

Welcome to Germany – Student Guide

Accommodation

Depending on where you live and what your financial situation is like, finding an own accommodation might not that easy. Therefore, start looking for a place to stay as soon as possible – at best before you arrive in Germany. If you don't find an accommodation before your arrival in Germany, you can stay at a hostel or hotel while searching.

In order to find an accommodation, please find below some useful web links:

- wg-gesucht.de/en
- www.housinganywhere.com
- airbnb.com
- immobilienscout24.de
- ebay-kleinanzeigen.de
- immonet.de

Health Insurance

When you officially get enrolled, you will be asked to proof your health insurance coverage (you also need that proof in order to obtain a residence permit). It is possible that your health insurance from your home country is also valid in Germany – this applies above all to EU members. Before coming to Germany please contact your provider to find out if this is the case for you.

If your health insurance policy from home is not valid in Germany, you are obliged to take out a policy in Germany.

Residence Registration

If you found an accommodation, please make sure to register in your city at the relevant **Residents' Registration Office** ("Bürgerbüro") within the first two weeks after your move-in date ("Wohnsitz anmelden"). Please ask the International Office for the address. You can find your contact person from International Office at international-office.en.ism.de.

Usually you need to prepare the following documents (additional documents may apply):

- Your passport, visa or official ID card
- Confirmation of residence from your landlord (corresponding form is available online)

Residence Permit

As your student visa is usually issued for a duration of three months only, you have to apply for a residence permit at your local **Foreigners' Registration Office** ("Ausländerbehörde").

The application process for the residence permit depend on which country you come from. If you are a citizen of an EU member state, or Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland, you will usually receive your residence permit when you register at the Bürgerbüro.

As Non-European student please follow the instructions below:

1. Make an appointment with Foreigners' Registration Office
2. Prepare the following documents for your appointment (original documents + copy)
 - Completed and signed application form (corresponding form is available online)
 - Confirmation of enrolment from ISM
 - Confirmation of health insurance coverage
 - Confirmation of registration from the Residents' Registration Office
 - Your tenancy agreement
 - Proof of financial funds
 - Your passport and current visa, if you have one
 - Biometric passport photos
 - Money (in cash) for the residence permit fee

Additional or other documents may apply. Please contact the relevant officer at Foreigners' Registration Office in order to inform you about your personal required documents.