



Study and Research
in Germany
Annotated Weblinks

WWW



DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

**“A breath of fresh
air for my career:
I’m studying in
Germany.”**

Anastasia Buyzhina from Russia is doing her Bachelor of Arts in Baltic Management Studies at the University of Applied Sciences Stralsund.



Anastasia was photographed on the harbour island of Stralsund in front of the training vessel “Gorch Fock I”.



www.study-in.de

**Study in
Germany**



Land of Ideas

Study and Research
in Germany
Annotated Weblinks

9th Edition

DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

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Federal Foreign Office

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Key



Weblink



Provider



Description



Languages



Facebook page



Twitter account



Studies – Important Contact Points

DAAD: Study and Research in Germany



www.daad.de
www.daad.de/deutschland



The German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst e.V. – DAAD) is a joint organisation of German institutions of higher education and student bodies. It is the world's largest organisation dedicated to promoting academic cooperation. The DAAD helps young academics gain international experience around the world. Awarding scholarships is just one of the many facets of its diverse programme. The DAAD promotes internationalisation at German universities, strengthens German Studies and the German language abroad and helps developing countries establish more efficient universities. The DAAD is an important German foreign policy partner in matters of culture, science, education and development.



The DAAD homepage provides information on the German higher education system and on studying in Germany, on the funding opportunities offered by the DAAD and other

organisations (search engine), on language and short courses, on language tests, and, of course, on living in Germany, in general. The website also provides the addresses of all DAAD offices, at home and abroad.



German and English

DAAD: Portal www.study-in.de



www.study-in.de



The Internet Portal for foreign students and pupils provides information about studying and living in Germany – including interactive elements, such as a blog and webinars. Furthermore, you can also find an easy search option for degree programmes, many useful links, dates of upcoming student fairs as well as information videos (e.g. “Studying in Germany in Ten Steps” or “Student Life”).



German and English

DAAD: International Bachelor, Master and Doctoral Programmes in Germany



www.daad.de/international-programmes



“International Bachelor, Master and Doctoral Programmes” are of particular interest to international students, graduates and young researchers. These programmes lead to internationally recognised degrees and have generally been accredited. In most cases, the language of instruction is English. The curriculum includes international aspects, stays abroad and / or courses taught by international visiting lecturers and professors. Foreign students are supported by special guidance and advice services. The database presents more than 1,800 bachelor, master and doctoral programmes, preparatory courses as well as language and short courses. The information provided includes details on the course structure, educational goals, on support and advice offerings, funding opportunities, as well as the contact details for the respective university or institution of higher education. The advanced search options enable you to search by different criteria such as the amount of tuition fees or to look for e-learning courses and modules.



English

HRK – Higher Education Compass

-  www.hochschulkompass.de
-  German Rectors' Conference (HRK), see page 15
-  The Higher Education Compass (Hochschulkompass) database provides information on and links to all state and state-recognised higher education institutions in Germany, information on the first and (post)graduate studies they offer, on doctoral study opportunities and on the international cooperation agreements maintained by Germany's higher education institutions.
-  German and English

studienwahl.de

-  www.studienwahl.de
-  The 16 German Federal States (*Länder*) and the Federal Employment Agency (Bundesagentur für Arbeit)
-  This page offers short descriptions of all the academic fields offered in Germany along with a database containing information and links to all the degree programmes. The website also provides a whole range of information and advice on studying for foreign students, such as the job market situation, the various kinds of higher education institutions, on how to finance studies, on insurance matters and much more (especially for German students, but with some information specifically for foreigners).
-  German, English, French and Spanish (database only available in German)

National Association of Student Services Organisations: Information for foreign students



www.internationale-studierende.de



The National Association of Student Services Organisations (Deutsches Studentenwerk – DSW) is the umbrella organisation of the 58 student services organisations (*Studentenwerke*) in Germany. These organisations are partner organisations of the universities that support around two million students in Germany with study-related services.



This website offers practical tips and information for foreign students on topics like how to enter Germany, on accommodation, health insurance, financing, matriculation and registration, or residence permits. The page additionally has a quiz on studying in Germany, information on key terms [like assessment test (*Feststellungsprüfung*), or preparatory courses (*Studienkollegs*)] plus addresses of the student services organisations.



German and English

DAAD Facebook page “Study in Germany”



www.facebook.com/Study.in.Germany



German Academic Exchange Service, see page 5



The Facebook page “Study in Germany”, administrated by the DAAD, addresses foreign students interested in studying and living in Germany. This is where you can ask any questions you might have, and can obtain prompt answers as well as exciting and interesting information about the country and its people. Due to the ever-growing number of registered fans foreign students will be able to find many like-minded people on their way to and through Germany.



English; questions in German will also be answered



Admission to German Universities

DAAD: Admission database

 www.daad.de/admission

 The DAAD admission database gives an initial idea of whether or not your higher education entrance qualification, i.e. your school leaving certificate, is recognised in Germany. Please select your country of origin, if applicable your certificate and answer some additional country-specific questions in the following few steps. The result will let you know what kind of possibilities you can generally expect for admission in Germany.

 German and English

Preparatory courses (*Studienkollegs*)



www.studienkollegs.de



Working group of heads of preparatory courses (*Studienkollegs*) at German universities



The *Studienkollegs*, or preparatory courses, prepare international students for the “Test to assess the suitability of foreign applicants for academic study at universities in the Federal Republic of Germany”, known as the *Feststellungsprüfung*. This test has to be taken by international students whose school-leaving certificate does not qualify them for a course of study in Germany. The website provides information about this test and the preparatory courses. It contains a list of all *Studienkollegs*, a description of the different types of courses on offer (which differ according to intended course of study) and an example of the admissions examination.



German and English

Application Services for International Students (*uni-assist*) e.V.



www.uni-assist.de



Application Services for International Students (*Arbeits- und Servicestelle für internationale Studienbewerbungen uni-assist e.V.*) was founded by 41 German universities, the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) to make the admissions procedure for international applicants simpler, more efficient, less costly and more user-friendly.



uni-assist processes applications for admission to German higher education institutions for a fee of currently 75 euros for the first and 15 euros for each additional higher education institution, as long as the higher education institutions in question are *uni-assist* cooperation partners. About 180 universities in Germany currently have this status with *uni-assist*. The advantages for foreign applicants lie in reduced application costs and quicker processing. The website provides a list of all the *uni-assist* member universities plus a detailed description of the application process. You can also apply online.



German, English, French, Russian and Spanish

Foundation for University Admissions

 www.hochschulstart.de

 Foundation for University Admissions (Stiftung für Hochschulzulassung)

 If you'd like to study an admissions-restricted subject (*numerus clausus*) and are either a national of an EU/EEA country or are a *Bildungsinländer* (i.e. you gained your higher education entrance qualification at a school in Germany or at a recognised German school abroad), you have to apply to the Foundation for University Admissions for your study place.

The website provides detailed information on the applicable conditions and deadlines and on the subjects for which admissions restrictions are currently in force. It also contains a glossary which explains all important terms relating to the university application procedure.

 German

INOBIIS – Orientation and Application

 www.inobis.de

 uni-assist e.V., see page 10

 The website offers orientation aids to help prospective students choose which subject to study (e.g. self-tests and information on how German degree programmes are organised and on the degrees they award). Additionally, a database contains application checklists that take account of the target degree, the chosen university and the country of origin. The portal also includes practical tips on all kinds of topics related to living and studying in Germany.

 German and English

EU: Information on the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System – ECTS



ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus



European Commission (EU Commission)



The European Commission launched the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) to facilitate uncomplicated academic mobility. ECTS was introduced to encourage the recognition of academic achievements between European universities and to raise the transparency of study programmes. The above website explains exactly how ECTS works for students.



German, English and French. The most important information is also provided in 24 other languages.

Test for Academic Studies



www.testas.de



Gesellschaft für Akademische Studienvorbereitung und Testentwicklung e.V., ITB Consulting GmbH, Bonn, TestDaF Institute, Bochum



TestAS is a central, standardised Academic Aptitude Test for foreign students. The TestAS result provides international students with information on how they are performing in comparison with other applicants. Applicants from abroad can improve their chances of getting a study place in Germany by achieving good results in the Test for Academic Studies. The test is held several times a year and can be taken at test centres all over the world. The website offers information on when and where the test will be held, how much it costs to take the test, and includes tips on the registration process. It also offers sample questions.



German and English



Scholarship-awarding Organisations

DAAD: Scholarship database

 www.funding-guide.de

 The scholarship database provides information on DAAD programmes and funding opportunities for international students, graduates and postdocs offered by other selected organisations. The DAAD has taken the enormous and diverse range of scholarship programmes for foreigners and has carefully selected a total of more than 200 funding opportunities offered by more than 75 organisations. Consequently, the DAAD scholarship database also contains the programmes offered by all the major organisations that fund young gifted and talented students, for example, those maintained by the political parties and the churches in Germany. When users enter their country of origin, subject area and academic status, the system displays those programmes which perfectly match the user's personal profile.

 German and English

German Research Foundation (DFG)



www.dfg.de



The German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft – DFG) is the central public funding organisation for academic research at universities and publicly funded research institutes in Germany.



The DFG also funds international academics and researchers in Germany when they aim to work in Germany in research or academia at a later stage. For example, the DFG awards research grants for fixed topic or limited term research projects. The DFG website offers extensive information on all programmes and has all information leaflets, guidelines and forms available for downloading.



German and English

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH)



www.humboldt-foundation.de



The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung – AvH) enables highly-qualified foreign postdocs (academics and researchers) to come to Germany to complete a long-term research project.



The AvH website describes all the programmes offered by the AvH in detail and allows users to download the application forms. The latest news on the work of the AvH can be found in the online magazine “Humboldt Kosmos”. The “Practical hints for your stay in Germany” for visiting researchers and scholars offer plenty of detailed tips, for example, on finding a place to live, buying a car and other everyday problems. The Guide can be found in the “Sponsorship” section under the heading of “Service”. The services of the AvH are complemented by the Humboldt Foundation Network Database, where you can search for many Humboldtians worldwide.



German and English



Higher Education System

German Rectors' Conference (HRK)

 www.hrk.de

 The German Rectors' Conference (Hochschulrektorenkonferenz – HRK) is a voluntary association of state and state-recognised universities and higher education institutions in Germany. The HRK currently has 268 member institutions and addresses questions relating to the responsibilities of higher education institutions: research, teaching and studies, academic (post-graduate and postdoc) continuing education and training, knowledge and technology transfer, international cooperation plus university self-government.

 Besides the link to the Higher Education Compass (see chapter on “Studies – Important Contact Points”), the website offers reports on the resolutions, projects and initiatives of the HRK plus press releases.

 German and English

Conference of the Ministers of Education (KMK) and Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB)



www.kmk.org
www.kmk.org/zab
www.anabin.kmk.org



The KMK (Kultusministerkonferenz) is the standing conference of the federal states (*Länder*) ministers or senators responsible for education, training, higher education and research plus cultural affairs.



The KMK website offers information on fields such as the KMK's work on securing and developing a common higher education structure in Germany or its activities in respect of European and international education, research and culture policy.

The ZAB (Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen) is based at the Secretariat of the KMK. Its website provides information on the responsibilities and services which the ZAB performs in the field of evaluating and recognising foreign educational qualifications and certificates.

The ZAB information system on the recognition of foreign educational certificates and degrees can be found at:

www.anabin.kmk.org.



KMK: German and English
ZAB: German
anabin: German

CHE/DIE ZEIT: University Ranking

 <http://ranking.zeit.de/che2013/de>

 DIE ZEIT is the leading weekly newspaper in Germany. The DIE ZEIT website hosts the university ranking jointly carried out by the Centre for Higher Education Development (Centrum für Hochschulentwicklung – CHE).

 This website contains the latest ranking of German higher education institutions, which is compiled by examining 39 subjects from a range of subject areas and currently covers 314 higher education institutions. Over 150,000 students and around 9,000 professors took part in the latest surveys. The findings of the survey are not simply added together to produce a total score. Rather, the survey produces a multidimensional ranking: several league tables, arranged on the basis of various criteria, reflect the strengths and weaknesses of the individual faculties and departments. To use this free service, you have to register on the website.

 German and English



Doctorates and Research

Research in Germany

 www.research-in-germany.de



 Published by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF, see page 20). Editorial responsibility for the portal lies with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD, see page 5).

 The English internet portal “Research in Germany” provides scientists and researchers from abroad with a wealth of easily accessible information on Germany’s research landscape and its latest research achievements. It also offers initial information on research funding, gives practical tips for a research stay in Germany and lists more than 300 annotated links to the most relevant and important sites on science and research in Germany. Users can subscribe to an e-mail newsletter that is published monthly and includes up-to-date articles and interviews on collaborative international research as well as on appropriate sources of funding. Sections aimed at specific

target groups offer information on career and funding opportunities for doctoral candidates, post-docs, (young) academics and senior academics.



English, with basic information also given in German and seven other languages

Research Explorer – The German research directory



www.daad.de/research-explorer



The German research directory is a joint project of the DFG (German Research Foundation, see page 14) and the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service, see page 5).



The database Research Explorer contains information on some 24,500 German institutes and departments as well as on research institutions and organisations working outside the university sector. Listings contain current postal and internet addresses which are constantly checked and updated.



German and English

DAAD: PhDGermany Database – Doctoral Positions in Germany



www.phdgermany.de



German Academic Exchange Service, see page 5



In the DAAD database, you will find PhD positions specifically for foreign applicants. Once you have found a PhD offer matching your interests, you can apply directly to the respective institution.



German and English

Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)



www.bmbf.de



Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung der Bundesrepublik Deutschland)



The website provides information on the BMBF, its staff, structure and goals, as well as on its policy fields, initiatives, lead projects, support programmes, project sponsors and publications.



German and English

EURAXESS Germany – Germany for Researchers



www.euraxess.de



The National Coordination Point at the German Aerospace Center is part of the European project “EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion”.



EURAXESS Germany advises and informs internationally mobile researchers about sources of funding, job offers, social insurance, tax, etc. The website provides information for researchers who come to Germany, go abroad from Germany and return to Germany. It also links researchers with contact points all around Europe.



German and English

DFG: Lists of Research Training Groups and Collaborative Research Centres

- 
www.dfg.de/gk (Research Training Groups)
www.dfg.de/sfb (Collaborative Research Centres)
-  German Research Foundation (DFG), see page 14
-  The DFG website contains lists of the DFG-funded Research Training Groups (*Graduiertenkollegs*) and Collaborative Research Centres, arranged by research areas and Federal States. The lists include the name of and contact for a Research Training Group or Collaborative Research Centre and the start date plus a link to further information.
-  German and English

DFG: Excellence Initiative

- 
www.dfg.de/exzellenzinitiative
-  German Research Foundation (DFG), see page 14
-  The DFG provides information on the backgrounds and objectives of the Excellence Initiative passed by the German federal and state governments and presents the individual funding lines and the funded projects on this website. The Excellence Initiative to promote science and research at German universities was founded in 2005 by the German federal government and federal states. A total of 4.6 billion euros has been allocated to graduate schools to fund talented young researchers, clusters of excellence to promote cutting-edge research and future-oriented concepts for the project-based expansion of top university research by the end of 2017.
-  German and English



General Information on Germany

Portal for Germany



www.deutschland.de



Federal Foreign Office and Frankfurter Societäts-Medien GmbH



The aim of “deutschland.de” is to give international users a comprehensive, modern and up-to-date impression of Germany. The six sections “Politics”, “Life”, “Knowledge”, “Business”, “Culture” and “Environment” contain articles and videos highlighting what matters to Germans today. In addition, the site examines the diverse relationships to Germany’s many partner countries around the world.

You can also register to access the electronic issue of “DE Magazine Deutschland”, an e-paper published in ten languages.



German, English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Turkish

Young Germany

-  www.young-germany.de
 
-  Federal Foreign Office and Frankfurter Societäts-Medien GmbH
-  The website provides information on career opportunities, innovative developments in research and science and on trends, lifestyle and the everyday life of young people in Germany. This mix of topics with blogs and podcasts is complemented by services and information of interest to people coming to Germany for work, education or training. Interactive services help users search for a job or find accommodation and make their first contacts.
-  English

Tourism in Germany

-  www.germany.travel
 
-  The German National Tourist Board (Deutsche Zentrale für Tourismus – DZT) is mainly financed from resources made available by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.
-  This page provides information about tourism and travelling through Germany, and presents sights such as towns, palaces, nature and national parks, and tourist routes, such as the German Wine Route *Deutsche Weinstraße* or the Romanesque Route *Straße der Romanik*. The page also offers an interactive Map of Germany and a calendar of events.
-  German, English plus 28 other languages

Facts about Germany



www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de



Federal Foreign Office and Frankfurter Societäts-Medien GmbH



This portal offers current facts, figures and information about Germany, covering government and society, political forces and historic developments, business, the environment, education and cultural diversity in Germany. The most important information for young people is presented in a separate section. You can also download the comprehensive handbook “Facts about Germany” (in a choice of 19 languages) here.



German, English plus 19 other languages

Federal Agency for Civic Education



www.bpb.de



The Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, bpb) is part of the Federal Ministry of the Interior. It provides political, historic and social information in order to foster an understanding of policy issues, strengthen democratic awareness and increase participation in the political process.



The website presents a wide range of information in the sections “Politics”, “International Affairs”, “History” and “Society”. It also includes numerous online reference works. In addition, you can download the majority of the bpb’s publications (books, magazines, brochures) free of charge or order and have them delivered (including abroad) for a small fee.



German, some basic information in English

Information portal “Culture and Foreign Policy”



www.ifa.de/kultur-und-aussenpolitik



ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) is committed to peaceful and enriching coexistence between people and cultures worldwide, and promotes art and cultural exchange to achieve this. The institute is supported by the Federal Foreign Office, the state of Baden-Württemberg and its capital Stuttgart.



The information portal “Culture and Foreign Policy” aims to generate significant impulses for cultural policy abroad. The website presents research results and articles on current topics in foreign cultural and education policy. It also offers a good overview of German organisations conducting cultural activities abroad.



German and English

Deutsche Welle



www.dw-world.de



Deutsche Welle (DW) is a public broadcasting station funded by the federal government. DW delivers a comprehensive overview of political, economic and cultural life in Germany on the radio, on television, and on the internet around the world, while presenting and explaining German positions on important questions.



The Deutsche Welle website offers current news from Germany and around the world, analyses and commentary in 30 languages. DW’s television programming is available in German, English, Spanish and Arabic; you can watch online, but the website also provides information on how to receive it via cable and satellite. Under the heading “Learn German” you will find a wide range of language learning options – such as free online German courses and language training.



German, English plus 28 other languages from Albanian to Urdu

Deutschlandradio



www.dradio.de



DeutschlandRadio with its three radio channels – Deutschlandfunk, Deutschlandradio Kultur and DRadio Wissen – is the national radio broadcasting corporation of the Federal Republic of Germany.



The DeutschlandRadio website not only lets you tune in to the radio online, but also offers a wealth of additional news and information, plus book tips and film reviews, radio plays and much more.



German

Tip

German media news in English on the Internet

All of Germany's daily and weekly papers also operate a website, in most cases in German only.

But the German press do offer news in English, for example, on the following websites:



www.thelocal.de >> This portal gathers the latest news on Germany and translates them into English.



www.spiegel.de/international >> English-language service offered by **Spiegel Online** (website of the news magazine "Der Spiegel")



Entering, Living and Working

Federal Foreign Office

- 
www.auswaertiges-amt.de


- 
 Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt – AA)
- 
 The website of the Federal Foreign Office is the first place to look for answers to all your questions about entering Germany. The website also offers information about and contact details for Germany’s diplomatic and consular missions abroad. Important forms such as the Visa Application Form can be downloaded in the “Entry & Residence” section and it is also possible to apply for a visa online.
- 
 German, English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish

DAAD: Info Sheets on Entry, Residence and Employment



www.daad.de/deutschland/download



The DAAD offers two detailed information sheets, one on the Entry and Residence Provisions and one on the Employment Provisions relating to foreign students, academics and researchers. These not only explain the current law but also detail the related administrative procedures.



German and English

Federal Ministry of the Interior: Portal on the Immigration Act



www.zuwanderung.de



Federal Ministry of the Interior (Bundesministerium des Innern – BMI)



The website provides detailed information on the German immigration act. The section “law on foreigners” answers FAQs on the subject of German laws on foreigners. The brochure “Welcome to Germany – Information for Immigrants” is also available here for downloading. It contains useful tips that will help you get used to everyday life in Germany, and the (internet) addresses of numerous advisory services. The brochure is available in German and 13 other languages.



German and English

Federal Office for Migration and Refugees



www.bamf.de



Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge – BAMF)



The website of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees offers comprehensive information on migrating to Germany, on integration courses, and on flight and asylum. The section “Welcome to Germany” specifically answers many questions that arise before and after arriving in Germany – about everything from legal regulations through health care to cultural life. It also contains contact details for migration advice centres, public authorities and integration projects near you.



German, English, basic information also in Russian and Turkish

Make it in Germany



www.make-it-in-germany.com



Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie – BMWi) and Cologne Institute for Economic Research (Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft Köln)



“Make it in Germany” is the official online portal for international skilled workers who are interested in a career in Germany. It also presents training, study and research opportunities. The site’s contents range from information on entering the country, finding work, and everyday life in Germany to a job portal and personal advice by e-mail, hotline or chat. A free app also allows you to see what prospects the German employment and training market holds for you personally and search for job vacancies.



German, English, French and Spanish, basic information also in ten other languages

Tip

Internship Placement Agencies

Are you looking to complete some practical training in the form of an internship or work placement? The Internship Office (Career Service) or International Office at your university will be pleased to advise and help you.

The following student organisations will also be able to assist you in word and deed:

 www.aiesec.de >> **AIESEC Deutschland** (German)

 www.elsa-germany.org >> **ELSA Deutschland e.V.**
(European Law Students' Association) (German and English)

 www.iaeste.de >> **IAESTE** (International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience) (German and English)

Tip

Job-hunting on the Internet

Social networks, such as the German network www.xing.com or the worldwide network www.linkedin.com, are a very popular way of making professional and career contacts. Networks like these can help you get in touch with companies looking for new staff or interns. In addition, you can find job exchanges that concentrate more on student and/or academic job searches at the following websites:

www.academics.com

www.studentenjobs24.de

www.jobber.de

www.jobscanner.de >> searches through company websites

www.jobworld.de >> metasearch engine

www.jobs.zeit.de

www.stepstone.de

www.monster.de



Learn German

DAAD: Language and Short Courses

 www.summerschools.de

 In the DAAD database “Language and Short Courses” you can find more than 380 courses offered by German universities specifically for international students. The range of available courses is enormous. Besides specialist courses such as European Studies, Renewable Energies or Art History, there are many courses designed for learning German, focussing on different aspects such as German cultural studies, cross-cultural communication, or German for lawyers. The courses can be searched by place, topic, date, duration, language of instruction and language level.

 German and English

TestDaF: Standardised German as a Foreign Language Test



www.testdaf.de



The TestDaF-Institut is a facility of the Gesellschaft für Akademische Studienvorbereitung und Testentwicklung e.V. and affiliated with FernUniversität Hagen and Ruhr University Bochum. It offers worldwide standardised testing for German as a foreign language.



Study applicants from abroad generally have to prove that they are sufficiently proficient in the German language to be able to take up a course of studies in Germany. TestDaF is the central, standardised Test of German as a Foreign Language (*Test für Deutsch als Fremdsprache*) and is modelled on the US Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). TestDaF provides international students with an opportunity to gain the German language certificate required for admission to higher education in Germany while they are still in their home country. The TestDaF website provides details on the next examination dates, a sample set of examination questions and the addresses of all the test centres around the world at which the TestDaF can be taken.



German (basic information in PDF format also available in section “Infos in Ihrer Sprache” in English, French, Spanish plus 17 other languages)

Goethe-Institut



www.goethe.de



The Goethe-Institut is the largest intermediary organisation in the field of German foreign cultural policy. With its 159 institutes and 10 liaison offices in 98 countries worldwide, the Goethe-Institut is responsible for teaching and spreading knowledge about German language and culture.



The website of the Goethe-Institut provides information on cultural life in Germany – in sections titled “Architecture”, “Libraries”, “Visual Arts”, “Education and Knowledge”, “Design and Fashion”, “Film”, “Society and Current Affairs”, “Literature”, “Media”, “Modern Life”, “Music” and “Dance and Theatre”. Under “German Language” it also offers comprehensive information on learning and teaching German, such as German language courses, exams and more. And under “Practice German free of charge” you can find links to apps and websites that help you learn German.



German and English. The pages of the foreign institutes are usually also available in English or the local language.

Deutsch-Uni Online



www.deutsch-uni.com



Deutsch-Uni Online (DUO) is offered by the Gesellschaft für Akademische Studienvorbereitung und Testentwicklung e.V. in cooperation with Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich. DUO develops language learning programmes, organises and runs language courses. Its employees conduct research, teach and provide training on the subject of multimedia-based foreign language learning.



DUO's online German language courses offer targeted preparation for study or research visits to Germany. Improve your language skills, find out more about Germany and gain valuable expertise.

The paid courses are offered at various levels – “basis-deutsch” for elementary language skills, “uni-deutsch” for higher education and training, “fach-deutsch” for the use of German as spoken for example on academic projects or specialist courses, and “profi-deutsch” for professionals requiring German language skills for their work. Participants are supervised by experienced tutors, and “online classes” offer them the opportunity to connect with others who share the same goals.



German, English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish

deutsch.info

<http://deutsch.info/de>

The website deutsch.info is developed by Studio GAUS GmbH (Berlin) in cooperation with nine partners from eight European countries: Educácia @Internet (Slovakia), Österreich Institut GmbH (Austria), WBS TRAINING AG (Germany), Fundacja Novinka (Poland), Interkulturo d.o.o. (Slovenia), Mediaost Events & Kommunikation GmbH (Germany), Fundatia Centrul Educational Soros Miercurea Ciuc (Romania), BILARK (Turkey) and Milos Educational Womens Collaboration for Activities in Tourism (Greece). The project was funded with support from the European Commission.



This online platform offers state-of-the-art didactic tools for learning the German language, allowing motivated learners of German to improve their language skills at various levels free of charge. In addition, the platform provides practical information on living and working in Germany and Austria.



German, English plus 17 other languages

Tip

For German studies students

- ww** <https://networks.h-net.org/h-germanistik> >> **H-Germanistik**
offers specialised information for German language and literature scholars: calls for papers, conference announcements and reports, reviews, tables of contents for current academic journals, presentations of research projects and courses of study, funding opportunities and fellowships, job and internship vacancies.
- ww** www.germanistenverzeichnis.de >> **Online List of German Departments and Teachers** On this site, more than 7,500 Germanists from more than 70 countries provide information on their research fields.
- ww** www.germanistik-im-netz.de >> **Virtual Specialised Library for German Studies** Parallel search in selected library catalogues, weekly information service on new publications, overview of German studies journals, bibliographies, links etc.
- ww** www.litrix.de >> **Litrix.de – German Literature Online**
Information portal for the worldwide promotion of contemporary German literature (German, English, Arabic, Russian)
- ww** gutenberg.spiegel.de >> **Gutenberg Project-DE**
The largest online collection of German literature with more than 8,000 works by more than 1,700 authors
- ww** www.canoo.net >> **German Dictionaries and Grammar**
Dictionaries and information on word grammar, word formation, sentence grammar and spelling (German and English)



Accommodation and Travel

DAAD: Accommodation Finder

-  www.daad.de/wohnheimfinder
-  German Academic Exchange Service, see page 5
-  DAAD's Accommodation Finder will help you find and apply for a place in a student residence. After selecting your city and university, you are presented with a comprehensive overview of available student residences, including information on prices, locations and room facilities. And just a few clicks will take you to the online application form for a place in the student residence of your choice.
-  German and English

Tip

Looking for a place to live

Students in Germany either live in a student hall of residence or in private accommodation. In contrast to other countries, German universities do not automatically allocate rooms to students when they enrol. Students are usually responsible for finding their own accommodation.

You can obtain further information about finding a place to live at the website www.study-in.de (in the section Accommodation).

Some accommodation exchange services have specialised in offering shared flats (Wohngemeinschaften or WGs), which are particularly popular among students, such as:

 www.wg-gesucht.de >> Shared flats, apartments, houses

 www.wg-suche.de >> Shared flats, apartments

 www.studenten-wg.de >> Shared flats, apartments

 www.studenten-wohnung.de >> Shared flats, apartments

 To use these services you do need to be able to understand some German. The websites www.study-in.de, www.wg-gesucht.de and www.wg-suche.de are available in German and English.

Tip

Overnight accommodation at reasonable rates

You don't have a place to stay yet when you arrive in Germany? Or you would like to travel through Germany and are looking for reasonably-priced overnight accommodation options? There are several ways to find an inexpensive place to spend a night:

-  **www.couchsurfing.org** >> Network of couch owners around the world who offer free-of-charge overnight stays
-  **www.airbnb.de** >> Bringing travellers from around the world together with locals who offer their flats or sublet rooms for a temporary stay
-  **www.jugendherberge.de** >> Finding youth hostels online and booking rooms
-  **www.hostelbookers.com** and **www.hostelworld.com** >> Finding hostels online and booking rooms
-  **www.trivago.de** and **www.swoodoo.de** >> Meta search engines for hotels, compare the hotel prices of more than 100 hotel booking sites
-  **www.swoodoo.de** only in German, **www.jugendherberge.de** in German and English, **www.hostelbookers.com**, **www.airbnb.de**, **www.hostelworld.de**, **www.couchsurfing.com** and **www.trivago.de** also in more than 10 further languages

VerkehrsmittelVergleich

-  www.verkehrsmittelvergleich.de
 
-  fromAtoB GmbH
-  This website offers a search engine for all traffic connections available across Germany and compares the connections by price and travel time.
-  German

German Railway timetable

-  www.bahn.de
 
-  Deutsche Bahn AG
-  The website offers a search engine that provides details on the timetable, train connections, travel times and ticket prices for German railway services operated by Deutsche Bahn AG as well as offering an online ticket reservation service.
-  German, English and ten other languages

Finding coach services and booking tickets

-  www.busliniensuche.de
 
-  Green Parrot GmbH
-  On this website you can compare coach services in Germany, find the cheapest offers and book tickets directly.
-  German, English, Croatian, Dutch, French, Italian, Korean, Polish and Spanish

Tip

Ride and car sharing

A value-for-money form of transport is offered by car-sharing agencies (Mitfahrzentralen). The passengers and the driver share the travel costs.

-  **www.blablacar.de** >> Ride sharing platform for Germany and Europe, free. Register with your e-mail address or via Facebook. All profiles, ratings, offered rides and ride information are moderated by BlaBlaCar to maintain trust and respectful interaction on the platform.
-  **www.fahrgemeinschaft.de** >> Ride sharing platform operated in cooperation with Allgemeiner Deutscher Automobilclub (ADAC), free

If you sometimes need a car but don't want to buy your own, you should look into car sharing. A range of options for sharing a car with several people are available in more and more German cities. General information and a Germany-wide overview of providers can be found at **www.carsharing-news.de**. Major providers include:

-  **www.flinkster.de**
-  **www.stadtmobil.de**
-  **de.drive-now.com**
-  German, **www.stadtmobil.de** and **de.drive-now.com** also in English, **www.blablacar.de** also in more than ten other languages

Tip

Booking flights

You can book flights by going to the websites of the various airlines. However, some websites also enable you to compare several airlines. The following websites offer this service, for example:

 www.billigflieger.de

 www.expedia.de

 www.opodo.de

STA Travel (www.statravel.de) is a tour operator specialising in offers for students. Flights can also be booked online here.

 German, Expedia operates 33 local sites in the respective languages, Opodo 15 and STA Travel 16 local sites.

Contact

Where to find more information

-  www.daad.de/aaa >> Addresses of the International Offices at German universities. The International Office (*Akademisches Auslandsamt – AAA*) is your first point of contact when you want to study in Germany.
-  www.daad.de/offices >> Addresses and links to all worldwide DAAD branch offices and information centres
-  www.facebook.com/Study.in.Germany >> See page 8
-  www.goethe.de >> See page 34
-  www.auswaertiges-amt.de >> See page 27



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