



VISA GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION

Do I Need a Student Visa?

If you are a non-EU/EEA national and plan to study in Germany for more than 90 days, you will need a student visa. Citizens from some countries (e.g., the USA, the UK, Canada, Australia) can enter Germany without a visa but must apply for a residence permit upon arrival.

What is a Student Visa for Germany?

A German student visa is a national visa that allows international students to stay in Germany for academic purposes. This visa is initially valid for three to six months and must be converted into a residence permit upon arrival. If you hold a long term visa (longer than one year), you do not need to convert it into a Residence Permit.

APPLYING FOR A STUDENT VISA

When You Should Apply

Apply as early as possible—at least three months before your planned arrival in Germany, but preferably as soon as you receive your admission confirmation. In some countries the process takes over 9 months.

Where to Apply

You must apply for a German student visa at the German embassy or consulate in your home country. Find the one closest to you here:

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/about-us/auslandsvertretungen>

Documents Required for Visa Application

- Completed visa application form

(<https://www.auswaertiges->

[amt.de/resource/blob/207850/f9342033f2933dc05da54151efe283db/aufenthalt-data.pdf](https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/resource/blob/207850/f9342033f2933dc05da54151efe283db/aufenthalt-data.pdf))

- Valid passport (with at least six months validity beyond your stay)
- Two recent passport-sized photos
- Admission letter from a German university (please request one from ESCP Business School Berlin in particular when you attend the Berlin Campus at the beginning of your academic programme)
- Proof of financial resources (e.g., blocked account, scholarship, or sponsor letter)
- Proof of health insurance coverage (specific details on what the minimum required coverage is is specified on [Campus Life](#))
- Proof of English language proficiency (English is the medium of instruction at ESCP Business School Berlin)
- CV and academic transcripts
- Visa application fee payment receipt

Financial Requirements

You must prove that you have sufficient financial resources to cover your living expenses. For 2024, the required amount is **€11,904 per year (€992 per month)**, usually deposited in a **blocked account (Sperrkonto)**, e.g. Fintiba Bank.

Proof of Language Proficiency

- [IELTS](#) (minimum 6.0) or [TOEFL](#) (minimum 80 iBT),
- or,
- [Confirmation of the admissions office](#) that your English skills are proficient to study in the programme.

Health Insurance Requirements

Health insurance is [mandatory](#). Students under 30 must apply for public health insurance (€135-€155/month), while those above 30 must obtain private insurance. ESCP Business School Berlin has a good partnership with Barmer, but you are not limited to that provider.

Note that ESCP Business School Berlin also requires you to have a [personal accident, liability, and repatriation insurances](#) when you are a student with us.

APS Clearance for Students from Certain Countries

Applicants who have obtained a high school diploma or a university degree in China, India or Vietnam must have an APS ([Akademische Prüfstelle](#)) Certificate in order to be able to apply for a German study visa.

Please be aware that the process can take several months.

The APS is a joint institution of the German Embassy and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) that serves to verify the authenticity of educational degrees and certificates. Learn more here:

[APS India](#)

[APS China](#)

[APS Vietnam](#)

Visa Processing Time and Fees

- [Processing time](#): 6-12 weeks (but in some countries 9+ months)
- [Visa fee](#): €75

AFTER ARRIVAL IN GERMANY

Registering Your Address (Anmeldung)

Within two weeks of arrival, register your address at the local Residents' Registration Office ([Bürgeramt](#)).

Obtaining a Residence Permit*

* this is dependent on the validity of the visa that you obtained before arriving in Berlin (some are valid for 3 months, others are valid for 12 months)

Generally, within 90 days of arrival, apply for a student residence permit at the Foreigners' Office ([Ausländerbehörde](#)). Required documents include:

- [Passport](#) and [visa/residence](#) permit from other EU countries
- [University enrolment letter](#) from the Programme Office (in German and English)
- [Proof of financial resources](#) (blocked account is preferred)
- [Proof of Tuition Fees payments](#)
- [Public Health insurance certificate](#) for all students under 30 years
- [Rental agreement](#) (Housing contract and Landlord confirmation)
- [Application form](#)
- [Biometric photo](#)

Working While Studying

Students can work [120 full days or 240 half days per year](#). Internships and part-time jobs in related fields are allowed.

EXTENDING YOUR GERMAN RESIDENCE PERMIT AND POST-STUDY OPTIONS

Extending Your Student Residence Permit

If you need more time to complete your studies, you must apply for an extension of your current residence permit at the **Foreigners' Office** before your residence permit expires. Ideally you start this process 60 days before expiration date.

Post-Study Work Opportunities

After graduating with a German degree (eligibility for this is dependent on your programme of study), students can apply for an **18-month job-seeking residence permit**. If you secure a job in your field, you can always apply for a **EU Blue Card** or a skilled worker's residence permit.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

- Regarding visa procedures, always check the latest visa regulations on the **German Federal Foreign Office** website via www.auswaertiges-amt.de.
- For any assistance related to your German residence permit, please contact our ESCP Business School Berlin Visa Support Officer via visasupport.berlin@escp.eu

Please note that laws, rules and regulations are subject to change. Information is current as of October 2025.