

Important information

Semester Ticket Social Fund

To relieve some of the financial strain facing students who are also parents, students with children who receive ongoing support payments, single parents of children aged up to 14 years, and pregnant students from the 12th week of pregnancy onward can receive a waiver for the full or partial costs of the semester ticket transit pass. Applications for allowances for the semester ticket may be submitted to the semester ticket office established by the Student Body Council (Allgemeiner Studierendenausschuss); please be sure to note the application deadlines.

semtixbuero@astafu.de

www.astafu.de/semtixbuero

Dining hall

Children up to six years old can eat free of charge at Freie Universität at Mensa II, Veggie N° 1 and the Mensa Lankwitz dining facilities. Parents who present a valid student ID and have a MensaCard themselves can request a MensaKidsCard.

“FU mit Kind” mailing list

This list is available to students with children as a network, discussion forum, and source of information.

Register at

<https://lists.fu-berlin.de/listinfo/fu-mit-kind>

Family Support Center

At Freie Universität Berlin, we believe “family” means all situations in which people take long-term social responsibility for others. This includes, most especially, people who are raising children and those who are taking care of other family members. The Family Support Center is the central point of contact for all those affiliated with Freie Universität who have questions about balancing family life and an academic career or job. The Family Support Center offers extensive information. Advising services are confidential and are provided by appointment.



Contact

Family Support Center of Freie Universität Berlin
Rudeloffweg 25 – 27
(1st Floor, Room 102)
14195 Berlin
Tel.: (030) 838 – 51137
Fax: (030) 838 – 54525
familienbuero@fu-berlin.de
www.fu-berlin.de/familienbuero



Balancing Family and an Academic Career



Familiengerechte Hochschule

To enhance compatibility between academic careers and family life, Freie Universität Berlin strives to ensure a family-friendly higher education environment. With success: Since 2007, Freie Universität has been certified as a family-friendly higher education institution. The university was re-audited in 2010. As part of the audit familiengerechte hochschule (family-friendly higher education audit) program, Freie Universität has already taken a number of actions to ensure that academic activities are organized to be friendly toward families, including preferential registration for seminars. The re-audit identified further goals for family-friendly study conditions:

- Evaluation and expansion of e-learning and e-teaching options
- Exploration of individual curriculum planning options
- Family-friendly scholarship and grant design
- Preferential housing assignments for students with children, in cooperation with the student union (Studentenwerk)
- Raising awareness of topics concerning family members who take care of others in the family



Family-friendly organization of studies

Semesters spent on leave and performance reports for coursework

Pregnancy, caring for a child during the first three years of the child's life, or caring for a family member are grounds for taking leave. Students who have taken maternity leave or are on leave due to family activities can attend lectures and courses even during a semester-long leave of absence and earn credit for their coursework. For detailed information, please contact the study and examination offices of the specific Departments.

Registering for seminars

As one way to ensure better compatibility between academic studies and family life, Freie Universität Berlin is testing a method in which students who have children or are responsible for caring for family members receive preferential admission to impacted classes and practical courses. Students who wish to utilize this system are asked to state their preferences to the appropriate study and examination office in writing, as early as possible.

Obligation to attend classes

Students with family responsibilities can have a hard time meeting the obligation to attend classes, for example if a child is ill for a longer period. In certain cases, students affected by these circumstances may be eligible to make up for absences from lectures and other courses through other kinds of academic performance. The Departments have also agreed that wherever possible, they will schedule courses that are relevant to exams so that attending these courses is compatible with family responsibilities.

Childcare at Freie Universität

Nursery school

The nursery school, operated by the student union (Studentenwerk), offers full-day childcare. Anyone affiliated with Freie Universität is eligible to enroll his or her children at the nursery school, from the age of a few months up to school age.

Tel.: (030) 93939 – 8470

www.studentenwerk-berlin.de/kita

Parent-and-child rooms

Freie Universität Berlin has established parent-and-child rooms at various locations to serve students, faculty and staff members, and guests. Each of these rooms is intended as a place where parents and other childcare providers can take a break and meet up with each other, taking care of their own children or each other's. Each parent-and-child room is generally equipped with a play corner and a workstation. These facilities are found in Dahlem in the Rost- und Silberlaube complex and at Albrecht-Thaer-Weg (Dahlem Centre of Plant Sciences), at the Department of Earth Sciences, in Lankwitz, and in the Veterinary Library, in Döberitz. Many Departments and some libraries also offer nursing and baby changing rooms. New facilities are being added on an ongoing basis; for information, please visit the website of the Family Support Center: www.fu-berlin.de/sites/familienbuero/beruf_mit_kind/mutterschutz/stillen



Parent-and-child room in the Veterinary Library.
Photo: Thomas Kuhn