



## *Student-house Moussonstr. 17.: Frequently Asked Questions*

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Last update: November 2018

### Summary

The Moussonstr. 17 Student-house (Reformierte StudentInnenhaus Moussonstrasse 17, CH-8044 Zürich) is a member of a group of four student houses that belong to the public charity organisation "Reformed Student Houses in Zürich" (Verein Reformierte Studentinnen- und Studentenhäuser, Zurich).

It is [located](#) where Zürich's central university quartier meets a residential area of traditional villas in the Fluntern neighbourhood: about 5-10 minutes walk from the central buildings of the ETH, the UZH and the ZHdK.

### Some of the key features this Student-house offers include:

- A lively international community of 19 students in their BSc or MSc studies, hosted in a historic building;
- New vacancies becoming available at the start of the semesters (i.e. starting in August/September, or in February), in twin rooms \* (with a possibility to move into a limited number of a single rooms, after about two semesters of stay);
- Shower and bathrooms, toilettes, etc. as shared facilities (on the corridors);
- A range of other, common-use rooms, such as kitchen and tea kitchen, dining room (incl. piano) and TV room, etc.;
- A garden for storing bicycles (roofed bicycle stand), as well as for leisure activities (including e.g. also a Ping-Pong table, grill device on demand, etc.);
- The students are responsible for the everyday management of the building, including e.g. the management of selected waste collection, cleaning in the common rooms, etc.
- Students are staying for a maximum of four semesters (two years), while the minimum length of stay is one full semester;

\* *Twin room: two students sharing the same room (with common rooms on the corridors)*

### What is new?

The building hosting the Moussonstr. 17 Student-House went through a partial refurbishment during the summer in 2018. This refurbishment involved the student rooms and the main student kitchen.

### What is next, when you are interested?

Interested students are invited to 1) check their eligibility (see the next pages) 2) send their application documents in a written format, in reply to relevant vacancy announcements on the [website of the Student-house](#).

## **1 ) About the Student-house**

The mission of the Moussonstrasse 17. Student-house is to provide accommodation for students of bachelor or master programmes for the start of their stay in Zürich and thus to help their integration into the student communities of the city.

It is located in a historical building, which was built in 1902 by that time city architect of Zürich, [Gustav Gull](#).

It has the total capacity of 19 students. As of spring 2018, the Student-house provided home to an international, coeducational community that represented 11 nationalities coming from four continents.

Placements are available in six twin rooms and seven single rooms. The single rooms are in use by the students who have lived in the building for one or two semesters already.

Shower and bathrooms, toilettes, kitchen and dining room, etc. are provided as shared facilities. Belonging to the House there is also a garden for leisure activities.

## **2) General admission criteria**

According to the mission of the Student-house, accommodation is provided to students of BSc or MSc studies in Zürich. Moreover, students in vocational studies are also accepted.

The House is open to any students regardless of their religion and/or nationality, provided that they are granted the necessary visa/other documents from the relevant Swiss authorities. Age range: 18 – 25 y/o at the time of moving into the House.

## **3 ) Vacancies**

In general, most of the new tenants join the Student-house at the start of the autumn semester (i.e. with the beginning of September) and a smaller number of them at the start of the spring semester (i.e. with the beginning of February). Vacancies during the course of semesters (or during the summer break) become available in very exceptional cases only (for example, when one of our tenants leaves the house unexpectedly).

Some other relevant information in this connection include:

- The minimum length of stay in the Student-house is one full semester, while the students are allowed to stay for maximum four semesters (2 years).
- Almost without exception, accommodation for the new tenants becomes available in twin rooms (in a single room: when it is not filled in by one of the current students).
- Usually, about four to six new vacancies become available for the autumn semesters and only about two to four (however sometimes none) for the spring semesters.
- Information about the exact location of new placements within the building (i.e. on which floor and in which room exactly) may become available only in a final stage of the admission process!

For more information on this topic (e.g. application form and deadlines, possibilities for visiting the house, waiting list, etc.) please refer below.

#### **4 ) Available infrastructure**

Furniture provided in the rooms includes study desks and beds, as well as in-built, or stand-alone wardrobes for clothes (see also the example photos available on the website). Bedclothes and towels are available on request.

Shower and bathrooms, as well as toilets are provided as shared facilities! There are toilets on every floor and a shower or bathroom on every second floor. (All toilettes are unisex.)

Other facilities and infrastructure in the House include:

- shared main kitchen including fridges, stoves, etc., as well as attached to it a pantry room with individual shelves;
- dining room, equipped with a piano and with the capacity to accommodate about 20-25 persons;
- television and reading room,
- tea kitchen;
- laundry room (incl. a washing machine and a tumble dryer);
- garden for storing bicycles (roofed bicycle stand), as well as for leisure activities (including e.g. also a Ping-Pong table, grill device on demand, etc.); and
- wireless Internet connection;

Please note that no car-parking place is provided!

#### **5 ) Community life**

Community life and the active contribution of students to the everyday operation of the building is a distinguished character of the Moussonstr. 17. Student-house. Some examples in this connection include:

- The organisation of social events, such as introduction walks in Zürich for new tenants, common ski trip, etc.
- Every Wednesday during the semesters a community dinner is organised. A team of three students cook and serve the diner. After the dinners, we discuss the topics and issues of everyday life in the House, as well as other topics in the interest of the students, with the involvement of all the participating students.
- Each of the students is delegated a task related to the operation of the House. Examples include the collection and disposal of selected waste and/or the tidying of certain parts of the building, etc.
- The students themselves manage the purchasing of food for breakfast (at the same time they prepare their breakfast individually, according to their individual schedule).
- Once per every semester the House organises also what we call “House Activity Day”, or “Sponge Party”. The purpose of this event is to carry out a thorough tidying and cleaning of the building and the garden.

## **6 ) Costs of stay**

At present, twin rooms in the Student-house cost between CHF 330.- and 380.- per person and single rooms cost between CHF 450.- and 600.- per person per month (depending on the size of room, etc.). This price includes the costs utilities, such as electricity, Internet and heating, etc.

Other costs of stay include the cost of breakfast\*, the weekly community dinners and some other utility-related costs, such as the use of the washing machine, inclusive of washing power, etc. This is called the “Semester contribution fee” and it is about CHF 330.- per person per semester (the actual costs are according to an update every new semester).

Please note that a deposit of CHF 400.- is requested at the time of moving in!

Outside the budget of the House, the student community runs its own Students’ Fund and collects for community purposes about CHF 15.- per student per semester.

\* Breakfast generally includes bread, butter, milk, marmalade and honey, as well as other food items, as per need and agreement by the students themselves.

## **7 ) Application and admission**

Students interested in the Moussonstr. Student-house are requested to send their application package, according to the deadline specified in the actual announcement of vacancies (website). A complete application package consists of:

- 1) Application form filled out on your name,
- 2) Your motivation letter, and
- 3) Your résumé (max 2 pages) including photo.

You may send these documents electronically, in PDF format, to the e-mail address of the Student-house (it is preferred when you bring the three documents together into a single PDF file), or by post. For the contact details please refer to the [website of the Student-house](#).

In the selection process, some of the most important aspects under consideration include:

- The personal profile of applicants based on their résumé and motivation letter.
- In general, the aim is to create a community of a good mix of study disciplines, levels of study (BSc/MSc) and nationals, as well as a balance of gender.
- For students aiming to stay for a longer period: some general preference is given to those in their first study year in Zürich. At the same time, exchange students for minimum one semester of stay are also welcome, as they bring additional cultural variety.
- A good level of English is a must, in order to be able to actively participate in the community life;

Please note that the Student-house has no “waiting list” and all applications that will have been received by the deadline are going to be considered equally!

The steps of the selection process are as follows:

- A good number of applicants are invited for a personal, or online (e.g. Skype) interview, based on their documents.
- In a next step, the vacant places will be filled in based on the results of the interviews, as well as based on the needs of the House (as per the aspects of selection, see above).
- All applicants will have been informed about the results of the selection process at least 45 calendar days in advance of the semester start.

An individual visit to the House before or during the application process is possible by advanced agreement with one of the student representatives (please drop a relevant inquiry to the central e-mail address of the Student-house).

## **8 ) The management of the house**

The house has been co-managed by Josph Slezák and Sybille Stemmler (house leaders), since July 2012.

**Sybille** (born in 1981, the citizen of Switzerland) holds a MSc. degree in Environmental Sciences. In addition, she holds also post-graduate degrees in pedagogy and energy engineering. Next to her role as the co-manager of the Student-house, she works for an engineering office, in the topic of the energy efficiency of buildings. Finally, at present she is also a student of applied psychology.

**Joseph** (born in 1976, the citizen of Hungary) holds a BSc. degree in Mechanical Engineering, as well as MSc degrees in Information Engineering & in Economic Sciences. Next to his role as the co-manager of the Student-house, he is an independent environmental-social scientist, in the topic of Sustainable Consumption and Production ([Sustainable Development Goal 12](#)). ([www.linkedin.com/in/jszlezak](http://www.linkedin.com/in/jszlezak)).

Their first daughter, Anna was born in May in 2013 and their second daughter, Edina was born in February 2016.

## **9 ) Student self-governance**

The Student-house has an established student self-governance scheme in place. Key elements of this scheme include:

- Although there are minimum rules (e.g. with regard to tidiness etc.) defined, it is the student community who defines the level of standards of living in the building. The forum for relevant discussions and decisions by the student community are the regular Wednesday diners during the semester period.
- There is an institution of “student representatives” in place: two students are elected for a period of one semester (renewable) by the student community for the coordination of the daily life of the House, as well as to facilitate the Wednesday discussions among the students, etc.
- There is a student cash register in place and it gives the possibility to the student community to self-finance events, etc. that have been decided together.