

Information Sheet VISA - REST - ENTRY - RESIDENCE

Information on visa/temporary residence permit (A.), visa waiver programs (B.) and (eased) mobility regulations (C.) for admitted exchange students from htw saar partner universities holding a citizenship of a non-EU country

A. Entry and residence in Germany for students from third countries with visa-requirement:

International students who are not nationals of an EU member state usually require a student visa in order to enter the Federal Republic of Germany. Visas are not required by students from countries with which special agreements between governments have been signed (visa waiver, information see below). Student visas are issued by the consular service of the German embassy covering your place of residence on presentation of the official letter of admission from htw saar. You will also need to submit proof of sufficient financial resources. The amount is fixed by law and currently amounts to 10.332 EUR per full academic year (5.166 EUR per semester). If you receive a scholarship and submit documentation of that, the cumulated scholarship amount will be deducted from the amount you need to prove to have available for the visa application. Please consult the webpages and contact the Germany embassy in your country for the details of the visa requirements and check which form of financial proof is required (you may need to deposit the money in a special [blocked account](#)).

After arrival in Germany, within the first weeks, all students who are not nationals of an EU member state holding a visa, need to register at the Immigration Authority in Saarbrücken. Depending on the visa specifications and validity dates students may need to apply for a temporary residence permit at the Immigration Authority (address see p.2).

B. Entry and residence in Germany for students from third countries with a specific type of Visa-Waiver agreement with Germany (countries include Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan, USA)

You may enter Germany without visa for a stay of up to 90 days, however for the purpose of a study program over 90 days, you will need to apply for a temporary residence permit at the local Immigration Authority after arriving in Saarbrücken. You should start this application process no later than 6-8 weeks before your 90 days are up.

For persons entering Germany in the framework of a visa-waiver program in order to do a study program with a duration of longer than 90 days, the local Immigration Authority usually requires - in addition to the proof of admission and of enrolment at a German university - also proof of health insurance and proof of sufficient financial resources for the whole study period in Germany. The amount is fixed by law and currently amounts to 10.332 EUR per full academic year (5.166 EUR per semester). In most cases the immigration authority requires that this amount is paid into a special [blocked account](#) (where you can withdraw a portion of the money each month). Such an account can be opened at a local bank in Saarbrücken after you arrive. If you receive a scholarship and submit documentation of that, the cumulated scholarship amount will be deducted from the amount you need to prove to have available for the temporary residence permit. Especially for non-EU nationals who enter Germany under a visa waiver program it is advisable to contact the Saarbrücken Immigration

Authority (via email) prior to departure to obtain exact information what documents they will need to bring and which form of financial proof is required (e.g. special blocked account) and what fees will be needed to pay there.

Zentrale Ausländerbehörde Standort Saarbrücken
(Immigration Authority)
Lebacher Straße 6a,
66113 Saarbrücken
T +49 681 501-00
zab@lava.saarland.de
(No walk-in consultation, prior appointment necessary)

More information on entry and residence in Germany:
[General information on visa requirements of the Federal Foreign Office](#) (“Auswärtiges Amt”)
[Who requires a visa for studying in Germany?](#)
[Proof of financial resources for the visa application procedure](#)
[Tips for opening a blocked account for the visa application procedure](#)

C. Entry and residence in Germany for students from third countries (Non-EU nationals) with residence permit in an EU member state (REST Directive)

The rules on mobility within the EU applying to third-country nationals coming to the EU for the purpose of studying have been eased. Students coming from a country outside of the EU, who have already been issued with a residence title under the Directive on conditions of entry and residence (Directive 2016/801/EU) in another EU Member State, may study in Germany (less than 360 days) without applying for a visa and a German residence title. This applies under condition that the EU Member State has implemented the Directive (EU) 2016/801 (REST Directive) into national law ([list of countries](#)) and that a notification has been sent by the htw saar International Office to the National Contact Point at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees at latest 30 days before the planned entry into Germany. Notification and documents will be checked for completeness and correctness by the Federal Office. The office may deny the planned entry and residence within 30 days. Otherwise you may enter into Germany. The Federal Office issues a certificate for mobility which is just declaratory and not necessary for the entry.

Note: Non-EU nationals with a residence permit/ visa from an EU country that has not implemented the directive need to contact the German embassy or consulate in the country where they hold residence in order to find out whether they need to apply for a visa or not.

Actual procedure:

Once the admission has become official, htw saar as host university will send a notification to the National Contact Point at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (called ‘BAMF’). In addition to this notification, the by htw saar admitted student has to provide the following documents that the International Office will upload to the system of the BAMF:

1. Proof of finance: the amount is fixed by law and currently amounts to **861 Euros** for every month of stay in Germany. Students have the following options to verify livelihood (including possible costs for health insurance if students do not dispose of a European Health Insurance Card - EHIC):

-> *Payment of a security deposit into a blocked account at a bank*, of which only an amount proportionate to the number of months of residence may be disposed of each month (e.g. 1/12 per month for a year)

(Note: in the past, some case workers have also just accepted an official bank statement showing enough financial resources for a maximum of 360 days. Decisions about the required proof may vary from case worker to case worker – we may upload such a bank statement and if this is not accepted you would have to contract a blocked account with one of the commercial providers).

->*Statement of income and financial circumstances of the parents*

->*written undertaking of a guarantor*

->*grant/scholarship: if you receive a scholarship and submit documentation of that, the cumulated scholarship amount will be deducted from the amount you need to prove to have available for your stay.*

->*a combination of e.g. grant and proof of other financial resources (own income or income of parents etc.)*

2. Residence title of the first EU Member State: the residence permit of this country must be valid during the entire period of residence in Germany

3. Recognized, valid passport

4. Proof of valid health insurance (for further information please read carefully our Information Sheet Health Insurance on www.htwsaar.de/incoming)

You will more information about the REST procedure of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) [here](#) and in the [FAQs of the BAMF](#) e.g. -> What documents must be submitted to the Federal Office as part of a notification in accordance with section 16c and section 18e of the Residence Act?