

LINKS

- Family webpage of BTU Cottbus**  
[www.tu-cottbus.de/familie](http://www.tu-cottbus.de/familie)
- Studentenwerk Frankfurt (Oder)**  
[www.studentenwerk-frankfurt.de](http://www.studentenwerk-frankfurt.de)
- Student Advisory Service of BTU Cottbus**  
[www.tu-cottbus.de/btu/de/studium/studienbewerber/zentrale-studienberatung.html](http://www.tu-cottbus.de/btu/de/studium/studienbewerber/zentrale-studienberatung.html)
- Student Union of BTU Cottbus**  
[www.stura-cottbus.de](http://www.stura-cottbus.de)
- Student Registry Office BTU Cottbus**  
[www.tu-cottbus.de/btu/de/studium/studierende/ansprechpartner.html](http://www.tu-cottbus.de/btu/de/studium/studierende/ansprechpartner.html)
- berufundfamilie gGmbH**  
[www.beruf-und-familie.de](http://www.beruf-und-familie.de)
- Programme »Erfolgsfaktor Familie«**  
[www.erfolgsfaktor-familie.de](http://www.erfolgsfaktor-familie.de)
- German Family Internet Platform**  
[www.familien-wegweiser.de](http://www.familien-wegweiser.de)
- Information on family, infantile development, child care, family policies and relevant assistance**  
[www.familienhandbuch.de](http://www.familienhandbuch.de)
- Working Mothers Alliance**  
[www.berufstaetige-muetter.de](http://www.berufstaetige-muetter.de)
- Internet platform for working fathers and men willing to better combine work with family responsibilities**  
[www.vaeter.de](http://www.vaeter.de)
- Child care facilities in Brandenburg**  
[www.lja-brandenburg.de/kita/index\\_kitas.php](http://www.lja-brandenburg.de/kita/index_kitas.php)
- Domestic violence – How those affected can protect themselves**  
[www.gewaltschutz.info](http://www.gewaltschutz.info)

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The Project »Auditierung der BTU Cottbus als familiengerechte Hochschule« is sponsored by the Brandenburg Ministry of Science, Research and Culture and the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus.

**Imprint:** Layout: BTU Öffentlichkeitsarbeit / Marketing  
Editing: Dariya Afanasyeva, Heike Bartholomäus, Ehregard Heinzig  
Shaping: Novamondo Design · Published in Januar 2010

[www.tu-cottbus.de](http://www.tu-cottbus.de)

WELCOME TO OUR  
FAMILY-FRIENDLY UNIVERSITY

The University mission statement, the equal opportunities concept and the guidelines for advancement of women at BTU all include family-orientated aspects as an indispensable part. In June 2008, the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus received the TOTAL E-QUALITY Awards for the following three years. This award recognizes the university`s exemplary equal opportunities approach in human resources management. In November 2009, BTU was awarded the title of a »Family-Friendly Organisation« in the framework of a joint initiative between the Local Family Alliances (Lokale Bündnisse für Familie) and the City of Cottbus. In May 2009, the university was certified by audit familiengerechte hochschule.



FAMILY-CONSCIOUS  
CONDITIONS AND SERVICES  
FOR STUDENTS



FAMILY-ORIENTED INFRASTRUCTURE

Mensa

The Mensa is equipped with high chairs and a children's corner, as well as with a baby change spot in the foyer.

Parent Child Room

At the beginning of winter semester 2008/2009, a Parent Child Room (Eltern-Kind-Zimmer) was opened in the Main Building of the BTU. It is intended as a special room where students and university staff – both mothers and fathers – can stay with their children in cases when day care facilities are closed and babysitters are not available, especially during school holidays. The room offers a variety of toys and appliances for children of all ages and is equipped with a fully functioning workplace for the parents, including an Internet-connected PC and a telephone.



FINANCE ASSISTANCE

Child Support (Kindergeld)

Kindergeld is an allowance from the German government to help ease some of the cost of raising children. Eligible for Kindergeld are parents (both German natives and foreigners) residing in Germany. In case of foreigners, this applies to citizens of other EU countries and non-EU citizens who hold a valid residence permit in Germany. The amount of Kindergeld does not correlate with a parents' income rate. Please note that foreign students, whose residence permit in Germany is limited to studies only, are, as a rule, ineligible for Kindergeld. For the first and the second child, a monthly Kindergeld payment is 184 Euro; for the third child 190 Euro; for every next child 215 Euro.

Application for Kindergeld is to be submitted to the Department for Child and Family Services (Familienkasse) in charge.

Parental Allowance (Elterngeld)

Eligible for Elterngeld are individuals who have a residence in Germany or a valid residence permit (Aufenthaltslaubnis) that allows them to work in Germany; reside together with their child; care and rear their child personally; and do not work more than 30 hours per week during the time Elterngeld is issued. The Elterngeld amount is 67% of the applying parent's after tax earnings, averaged over 12 months before the child's birth. Mothers and fathers who have received no income in the 12 months before the child's birth are issued the minimum monthly allowance (Mindestelterngeld) of 300 Euro. Low-earning parents are offered special support.

»Welcome Money« from the Student Union

In order to support young parents studying at BTU Cottbus, the Student Union (Studierendenrat) has introduced, since winter semester 2008/2009, the so-called »welcome money« of 100 Euro for every newborn baby. Applications are to be submitted to the Union's office.

LIVING WITH A CHILD

Dormitories

Studentenwerk Frankfurt (Oder) offers BTU students dormitory apartments (one-room apartments, single-bed rooms, as well as two- to five-room apartments) in six different locations. Prices vary depending on location and apartment size. All apartments are fully furnished, including desks, chairs, beds, shelves and lamps; kitchen equipment includes electric stoves and refrigerators; bathrooms are complete with WCs and showers. TV, radio and Internet outlets are available. Also offered are separate washing and drying rooms, as well as bicycle storage rooms. Students with children are very welcome. Upon application, Studentenwerk Frankfurt (Oder) provides its tenants with child-friendly appliances and furniture, e.g. cribs, baby changing tables, high chairs, baby food warmers, baby tableware, etc.

International Meeting Centre (Begegnungszentrum)

Upon request, the Begegnungszentrum provides foreign academics and researchers, such as doctoral candidates, with child-friendly apartments.

Combining Studies and Family

BTU Cottbus works towards ensuring that pregnancy, parenthood and the supervision of family members with special needs does not impede the process of studying or obtaining a degree. This is reflected in the study regulations, in so far as the legal framework allows. The University sees to it that scholarships and the federal student support (BaföG) can be temporarily out on hold, upon application, due to family commitments during parental leave or an academic leave of absence.

Leisure

KinderCampus is a series of lectures and workshops designed specifically for children aged 6 to 12, which take place at BTU Cottbus on a weekly basis. The aim is to encourage the interest in natural sciences among young children and to provide them with an opportunity to experience real university flair by exploring and discussing exciting scientific challenges.

CHILD CARE

Day Care Facility

Studentenwerk Frankfurt (Oder) offers students with children a day care facility (Kindertagesstätte) located in the immediate vicinity of the BTU campus, where up to 120 children aged eight weeks to preschool are currently supervised.

Planning Your Studies

The Student Advisory Service (Zentrale Studienberatung), academic advisors (Fachstudienberaterinnen und -berater) and the Student Registry Office (Studierendensekretariat) support and counsel students with children. Compatibility of family commitments and academic activity is secured on a personal basis, with regards to the students' individual situation.

Student Counselling

Various counselling opportunities are offered through the Student Registry Office (Studierendensekretariat), the Student Union (Studierendenrat) and the Office of the Equal Opportunity Commissioner (Büro der Gleichstellungsbeauftragten). Apart from this, the Student Services Organization Studentenwerk Frankfurt (Oder) provides assistance and information support in social and cultural matters, as well as in managing related difficulties. All interested students are welcome to visit the service joint in Cottbus.