

Learning and studying in Germany

Taking a language course or studying in Germany generally requires a visa.

Exempt from this regulation are EU citizens as well as those from the following countries:

Andorra, Australia, Honduras, Iceland, Japan, Canada, the Republic of Korea, Liechtenstein, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland, and the United States.

Naturals from these countries merely require a specific residence permit with the intention to study in Germany. This permit has to be requested no later than three months upon arrival in Germany at the respective Aliens Registration Office.

Visa

Citizens of all other countries have to apply for a visa at the German foreign agency – either the embassy or a consulate – of their home country.

There are three different kinds of visa:

- 1) Language course visa
- 2) Study applicant's visa and
- 3) Visa for study purposes Student visa

A **tourist visa** cannot be changed into a student or language visa

Prerequisites for a visa

We strongly recommend you gather information about the concrete conditions and prerequisites for a visa at the German embassy or at a German consulate in your home country, since different conditions may apply to each country and the formal procedure may take up to three months.

Normally you must fulfil the following conditions for a visa as follows:

- You will need sufficient financial means for both your language course as well as your everyday expenditures throughout your entire stay in the Federal Republic of Germany. You may be requested to provide proof of these means at the German embassy or consulate.
- Upon application, all these documents (see below) have to be complete.

For the actual application you will need:

- a valid passport
- two application forms completed in German
- two photographs
- a written confirmation by your parents or any other person that they will provide the necessary financial means for your stay in Germany (declaration of liability)
- proof of medical insurance for the duration of your stay
- proof of residence.

1) Language Visa (Sprachkursvisum)

A language visa entitles its holder exclusively to participation in a language course and may **not** be changed into a student visa! If you do not wish to rule out successive study in Germany you will have to note this in your application!

Special Requirements

A specific requirement for a language visa is the written confirmation of a German language school or institute testifying to your registration for a language course comprising no less than twenty (20) hours a week. You will receive such a confirmation from pdL if you have registered for one of our language courses from abroad.

Duration of Stay

A visa is generally issued for three (3) months and may be extended at any of the Aliens Registration Offices for an additional nine (9) months. Hence, there is a one year maximum for language visas.

Only in exceptional cases will you be allowed to change a language visa into a student visa!

2) Study Application Visa

If you have not received admission to an institution of tertiary education yet, you are entitled to apply for a study application visa which is valid for three (3) months and can be extended in Germany for a maximum of six (6) months. During this period, you will have to prove either admission into a university (or an equivalent institution) program, to a *Studienkolleg* (preparatory course) or to a language course preparing you to study here.

Hence, a study application visa entitles you to participate in language courses preparing students to study in Germany.

Specific Requirements

You are required to have completed secondary education. Your diploma shall entitle you to study at a German university or an equivalent institution, e.g. conservatory et al., or to enter the studienkolleg. Please look up the respective pages at the DAAD website (www.daad.de) to make sure your secondary education diploma meets this requirement.

Admission

In order to prevent unnecessary delays with regard to your application, please bring along with you to Germany all required documents such as secondary and, in case this applies, tertiary education diplomas you may need in order to apply for admission here. Please make sure all documents are originals and don't forget the certified translations.

We are happy to advise you with regard to your admission to a German university or any equivalent institution. Just contact us well in advance!