Useful tips for private accommodation:

- Be careful with unrealistically low rents.

- Never make a payment in advance – neither in cash or money transfer. A common method of deception is sending the key of the apartment against the provision of the security deposit. Please do not accept such terms and conditions!

- Don’t sign the rental agreement until you have visited the apartment. If the landlord doesn’t want to make an appointment for a visit or tells you that he/she is abroad – stay away!

- Always get in contact personally with the landlord. Before visiting the apartment, we recommend calling the landlord by phone. Be cautious if the E-Mail communication comes off as strange.

- The rental agreement should always be concluded in writing. We recommend taking someone reliable with you. Especially if you have a difficult time speaking German.

- If you have any doubts, look for similar situations, names, phone numbers or keywords at:
  - www.sichere-immobiliensuche.de
  - www.wohnungsbetrug.blogspot.de
  - www.schutz-vor-immobilienbetrug.de
  - www.polizei-beratung.de

- If anything suspicious arises, please contact the Studierendenwerk Mannheim immediately as operator of the private accommodation service.

- Never give copies of your personal data such as ID card, passport, and/or your bank information to unknown persons. By doing so you run the risk that your data will be used for further criminal offenses.