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.

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

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

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

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

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

For programs in German language

- 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“

- [Visit TestDaF website](https://www.testdaf.de/de/)
IMPORTANT WEBSITES FOR APPLICATIONS

German Academic Exchange Service - 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
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 (on Visas & Permits)

Goethe-Institut – www.goethe.de/chicago (Language classes & tests)

German Embassy – 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?