



**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 Moussonstr. 17 Student House is one of the four units that belong to the public charity organisation "Foundation for Reformed Student Houses" (Stiftung Reformierte Studentinnen- und Studentenhäuser) in Zürich.

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 and the UZH and about 30 minutes by public transport from the main buildings of the PH Zürich, the ZHAW and the ZHdK.

### The Key Features of this Student House Include:

- It provides home to a lively, international community made up of 18 students in their BSc or MSc studies
- Vacancies become available at the beginning of the semesters, usually [in twin rooms](#)\*
- Shower rooms and toilettes are available on the corridors; furthermore, several community rooms, such as kitchen, tea-kitchen, dining room and TV room, as well as a garden, are also part of the infrastructure that the Student House provides
- Common activities, such as the organization of community dinners on a weekly basis, as well as of seasonal excursions and various other events are the integrated part of the life of the Moussonstr. student community
- The resident students are responsible for the everyday management of the household, including, for example, the management of selected waste collection, and so on
- The minimum length of stay in the Student House is one full semester and at the same time its inhabitants are eligible to stay in the building for a maximum of 2 years

\* *Twin room: a room containing two single beds. After having spent about two semesters in a twin room, usually (however not always), it becomes possible to move into a single room.*

### What is New?

During the summer in 2018, the student rooms went through a partial refurbishment and brand-new central kitchen was also installed. In a next step, during the summer 2019, the main staircase of the building was also renovated.

### What is Next, When You Are Interested?

Please read this entire document towards developing an understanding concerning what you can expect from living in the Moussonstr. 17 Student House, as well as to learn how the admission procedure works! Whenever new vacancies become available, you will find a relevant call for applications on the [website of the Student House](#).

## 1) About the Student House

The mission of the Moussonstr. 17 Student House is to provide affordable accommodation in a sociable environment for students starting their bachelor or master studies 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](#). In the early 1940ies, the inheritors of Gull sold the building to the predecessor of the [Foundation for Reformed Student Houses](#) and ever since then it has hosted students.

Placements in the building are available in six twin rooms and seven single rooms, altogether for 18 students. As of autumn 2024, the Student House is home to an international, coeducational student community that represent 10 nationalities.

Community life and the active contribution of the inhabitants to the everyday operation of the building is a central character of this student house.

Examples of relevant activities include:

- The organisation of social events, such as seasonal excursions, semester party, various game events and so on.
- House-dinners: each Wednesday during the semester the students, together with the house leaders, organise a community dinner. After the dinners, the students discuss ongoing topics in the House (such as the tidiness of the public rooms, planned community events, and so on), as well as other topics in the interest of the student community.
- Regular household tasks: each of the students carries out some regular activities on the weekly basis in connection to the operation of the building. Examples of regular house tasks include the disposal of selected waste at the public collection points and/or cleaning in the kitchen, and so on.
- Other types of household tasks: such as "rotating tasks" (for example: the preparation of the dining tables for the dinners) and "ad hoc tasks" (for example: exceptional cleaning in the kitchen as per the needs).
- Sponge parties: once per semester, in an informal atmosphere, the student community carry out a thorough cleaning of the student kitchen, as well as of the other public areas of the building. These "parties" last for three hours and include a community meal upon finishing with the relevant activities.

## 2) Admission Criteria

According to the mission of the Student House, accommodation is provided for students who are at the beginning of their BSc or MSc studies at one of the recognised higher education institutions of Zürich.

Occasionally, on the exceptional basis, students in vocational education, or PhD students, moreover BSc or MSc students, who are already at a later stage in their studies, are also accepted.

Students from all over the world are welcome, regardless of their nationality and/or religion. The recommended age at the time of moving in is between 18 and 22 y/o.

## 3) Available Infrastructure

Furniture provided in the student rooms includes study desks, beds and wardrobes (see also the illustrative photos provided on the website). Bedclothes are available on request. Note that all twin rooms are either female-only or male-only, except for couples. Shower and bathrooms, as well as unisex toilets are available on the corridors.

Common areas of the Student House include:

- Fully equipped student kitchen
- Dining room, equipped with an upright piano
- Television and reading room
- Tea kitchen
- Laundry room, equipped with a washing machine and a tumble dryer
- Roof- and side terraces
- Garden, equipped with a roofed bicycle shed, a ping-pong table, as well as with garden tables and garden chairs

Please note that no car-parking and/or motorbike parking place is provided!

## 4) Costs of Accommodation

Accommodation in twin rooms in the Student House cost between CHF 410.- and 445.- per person per month and between CHF 490.- and 680.- per person per month in single rooms, depending on the size and the location of the rooms. The rent includes utility costs such as electricity, heating, and others, as well as cleaning costs for common areas and expenses for house-dinners.

Please note that a tenancy deposit<sup>1</sup> in the worth of CHF 400.- is requested at the time of moving in!

Additional, minor expenses of stay include:

- ❖ The residents of the Student House automatically become members in the [Students' Association](#) of the Foundation of Reformed Student Houses in Zürich. This membership fee is CHF 20.- per year.
- ❖ Outside the budget of the Student House, the student community intermittently (based on prior agreement within resident students of the building) runs its own, so-called Students' Fund, and it collects about CHF 15.- per student per semester for community purposes, such as for the organisation of a semester party, and so on.

## 5) Vacancies

Typically, most of the new tenants join the Student House at the start of the autumn semester (with the 1st of September, sometimes already with the 1st of August) and a smaller number of them at the start of the spring semester (with the 1st of February).

Please note:

- Vacancies during the semesters become available only in very exceptional cases: for example, when one of the tenants is leaving the Student House unexpectedly.
- The minimum length of stay in the Student House is one full semester, while students are allowed to stay for a maximum of 2 years;
- Most typically, vacancies for new residents become available in twin rooms (in a single room: when it has not been taken by one of the 'continuing' residents of the building);
- Usually, four to five vacancies become available in the building with the 1st of September and two to three, however sometimes even less, with the 1st of February;
- Decision concerning where exactly an accepted new student is going to be located within the building (such as on which floor and in which room exactly) usually becomes available only during the final stage of the admission process.

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<sup>1</sup> You pay a tenancy deposit to give the Student House protection in case you leave without paying the rent or cause damage to the property or its contents. If you will have paid all the rent due and caused no damage, the full amount of your deposit will be returned at the end of your tenancy.

## 6) Application and Admission

Whenever new vacancies become available in the Student House, a call for applications is published on its [website](#) and hence interested students are invited to send their application.

A complete application package consists of:

- 1) An online Application Form filled out on your name,
- 2) Your motivational letter, and
- 3) Your brief CV/résumé, including your photo.

Individual visits to the Student House before or during the application process are possible according to the availability of the house leaders and relevant senior students: please send a relevant inquiry per e-mail, well in advance of the planned visit.

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

- The personal profile of the applicants, based on their CV/résumé and motivation letter.
- The aim is to sustain a diverse and at the same time balanced student community with respect to the field of studies, the levels of education (BSc/MSc), moreover also in terms of nationality and gender.
- Frequently, but not exclusively, preference is given to students who are in their first study year in Zürich.
- Also exchange students are welcome to join the Student House, not least because they bring additional cultural diversity to the student community.
- A good level of English is a must, to be able to actively participate in the everyday life of the Student House.

Please note that the Student House has no “waiting list”: each of the applications that will have arrived by the specified deadline are going to be considered equally!

The steps of the selection process are as follows:

- i. A good number of applicants are invited for a personal, or online interview
- ii. In a next step, the vacant places are filled in based on the results of the interviews
- iii. The aim of the Student House is to provide feedback to each of the applicants about the results of the admission process by the end of May and respectively by mid-December.

## 7) The Management of the Student House

The Moussonstr. Student House has been co-managed by József Slezák (also known as Joseph Slezák) and Sybille Stemmler (house leaders) since July 2012.

**Sybille** (born in 1981, the citizen of Switzerland, at present she works ~ 15% for the Student House) holds an MSc. degree in Environmental Sciences. In addition to this, she holds also post-graduate degrees in pedagogy and energy engineering. Next to her role as the co-leader of the Moussonstr. Student House, she has a part-time job in an engineering office in Zürich, where she works on the energy refurbishment of buildings. At present, Sybille is a part-time student in the field of applied psychology at the Zürich University of Applied Sciences.

**József** (born in 1976, the citizen of Hungary, at present he works ~ 25% for the Student House) holds a BSc. degree in Mechanical Engineering, as well as MSc degrees in Information Engineering and in Economic Sciences. Next to his role as the co-leader of the Moussonstr. Student House, he is an independent environmental-social scientist with focus on the topic of Sustainable Consumption and Production in a globalised world ([Sustainable Development Goal 12](#), see also: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/jszlezak>). Since autumn 2020, József is PhD candidate in the field of environmental sciences and policy at the Central European University in Vienna, Austria.

## 8) Student Self-governance

In the Student House, a student self-governance scheme is in place. The key principles and elements of this scheme include:

- The student residents, both individually and as a community, are responsible for ensuring the smooth operation of shared spaces in the building. This includes maintaining tidiness and cleanliness in common areas such as the central kitchen, the dining room, and so on.
- Each semester, the student community elects two 'house representatives'. Their general responsibilities include facilitating a smooth everyday life among the residents, overseeing household tasks, organizing community events, and representing the student community towards the leadership of the house.
- The self-administered Students' Fund allows residents to make small investments that benefit the entire community, such as creating an herb garden and simultaneously it also supports the organization of various social events throughout the semester.