



WELCOME  
CENTRE



HOCHSCHULE  
RHEIN-WAAL  
Rhine-Waal University  
of Applied Sciences

## FAQ for Students

### ***Who does the Mentor program address? Do I have to fulfill certain requirements?***

The Locals4Students program addresses all students of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences. Students and locals from the region Rhine-Waal should have the possibility to come into contact with each other and share their cultural backgrounds. Students who wish to get to know their new living-environment a bit better and look for closer social relationships outside the university world, have the possibility to have a personal and one-of-a-kind connection in our region. It is up to Local and student to decide exactly what to do together or how often the meetings should be. However, it is warmly recommended to write personal preferences in the participation form, to enable the best matching possible.

### ***How can I sign up for the program?***

Go to the university homepage and then to Welcome Centre and sign up in the “Locals4Students” page. We will then try to match you to a Local that fits you and send you his/her Email address and telephone number. Alternatively, you can come to the Welcome Center and have a look at each available Local’s profile (anonymous) to see which one is your perfect match. Furthermore, a meeting event with all program participants will be held twice a year (once in each semester). In this occasion, you have the opportunity to meet the Locals and the students who are taking part in this experience just like you!

### ***How do I meet my Local for the first time?***

Once you have received the email address and telephone number of your Local from us, you can make an appointment with him/her (a public place, e.g. café, restaurant, park, is advisable, at least for the first meeting). Alternatively, you can decide to meet in the Local4Students program event that is held each semester.

### ***Do I have to know German?***

No. You can write down the languages you speak in your application form. Obviously, it is more likely to find a Local if you can already speak a bit of German. Your Local does not expect you to speak perfect German and he/she is informed that it might not be that easy for you in the beginning to feel at home in Germany and that you might need his/her help sometimes.

### ***Who can become my Mentor?***

Local people who usually sign up to the Locals4Students program come from all class ages and social backgrounds. They can be single individuals or whole families. In the application form you can state your preferences in this regard or you can come to the events and choose for who you think is the best Mentor for you.

***Does the participation to the Local4Students program bind you to certain obligations?***

No, the participation in the program is free of charge and you are also not expected to work for your Local (e.g. gardening, babysitting...). Of course, if you want, you can invite him/her and cook a typical meal from your country.

***Is there something I have to pay attention to?***

Locals have no financial obligations towards their student partner. The student has to take care of his/her own costs for studying, accommodation and leisure time.

Furthermore, it is important to be punctual at meetings or appointments or to inform your Local early enough if you cannot make it.

Locals support you in practical issues, but students should also play an active role in the relationship, for instance by showing pictures from their home country or cooking some typical food from their country.

***Who can I address if I have any problems?***

It is not unusual to have comprehension difficulties between Local and student. When different cultures and languages come together, misunderstandings can occur. When you do not know how to handle a situation, you can always come and ask us ([locals4students@hochschule-rhein-waal.de](mailto:locals4students@hochschule-rhein-waal.de)).

In case you do not wish to meet your Local anymore and you do not know how to tell him/her, please come to us and we will inform him/her.