

Guidance for foreign students with children

From the early days of pregnancy onward, it is important to know whom to contact in order to receive information:

- **Health insurance**

Upon realisation of pregnancy, the gynecologist will issue a pregnancy record (“Mutterpass”). This pregnancy record will later on be used for various documents and applications. During the pregnancy, *most* of the health insurance providers will cover all costs – if necessary also an ambulance.

After childbirth, an application for a dependents' co-insurance (“Familierversicherung”) should be made, which will then provide coverage for the child as well. The inclusion of the child into the health insurance is free of cost.

Attention: It is best to get in touch with the health insurance provider as early as possible to make sure, all costs during pregnancy are included. If insured under private insurance, *always* ask for terms&conditions.

- **Application for leave of absence semesters**

A pregnant student should inform the university about her pregnancy and the estimated date of childbirth as soon as she knows about her pregnancy. By doing this, it is possible to receive information on measures to be taken as well as clarifications and guidance. The following contacts are available:

Family-Friendly University: familie@hs-heilbronn.de

- ❖ Birgit Englert
Campus Heilbronn – Sontheim, Raum: B026
Telephone: +49 7131 504 207
E-Mail: birgit.englert@hs-heilbronn.de

- **Financial support**

Foreign students under §16 AufenthG are not entitled to social benefits, such as child benefit, housing benefit, child-raising allowance, maintenance advance, social welfare etc. However, parents and children can benefit from social welfare, if the child or a parent has a European citizenship.

Given that a financial situation can be especially unstable during pregnancy and there are only few individual means of support, one may turn to the staff of the Family-Friendly University Department (“Familiengerechte Hochschule”) for information.

Furthermore, Family Council (“Schwangerschaftsberatungsstelle”) may provide assistance, for example: *Diakonie, Caritas, Pro Familia*. Family Council will review the personal and individual situation and can apply for financial support with the Federal Foundation - Mother and Child (“Bundesstiftung für Mutter und Kind”). This money is to be utilized for the baby’s initial outfit and equipment.

- ❖ <http://www.caritas-heilbronn-hohenlohe.de/de/was-wir-bieten/schwangerschaftsberatung.html>

- ❖ <http://www.diakonie-heilbronn.de/was-wir-bieten/unsere-abteilungen/schwangerschaft-familie-u-bes-lebenssituationen.html>
- ❖ <http://www.profamilia-heilbronn.de/content/beratung-bei-schwangerschaft>

On the sides of the Child Protection Agency (Kinderschutzbund), it is possible to inform of various support and offers for pregnant women / parents, such as open midwife consultation.

- ❖ <http://kinderschutzbund-hn.de/unsere-angebote/>

- **Maternity benefit**

The maternity benefit will be paid for the maximum duration of 14 weeks.

Eligible are those students who have health insurance for themselves and are gainfully employed (also marginally employed) by the beginning of maternity protection. These benefits can be applied for with the health insurance and *do not exclude* students under §16 AufenthG.

It is very important to *not terminate* the employment contract during pregnancy.

- **Acknowledgement of paternity**

In Germany, the father of a child is obliged to care for his child, for example by paying monthly alimony, if he has signed the acknowledgement of paternity. By registration of the father in the child's birth certificate, the father has rights and duties for the mutual child. If there are any conflicts with the father, it makes sense to seek council before childbirth. On the university website on the portal for Family-Friendly University and at the Family Council, more detailed information can be found.

If the father does not pay alimony, it is possible to apply for a maintenance advance with the local youth welfare office ("Jugendamt").

- ❖ <https://www.heilbronn.de/buerger-rathaus/aemter-a-z/dezernat-iii/amt-fuer-familie-jugend-und-senioren.html>

- **Childcare**

It is important to look for a child care place (in a day nursery or with a nanny) as soon as possible, in order to continue studying without disruption after childbirth. The university's daycare center accepts children between the age of 2 months and 6 years (starting autumn 2018).

For those with low income, it is possible to apply for a cost subsidy or a cost assumption with the appropriate youth welfare office.

However, foreign students under §16 AufenthG and under declaration of obligation, the youth welfare office may decline the daycare cost.

- ❖ **Family-Friendly University ("Familiengerechte Hochschule"):**
familie@hs-heilbronn.de

- ❖ **Office for Family, Youth and Senior Citizens – General Administration
Daycare for Children (“Amt für Familie, Jugend und Senioren –
Gesamtleitung Tageseinrichtungen für Kinder“)**
Wollhausstraße 20
74072 Heilbronn
Telephone: 07131 56-3070 (Fr. Bär-Stoll)