

Visa for Germany (FAQ)

Who Needs A Visa?

If you are not a citizen of the European Union, of an EEA state or of Switzerland and you are planning to study in Germany, you must apply for a visa at the German Embassy in your home country BEFORE you come to Germany. Without proof of a valid study visa for Germany universities are not allowed to enrol you.

Please contact the German Embassy in your home country to find out whether you need a visa or not.

List of all German Embassies and Consulates from [the Auswärtiges Amt \(German Foreign Office\)](#) - click [here](#)

Information from the Ausländerbehörde (Immigration Office) Dresden about studying in Dresden.

Attention: Citizens **Who Do Not Need To Apply For A Visa Before Their Arrival** according to § 41 AufenthV citizens of certain countries can [enter Germany without a visa](#), such as citizens from Australia, Israel, Japan, Canada, New Zealand, South Korea and the US. The same applies to citizens from Andorra, Brazil, El Salvador, Honduras, Monaco and San Marino who do not seek employment in Germany.

Further information (in German and English) regarding this issue can be found on the website of the [Auswärtiges Amt](#) (German Foreign Office) or the [Ausländerbehörde Berlin](#) (Immigration Office Berlin).

How Long Does The Visa Process Take?

Please do not underestimate the process and keep in mind that you will not be able to study in Germany without a valid visa.

Visa processing times can take several months so you should apply as early as possible. Please consider that there might be a considerable waiting period for an appointment (4 to 6 weeks) and a processing period of additional 4 to 8 weeks. We recommend that you contact your German Embassy at least 3 months before the semester starts.

Important Notice: Please keep in mind that universities are not involved in the student's visa application process. They have neither directive authority nor effective influence on the processing times of governmental authorities.

For Which Visa Do I Have To Apply?

Be sure to apply for a long-term national (D) visa for study purposes. The short-term (C) "Schengen" visa is only valid for up to 3 months and will not cover your study stay in Germany.

Which Documents Are Required?

In order to be able to apply for a study visa, you need an acceptance letter from a German university. The other documents that are required to obtain such a study visa include a valid passport, a current photo, proof of financial support as well as some additional application documents. Bear in mind that [visa rules and regulations](#) can differ considerably from country to country. Therefore, it is crucial that you contact the [German Embassy](#) in your home country.

For How Long Has The Visa Been Issued?

When you receive your visa, you will notice that it is only valid for 90 days. This is not a mistake and no reason to worry. This visa is an entry visa and has to be converted into a German residence permit at the [Immigration Office Dresden](#) after your arrival in Dresden.