

At a Glance: Visa for Seeking a Place in Higher Education

Visa and entry procedure for immigrants from third countries subject to visa obligation. General entitlement requirements (Section 5 of the Residence Act [AufenthG]): passport, proof of financial means, no existing reason for expulsion.

CHECK THE REQUIREMENTS

Step

1

- Foreign school-leaving certificate permitting access to higher education.
- Language requirement of the desired study programme (if the language of the study programme is German, generally level B2 [CEFR]).
- Secure financial means (scholarship, blocked account with at least €1,091 per month (as of 2025) or Declaration of Commitment).

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT AT THE GERMAN EMBASSY

- Prepare the required documents: e.g. passport, proof of school leaving certificate, proof of financial means, proof of German language skills, visa application form.
- i Please consider:** on their websites, the German embassies and consulates provide information about possible waiting times for appointments and any additional documents that may be required.

Step

2

APPLY FOR A VISA IN THE COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE

Step

3

- Bring documents in their entirety.
- Fees: €75 (in local currency).
- i Please consider:** processing times may strongly vary depending on the mission abroad and processing workload. Please find further information on the website of the competent embassy.

ENTER GERMANY

- Issuance of the entry visa for seeking a place in higher education.
- Book flight / plan journey to Germany.
- i Please consider:** in order for an entry visa to be issued, proof of valid health insurance coverage must be presented. After entering Germany, new health insurance must be taken out.

Step

4

APPLY FOR A RESIDENCE PERMIT IN GERMANY AFTER ADMISSION TO A STUDY PROGRAMME

Step

5

- Register your home address in Germany at the Residents' Registration Office.
- Book an appointment at the competent foreigners authority.
- Ask the foreigners authority for a list of the required documents and start the preparation.
- Apply for the residence permit for studying (Section 16b of the Residence Act [AufenthG]).
- Fees may add up to €100 (Sections 45 ff. of the Residence Ordinance [AufenthV]).
- i Please consider:** the application for the residence permit must be submitted before the entry visa expires.

This overview is a simplified representation of the visa procedure. The steps described are solely for the purpose of clarifying the application procedure for residence permits. Further details on the visa application procedure and information on important points of contact can be found at www.make-it-in-germany.com.