

Visa Procedure Exchange students from Non - European Countries

Every Non-European student needs a visa for study reasons.

Exceptions are applicants from following countries: Australia, Brazil, Japan, Canada, El Salvador, Honduras, Israel, New Zealand, USA

Members of these countries do not need an entrance visa/student visa, but will have to register at the foreign residence office ("Ausländerbehörde") and apply for a residency permit ("Aufenthaltserlaubnis") after their arrival in Germany.

Students from other countries must make arrangements for obtaining a visa while still in their home country. After we received your application documents by post, we will issue an invitation letter for the German embassy at your home country. With this invitation letter you can start to apply for a study visa.

PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU ENTER GERMANY WITH A TOURIST VISA, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ENROLL YOU AT OUR UNIVERSITY AND YOU HAVE TO FLY HOME TO APPLY AGAIN FOR A STUDY VISA!

YOU CAN CHECK THE VISA DUTY FOR YOUR COUNTRY IN THE LIST OF STATES OF THE GERMAN FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE: [HTTPS://WWW.AUSWAERTIGES-AMT.DE/EN/EINREISEUNDAUFENTHALT/VISABESTIMMUNGEN-NODE/STAATENLISTEVISUMPFICHT-NODE](https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/visabestimmungen-node/staatenlistevisumpflicht-node)

What are the next steps for you as a student?

You have to make an appointment at the German embassy for applying for a visa. You should ask your local German Embassy about the requirements.

From our experience you need several papers – please ask the embassy if anything else is required:

- **Invitation letter** (from our University)

- **Financial statement:** In order to get a visa you must be able to prove that you can finance your studies. The German authorities assume a certain minimum amount of money which you must have at your disposal each month. At the moment this lies at 853 Euro per month which comes to a total of 10.236 Euro for the first year of studies. However it is possible that proof of a higher amount might be asked for.
Proof of financing can be shown in different ways. It is compulsory that you enquire at the German Embassy in your country in what form the proof should be shown!
In principle the following ways are possible:
 - 1: Your parents submit appropriate statements of income and assets.
 - 2: An amount is deposited as security onto a blocked account. You can choose yourself where to set up your blocked account – some options are listed [here](#).
- 3: Someone living in Germany guarantees the Aliens Department that they will bear the costs for you.
- 4: You provide a bank guarantee.
- 5: You receive a scholarship from a recognized grantor (e.g. your University). If you receive a scholarship for less than 853 EUR monthly, you only have to guarantee the difference of the full monthly amount.

PLEASE NOTE: DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE PROOF OF FINANCING. IT IS MORE THAN JUST A BUREAUCRATIC HURDLE!

- **Health Insurance:** For issuing a visa Health Insurance conditions are quite easy, but you should take into account, that for enrolling at a German University you have to have special conditions for your Health Insurance. They are as follows: Your private health insurance company has to cover for the whole duration of your stay (studies) in Germany and fulfill the following requirements:
 - outpatient treatment (ambulante Heilbehandlung)
 - inpatient treatment (stationäre Heilbehandlung)
 - the absolute and percentage deductibles to 5,000 euros are calendar year limited (maximaler Selbstbehalt)

PLEASE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR A STUDY VISA FOR GERMANY WILL TAKE AT LEAST 6 TO 8 WEEKS! Every visa, which is issued earlier, is not a study visa and cannot be accepted!

If your visa application is late, please take into account that we will not accept your arrival after the semester has started!