Finding accommodation in Gothenburg

Gothenburg is Sweden’s second largest city, hugely popular not only with students, but also commercial ventures. Many people are currently moving to study and work in Gothenburg, and as a result we have a housing shortage. We therefore encourage you to begin looking for accommodation as soon as possible.

Although there are student housing in the city, it is near impossible to find accommodation in a student room in time for the start of the semester\(^1\). In fact, it can take a year or longer before you get an offer for student housing. Fortunately, there are other alternatives such as renting a room in an apartment or villa. Although many students would prefer private student housing, renting a room from a Swedish family can have advantages as well, for instance in terms of learning the Swedish language quicker and getting familiar with Swedish culture and customs.

To maximize your chances of finding accommodation quickly, we recommend that you should not limit your search to the city centre where the competition is the greatest, but widen your search to include areas outside of the city centre as well. Public transportation in the city is effective and offers wide coverage, so staying outside the city centre is not a problem. You could always move closer to where your classes are later – the important thing is that you find somewhere to stay initially.

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\(^1\) The University of Gothenburg offers a limited number of priority student housing to international exchange students. If you are an exchange student, you will receive information on how to apply for student housing from the University’s Welcome Services.
Gain 3 months’ worth of queuing time…
By joining a student union, you will gain 3 months’ worth of queuing time with SGS. There are four student unions at the University of Gothenburg. Check which one is right for you here:

Returning after your exchange studies?
If you think you might return to the University of Gothenburg after your exchange studies finish, consider joining the SGS queue now for a head start when you return.

SGS (student housing)
SGS is the largest provider of student housing in the city. If you will be a student at the University of Gothenburg for longer than one year, you should register on their website as quickly as you can to start accumulating queuing time. As vacancies become available, they are offered to students on the waiting list and the more queuing time you have accumulated, the better the chances that a vacancy will go to you.

Selecting the right queue when registering with SGS
When you register with SGS, you will be asked to select a queue. Choose “studentlägenhet” (Eng. student flat) and proceed to fill in the information requested on subsequent pages. If you choose one of the other queues by mistake, you may have to use another browser or clear your cache and cookies before you can return to the queue selection stage and select the correct queue.

www.sgsstudentbostader.se
Direct and Last Minute

Even though the waiting time is normally about one and a half year, it is not impossible to get an accommodation via SGS faster than that. After the 15th of the month, any apartments that have not yet been rented out and are available the upcoming month are advertised through the service Direct.

At the end of the month any apartments that are unoccupied at the upcoming month are advertised and offered through the service Last Minute (first come, first served). Accordingly, it can pay off to keep a close watch on SGS and to check in frequently.

Problems with your SGS registration?

If you encounter further problems with your SGS registration, please contact SGS at: bf@sgsstudentbostader.se
Chalmers Studentbostäder
(student housing)

The student housing company *Chalmers studentbostäder* is part of the student union of the Chalmers University of Technology. They offer priority housing for students at the Chalmers University of Technology. Students at the University of Gothenburg are also welcome to apply, but will not qualify for priority housing.

[www.chalmersstudentbostader.se/en](http://www.chalmersstudentbostader.se/en)
University of Gothenburg – Welcome Services

The Welcome Services at the University of Gothenburg has limited housing to offer exchange students. In the spring semester there are sometimes vacancies which may be rented by other categories of international students as well. After the start of the spring semester, send an e-mail to studenthousing@gu.se to enquire about the availability of such vacancies. Please keep in mind that any such vacancy would not extend past the summer.

If you are an exchange student, you will receive information on how to apply for housing through the University when applying for exchange studies with us.

www.gu.se/studenthousing
Housing Anywhere

When local students decide to temporarily leave Gothenburg, for example to study or do an internship abroad, they often rent out their room or flat for the period they are not here. The HousingAnywhere platform gives you access to the ads for rooms that these students publish.

You can see an introduction video on how the system works here:

www.youtube.com/user/HousingAnywhere
https://housinganywhere.com
Housing ads

Blocket.se
The online marketplace Blocket.se lists not only books, bicycles and other things for sale, but also rooms and flats. Please keep in mind that Blocket.se is not curated and scams do occur. The website is unfortunately not available in English.

www.blocket.se

Facebook
The student unions have Facebook groups for international students. Some of the unions create new groups for each semester. You may want to join several union groups and the groups from the previous semester to get in touch with current or previous international students. Many of them will have been in the same position as you are now and may have invaluable experiences to share with you.

www.gu.se/studentbuddies

There are also several Facebook groups dedicated to the housing situation in Gothenburg and to helping people find somewhere to stay. Housing ads are common here and it is possible to find housing this way. Once again, however, keep in mind that while moderators will often try to remove fraudulent ads as quickly as possible, these groups are not curated and scams do occur.

Check out the links below for two popular groups: Find accommodation in Goteborg and Bostad Göteborg.

www.facebook.com/groups/accomodation.goteborg
www.facebook.com/groups/51849400997/

Beware of SCAMS!
Every year we hear from students who have lost money on housing that doesn’t exist. Please, be careful! Never pay anything in advance. If an offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

You can read the Swedish Police force’s recommendations in this guide on page 10.
Scams

Due to the difficult housing situation in Gothenburg, housing scams have become an unfortunate reality. Please be careful when looking for somewhere to stay in Gothenburg and never pay anything in advance. Here are some guidelines from the Swedish police:

1. Form a picture of the situation, not the person.
2. Check with the property owner that the person is the occupier of the flat.
3. Require identification of the landlord and a tenancy agreement.
4. Never pay deposit or rent in advance before you have visited the accommodation and a contract is signed.
5. Be wary if the landlord is abroad or cannot meet you.
6. Do not pay money via anonymous payment services.
7. Bring a friend or family member when you visit the accommodation. Four eyes can easier see through a fraud. If an offer sounds too good to be true, it is usually so.
8. If you have been the victim of a fraud, it is important that you report this to the police.

Source: Swedish Police
Short-term housing

There are many hostels in Gothenburg and SGS, the largest provider of student housing in the city, offer short-term housing through their SGS Veckobostäder service. For very short stays on a tight budget, Couchsurfing may also be an option.

Hostels:  

SGS Veckobostäder:  
https://www.sgsveckobostader.se/en

Couchsurfing:  
https://www.couchsurfing.com/
Further reading

Move to Gothenburg
Lots of good information aimed at people moving to Gothenburg. The website is primarily geared towards people moving here to work, but contains a lot of information which is useful also to future students.

www.movetogothenburg.com/

Study in Sweden
An official website aimed at people interested in studying in Sweden. The website is run by the Swedish Institute and has a lot of information useful both before you arrive and during your stay in Gothenburg. You can read about finding accommodation here: https://studyinsweden.se/life-in-sweden/accommodation/

https://studyinsweden.se/
Frequently asked questions

What is a UGOT code?
If you select the wrong queue when registering with SGS you may be asked to fill in a UGOT code. If this happens, you should restart the application process and choose the queue option called “studentlägenhet” (Eng. Student flat) instead. You will not be asked to fill in a UGOT code. If restarting the form does not work, you need to either use another browser or clear your cache and cookies before restarting the application procedure.

What do I do if I find a housing ad but feel unsure if it is real or an attempted scam?
As a rule, never pay anything in advance. Wait until you have seen the flat and have the keys before paying anything. Read more under Scams on page 10.
What happens if I don’t find somewhere to stay in time for the start of the semester?

Sometimes it is not possible to find housing in time for the start of the semester. In that case you may have to start the semester in a hostel or staying with friends. Fortunately, finding a place to stay is easier once you are here in person.

While finding somewhere to stay at this point may feel rather hopeless and impossible, experiences from previous years are positive suggesting that it is possible and indeed probable that you will find somewhere to stay within two weeks following the start of the semester.

If you have been limiting your search to housing in the city centre or near your faculty, we would recommend that you look outside the city centre as well. Public transportation in the region is efficient offers wide coverage, making commuting by bus, tram or commuter train a viable option. You can always move close to the city centre later on.

Moving to Sweden with your family?

Although Sweden is a family-friendly country, finding family accommodation in Gothenburg is really difficult. You may therefore want to consider coming here alone initially, while you look for family accommodation.

Regardless if your family travels with you or joins you later you should still apply for your residence permit as a family to ensure that the processing time is as short as possible.

Read more about moving to Gothenburg with your family on our website.

https://utbildning.gu.se/education/incoming-student/bringing-family#1
Public transport in Gothenburg

Västrafik provide bus, tram, ferry and commuter train services in Gothenburg and throughout the Västra Götaland region, making it easy to travel not only in the city, but also to neighbouring towns and cities. You can read about ticket prices and check travel time on their website.

When looking for someplace to stay, it is important to consider areas outside the city centre and perhaps outside the city altogether. We have put together a graphic showing commuting time by train to the Gothenburg main train station (Göteborg C). Remember that you can always continue looking for something closer to your classes once you are here, if you are unhappy with the time spent commuting.

![Image of a map showing train times to various destinations]

**Ticket prices when commuting**

When considering housing options outside of Gothenburg you will need to include commuting costs in your monthly budget. Period tickets are available for the Gothenburg municipality zone and for combinations of various other zones. You can find a complete list here: https://www.vasttrafik.se/en/tickets/period-tickets/

**Student discount**

Västrafik offers a student discount on some of their tickets. Please be aware that you will need to receive a digital Mecenat student discount card before you can use the student discount. It may take 2-3 weeks after the start of the semester before you receive your card.

There is a plastic version of the card as well, but only the digital one is valid on public transport.

For bus/tram travel time in the city, also see this travel map (pdf): https://bit.ly/3cciSqI

www.mecenat.se
1. IT Faculty/Campus Lindholmen
   Forskningsgången 6
2. Faculty of Education
   Vastra Hamngatan 25
3. School of Business Economics and Law
   Vasagatan 1
   Faculty of Social Sciences
   Sprängkullsgatan 19
4. Campus Linné
   Seminariegatan 1
5. HDK-Valand Academy of Art and Design
   Kristinelundsgatan 6 & Vasagatan 30
6. Academy of Music and Drama (Artisten)
   Fägelsängen 1
7. Faculty of Humanities (Humanisten)
   Renströmsgatan 6

C Gothenburg train station (Göteborg C)