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Authorities

There are many different authorities and administrative departments in your place of residence, regionally and in the Canton of St.Gallen.

It is important to know which office is responsible for what.

Authorities of the municipality or city

Gemeindeverwaltung / Gemeindeamt

The seat of the local administration is the [Gemeindeverwaltung](#) (📍 Seat of the local government).

In a city, it is the [Stadtverwaltung](#) (📍 Seat of the City Council) or [Gemeindeamt](#) (📍 = City Administration).

Einwohneramt / Einwohnerkontrolle

For you, the [Einwohneramt](#) (📍 Authority responsible for residents' registration) is the first point of contact when you move to the municipality. Depending on where you live, it is also called [Einwohnerdienste](#) (📍 =Residents' Office).

You can also contact them if you have any questions about identity cards, various certificates, certification of signatures, fishing patents, dog control.

Sozialamt

The [Sozialamt](#) (📍 Social services) provides you with personal, financial and material support if you are in an emergency.

Steueramt

At the [Steueramt](#) (📍 Authority responsible for taxes), the taxes of the inhabitants of the municipality are calculated. There you have to file the annual tax return. The [Steueramt](#) (📍 Authority responsible for taxes) will check your details and issue the invoice for the annual taxes.

Finanzverwaltung

The [Finanzverwaltung](#) (📍 Department of Finance) regulate all matters relating to finances.

Grundbuchamt

You will need the [Grundbuchamt](#) (📍 Authority for Real Estate and Land) you are dealing with real estate and real estate property rights.

Betreibungsamt

The debt [Betreibungsamt](#) (📍 Debt Enforcement Authority) helps a legitimate creditor to collect an outstanding debt from the debtor.

If you rent a new apartment, you will need an excerpt from the debt collection register. You can request this form from the [Betreibungsamt](#) (📍 Debt Enforcement Authority).

 [Apply for an extract from the debt collection register online](#)

Authorities of the school

Schulsekretariat

If you as a parent have any questions, please contact the [Schulsekretariat](#) ([🔗 Secretariat of the school](#)).

Schulverwaltung

The school administration is the hub of the [Schulverwaltung](#) ([🔗 School Administration Authority](#)).

It deals with the concerns of the school council, the rector's office, the school management, the teachers, the authorities and the parents.

Administration / Authorities relating to housing

Liegenschaftsverwaltung

Many apartment buildings have a [Liegenschaftsverwaltung](#) ([🔗 Property management](#)) that takes over the duties of the homeowner.

The [Liegenschaftsverwaltung](#) ([🔗 Property management](#)) is responsible for renting out the apartments and looking after the tenants. She draws up rental contracts and ensures compliance with the house rules.

Schlichtungsbehörde

The [Schlichtungsbehörde](#) ([🔗 Authority arbitrates rental disputes](#)) will help you if you are unable to resolve a dispute over your rented property.

Authorities at the Canton of St.Gallen

Migrationsamt

The [Migrationsamt](#) ([🔗 Authority for Migration](#)) will examine your application for residence and issue the entry and residence permit.

In addition, the [Migrationsamt](#) ([🔗 Authority for Migration](#)) will extend your visa and issue you with a return entry visa. You can also order your foreigner's ID card [here](#).

Strassenverkehrsamt

You can contact the [Strassenverkehrsamt](#) ([🔗 Road Traffic Authority](#)) to change your driving licence or **change** your vehicle registration document.

The [Strassenverkehrsamt](#) ([🔗 Road Traffic Authority](#)) is responsible for driving licences, vehicle registration documents, driving tests, registration of vehicles, vehicle inspections and traffic charges.

Amt für Wirtschaft und Arbeit

Please contact the [Amt für Wirtschaft](#) ([🔗 Ministry of Economic Affairs](#)) if you would like to work in Switzerland. For example, you submit your work permit or your application for self-employment to the [Amt für Wirtschaft](#) ([🔗 Ministry of Economic Affairs](#)) Affairs.

Your nationality and the purpose of your stay are decisive for the **work permit**.

Contact points

Find the right contact point, advice or authority in your area: [Contact points](#)
