

# STUDY IN GERMANY

Presented by Caroline Blank, GAI education outreach coordinator, as part of the Germanic-American Institute's Pathways to Germany online event on October 23, 2021.

# AGENDA

## UNIVERSITY AND FACHHOCHSCHULE

- Academic Requirements
- Language Requirements
- Expenses

## LIVING IN GERMANY

- Language Classes
- Visas





# UNIVERSITY AND FACHHOCHSCHULE

## IS YOUR MAJOR...

## ...STUDIED AT A UNIVERSITY ... OR AT A FACHHOCHSCHULE?



# ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

As an American student, a high school diploma **may not be sufficient:** usually you must have Junior standing (50% graduation credits). **BUT...**



**With Junior standing, you are usually eligible for „direct enrollment“.**

# ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

High School Diploma + B1 Exam: general admission to preparatory courses at a Studienkolleg.

<http://www.studienkollegs.de/home.html>

AP tests in certain subjects: “direct subject-restricted admission”

TestAS

## High School Diploma

### Condition:

It is obligatory for your High School Diploma\*) to be acquired after continuous attendance of the classes 9 to 12 at a US High School and to comprise a total of 16 "academic units" in the forms 9 to 12:

- 4 units (3 units are sufficient for 11 forms) English with a minimum grade C: English IV or Honors or AP English,
- 2 units Second Language,
- 3 units Social Studies,

5 units in total Mathematics and Science:

- 2 or 3 units Mathematics with a minimum grade C: Algebra II or Trigonometry and Precalculus,
- 2 or 3 units Science with a minimum grade C: Biology, Chemistry or Physics,
- 2 academic units free to choose.

Does your High School Diploma include all of the "academic units" specified above?

- ☐ all "academic units" available
- ☐ not all "academic units" included

\*)A GED (general equivalency diploma) issued by individual states in the US is not accepted.

<https://www2.daad.de/deutschland/nach-deutschland/voraussetzungen/en/57293-database-on-admission-requirements/?id=75&ebene=3>



# ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS



<https://www.testas.de/>

TestAS is a central standardized scholastic aptitude test which measures intellectual abilities particularly important for university studies.

TestAS is intended for study applicants from non-EU countries planning to do undergraduate studies at German universities.

What are the benefits of TestAS?

- Test takers get to know the typical requirements of the subject they want to study.
- The university can select the candidates who best fulfil the requirements for a subject.
- The TestAS result enables applicants to realistically assess their chances of successfully completing their studies at a German university.

# ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

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Studienkollegs in Germany

<http://www.studienkollegs.de/home.html>

## Studienkolleg – What's that?

The Studienkolleg offers academic bridging courses to prepare university applicants for doing a degree program at a German university. If you have earned a certificate or diploma that entitles you to go to university in your home country, but which is not recognized as a higher education entrance qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung, HZB) in Germany, you must attend a Studienkolleg before you commence your studies.

**BUT YOU NEED TO SPEAK GERMAN at B1-Level**



# LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

## **For BA and MA programs in English language**

no German required or  
basic German skills to survive in Germany (A1 or A2)

## **Art academies/ music conservatories**

basic German skills to survive in Germany (A2)



# LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

## For programs in German language

TestDaF

Goethe-Zertifikat B2, C1 or C2

Deutsches Sprachdiplom DSD II

Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang DSH

(only in Germany <http://dsh.de/dsh-eng>)

# LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

## For programs in German language

### Deutsches Sprachdiplom DSD II



Bundesamt für  
Auswärtige Angelegenheiten  
Zentralstelle für das Auslandsschulwesen

- demonstrates language skills between B2-C1 level
- students from 16-18
- test sites are high schools and language schools in the US

[https://www.auslandsschulwesen.de/Webb/ZfA/DE/Deutsch-lernen/DSD/DSD-II/dsd-II\\_node.html](https://www.auslandsschulwesen.de/Webb/ZfA/DE/Deutsch-lernen/DSD/DSD-II/dsd-II_node.html)

# LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

**For programs in German language**



**Goethe-Zertifikat B2, C1 or C2**

depending on the university and/or the subject  
one is applying for

[https://www.goethe.de/resources/files/pdf169/aktualisiert-goethe-zertifikate-  
anerkennung\\_gz-c11.pdf](https://www.goethe.de/resources/files/pdf169/aktualisiert-goethe-zertifikate-<br/>anerkennung_gz-c11.pdf)



# LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

## For programs in German language



TestDaF

Test Deutsch als Fremdsprache

- Held 5 times a year world-wide (test sites in the US: Goethe-Instituts; Ohio State University in Columbus, OH; German institute for the Southwest, Houston, TX; University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN)
- Demonstrates language skills at B2-C1 level
- Requires „700-1000 hours of German language instruction“
- <https://www.testdaf.de/de/>

## IMPORTANT WEBSITES FOR APPLICATIONS

German Academic Exchange Service - [www.daad.de/en/](http://www.daad.de/en/) (Info on studying, permits, scholarships & grants)

Study In Deutschland - <https://www.study-in.de/en/> (Info on University programs, visas & life)

Anabin - <https://anabin.kmk.org/anabin.html> (Info on requirements and application processes)

Uni-assist - <https://www.uni-assist.de/en/> (through this website you collect your paperwork and apply at universities)

Hochschulstart - <http://hochschulstart.de/startseite> (similar to uni-assist)

# **LIVING IN GERMANY**

# EXPENSES

**NO TUITION FEES!** (except at private universities)

Studiengebühr: app. 250 € per semester (often this includes a regional transit ticket)

**NO ENROLLMENT WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE**

Student rates are app. 100-150€ per month

## GENERAL EXPENSES

Rent in Berlin, Munich, Hamburg and Cologne is high (around 540-750 € for a room)

Cost of living for a German student according to statistics: 850-950 € a month (depending on the city)

## HELP

The DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) is a great resource for information on programs, grants and scholarships)

<https://www.daad.de/deutschland/nach-deutschland/en/>



# LANGUAGE CLASSES IN GERMANY

## STUDYING AT A UNIVERSITY

- Summer German courses (no visa)
- Courses before studying/while studying (study visa)

## STUDYING AT A LANGUAGE SCHOOL (such as the Goethe-Institut)

- Courses are usually shorter (2-8 weeks)
- Visa not necessary if course is shorter than 90 days

# LANGUAGE LEARNING VISA REQUIREMENTS

- Language course registration confirmation or certificate of enrollment/participation and
- receipt for a course with at least 20 lessons per week for a duration of at least 3 months.
- Proof of financial solvency for your entire stay in Germany, for example a scholarship award, a recent bank book, a recent bank statement or fixed deposit statement... The equivalent of 650 Euros per month must be anticipated)

# **VISAS AND PERMITS FOR UNIVERSITY**

## **Submit your application early**

Visa processing can take several months and you won't be able to enter the country without a valid visa

## **Apply for the correct visa!**

Tourist/language course visas cannot be converted into a "student visa". With the wrong visa, you will be forced to leave the country at some point.

# NATIONAL VISA

## **A national visa**

is issued to those who intend to stay longer than three months (for example, if you wish to participate in a *Studienkolleg* (university preparatory course) or enter a degree program)

## **Enrollment is a prerequisite**

for obtaining the "residence permit for purposes of study"

With a student visa, you are allowed to work

**120 8-hour days** (or 240, 4-hour days) a year.



# USEFUL RESOURCES

Expatica.com - [www.expatica.com/de/main.html](http://www.expatica.com/de/main.html) (on Visas & Permits)

Goethe-Institut - [www.goethe.de/chicago](http://www.goethe.de/chicago) (Language classes & tests)

German Embassy - [www.chicago.diplo.de](http://www.chicago.diplo.de) (Info on visas, permits, other legal matters)

From expats for expats - <https://www.toytowngermany.com/> (infos about daily life)

**ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?**

