



Moussonstr. 17 Student House



**Getting to Know the Moussonstr. 17
Student House — Its Mission and Infra-
structure, the Costs of Accommodation,
and the Application & Admission Process**

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Summary

The Moussonstrasse 17 Student House is one of four units belonging to the public charity organisation **Foundation for Reformed Student Houses** ([Stiftung Reformierte Studentinnen- und Studentenhäuser](#)) in Zürich.

It is [located](#) in the Fluntern neighbourhood, where Zürich's central university district meets a residential area of traditional villas. The house is approximately:

- 5–10 minutes' walk from ETH Zürich and the University of Zürich (UZH), and
- about 30 minutes by public transport from PH Zürich, ZHAW, and ZHdK.

Key Features

- Home to a lively, international community of 18 Bachelor's and Master's students
- Accommodation typically in twin rooms, with the possibility to move to a single room after approximately two semesters (subject to availability)
- Shared facilities, including:
 - bathrooms and toilets on each floor
 - central kitchen and tea kitchen
 - dining room and TV/reading room
 - garden and outdoor spaces
- Weekly and seasonal community activities, including:
 - Wednesday house dinners
 - excursions and social events
- A self-managed living model, coordinated by elected student representatives
- Minimum stay: one semester
- Maximum stay: two years (in exceptional cases, up to three years)

What is Next, When You Are Interested?

Please read this entire document to gain an understanding of what you can expect from living in the Student House, and to learn how the admission process works. Whenever new vacancies become available, you will find a relevant call for applications on the [website of the Student House](#). Lastly, note that the Student House has no 'waiting list' — all applications received on time are considered equally.

1) About the Student House

The mission of the Moussonstrasse 17 Student House is to provide affordable accommodation within a sociable and supportive environment for students beginning their studies in Zürich, thereby facilitating their integration into the city's academic communities.

The building, constructed in 1902 by the Zürich city architect [Gustav Gull](#), has been used as student housing since the early 1940s.

The house offers accommodation for 18 students (six twin rooms and seven single rooms). As of spring 2026, residents represent 10 nationalities, forming an international and coeducational community.

Community Life and Responsibilities

Community life is a central element of the Student House. Residents are expected to actively contribute to both social and operational aspects of the household.

Examples include:

Social activities

- organisation of excursions, events, and semester parties

House dinners

- held every Wednesday during the semester
- followed by discussions on ongoing house matters and community topics

Regular, rotating and ad hoc household tasks

- weekly responsibilities such as waste disposal and kitchen cleaning
- periodically assigned duties (e.g. preparing dining tables)
- occasional tasks based on emerging needs (e.g. additional cleaning)

Sponge parties

- once per semester, a collective deep-cleaning event (approx. 3 hours), followed by a shared meal

These activities differ in frequency: regular tasks are weekly, rotating tasks change periodically, and ad hoc tasks arise as needed.

2) Admission Criteria

Accommodation is primarily intended for students at the beginning of their Bachelor's or Master's studies at recognised higher education institutions in Zürich.

In exceptional cases, the following may also be considered:

- students in vocational education
- PhD students
- students at a more advanced stage of their studies

Applicants from all nationalities and backgrounds are welcome. The recommended age at move-in is 18–22 years.

3) Infrastructure

Rooms are furnished with:

- study desk
- bed
- wardrobe

Bed linen is available upon request.

Twin rooms are single-gender, except when shared by couples. Bathrooms and toilets are shared and located on the corridors.

Common Areas

- Fully equipped kitchen
- Dining room (with upright piano)
- TV and reading room
- Tea kitchen
- Laundry room (washing machine and dryer)
- Roof and side terraces
- Garden with bicycle shed, ping-pong table, and seating

Please note: no car or motorbike parking is available.

4) Costs of Accommodation

Monthly rent:

- Twin rooms: CHF 390 – 445 per person
- Single rooms: CHF 480 – 680 per person

(depending on size and location)

Rent includes:

- utilities (electricity, heating, etc.)
- cleaning of common areas
- costs of house dinners

Additional Costs

- Security deposit: CHF 400 (one-time) ¹
- [Association](#) membership: CHF 20/year
- Student fund (subject to community decision): approx. CHF 15 per semester

5) Vacancies

Most vacancies occur:

- September (main intake): ~2–5 places
- February (smaller intake): ~1–3 places

Mid-semester vacancies are rare and arise only when a resident leaves unexpectedly.

Important notes:

- Minimum stay: one semester
- Maximum stay: two years (in exceptional cases, up to three years)
- New residents are typically placed in twin rooms
- Final room allocation is confirmed at a late stage of admission

6) Application and Admission

Applications are invited when vacancies are announced on the Student House [website](#).

Application Package

- Completed online application form
- Motivation letter²
- CV/résumé (with photo)³

Selection Criteria

Key considerations include:

- motivation and background (interests, volunteering, financial situation etc.)
- diversity and balance (field of study, nationality, gender)
- ability to communicate effectively in English

Preference is often given to students in their first year in Zürich, with the exception of exchange students.

¹ The tenancy deposit serves as security against unpaid rent or damage. If all obligations are met, it is fully refunded at the end of the tenancy.

² In one paragraph, describe what you will study in Zürich and why, and explain why you would like to live in the Student House, what you would contribute to the community, and (if relevant) your interest in a twin room.

³ When you are seeking for relevant guidance, you will find information regarding how to write a résumé/CV on the pertinent website of the [UZH](#).

Selection Process

1. Shortlisted applicants are invited for interviews
2. Final selection is based on interview results
3. Feedback is typically provided:
 - by mid-May (autumn intake)
 - by mid-December (spring intake)

There is no waiting list — all applications received by the deadline are considered equally.

7) The Leaders of the Student House

The Student House has been co-led since 2012 by:

Sybille Stemmler (~10% at present)

MSc Environmental Sciences; additional qualifications in pedagogy and energy engineering. In her main profession, she works at an engineering office in Zürich.

József Slezák (~30% at present)

Holds degrees in Mechanical Engineering, Information Engineering, and Economic Sciences. He is a PhD candidate at Central European University (Vienna, Austria) and a Research Affiliate at the Democracy Institute (Budapest, Hungary).

8) Student Self-governance

A structured self-governance system is in place.

Key elements:

- Two house representatives are elected each semester from among the resident students.
- The system is guided by the *subsidiarity principle*, under which the student community bears primary responsibility for managing everyday life in the building, including tasks, cleanliness, and events, both at the individual and collective levels.
- It is further guided by the *community principle*, which emphasises a sense of belonging, cooperation, and shared responsibility, and fosters a supportive environment in which residents can rely on one another.
- House leaders and house representatives jointly serve as key guardians of these principles, supporting their consistent application within the Student House.