

Visa for students (Section 16b Residence Act)

General information

Foreign students who have been accepted by a German university (where applicable with a preparatory language course) or a preparatory college (Studienkolleg) can apply for a visa to study in Germany. You are advised to secure your admittance or acceptance from the university **as early as possible**.

→ During your studies, you can take up student jobs to help cover your expenses.

→ Upon completing your studies, you will have the opportunity to look for a job.

Use the following checklist to make sure your application documents are complete. Please make sure to prepare **two complete sets** of the following documents **collated in the order listed below** and bring them to your appointment. Incomplete documentation may result in the rejection of your application.

Visa application checklist

The following documents are to be submitted in full with every application.

- Two (2) fully completed and signed [applications](#) including [declarations](#) pursuant to Section 54 Residence Act
- Two (2) recent biometric passport photos ([see specimen photos](#))
- Valid and personally signed passport – issued within the last 10 years, with at least 2 blank (visa) pages
- Two (2) uncertified copies of the data page of your valid passport
- Residence permit in the U.S., e.g. Visa, Green Card, U.S. passport
- Proof of address, e.g. valid driver's license, utility bill, lease
- Proof of admittance to the study course/preparatory college (original and two (2) copies), including information on the language of instruction
- Where available: Certificates of other academic qualifications (original and two (2) copies). *If your university degree does not state the courses you studied, please also submit your transcript.*
- Curriculum vitae with one (1) extra copy
- Letter of motivation with one (1) extra copy
- Where not confirmed by the university in the admittance notification: Proof of the language skills in the language of instruction for the study course or the preparatory course (without a preparatory language course as a rule at least B2 in the language of instruction) (original and two (2) copies)
- Proof of adequate financial means

Financing

To stay in Germany the applicant must have at their disposal **at least 861 € per month**.



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Proof must be submitted with the application of financial means for at least one year that is at least 10,332 €.

In the case of financing in the form of a blocked account: Open the [blocked account](#) in good time **BEFORE** you apply for a visa. When applying for a visa, **only the official confirmation of the opening of the account** including information on the amount paid in and the amount available per month will be accepted. A confirmation, which does not include this information, is not sufficient.

Proof of adequate health insurance cover

Health insurance coverage is required at the time of entry into Germany. Usually statutory health insurance coverage provided by the university or future employer only goes into effect when you take up residency and enter into employment/begin with your studies.

If you enter before, an additional private (travel) health insurance in line with [EU standards](#) (covering the entire Schengen area, minimum coverage of 30,000 €) must be purchased for the duration of time until you begin your employment/your studies and are covered through the statutory health insurance. Please ensure that your travel health insurance does not exclude protection if a long term or permanent stay is planned

In the case of preparatory language course or internship

Acceptance for preparatory language course or internship

Fee

[Processing fee](#): Payable in cash only. Conversion into USD is made based on the exchange rate at the time of the application.

Completeness of application

The application is complete: Yes No, the information/documents indicated above are lacking.

Declaration when applications are not complete:

I have been informed that my application is not complete. I am aware that submitting an incomplete application can lead to the application being rejected. I would like to submit my application nevertheless.

_____ place, date, signature

This information sheet has been prepared with utmost care. It is intended to provide a point of reference to our clients but may not be fully applicable to every individual case. If you have further, more specific questions which are not answered by the information contained here nor on our website www.germany.info/visa, please contact the German Embassy/Consulate General serving your U.S. home state.