

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## for international students from non-EU/EEA countries

### 1. Visa

Most international students require a visa to enter Germany which must be applied for at the German diplomatic missions abroad (embassies or consulates) **before** entering Germany. **A tourist visa is not sufficient!**

You do **not** need a visa to enter Germany if you are a citizen of an EU member state, of a member state of the European Economic Area (EEA; Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Switzerland) or of the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, Israel, Japan or Korea (ROK).

The German Foreign Office has further details (the page linked to is in English):

[www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/-/231148](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/-/231148)

### 2. Residence permit

International students need a legal entitlement (*Aufenthaltstitel*) to live in Germany. This document is issued by the Immigration Office of the city of Passau (Ausländeramt: Rathausplatz 1, 94032 Passau), provided that you establish your place of residence in the Passau city area.

The specific legal entitlement applying to international students is the residence permit (*Aufenthaltserlaubnis*) which is issued subject to a fee of 100 euros (as of March 2026).

If your visa has been issued for the entire duration of your stay, only a city registration is necessary. You can apply for a residence permit at the earliest 3 months before the visa expires.

For the application, please send all required documents in **one** PDF file by email [auslaenderamt@passau.de](mailto:auslaenderamt@passau.de).

Alternatively, you can use the online portal: <https://www.passau.de/rathaus-buergerservice/dienstleistungen/a-z/aufenthalt-zum-zwecke-von-studium-sprachkurs-und-schulbesuch-oder-berufliche-aus-und-weiterbildung/> to submit your application.

After your documents have been reviewed, you will receive an appointment for a personal visit, which will be communicated to you by email.

Tip: Before submitting your application, preferably use the University's [pre-check service](#).

### Requirements for a student residence permit (according to §16b AufenthG)

- **Fully completed application form** (forms are available at the website of the Immigration Office)
- **Valid passport**
- **Biometric passport photo with a QR code**
- **Enrolment certificate of the University of Passau**
- **Residence registration confirmation**
- **Up-to-date proof of health insurance** (“Mitgliedsbescheinigung”/membership confirmation; no copy of insurance card).
- **For both the residence permit and enrolment at the university you need a public health insurance or a private one with a policy that provides coverage equivalent to the coverage provided by German statutory health insurance companies.** It must include the following services: medical and dental treatment, supply of medicines, bandages, remedies and aids, hospital treatment, medical services for rehabilitation as well as services in case of pregnancy and childbirth. **The coverage can't have a financial upper limit**, regardless of how high the limit is. Important: Foreign health insurance policies (e.g. travel health insurance policies) are **not** sufficient because their cover has limits (in terms of treatment types and costs) and because they are only valid for a limited period of time.
- **Sufficient financial proof for your stay:**

You must prove that your stay in Germany is financially secure. Funds are considered sufficient if they correspond to the maximum BAföG (Federal Training Assistance Act) funding rate (currently **992.00 euros monthly**, as of March 2026).

The following financial proofs will be accepted:

- Scholarship
- A German savings account with a blocking notice that allows a maximum of €992 per month (as of March 2026) to be withdrawn from it.
- Student job or internship proven by **employment contract with payslips** (see also section no. 3 Employment).
- It is possible to **combine** an employment contract and an additional blocked savings account.
- A **guarantee** ('Verpflichtungserklärung') issued by the Immigration Office (from companies, organizations or private individuals **resident in Germany**), stating that all costs incurred for the period of study will be covered.

3. Employment while studying

By law, the residence permit gives you the opportunity to **work for 140 full working days** (or 280 half working days) per year. A work permit from the employment agency is not required for this. In addition, international students may (without time limit) take on part-time student jobs (as a student assistant) at the university. Special regulations apply during the lecture-free period.

4. Required German language skills

Applicants can take recognized **language examinations** abroad or in Germany before starting their degree programme in order to provide proof of the knowledge required for the university degree programme. Language certificates that are also taken into account by the university for the admission decision are: <https://www.uni-passau.de/en/german-language-requirements>. In addition, suitable proof of the required language skills must be provided for the visa application.

5. Average duration of study

For a course of study to be considered proper and within regulations, an international student **must not exceed the average duration of study for the respective programme by more than three semesters**.

The total length of stay for a degree programme is a maximum of 10 years (including preparatory studies).

6. Change of purpose of your stay/change of degree programme

Your degree programme is specified in the purpose of your stay (in your residence permit). A change of study programme means a change in the purpose of residence.

**Under immigration law, a change of study programme always requires a corresponding prior modification of the residence permit or the ancillary provision contained therein; the respective application must be submitted to the Immigration Office (Ausländerbehörde).**

The international student must provide proof that previous periods of study have been recognised. A repeated change of study programme is generally incompatible with the legal provisions in regard to an appropriate duration of studies.

**Important notes:**

- 1) German residence law does not provide for a change to a residence permit for employment purposes while your studies have not yet been successfully completed.
- 2) If you discontinue your studies, this must be reported to the Immigration Office immediately.
- 3) The successful completion of your studies must also be reported to the Immigration Office immediately. As a rule, this is done by submitting the corresponding exmatriculation certificate. Prior to this, it is not possible to apply for a residence permit for the purpose of seeking or taking up qualified employment. Until this new residence permit is issued, the statutory regulations regarding weekly working hours generally remain in force – Therefore, taking up full-time employment after completing your final examinations is not possible without further formalities.

Information provided by the Immigration Office of the City of Passau, as of 05.03.2026. Subject to change.