



Visa to study and for seeking a university place in Germany

§ 16b residence act

Last update: February 2025

In Germany, you can expect a wide range of opportunities to study and to do research. This is possible with an appropriate visa for this purpose. In addition, you need a school-leaving certificate that qualifies you to study (university entrance qualification) in Germany.

Apply now online [here](#) and upload the following documents:

- Personally signed **passport** (original with one copy of the passport data page), with at least two completely empty pages and sufficient validity
- Valid **Swiss residence** permit
- **Application form** fully completed and signed including declaration to section 54 residence Act: [application form](#)
- One passport sized [photo](#) – no older than three months, according to biometric standards
- **Evidence of admission** to university/ exchange semester/ degree course/ PhD program
- Proof of qualification: **high school diploma**/[APS certificate](#) with one copy
- Proof of **financial means** with one copy: To stay in Germany, each individual applicant must have at their disposal **at least 992 €** per month (12 month). Proof of these means ([blocked account](#) , [a formal obligation](#) by a third person in Germany or prove of scholarship
- **Health insurance** in line with EU standards (covering the entire Schengen area, minimum coverage of 30,000 €, valid from the day of entry for 12 months
- Detailed **motivation letter** in German or English language
- Detailed **curriculum vitae** in German or English language
- Postage expenses of 7 Swiss Francs
- Visa **fee** of 75 Euro payable by cash in Swiss Francs, by Visa or MasterCard (information [here](#))

The German Embassy Bern reserve the right to ask for additional documents at any time during the processing of your application. The original documents must be presented on the day of the application.

In this visa category, most applications are typically processed within 3 weeks. Please do not contact the mission abroad to check the status of your application during the normal processing period. Such inquiries are extremely time-consuming for the visa department and cannot be answered. We will contact you by email as soon as the decision has been made.



Botschaft
der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
Bern

The visa will be valid for max. 12 month and allows you to start your studies. In general, students holding a visa so study are permitted to work part-time to support themselves, up to 120 days or 240 half-days per year. Students at a preparatory college may not work during their first year of residence, except during holidays. You can travel in the entire Schengen area for 90 days per half year.

Please note: Although the information in this information sheet has been prepared with utmost care, we cannot accept any responsibility for inaccuracies contained herein.