss a condition at any time during their study by contacting wellbeing@metfilmschool.ac.uk

I have confirmed by place on the course – what happens next?

If you have disclosed a disability or learning support need during your application, you will be contacted by the Disability & Wellbeing Adviser to discuss your circumstances. They will ask you to supply evidence of your condition and any supporting information that might be relevant. This information is used to agree a support plan for you. The information provided will be treated in confidence and used only for the purposes of providing the appropriate support to your circumstances.

These bespoke Individual Support Plans (ISPs) are developed in agreement with you, outlining recommended reasonable adjustments such as amended assessment arrangements, extensions to library book loans, note-takers or campus mobility support and the ability to request extensions to work if required.

MetFilm School Guides

For further information please download our other Guides:

- UK Accommodation Guide
- Berlin Accommodation Guide
- UK Finance & Funding Guide
- Berlin Finance & Funding Guide
- UK Student Support Guide
- UK International Students Guide
- Berlin International Students Guide

Please note the information provided in this guide referring to any external company, is provided as an overview only. All details and information are subject to change and may be impacted by Covid-19 restrictions. Please refer to individual websites for the latest information.

Please note this MetFilm School Guide is correct at time of publishing and is subject to change. Please visit the MetFilm School website for the latest information.

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