



Interested?

Like to learn more about the broad range of study opportunities available in Germany? You will be able to find further information and details on the following websites:

- www.campus-germany.de
(German, English, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, French, Japanese, Arabic)
- www.daad.de
(German, English, Spanish)
- www.higher-education-compass.de
(German, English)
- www.studienwahl.de
(German, English, French)

**All about Life and Study
in Germany.**

**14 Important
Questions and Answers.**

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Germany

Study and research in Germany
www.campus-germany.de

Hi!
Potentials

International careers made in Germany.

Hi! Potentials.

Interested in studying or gaining a doctorate in Germany?

This is where you can find information about the German education system, scholarships, accommodation, fees, visa requirements, student jobs, etc.

Or simply visit us on our homepage:
→ www.campus-germany.de

Imagination
is more important
than knowledge.
Albert Einstein

14 important questions and answers.

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Which qualifications do I need to study at a German university?

- If you want to attend a **full undergraduate degree course**, you – as well as German applicants – will need to hold a **higher education entrance qualification**. If your school leaving certificate (higher education entrance qualification) is recognised as equivalent to a German qualification, you can be admitted directly to universities in Germany. If not, you will have to take an **assessment test** (“Feststellungsprüfung”) in Germany to show if you are qualified to study. You may have to attend a preparatory course (“Studienkolleg”).
- If you are planning to complete a course of post-graduate, extension or supplementary studies (e.g. Master), your university degree must qualify you for admission to such a course.
- If you wish to gain a **doctorate** in Germany, then you definitely need to hold a university degree which is equivalent to a degree gained at a German university. Equivalency is decided by the university in question and you should contact your chosen institution directly.

The addresses of all universities can be found on the following website:

→ www.higher-education-compass.de

Further information for foreign students on all levels are provided on these websites:

→ www.uni-assist.de

→ www.studienkollegs.de

→ www.daad.de/deutschland/zulassung/voraussetzungen

The more one **knows** already,
the more one still
has to learn.

Friedrich von Schlegel



What kinds of universities are there in Germany?

A total of 333 Higher Education Institutions are located across the whole of Germany. The universities are built on the principle of the “unity of research and teaching” and enjoy an excellent international reputation. In their capacity as modern universities, they combine basic and applied research. Inter-disciplinary cooperation agreements with multinational corporations or research institutions are common and certainly serve to strengthen the competitiveness of graduates.

Germany's large number of Universities of Applied Sciences (“Fachhochschulen”) provide high-quality, academic professional training for those not pursuing a career in science. Apart from the theoretical knowledge which they deliver, these universities of applied sciences also attach great importance to the practical experience which their students gain in companies or social services organisations.

Facts and figures about the German higher education system:

- 118 full universities, including technical universities, theological colleges, comprehensive universities and colleges of education, at which approximately 1.4 million students are enrolled.
- 57 colleges of music, art and film, with more than 30,000 students.
- 158 universities of applied sciences, with a total student body of around 520,000 students.

Further information can be found on the following websites:

- www.higher-education-compass.de
- www.daad.de/deutschland/hochschulen/hochschultypen

All is permitted
that pleases.
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



Which degrees do German universities offer?

Up to now, the standard degrees offered by German universities have been the **Diplom**, e.g. "Diplom-Ingenieur", and the **Magister Artium (MA)**. The **Staatsexamen** is the qualification required for certain state-supervised professions, such as law, medicine, etc. The Universities of Applied Sciences ("Fachhochschulen") award the **Diplom (FH)** for undergraduate programmes in engineering, economics and social studies.

Information on these and all other degrees can be found on the following website:

→ www.higher-education-compass.de

Although these degrees still exist, there has been a huge change in the German university system, as all European university degrees are supposed to be homogeneous by 2010 ("Bologna Process"). So Germany's universities and colleges award international qualifications, namely **Bachelor's and Master's degrees**, for many degree courses. Bachelor's and Master's degree courses and programmes offered by Germany's universities can be found on the following websites:

→ www.studying-in-germany.de

→ www.daad.de/idp

The outcome
gives the **deed**
its name.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



Do I need fluent German?

Normally, the language of instruction at German universities and colleges is German. But German language skills are not an entry requirement for study in many of the international degree programmes, since the initial semesters, at least, are taught in English. However, proof of appropriate English language skills will often be required.

Therefore, please always make sure that you inquire at the German university of your choice about any language requirements which you have to meet for your chosen course of study.

- If you wish to complete a full **first degree course** or a course of **postgraduate studies instructed in German**, you will be required to prove that you are proficient in the German language. **TestDaF**, a central, standardised test modelled on the “Test of English as a Foreign Language” (TOEFL), provides an opportunity for international study applicants to take the language proficiency test required for admission to higher education in Germany. You can do this test in your home country. Students need to pass “TestDaF-Niveaustufe 4” (Level 4) in all four examination sections (to gain the necessary language qualification) to enter any German degree course. Some universities require a less ambitious profile, however. Detailed information on TestDaF is available from:

→ www.testdaf.de

- Another opportunity is the “Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang ausländischer Studienbewerber” (DSH), a German-language test for foreign study applicants which can be taken at German universities.

There are other certificates with which you can prove that you meet the German language requirements:

→ www.daad.de/deutschland/deutsch-lernen/wie-deutsch-lernen/00532.en.html

- The language requirements for shorter **study stays** (e.g. a research year or summer schools) are not subject to any particular requirements. However, a knowledge of the German language is always helpful, even though it might not be required. In many cases, good English language skills will do.

You can find a lot of information about learning German on the following website:

→ www.learn-german.net



Which is the best university in Germany?

German universities show an overall constant quality level. If you want to know which study programme at which university best suits your wishes and needs, you should first find out exactly what your study objectives are. Then it will be helpful to use one of the recently published university rankings that show in which special fields the universities are part of the top group. The ranking by the Center for Higher Education Development (CHE) and the German weekly magazine "DIE ZEIT" is available online (and free of charge) under:

→ www.university-ranking.de

Do Germany's universities offer shorter study programmes or summer schools?

Virtually all German universities or colleges provide opportunities for shorter stays. There are many cooperation agreements between universities. It is advisable to make inquiries at the university you are studying at whether there is such a cooperation with any German university.

Many German universities also run summer schools. Besides courses on German language, literature and regional studies, the range of programmes is growing all the time in all subject areas. The DAAD annually publishes brochures presenting the range of summer courses offered in Germany. A web-based database makes it easier to find the right course:

→ www.summerschools.de

Isn't **life** a hundred times
too short for us
to **bore ourselves?**
Friedrich Nietzsche



How can I gain a doctorate in Germany?

Around 120 universities in Germany offer opportunities for graduates to follow up their academic studies with a doctorate. The best way to find out which universities in Germany offer which doctoral programmes is to consult the following websites:

- www.daad.de/deutschland/forschung/promotion
- www.higher-education-compass.de
- www.forschungsportal.net

The classic “Master-Apprentice Model”:

The elaboration of a doctoral thesis or dissertation is the core element of the doctorate. Students agree on their topic with a supervising professor (“Doktorvater” or “Doktormutter”) and then produce the thesis or dissertation as a piece of independent research work.

Feel free to use the Internet and e-mail to find and contact a professor. Once you have an academic supervisor for your doctoral thesis, you will generally be required to enrol at the relevant university for a number of semesters and attend certain courses. Please inquire as soon as possible about whether the degree you currently hold qualifies you for a doctoral programme.

Structured doctoral programmes:

In total, Germany’s universities currently offer around 360 structured doctoral programmes, of which around 130 have an international focus. German universities are increasingly creating special programmes for foreign doctoral candidates which have been specifically designed to meet the needs and interests of international applicants. These special measures primarily involve preparation, guidance-counselling and the provision of favourable research conditions. Not only can the thesis often be written in English or another world language, but study-integrated German-language courses also help students overcome the language barrier.

Information on these programmes as well as the addresses of all universities and all doctoral programmes and doctorates can be found on the following website:

- www.higher-education-compass.de



Do I need a visa and what must I do to apply for it?

- Citizens of EU countries and of Andorra, Australia, Canada, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland and the USA do not need a visa.
- If you are from any other country, you will need a visa. You must apply to the German Embassy or Consulate in your home country in good time for a student visa. As a rule, you will at least be required:
 1. to present your notification of admission to the doctoral programme, to the degree course, to a preparatory course ("Studienkolleg"), or to a language test
 2. to prove that you will be able to finance your studies in order to receive the student visa.

→ www.auswaertiges-amt.de

→ www.daad.de/deutschland/zulassung/visum

Do I have to pay tuition fees?

Most of the German universities are state-maintained. Among them, there are plans for moderate tuition fees in most of the 16 federal states, while some of them only want to establish or already have established fees for postgraduate courses, for extramural students or for students that have been studying much longer than the standard period of study. In most cases, private universities charge for tuition.

→ www.daad.de/deutschland/studium/studienplanung/00493.en.html

For detailed information on tuition and other fees and costs which you must budget for – such as the semester contribution, mandatory semester ticket, administrative fees – please consult the following website:

→ www.daad.de/deutschland/studium/studienplanung/00531.en.html



How high is the monthly cost of living?

The cost of living – which includes rent, food, clothing, laundry, personal hygiene, travel, study materials and other expenses for health insurance, telephone and leisure activities – generally averages between EUR 550 and EUR 700 per month.

The following average values provide a rough indication of the breakdown of costs:

35% of your budget will be used for rent, 20% for board, 10% for clothing, laundry and personal hygiene, 10% for travel, and 5% for study materials. The remainder is used for sundry costs.

Please note: the above figures are average values. Depending on your personal situation, your actual costs may differ from these average values. For example, you will need more money in major cities, such as Munich or Hamburg, than in smaller university towns. You will be able to find assistance and advice on all questions relating to economic (financial), social, health and cultural issues from the “Studentenwerk” (student services) by going to the following website:

→ www.student-affairs.de

Can I get a scholarship or grant?

Universities do not normally award scholarships or grants. However, there are numerous organisations to which you can turn regarding the possibility of getting financial support. The most extensive financial support programme is provided by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). These scholarships are awarded to advanced students and graduates. Other scholarship-awarding organisations are each responsible for setting their own specific award conditions. In most cases, support for a full degree course or programme will not be possible. Besides access to a scholarship database, the following websites also provide the addresses of other scholarship-awarding organisations:

→ www.daad.de/deutschland/foerderung/stipendiendatenbank

→ www.campus-germany.de/english/1.7.45.html



How do I find a place to live?

Normally German universities are not campus universities with integrated student accommodation. In every university city there are student dormitories which are open to international students as well. Besides that, you may look for public and private accommodation offered on the market. Finding somewhere to live in Germany, like everywhere else in Europe, can be difficult and time-consuming. You will find private accommodation offered on the noticeboards in your university or college, at the "Studentenwerk" (student services), at the offices of the student representations (students' union, etc.) or at the "Akademisches Auslandsamt" (international office).

A very promising flat-hunting strategy involves studying the small ads in local papers and browsing specific Internetsites. If you want to get one of the much sought-after subsidised dormitory places, you need to let student services or the international office of your chosen university know of your interest as early as possible.

If you want to start hunting for a flat from home, you will generally be able to find a link to student services ("Studentenwerk") or the international office via the homepage of the university or college of your choice, where you will find further information. If you would rather live in private accommodation, you can try an international flat-sharing agency, such as the "Mitwohnzentrale". By the way, shared flats ("Wohngemeinschaften" or "WGs" in short) are very popular among students in Germany.

→ www.germany-opportunities.de/rooms

Even a
small house
can hold many friends.
German saying



Can I take up paid employment while studying in Germany?

Yes, you will be allowed to take up employment.

- Students from EU countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, Malta and Cyprus are allowed to work as much as they wish to.
- Please note that there are restrictions for students from non EU countries and the new accession countries (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic and Hungary; except Malta and Cyprus). Students from these countries may only work for up to a maximum of 90 days/180 days part-time per year without a work permit.

Please remember that it is not easy to find a job.

Detailed information on "student jobs" is offered on the following DAAD website:

- www.daad.de/deutschland/studium/studienplanung/00491.en.html

Where can I find further information about studying in Germany?

Please inquire first at the **German Embassy or Consulate** in your home country, the **DAAD branch offices** and the **DAAD Study Information Centres**. The local **Goethe Institutes** also serve as important contact points.

The addresses can be found at:

- www.auswaertiges-amt.de/www/en/adressen_html
- www.daad.de/offices
- www.goethe.de/ins/enindex/htm

Of course, you can also find the information about studying in Germany on the Internet:

- www.campus-germany.de
- www.daad.de
- www.eracareers-germany.de
- www.studying-in-germany.de

If you have any questions that are not mentioned in this brochure you can ask Dany, your virtual advisor. He will answer all your special questions at once, 24 hours a day! Dany also shows you where to find more helpful information.

- www.daad.de/dany



Vorwärts Abbrechen Aktualisieren Startseite

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