



# Hop-on

Hop-on-Buch zur akademischen Bildung in Deutschland

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## What is the Hop-on Compass?



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The Compass is made up of 2 books. The books give answers to the questions adults may have about:

1. Vocational training and professional qualification (Ausbildung und Berufsabschluss) and,
2. Academic studies and academic degrees (Studium und Studienabschluss).

The questions were collected from the Hop-on Website and Hop-on advice. The books give more information about the results you got from the Hop-on [Roadmap](#).

Hop-on uses short sentences and common words so that the information is easy to understand.

The focus of Hop-on is always to explain the different ways to get a professional qualification or academic degree.

The topics of professional qualification, further education and jobs are only a small part of Hop-on.

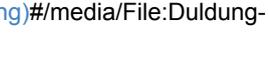
The books are for all adults over the age of 25 that have questions about vocational and academic education in Germany. This information is especially interesting for adults that:

- don't have an official professional or academic degree,
- don't have a recognized professional or academic degree, or
- want to get a new professional or academic degree.

There are many possibilities but there are also many legal rules in professional and academic education. The age is relevant because there special offers and rules that are often for people under 25 and over 25 years old.

Residency status can also have an impact on the possibilities available.

Hop-on describes special rules for adults over 25 years old that have or are going through the asylum procedure in Germany and have :

- A [temporary permission to stay \(Aufenthaltsgestattung\)](#),
- An [exceptional leave to remain \(Duldung\)](#)  or,
- A [residence permit \(Aufenthaltsbescheinigung\)](#).

Statutory (legal) rules (Gesetzliche Regeln) can change quickly. Sometimes, there are also exceptions to the rules and decisions can be made depending on individual cases. These decisions are made according to the individual person, their past experiences and their current situation. The Hop-on books and Roadmap can't replace personal advice.

## Mehr Informationen

- [Where can I find counselling services and projects \(vocational guidance, legal guidance, migration guidance\)?](#)
- [Where can I find counselling services and projects about studying?](#)

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## How Does the Educational System Work in Germany?

In the German education system, there are many different schools, institutions and ways.



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Sometimes it helps if you have a comparison to a well-known education system. On the [BQ-Portals](#) website, you can have a look at the different educational systems. The website is in German. The educational systems are in German and the country's language.

We would like to give you some general information about the education system. For more detailed information, you can have a look at the other chapters.

Germany is a federal republic consisting of 16 states (for example Berlin, Hamburg or Saxony). The Federal Government (die Bundesregierung or "der Bund" in short) rules over the federal republic. The State Governments (Landesregierungen) rule over the states.

The Federal Government and the State Governments are responsible for specific areas. This means that in some areas, only the Federal Government makes the decisions. In some areas, only the individual States make the decisions. And in some areas, the Federal Government and the State Governments make decisions together.

There are laws and rules that apply anywhere in Germany. But the States also have their own laws and rules - especially in education.

There are many laws and rules for education. Sometimes, there are also exceptions to the rules and decisions can be made depending on individual cases. These decisions are made according to the individual person, their past experiences and their current situation.

Therefore you should always inform yourself well.

In Germany, there are different possibilities for young people and adults to get a state-recognized degree in Germany:

- Vocational training (Ausbildung), professional qualification (beruflicher Bildungsabschluss)
- Studying at an institute of higher education (Studium an einer Hochschule), academic degree (akademischer Bildungsabschluss)

Here you will find a brief overview. In the chapter called [What is the difference between vocational training and studying?](#) you can find out more information.

## Vocational Training

Vocational training means that you are learning a profession.

There are professions that you learn in a company and at a vocational school. These professions are called dual training.

There are other professions that you learn at a university of applied sciences. These professions are called school-based training.

Vocational training lasts between 2 and 3,5 years. The length depends on the profession. If you finish your vocational training and pass the final exam, you will get a professional qualification. There is vocational training that also lasts less than 2 years. This vocational training does not lead to a state-recognized professional qualification.

According to the law, you don't need a high school diploma for vocational training with a dual training system. But often, a high school diploma is expected in a company. The type of high school often depends on the profession that you want to learn.

For all professions with school-based systems, legally, you need a high school diploma. The type of high school diploma depends on the profession and sometimes the state.

More information can be found on the Hop-on Book [Vocational Education in Germany](#).

For adults there are also other ways to get a professional qualification. These ways for doing vocational training differ depending on length, requirements and financing. More information can be found at [How can adults get vocational qualifications?](#)

## Studying

Studying or getting an academic degree means that you study at a university or university of applied sciences.

There are different types of studies.

More information can be found in the chapter called *Ways to get an academic degree in Germany*:

[What are full time studies?](#)

[What Are Part Time Studies?](#)

[What are dual studies?](#)

[What is a distance learning/studying online?](#)

There are different institutions that offer studies.

More information can be found in the chapter called *Institutions of academic education*:

[What is an institute of higher education?](#)

[What is a university?](#)

[What is a university of applied sciences?](#)

[What is an art academy?](#)

[What is a distance learning university?](#)

For your studies, you need to know the laws for Higher Education Entrance Qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung, HZB). Meeting the requirements for Higher Education Entrance Qualification means you have legal permission to study at an institute of higher education. There are different types of Higher Education Entrance Qualification:

- General higher education entrance qualification (allgemeine Hochschulreife, Abitur)
- Subject-specific higher education entrance qualification (fachgebundene Hochschulreife, Fachabitur)
- Applied sciences higher education entrance qualification (Fachhochschulreife)

1 General higher education entrance qualification (Abitur)

Most students in Germany have been in school for 12 to 13 years in [middle and high school](#) and got a high school diploma (Abitur). With a high school diploma, you can study any subject at a university or at a university of applied sciences. For the general higher education entrance qualification, the word "Abitur" (high school diploma) is usually used.

2 Subject-specific higher education entrance qualification (Fachabitur)

"Fachgebunden" (subject specific) means that only certain subjects can be studied at a university or a university of applied sciences.

3 Applied sciences higher education entrance qualification (Fachhochschulreife)

Fachhochschulreife (Applied sciences higher education qualification) means that you can study at a university of applied sciences.

**Tip:**

The term Fachabitur (vocational high school diploma) is used sometimes for subject-specific higher education entrance qualification and applied sciences higher entrance qualification. You should ask your institute of higher education about what entrance qualification you need to bring with.

For most courses of study, you need additional practical experience or have very good scores.

You can also study at an institute of higher education if you have a professional qualification and professional experience. Mostly, you can only study subjects that are close to that profession.

If you got your high school diploma in another country, you have to check whether it counts as a higher education entrance qualification in Germany.

You can find more information in the chapter called [What high school diploma do I need so I can start my studies?](#)

There are many laws and rules for education. Sometimes, there are also exceptions to the rules and decisions can be made depending on individual cases. These decisions are made according to the individual person, their past experiences and their current situation. Each Federal state as well as each institute of higher education have their own rules.

## Mehr Informationen

- [What is vocational training?](#)
- [What are "allgemein bildende Schulen" \(secondary schools\)?](#)

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## What is the difference between Vocational Training and Studying?

In Germany, there is a difference between:

- Vocational training (Ausbildung) with the aim of getting a professional degree and,
- Academic training (Studium) with the aim of getting a university degree.

The German system for vocational training is special. In particular the system put in place for dual training as this type of vocational training doesn't exist in most other countries.

### For example:

The IQ Network in Hesse wrote a good [summary](#) of the differences between the educational system in Syria and in Germany.

The summary explains that there is a different system in Syria for vocational training.

You can learn a profession:

- while you work or
- at a technical college (with specializations in a technical institute).

Many professions that you would learn at a technical institute in Syria are professions with dual training (duale Ausbildungsberufe) in Germany. A large proportion of dual training in Germany is through practical learning at a company. In technical institutions in Syria, you also learn the practical side of a profession but you mostly learn the theory.

Technical institutes aren't universities in Germany. Universities in Germany are responsible for academic education with a degree and not for vocational education with vocational qualifications.

The differences have an influence on the results of the recognition of a certificate in Germany. More information can be found in the chapter called [What is recognition?](#)

In Germany, you can also learn a profession while you work. Then you are an assistant (Helfer(in)) but not a specialist (Fachkraft). The German system is complicated. However, it offers many possibilities for getting a recognized qualification for all ages and all life situations. With a qualification, you will be better trained and you will have better chances at getting a job.

## Vocational training (Ausbildung) With the Aim of Getting A Professional Qualification

The most common concept in vocational training is "dual training".

In Germany, dual training means more than just learning a profession from another person. Vocational training means that you learn both the theory and the practical side of your profession. In vocational training, schools and companies work together.

More information about vocational training can be found at [Was ist eine Ausbildung?](#)

If you pass the test at the end of your vocational training, you get an apprenticeship certificate (Gesellenbrief), a trade proficiency certificate (Facharbeiterbrief) or a state recognized certificate (staatlich anerkanntes Zeugnis). All of these types of certificates are professional degrees.

Through vocational training, you can get a state recognized degree (professional degree) - even when you didn't study at a university.

Vocational training is a great option for people who don't study because

- they can't (because, for example, they don't have a high school diploma) or
- they don't want to (for example, they would rather learn in a more practical way and work).

With a professional degree, you can find a good job and work as a professional. You can choose whether you want to continue to learn later on. More information about the meaning of a professional diploma can be found at [Why is a professional diploma important?](#)

Vocational training also means that there is a specific duration and type of learning. For adults, there are also other types of vocational training apart from vocational training in a company (dual training) or in a school (school-based training). For information about all the different ways to getting a professional degree, have a look at [Hop-on Compass Vocational Training](#).

It also depends on how you want to work and what sector you want to work in, in the future. Vocational training usually prepares you for a specific profession and job. Studying usually doesn't prepare you for a specific profession or job.

## **Academic Education (Studium) With the Aim of Getting an Academic Degree**

When talking about academic education, usually people use the word "studies". During your studies, you will learn about the basics and theory of a subject.

If, for example, you would like to be a doctor, a lawyer or an engineer, you need a degree.

If you want to work in the general sector for health, law or engineering, you can get a degree or a professional qualification (vocational training). For vocational training, you will also learn theory but for a certain profession.

You can complete your studies at various universities:

- Universities
- University of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschule/Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften)
- Distance Learning University (Fernuniversität)
- Art college

The focus and organisation of your studies can differ between institutes of higher education. All degrees are still equivalent.

Your studies can also be organised differently:

- Full-time studies
- Part-time studies
- dual studies
- Distance Learning University/Online course

You can find more information at [What ways are there to getting an academic degree in Germany](#)

## What Are the Biggest Differences Between Vocational Training and Studying?

There are many differences between vocational training and studying. We will only focus on certain differences. There are also different types of vocational training and different types of courses of study. That is why the information we give can only be general information.



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## 1 Requirements for participation

### Studying

*High School Diploma*

To study at an institute of higher education, you need a special high school diploma or a professional diploma and professional experience. Generally these requirements are called Hochschulzugangsberechtigung, HZB (Higher Education Entrance Qualification).

### *Language Skills*

You need to show prove your German level is high enough by taking a test if you want to study at university. For English courses, you also need special English skills. The institute of higher education determines what language skills you need to prove you have. There are exceptions if, for example, you got your high school diploma in Germany or you studied German language and literature. The reason why you need a high level of German is that you have to be able to understand the special language and vocabulary used during your studies. This language is scientific language. Scientific language is *what* one says or writes (vocabulary) but also *how* one says something or writes it (expression and form). It is very different to [slang or colloquial language](#) (Umgangssprache).

### *Application*

Usually you need to apply directly to the institute of higher education. Sometimes you have to apply to a central office first, for example through uni-assist or college start. This depends on the field of study and the institute of higher education.

Sometimes you must meet more requirements, such as already have professional experience or a work placement.

You can find more information at [What requirements do you need for your studies?](#)

## **Vocational training**

### *High School Diploma*

For vocational training, whether you need a high school diploma and what type it needs to be depends on the profession you want to learn.

According to the law, you don't need a high school diploma for vocational training with a dual training system. But companies often expect a high school diploma. According to the law, for vocational training with school-based training system, you need a high school diploma. All professions in Germany can be found at [berufenet](#). For every profession, you can find information about what high school diploma a company usually expects for vocational training or what high school diploma you need.

### *German Language Level*

For vocational training, you also need a good level of German because all of the lessons are in German. There is no statutory rule about German levels for professions with a dual system of training. For professions with school-based vocational training, there are rules about German language level. The level of German you need depends on the profession.

You can't do vocational training in English.

### *Application*

For dual training, you apply directly at the company where you want to do the vocational training. For school-based you need to apply at a university of applied sciences.

More information can be found at [Was ist eine Ausbildung?](#)

## **2 Type and Content of What You Are Learning: Theory and Practice**

### **Studying**

Every course of study has academic basics (wissenschaftliche Grundlagen). This means that you will learn a lot of theory and that you will study and research concepts of a topic or multiple topics. The goal is for you to learn, understand and apply scientific knowledge.

In an article on [studienwahl.de](#) students talk about what it's like to study at an institute of higher education.

There is usually a lot of theory and more theory than there practice.

But:

There are also different types of studies, that combine theory and practice, for example, dual studies. During dual studies, you work at a company and you study the theory at an institute of higher education. The requirements for scientific jobs are the same. For more information have a look at [What are dual studies?](#)

During your studies you will learn scientific texts and you will take exams. Exams are written tests. In the exams, you have to be able to show that you understand the theory, the information and make links between everything you have learnt. At the end of your studies, you will have to write a dissertation or a thesis (Abschlussarbeit). For all your written work, you have to work in a scientific way. This means that you have to follow certain rules.

For example:

Mrs. Z has to write a seminar paper for her seminar.

That means, for example:

- She has to find a subject that fits within the topic of the seminar,
- She deliberates over one or more questions that she wants to talk about in her paper,
- She does research to find what books and articles exist about her subject,
- She makes sure that her sources are scientific or serious,
- She reads different scientific texts about her subject,
- She uses relevant arguments for her own paper and cites her sources,
- She writes down her results and writes a summary about her subject.

In this [Video](#) you can have a look at what the basis of scientific work is. The video is in English.

On the Hamburg Online Open University (HOOU) platform, you can find a free [Online course about scientific work](#). The course is in German.

## Vocational training

During vocational training, you will learn theory. There is no vocational training where you only learn the practical side of a profession.

In vocational training, theory and practice are combined. Especially in dual vocational training. Dual training means that you learn a profession in two places. You work at a company and learn the practical side of your profession. In a vocational school, you'll learn the theory. In dual training, the requirements for the vocational training depend on the company.

But:

There is also vocational training that includes more theory. During school-based training, you learn a lot of theory. School-based theory means that you learn the theory primarily at a special school. This school is called vocational school or university of applied sciences. Usually you get an internship at a company. The university of applied sciences is responsible for your vocational training. An example of this type of vocational training is preschool teachers. In vocational training for preschool teachers, you learn for example about the development of speech for kids. At the end, you have to write a research paper. This means that you have to develop a topic with science methodology. Ein Beispiel für einer Facharbeit finden Sie [hier](#). The certificate you get from completing school-based vocational training is also a professional qualification and not an academic degree.

Vocational training prepares you for working life. You will know a little about employment laws, taxes or politics. You won't learn anything about that whilst you are studying (unless you take special courses).

## 3 Organisation of Learning and Requesting to Self-Organise

### Studying

Each course of study has certain conditions of study (Studienordnung) and examination rules (Prüfungsordnung). The study rules or exam rules can depend on:

- What type of studies they are (dual, full-time, distance learning),
- How long your studies are (standard study length),
- What modules or courses you have to complete,
- What type of exam you have at the end of the course of study,
- How long the thesis has to be.

On the University of Leipzig website, you can find an example for [conditions of study](#) and [examination rules](#) for a Psychology Bachelor's. Each institute of higher education has its own regulations for a course of study. This means that other institutes of higher education can have different priorities for studying Psychology.

You have to plan your semester yourself. Usually, no one checks whether you completed your courses or if you did your seminar work on time. In other words, you are responsible for the organisation of your studies. However, the conditions of study or examination rules are set in stone. This means you don't decide how many courses or exams you have to complete successfully.

Before or after your courses, you have to read or research a lot. This means that you review or add to what you heard or that you will read what you need to read. Many students study a lot at the end of the semester when you have to take long exams.

Often, you don't have a fixed class. This does depend on what you're studying and whether you're studying at university or at a university of applied sciences. At a university of applied sciences, you will often be in small groups that can be described as classes. The organisation of your studies and the courses themselves are often more regulated than at university. You can find more information at [What is a university of applied sciences?](#)

## Vocational training

Every profession has rules for vocational training (Ausbildungsordnung). For school-based training, these rules are sometimes called "Verordnung" which means regulations. In these vocational training rules or regulations you can have rules about:

- What you have to learn,
- How long you have to learn for and,
- What you have to know for the final exam.

On the website of the Bundesinstituts für Berufsbildung (Federal Institute for Vocational Training) you can find all the vocational training rules for all professions with vocational training in the field of [Computer Science \(IT\)](#). The vocational training rules apply everywhere in Germany.

The courses at vocational school and universities of applied sciences is comparable to teaching at high school. You receive a timetable for each school year. This means that you have to organize everything yourself a lot less. For dual training, you will receive most of your tasks from the training supervisor. You usually work closely with your training supervisor and you can ask them questions or get feedback.

Often, at vocational school, you will be in a fixed class and you will always learn with the same students.

## 4 Length

### Studying

The duration of your studies depends mostly on:

- The degree you will obtain at the end (bachelor's, master's, state examination)

- The type of study (full-time, part-time) and
- Accomplishments from your previous studies.

For every course of study, the institute of higher education determines a standard study period (Regelstudienzeit). This is the time during which all students can or have to achieve all the accomplishments necessary. For a bachelor's in full-time, the standard study period is usually 3 years (6 semesters) and for a master's it's usually 2 years (4 semesters).

Depending on each student individually, the time it takes to complete your studies can be shorter or longer. If a course of study has already started, other possibilities exist that can make your studies shorter. The decision comes down to the institute of higher education.

Medicine, law, pharmacy and learning to be a teacher are courses of study that often end in a state exam. A state exam is a big final exam which all students must complete. In these professions, a Bachelor's degree is not enough to start working. For example, you have to study for 6 years in medical school in Germany.

## Vocational training

Vocational training can last between 2 to 3,5 years. Only a some vocational training is less than 3 years long. It depends on the profession.

The length of most vocational training is the same as the standard study period of most bachelor's - 3 years.

Dual training can sometimes be shorter if you:

- have a high school diploma
- you have started the studies already or
- Have very good results.

School-based training can't be shortened most of the time.

More information and other, shorter ways to get a professional qualification for adults with work experience can be found in the [Hop-on Compass Vocational Education](#).

## 5 Money and Financial Support

### Studying

Most of the time, you won't make any money during your studies. This means that most students work alongside their studies.

The most important and common financial support is the BAföG. BAföG is the acronym for the law that regulates financial support, the [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz](#) (Federal Vocational Education Assistance Act). For the BAföG, usually you have to pay back half of the money you receive after your studies.

There are types of studies during which you can make money- for example in dual studies. Dual studies are organized by a company and an institute of higher education. For more information have a look at [What are dual studies?](#).

All the information you need about financial support can be found in the chapter called [What ways are there to get an academic degree in Germany?](#)

## Vocational training

During dual training, you make money because your vocational training will consist of you working for a company. If you earn too little and you don't receive money from the Jobcenter, you can apply for financial support. This financial support is called Berufsausbildungsbeihilfe (vocational training grant). You don't have to pay any of the money back after you finish your vocational training. More information can be found at [What is vocational training?](#)

During most school-based training, you won't earn any money. However, you can apply for financial support if you are doing school-based training. This financial support is called Schüler-BAföG (student BAföG). The basis for the BAföG is also the [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz](#) (Federal Vocational Education Assistance Act). In most cases, you don't have to pay back the Schüler-BAföG. More information can be found at [>Was ist eine school-based vocational training?](#)

All the information about funding can be found in the different [ways to get a professional diploma](#).

## 6 Prospects After Getting A Degree

### Studying

#### *Working*

With an academic degree, you can work in different sectors or positions. During your studies, you will learn the technical basics but you will also learn techniques that will make it easy for you to be able to work on new topics.

The unemployment rate of people with a degree is low. The [Institut für Arbeitsmarkt und Berufsforschung](#) (Institute for the Labour Market and Vocational Research) shows that in 2015, 2,4% of graduates were unemployed.

How much you make depends on many things, for example:

- Profession
- Professional experience
- Demand on the (regional) labour market
- Number of applicants
- Size of the company
- Whether it's a full-time or part-time job

The salary of university graduates with a degree is often higher than the one for professionals with a professional qualification. It also depends on the subject and area in which you work.

**Note:**

For most placements and in most courses of study, companies look for applicants with a master's degree. It always depends on where you want to work, what job you want to have and what you studied. Companies look for people with a master's degree especially for management positions or positions where special knowledge is needed.

Professional experience usually helps if you want to find a job and you just have a bachelor's degree.

This is also the reason why there are more and more programs that are dual studies. For more information have a look at [What are dual studies?](#)

*Continuing to study*

With a bachelor's degree, you can continue on and do a master's degree. In Germany, there is a difference between consecutive master's and non-consecutive master's. Most master's programs are consecutive. Consecutive means that you want to do a master's in the same field of study as your bachelor's.

With a master's degree, you can continue on and do a PhD. This is especially advantageous and important for people that want to work in a scientific domain.

Consecutive study is explained in this [Video](#). The video is in German and Arabic.

## Vocational training

*Working*

During vocational training, you learn what you will do day-to-day in a profession.

After dual training and completing the final exam, it's pretty likely that you will work in the same company. Another possibility is to work as a specialist in another company.

During school-based training, you usually don't work at a company. However, you can still make good contacts with companies during the internship.

The [Institut für Arbeitsmarkt und Berufsforschung](#) (Institute for the Labour Market and Vocational Research) shows that in 2015, 4,6% of specialists (people with professional qualification) were unemployed. Out of the people that don't have a qualification, 20% of them were unemployed.

How much you make depends on many things, for example:

- Profession
- Professional experience
- Demand on the (regional) labour market
- Number of applicants
- Size of the company
- Whether it's a full-time or part-time job

However, a specialist in handcraft can sometimes earn more than a university graduate. For example, if you started up your own company and continued to train alongside your job.

#### *Further education*

After your vocational training, you can decide whether you want to continue to learn as well as work.

There are many options, for example by being a master craftsman (Meister) or furthering your education in a specific sector. More information can be found at [Why is a professional diploma important?](#)

With a professional qualification and work experience, you can study at an institute of higher education and do a bachelor's if you study something professionally similar. The rules are different for each institute of higher education. You can find more information at [What high school diploma do I need so I can start my studies?](#)

It's hard to make a decision between vocational training and studying. It can help if you consider:

- What and how you want to learn and
- What and where you want to work.

2 Examples:

In this [video](#), a man is explaining why he stopped his energy, building and building technology studies and started vocational training as an electronics engineer for buildings and infrastructure instead. The video is in German.

In another [video from oncampus](#) a man tells us why he stopped studying political sciences and is now doing vocational training to be an office manager. The video is in German.

Stand: [22.11.2017]

## What Requirements Are There For Studying?



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You can attend many different types of courses at various universities.

Generally, you differentiate between studies at an institute of higher education by:

- Undergraduate studies, mostly bachelor's or state exams (grundständiges Studium) and
- Postgraduate studies, mostly master's (weiterführendes Studium).

More information can be found on [study-in.de](#) in [German](#) and [English](#).

You have to meet requirements for your studies in all institutes of higher education and in all federal states especially for a bachelor's. The federal states and institutes of higher education often have their own rules especially for state exams and master's.

Institutes of higher education can make exceptions based on individual cases. They can also decide themselves what additional requirements you have to fulfill.

We will concentrate on the general requirements for a bachelor's.

If you didn't get your high school diploma in Germany, there are special rules about the requirements for your studies.

If you applied for asylum and you have a temporary permission to stay, an exceptional leave to remain or a residence permit, then you have to follow the same rules as international students.

International students come specifically to Germany to study (Visas). More information about who needs a visa can be found on [Make it in Germany](#). The website is in German, English, French and Spanish.

The difference is important because people that applied for an asylum:

- Must meet the same requirements as international students (Higher Education Entrance Qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung, HZB) and language skills (Sprachkenntnisse)),
- But don't need proof of their financial resources like international students do,
- An application for financial help from the state for your studies can be shown instead if you have an exceptional leave to remain or a temporary permission to stay (in contrast to international students).

The most important conditions to fill for a bachelor's are:

### **1 Higher Education Entrance Qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung / HZB)**

If you have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification it means you have permission to study at an institute of higher education. There are many different possibilities to receive a HZB. Most people get a HZB thanks to their high school diploma.

If you got your high school diploma in another country, you have to check whether it counts as a higher education entrance qualification in Germany.

You can find more information in the chapter called [What high school diploma do I need so I can start my studies?](#)

### **2 Language Level (German and/or English)**

Most courses are taught in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. You have to take a test to show what your language level in German is. There are several tests that are accepted by institutions of higher education.

Some courses are taught in English. The institutes of higher education usually decide what English level you need and how you have to prove it.

In a video from the Universität Tübingen, Samer Assadi talks about his experience with studying [Interdisciplinary American Studies](#).

You can find more information in the chapter called [What high school diploma do I need so I can start my studies?](#)

#### **Tip:**

For some courses, you have to meet additional requirements.

More information can be found in the chapter called [What additional requirements and rules are there?](#)

## **What can I do if I did not meet the requirements to study (yet)?**

It depends what requirements you don't meet:

- [Higher Education Entrance Qualification](#)
- [Language skills](#) or

- [practical experience](#).

For more information have a look at [How Can I Be Prepared For My Studies?](#)

Score: [31.07.2017]

## What Language Skills Do You Need for Studying?

Most courses are taught in German. If German is the teaching language, all the courses (Lehrveranstaltungen), including lectures (Vorlesungen), seminars (Seminare) and exercises (Übungen) will be in German. This also means that the texts and exams will be in German and the seminar work will have to be written in German.

There are also courses of study in English - especially master's. We will focus on the German language skills needed. More information on how much English you need to know can be found farther below.

In the Hochschulkompass, you can find all the courses of study in Germany. This website is in [German](#) and [English](#).

There are various filters:

- "Studientyp" (study type): You can filter by bachelor's (undergraduate, grundständig) and master's (postgraduate, weiterführend).
- "Trägerschaft" (sponsor): You can filter by state (public, öffentlich-rechtlich), private (privaten) and catholic (kirchlichen) institutes of higher education.
- "Hauptunterrichtssprache" (main teaching language): You can filter by teaching language (Unterrichtssprache).

### Tip:

The institutes of higher education are always developing new courses of study. This means that the amount and the teaching language can change.

In many courses of study, you need German and English language skills because the international language for research and science is English.

If you would like to study Arabic (Arabic literature, culture or as a foreign language), Russian (Russian literature, culture or as a foreign language) or translation studies, you must know these languages or learn them during your studies.

## German Language Level

If you want to start studying in German, you have to prove that you have the necessary German skills. Usually, you have to pass an exam and have a certificate.

In an exam, there always 4 sides to a language:

- Hearing
- Speaking
- Writing
- Reading

Therefore, an exam is always divided in 4 parts. You get a result for each part and a grand total.

The institutes of higher education are interested not only in the overall result but also of each individual result from each part.

The institutes of higher education decide:

- What certificates they accept,
- What results you need from each of the 4 parts, and
- What German skills you need to apply or at the beginning of the studies.

On the "sprachnachweis.de" website, many institutes of higher education reported what exams and results they accept. In the [Database](#) you can look up institutes of higher education and courses of study. The website is in German.

**Note:**

There are many different types of exams or certificates. We will concentrate on 4 exams that are generally accepted:

- 1 Test Deutsch als Fremdsprache, German as a foreign language test (TestDaF)
- 2 Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang, German Language Test to get into institutes of higher education (DSH)
- 3 TELC Deutsch C1 Hochschule
- 4 Goethe-Zertifikat C2

All 4 exams are founded on the same language level structure: the Common European Framework for Reference (CEFR). It is called Gemeinsamen Europäischen Referenzrahmen (GER) in German. The results of the exams each have different names. The most common names are Levels A1-C2. On the [TestDaF website](#) you will find a diagram that compares the names below. The [Fremdsprachenzentrum der Hochschulen Bremen \(language centre of the University of Bremen\)](#) has brought together all the language tests (not only German) and their results in a diagram.

**1 Test Deutsch als Fremdsprache, TestDaF (German as a foreign language test)**

The TestDAF exam tests in 4 dimensions. You can have different results in each of these 4 dimensions. If you get a result of TDN 4 in all dimensions, you can study at any institute of higher education. Some institutes of higher education also accept other results.

There are special German courses that can prepare you for the TestDAF exam. Several institutions offer these German courses - for example institutes of higher education, private schools (Bildungsträger, educational institutions) and Volkshochschulen (community colleges). The courses and the exams cost money.

In the [TestDaF database](#) provides a list of institutions in Germany that give courses and TestDAF exams.

You can also take the TestDaF exam if you took another German course.

You can find out more information in different languages about the TestDaF on the [TestDaF website](#).

On the [study-in.de](https://www.study-in.de) website, you can find answers to questions about the TestDaf in German and English.

## **2 Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang, DSH (German Language Test to get into institutes of higher education)**

The DSH exam can only be taken at an institute of higher education. In order to take part in a preparatory course, often, you have to apply for a spot in an institute of higher education before hand.

For most institutes of higher education, you need to get at least a DSH-2 (B2.2 - C1) result.

On the [Humboldt-Universität website](https://www.humboldt-universitaet-berlin.de) you can find examples of the assignments and exercises of the DSH exam with the solutions.

Several institutions offer courses to prepare for the DSH exam - for example, the institutes of higher education or Volkshochschulen. The exams and the special preparatory courses cost money. The costs can vary.

More information about DSH can be found on the [sprachnachweis.de](https://www.sprachnachweis.de) website. The website is in German. You can find information in German on the [Freien Universität Berlin](https://www.freie-universitaet-berlin.de) website. Some of this information is specifically about the Free University of Berlin.

## **3 TELC Deutsch C1 Hochschule**

There are many institutions that offer German courses and TELC C1 exams. In the [Telc database](https://www.telc.net) you can look up institutions using postcodes in German, English, Spanish and Turkish.

All institutions of higher education accept the TELC C1 certificate.

Several institutions offer courses to prepare for the TELC C1 exam - for example, the institutes of higher education or Volkshochschulen.

On the [TELC](https://www.telc.net) website you can find general information. You can also find exercises for the exam. The website is in German, English and Turkish.

### **Tip:**

There is also a *TELC C1 professional exam*. The certificate is not accepted by institutes of higher education. Before taking a course, make sure you know what test you want to take.

## **4 Goethe-Zertifikat C2**

You can find out all the information about the Goethe-Instituts in different languages on this [website](https://www.goethe.de). On the website, you can also find a few [exercises](#).

The exam can be taken at [different institutions](#). Often, in these institutions you can also take courses in order to prepare for the exam.

You can still take the exam if you have been learning German in a different language course.

### **Tip:**

If you graduated from the Studienkolleg (preparatory college), you don't need an additional certificate to prove your German skills. More information can be found in the chapter called [What is Studienkolleg?](#)

If, for example, you study Germanistik (German language, culture or literature), you don't have to take an exam most of the time.

## How Do I Know What My German Language Level Is?

You can learn German in different institutions. Normally, institutions make you take a test in the beginning. The result will show you what your language level is and what course is right for you. It is called a "Einstufungstest" (placement test).

You can also take online tests. The point of the test is that it is self-assessed. This means that you determine what your language level is. The online test usually consists of gap texts. This means that you have to insert the right words or parts of words into a text. There usually isn't a speaking part for the test.

3 Example:

On the TestDaF website you can take an [online test](#). The test consists of gap texts.

On the Goethe-Institute website, you can take an online test in German. The test is a mix of gap texts, texts and audio files with multiple choice. Multiple choice means that you have to select the correct answer. The result you get is a general one. This means that the language level (B1 or A2) won't be shown.

You can test your German or English language skills with onSET. Normally, this costs money (around 15 Euros). OnSET offers its services for free to refugees that want to study at an institute of higher education. On [refugees.onset.de](#) you can find more information in Arabic, German and English. You can only take the onSET once for free.

### **Note:**

An online test isn't an official exam. The result from your online tests isn't a certificate. For a certificate, you have to take an official exam.

## I Have an Temporary Permission to Stay or an Exceptional Leave to Remain. Can I Take A German Course And An Exam?

Yes. If you pay for it privately, you can take any German course.

If you can't pay for it yourself, it depends on the institution and the type of German course. You can find information about the rules for general German courses in the chapter called [Where Can I Learn German?](#)

A lot of institutes of higher education have special projects to help refugees prepare for their studies. German is part of this project. For more information you can have a look at [How Can I Be Prepared For My Studies?](#)

## Can I Receive Financial Aid For German Courses?

There are German courses that are free if you are registered to the Employment Agency or the Jobcenter.

There are also other requirements - for example, residency or nationality.

More information can be found in the chapter called [Where Can I Learn German?](#)

A lot of institutes of higher education have special projects to help refugees prepare for their studies. German is part of this project. Taking part in these projects is free. For more information you can have a look at [How Can I Be Prepared For My Studies?](#)

## How Can I Find A German Course?

There are less C1 and C2 German courses as integration courses (Integrationskurse) or B2 German courses. If you know what institute of higher education you want to study at, you should find out what the institute of higher education offers.

You can also find more information in a Education or Migration advice center (Bildungsberatung oder Migrationsberatung).

More information can be found under [Where can I find counselling services and projects about studying?](#)

## English Language Skills

If you want to start studying in English, you have to prove that you have the necessary English skills. Usually, you have to pass an exam and have a certificate.

All courses of study that have English as the teaching language can be found at [Hochschulkompass](#). The filter is on state institutes of higher education and bachelor's and master's. On the [Deutschen Akademischen Austauschdienstes database](#) you can also find courses of study in English. The filter is on bachelor's and master's.

The institutes of higher education decide:

- What certificates they accept, and
- What English skills you need to apply or at the beginning of the studies.

There are many different types of exams or certificates. We will concentrate on 2 exams that are generally accepted:

1 International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

2 Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

### 1 International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

There are [2 types](#) of IELTS.

To study at an institute of higher education, you have to take the academic IELTS exam. For some institutes of higher education, you have to get 6 or 6.5 in the exam. On the [IELTS website](#) you can find more information about points and their meaning.

The exam is usually always in a British Council. On the [website](#) you can see what cities you can take the exam in. The exam costs money.

Der British Council bietet [online](#) eine kostenlose Vorbereitung an.

## 2 Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

For most institutes of higher education, you have to pass the exam with 90 points (around B2 level) or 100 points (around C1 level).

You can take the exam in many but not all states.

You can look up a place nearby [online](#) and register. The exam costs money.

On the TOEFL website you can find more [information about the test](#) and about the [points and their meaning](#).

On [edx](#) you can prepare for the TOEFL online and for free.

### **Note:**

### **Tip:**

If, for example, you study English literature, you don't have to take an exam most of the time.

The institute of higher education decides what English language skills you need to meet as a requirement. If you already know what institute of higher education you want to study at, then ask them directly.

Sometimes, you also need basic language skills in German to study in English. You can receive information directly from the institute of higher education.

## Can I Receive Financial Aid For English Courses?

English courses can only be paid for by the Employment Agency and the Jobcenter if you need English skills for your job.

In the Volkshochschule, you can take English courses. They cost less money than at a private language school.

Almost every institute of higher education has a language center that offers various language courses. The language courses are usually for students at the institute of higher education. If you are interested in studying at an institute of higher education, you can find information at the Akademischen Auslandsamt (International Office) or at the Studienberatung (student services) of the institute of higher education. A list of all the international offices can be found in the

Deutschen Akademischen Austauschdienstes (DAAD) database in [German](#) and [English](#). The information can be found on the website of the institute of higher education.

Score: [31.07.2017]

# What High School Diploma Do I Need For Studying?

You need a higher education entrance qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung, HZB) for your studies.

There are many different ways to receive a higher education entrance qualification for German institutes of higher education:

## 1 High School Diploma

## 2 Professional Diploma with Professional Experience and/or Getting a Diploma as a Master Craftsman, Technician or Business Administrator

# 1 High School Diploma

The following high school diplomas (Schulabschlüsse) are also called "Hochschulreife" (higher education entrance qualification).

### a) General higher education entrance qualification (Abitur)

Most students in Germany have been in school for 12 to 13 years in middle and high school and got a high school diploma (Abitur).

"Abitur" is sometimes also called "allgemeine Hochschulreife" (general higher education entrance qualification). This means that you can take any course of study at any university.

### b) Subject-specific higher education entrance qualification (Fachabitur)

"Fachgebunden" (subject specific) means that only certain subjects can be studied at a university or a university of applied sciences.

#### Tip:

The term Fachabitur (vocational high school diploma) is used sometimes for subject-specific higher education entrance qualification and applied sciences higher entrance qualification. You should ask your institute of higher education about what entrance qualification you need to bring with.

### c) Applied sciences higher education entrance qualification (Fachhochschulreife)

Fachhochschulreife (Applied sciences higher education qualification) means that you can study at many universities of applied sciences.

More information about high school diploma can be found in the Hop-on Vocational Training [What are "allgemein bildende Schulen" \(secondary schools\)?](#)

#### Note:

Higher education entrance qualification is permission to start studying. This means that you can apply to an institute of higher education. It doesn't mean that you automatically get a spot for your studies. There are often other requirements

you need to meet. For example:

- Professional experience
- Good scores
- Successful completion of test procedures

More information can be found in the chapter called [What additional requirements and rules are there?](#)

## **I didn't get my high school diploma in Germany. Can I study at an institute of higher education?**

The information in this chapter is for people that want to study at an institute of higher education. If you want to do vocational training, a different institute is responsible for the evaluation of documents. More information can be found in the [Hop-on Vocational Training Book](#).

If you didn't get your high school diploma in Germany, you have to test whether you have a direct or indirect higher education entrance qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung) for a German institute of higher education.

*Direct higher education entrance qualification* means that you can apply for regular study as soon as you want if you meet all the requirements.

*Indirect higher education entrance qualification* means that you still have something you need to do before you can apply for regular study.

The most important question to evaluate your high school diploma is: Can you still study at university in the country where you got your high school diploma?

There are three steps if you want to know whether you have a higher education entrance qualification in Germany:

- 1 Search in the anabin database
- 2 Get a sworn translation of your certificate and authenticated copies
- 3 Official Evaluation of Certificates

### **1 Search in the anabin database**

In the [anabin](#) database you can get information. You can search for the country and the high school diploma. In the database, you can only find high school diplomas that you can study at a university in those countries. The database is in German.

The filter is on "Schulabschlüsse mit Hochschulzugang" (high school diplomas that let you access institutes of higher education).

There are various possible outcomes with different criteria:

- a) The high school diploma is a direct higher education entrance qualification (direkte Hochschulzugangsberechtigung) - either "allgemein" or "fachorientiert" (general or subject-specific). Subject-specific means that you can study specific subjects. You can go study at an institute of higher education straight away if you meet the other requirements.

b) The high school diploma is only a direct higher education entrance qualification if you have studied 1 or 2 years.

c) The high school diploma is only a direct higher education entrance qualification, if you get certain points ("Punktzahl" or "Note") in the final exam and/or learned 2 foreign languages.

If you don't meet the described criteria in anabin, you have an indirect higher education entrance qualification (indirekte Hochschulzugangsberechtigung). If you attend a preparatory college (Studienkolleg) and you pass an exam, you can receive direct higher education entrance qualification. More information can be found in the chapter called [What is Studienkolleg?](#)

**Tip:**

If a high school diploma isn't in anabin, it is probably not a higher education entrance qualification. You can ask [anabin](#) or the institute of higher education.

On the DAAD website, there is also a database in [German](#) and [English](#). The structure is a little bit different to anabin. Details about the results can only be found on anabin.

**2 Get a sworn translation of your certificate and authenticated copies**

To get your high school diploma and other documents (like documents proving the start of your studies) officially evaluated, you often need a translation. There can be an exception to this if all of your certificates are in English (and sometimes if they are in French). There are rules for the translation. The translation must be done by translators that have a permit issued by the court - they must be sworn translators.

You can have a look on this [website](#) for sworn translators in German, English and French.

You can also search on this [website](#) for sworn translators in German, English, French, Italian, and Spanish.

You also need copies and authentication. Authentication means that an official institution/person puts a stamp on your copies to prove they are the same as the original.

Mehr Informationen findet man in einer [Zusammenfassung](#) von der Freien Universität Berlin auf Deutsch und Englisch oder bei Handbook Germany auf [Arabisch](#), [Deutsch](#), [Englisch](#) und [Farsi](#).

**3 Official Evaluation of Certificates**

There are 3 possible institutions for the evaluation and recognition of a high school diploma. It depends on what you want to do with your high school diploma.

1) You want to do vocational training or find a job.

Then, an agency that is responsible in your state. More information can be found in the [Hop-on Vocational Training Book](#).

2) You want to study at an institute of higher education.

Then various institutes can be responsible:

- a) uni-assist,
- b) the institute of higher education or
- c) an agency.

On [anabin](#) you can look for the right institution.

Select: "Suche nach anderen Stellen" (look for other places) Select: "Alle Zuständigkeiten" (all competences) Select: "Zeugnisanerkennung - Hochschulzugang für ausländische Staatsangehörige mit ausländischen Bildungsnachweisen" (Certificate recognition - access to higher education for foreign nationals with foreign educational credentials)

In most states, either uni-assist or the institute of higher education is responsible.

uni-assist is a service for institutes of higher education. Many institutes of higher education let uni-assist evaluate foreign certificates.

All the information can be found on [uni-assist.de](#) In German and English.

Es gibt auch spezielle Informationen für Geflüchtete auf [Arabisch, Deutsch und Englisch](#).

**Note:**

Before the evaluation through uni-assist, you have to talk to the institute of higher education you want to study at. This means that you also have to know what and where you want to study.

*Can I Get Financial Aid?*

The translation and verification cost money. uni-assist also costs money. For refugees, uni-assist is currently free.

*You don't receive money from a Jobcenter?*

If you haven't registered with the Employment Agency yet, you can still declare at the Employment Agency that you are "arbeitsuchend" (looking for a job). The Employment Agency can, for example, finance the translation. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You have to show that the translation of your documents or the recognition procedure is important for you to find a job in the future.

Before the translation of your documents or the recognition procedure, you should speak to the Employment Agency about financial support. The Employment Agency makes a decision according to each individual case.

In the chapter called [How do I register with the Employment Agency?](#), you can find more information.

*You receive money from the Jobcenter?*

If you receive money from the Jobcenter, you can ask the Jobcenter for information about financial support for the translation. The same rules apply as for the Employment Agency.

## What Can I Do, if I Don't Have My Certificate in Germany?

In December 2015, the Kultusministerkonferenz, KMK (conference of education ministers) decided that the states would develop a special procedure. The procedure (Verfahren) should be for people that couldn't bring their certificates when they left their country.

In the Kultusministerkonferenz, many politicians from the different states worked together on the topic of education.

In this procedure, they examined:

- What personal requirements a person has (for example, residence status),
- How and where the person got their high school diploma (or where they studied), and
- Whether the person has the skills and competences, that they should have in order to have a German higher education entrance qualification ("Studierfähigkeit", skills needed for studying).

More information can be found on the KMK website in [German](#) and [English](#).

Many institutes of higher education use the Test for foreign students (Test für ausländische Studierende, TestAS). TestAS tests the skills you need for studying.

The test consists of two parts:

- General exercises
- specific exercises per study groups

The study groups and examples of the exercises can be found in German and English on the [TestAS website](#).

More information can be found on the [testas.de](#) website in German and English.

This is also specific information for refugees in [Arabic](#), [German](#) and [English](#).

Refugees can take the TestAS in German, English and Arabic. You can only take the TestAS once for free.

The test can be found in many different central [institutions](#) everywhere in Germany.

### Tip:

For TestAS, you already have to know what you want to study. Find out at your institute of higher education what you need to do if you couldn't bring a certificate with you.

## I Don't Have A Higher Education Entrance Qualification - Can I Still Study?

It depends if your high school diploma:

1 Isn't a direct, but rather an indirect higher education entrance qualification, or

2 Isn't a higher education entrance qualification.

### **1 Your high school diploma isn't a direct but rather an indirect higher education entrance qualification**

*Direct higher education entrance qualification* means that you can apply for regular study as soon as you want if you meet all the requirements.

*Indirect higher education entrance qualification* means that you still have something you need to do before you can apply for regular study. If you attend a preparatory college (Studienkolleg) and/or you pass an exam, you can receive direct higher education entrance qualification. More information can be found in the chapter called [What is Studienkolleg?](#)

### **2 Your high school diploma isn't a higher education entrance qualification**

You can get any of these types of diplomas as an adult. This means, that you would take classes and prepare for the exam. There are many cities that offer the Hauptschulabschluss or the Mittleren Schulabschluss, for example in the Volkshochschulen (education centers for adults) or at an educational institute.

There are also offers for people who want to catch up or resume their Abitur (general higher education entrance qualification) or Fachhochschulreife (applied sciences higher education entrance qualification) if you meet certain requirements.

Every state has rules and institutions. Usually, the requirements are:

- older than 18 years old
- Middle school diploma
- completed vocational training/professional diploma or 2-3 years of professional work.

We will focus on 3 institutions, where you can do your Abitur or the Fachhochschulreife for free or for an affordable price.

- Abendgymnasium: Abendgymnasium means that you will have class for more or less 4 hours every evening. You can usually take the Abitur exam after 3 years. For more information and a list of the Abendgymnasien in Germany can be found on [abendgymnasien.com](http://abendgymnasien.com). The website is in German.
- Kolleg: In a Kolleg, you have class in the morning or in the afternoon - more or less 30 hours per week. There are state and private Kollegs. A list with all the Kollegs in every state can be found on [bundesring.de](http://bundesring.de).
- Telekolleg: in Brandenburg and Bayern, you can also do the Fachhochschulreife in-service - with the Telekolleg. More information can be found on the [BR Alpha](#) website. The website is in German.

The rules and offers are different in the states. More information can also be found at [advice centers](#).

*Can I Receive Financial Aid For Abendgymnasium or Kolleg?*

For both institutions, you can receive the Student-BAföG, if you meet the requirements. For the Telekolleg, you can't receive the Student-BAföG. BaföG is the acronym for the law that regulates financial support, the [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz](#) (Federal Vocational Education Assistance Act). The law applies to students at an institute of higher education and in a school-based vocational training. There are rules about the requirements for the BaföG, for example your age. In most cases, you don't have to pay back the Schüler-BAföG.

In the region for vocational training, the BaföG-Office is responsible for the Schüler-BAföG. On this [website](#) you can look up the BaföG-Office in your region. The website is in German.

**Important note:**

The rules for the Student-BAföG and the Arbeitslosengeld II (Jobcenter) are very complicated. If you receive money from the Jobcenter, you should get more information at your Jobcenter.

Your residence status influences whether you can get the BaföG. You can find the rules in the The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act ([§8 BaföG](#)). With a residence permit, you can't get any help from the BaföG. With an exceptional leave to remain, you can't receive any financial help from the BaföG if you have lived in Germany for 15 months.

## 2 Professional Diploma with Professional Experience and/or Getting a Diploma as a Master Craftsman, Technician or Business Administrator

In all states, there are possibilities to study without a formal higher education entrance qualification. This is called Studium ohne Abitur (studying without an Abitur) or Studium für beruflich Qualifizierte (studying for the professionally qualified).

In Germany, you have the possibility of studying without a formal higher education entrance qualification, if you:

- a) Have finished vocational training (professional diploma) and professional experience, or
- b) Have a diploma as a Master Craftsman, Technician or Business Administrator.

In this [Video](#) a construction mechanic explains why he started studying mechanical engineering.

**a) Finished vocational training (professional diploma) and professional experience**

The states and institutes of higher education have different rules.

The requirements are usually:

- Professional Degrees
- 3 years of professional experience

Most institutes of higher education will also offer the opportunity to professionally qualified people if they want to study a similar subject. On the [Hochschulkompass](#) you can currently find 6000 bachelor's and 300 master's, that you can study if you have a professional diploma and professional experience and if you study a similar subject. The filter is on "staatlich" (öffentlich-rechtlich, public) and "Studieren ohne Abitur" (students without an Abitur) - many years of vocational training and/or professional experience in a field of work close to the course of study.

If you want to study a subject that isn't similar to the professional diploma/professional experience that you have then there are only about [2000 bachelor's and around 100 master's](#) on the Hochschulkompass. The filter is on "staatlich" (öffentlich-rechtlich, public) and "Studieren ohne Abitur" (students without an Abitur) - many years of vocational training and/or professional experience in a field of work that isn't close to the course of study.

Before your studies, the institutes of higher education usually check:

- The scores you got for your vocational training and
- The skills and competences for your studies ("Eignungsprüfung", aptitude test).

An example of an aptitude test can be found on the [Freien Universität Berlin website](#). At the Freien Universität, they are the same exercises as in the entrance exam after a Studienkolleg.

#### **b) Diploma as a Master Craftsman, Technician or Business Administrator**

Since 2009, a degree as a Master Craftsman, Technician or Business Administrator qualifies as a general higher education entrance qualification (Abitur). This means that they have a higher education entrance qualification and can theoretically study any subject at an institute of higher education.

On the [Hochschulkompass](#) you can currently find 7000 bachelor's and 300 master's, that you can study if you have a professional diploma and professional experience and if you study a similar subject. The filter is on "staatlich" (öffentlich-rechtlich, public) and "Studieren ohne Abitur" (students without an Abitur) - many years of professional advanced further training.

With an Abitur as a Master Craftsman, Technician or Business Administrator, you usually don't have to take a specific exam before your studies.

#### **Tips:**

On the Freien Universität Berlin website, you can find a good overview of the different possibilities and rules in [German](#) and [English](#).

But: the states have different rules and offers. All the information you need can be found on the [Studieren ohne Abitur](#) website. The website is in German.

The institutes of higher education usually have special advice centers for professionally qualified people. Information can be found on the website of the institutes of higher education.

For professionally qualified people, there are also special scholarships; the [Aufstiegsstipendium](#) of the Ministry of Education and Research.

You can only receive the scholarship if you:

- Have a professional diploma and professional experience or a higher diploma,
- Have very good points or a recommendation from your boss.

There are also rules about your residency status. The rules are based on the [§8 BAföG Absatz 1 und 2](#): a German or a EU national (Staatsangehörigkeit), a settlement permit (Niederlassungserlaubnis) or a permanent residence permit (Daueraufenthalt). More information can be found on the [Aufstiegsstipendiums website](#).

Score: [31.07.2017]

# What Additional Requirements and Rules Are There?

Additionally to the Higher Education Entrance Qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung, HZB) and the language skills, there are sometimes more requirements and rules for studying.

Each institute of higher education can define its own rules. We will concentrate on the requirements and rules that are most common.

## 1 Similarities with the Preparatory College

### **Bachelor's**

If you don't have a direct higher education entrance qualification, you need to do go to preparatory college. Preparatory colleges have different focus areas. This means that you should know what you want to study. Sometimes after your preparatory college, you can only study subjects that are close to the preparatory courses you took.

More about preparatory college can be found in the chapter called [What is preparatory college?](#)

### **Master's**

If you have already completed your first degree (for example, bachelor's), you can apply for a master's. In Germany, you can do a "konsekutive Master" (consecutive master's) or a "nicht-konsekutive Master" (non-consecutive master's). Most master's programs are consecutive. Consecutive means that you do a bachelor's in the subject you want to do your master's.

Basically, during a bachelor's, you learn the basics and then when you do a consecutive master's, you specialize in certain topics. That is why a bachelor's degree can also be called an undergraduate degree and a master's degree can be called a postgraduate degree.

For example:

You can only do a Master of Economics if you have done a Bachelor of Economics. Or you can prove that you have learnt the same thing as the bachelor's by showing the diploma you already have.

### **Note:**

Non-consecutive master's are often called postgraduate master's. Often, this course of study is for people with professional experience. Sometimes they cost money - even at state-run universities.

On [studis-online.de](https://studis-online.de) you can look for post-graduate (non-consecutive) master's. The website is in German.

The institute of higher education makes the decision. That is why you should get more information from the student advice center.

## 2 Numerus Clausus (NC)

Numerus Clausus (NC) means that there are more applications than spots for a course of study. Another word for Numerus Clausus (NC) is also "zulassungsbeschränkt" (restricted admission). Admission restricted means that only certain applications will be selected. The criteria for the selection are often :

- The scores you got on your high school diploma and/or
- How long you have waited for a spot.

There are 2 types of NC:

1 Admission restriction at all institutes of higher education, zulassungsbeschränkte Studiengänge an allen Hochschulen (nationwide NC, bundesweiter NC) 2 Admission restriction at one institute of higher education, zulassungsbeschränkte Studiengänge an einer Hochschule (local NC, örtlicher NC)

More information can be found on the institute of higher education compass in [German](#) and [English](#).

### Tip:

Around half of the courses of study are open admission. This means that you don't have to meet certain criteria.

### 1 Admission to Restricted Courses of Study at All Institutes of Higher Education (Nationwide NC)

In some courses of study there are always more applications than spots for studying. Currently, these courses of study are medicine (doctors, veterinary medicine and dentistry) and pharmacy. That may change every year. For these courses of study, you have to apply on [hochschulstart.de](https://hochschulstart.de). The website is only in German.

### Note:

Generally, Hochschulstart distinguishes people by whether they got their high school diploma in Germany, the EU or outside of the EU.

If you did your high school diploma outside of the EU, you have to apply directly with an institute of higher education or uni-assist. More information can be found on [hochschulstart.de](https://hochschulstart.de). The website is in German.

### 2 Admission to Restricted Courses of Study at An Institute of Higher Education (local NC)

Some institutes of higher education and some courses of study are more popular. Therefore, the institutes of higher education only select a certain number of applicants.

The criteria are similar to the nationwide NC. Each university may have additional criteria.

Hochschulstart is also responsible for some courses of study that have an NC at an institute of higher education. You can get information directly from the institute of higher education.

**Note:**

The federal states and institutes of higher education have different quotas to fill for different groups of applicants in an NC course of study.

For example, here is a quota for:

- People with a citizenship from outside the EU and that don't have a German high school diploma,
- Professional qualification and
- Cases of hardship.

A quota means that there is a certain number of spots for studying at an institute of higher education or federal provinces for these groups. Other criteria for selection are determined by institutes of higher education themselves.

The general rules can be found in the [state contract for allocating spots for studying](#). The federal provinces define these rules differently. An overview of the state laws and rules for these quotas for cases of hardship for master's can be found on [Webseite des Studentenwerks](#).

## 3 Exams Before Studying

For some courses, you have to take an aptitude examination before you start studying. An aptitude exam is an exam where you have to show that you have the special knowledge or skills for a specific field of study.

For example:

Especially in the field of art, design, music or sports, you have to take an extra aptitude exam. Beispiele findet man auf der [Webseite der Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg](#) oder der [Webseite der Universität Bielefeld](#). In artistic courses of study, where very talented people can study even without higher education entrance qualification.

More information can be found at the institute of higher education.

## 4 Internship

For some courses of study, you can do an internship before you study.

If, for example, you want to do a bachelor's in [Social Work](#), often, you have to do an internship in the field of social work before you study or you have to have professional qualification.

More information can be found at the institute of higher education.

Score [31.07.2017]

## Can I Start to Study if I Have a Temporary Permission to Stay or an Exceptional Leave to Remain?

Yes. If you meet the general requirements and the requirements for the institute of higher education, you can start your studies.

But: Your residency status has an influence on the possibilities for receiving financial support like the BAföG. BAföG is the acronym for the laws that determine how the state's financial aid is used for studying. BAföG stands for [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz \(The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act\)](#).

### ***Temporary Permission to Stay***

With a residence permit, you can't get any help from the BAföG. An exception to this is if, for example, you or one of your parents have lived and worked in Germany for 5 years. The rules are available in [§8 BAföG](#).

If you have lived in Germany for 15 months and have a temporary permission to stay, the beginning of your studies (enrollment) can influence the financial aid you get and whether you can get a BAföG ([BAföG-Fälle - Seite 47](#)). The rules are available in [§ 22 SGBXII](#).

In [Berlin](#) and [Niedersachsen](#) there is one rule for exceptions to these rules. In other Federal states, there aren't any clear rules.

Find out more before you start your studies at a [social or legal advice center](#).

### ***Exceptional Leave to Remain***

With an exceptional leave to remain, you can't receive any financial help from the BAföG if you have lived in Germany for 15 months.

The rules are available in [§8 BAföG](#).

### **Note:**

To start studying (enrollment), you need official health insurance. Information about this can be found at the institute of higher education.

## I Have a Temporary Permission to Stay or an Exceptional Leave to Remain. Can I Get a Residence Permit from an Institute of Higher Education for My Studies?

You can only get a residence permit (visa) for your studies if you apply for it from abroad. Other rules apply for international students that have a visa to study in Germany.

In 2016, the Integration Act (Integrationsgesetz) introduced new rules for people who have applied for asylum. The rules are in the Residence Act (Aufenthaltsgesetz) ([§60a AufenthG](#)). If you meet specific criteria, you can get an exceptional leave to remain for the duration of your training. An exceptional leave to remain means there is a "suspension of deportation". This means that you can stay for the duration of your vocational training in Germany.

These rules are only available for vocational training that lasts at least 2 years. With a job as a specialist, you can get a residence permit for the 2 years after.

Studying for a degree is not vocational training.

An exception to this are dual studies. This is when you do both vocational training and study at the same time. For more information have a look at [What are dual studies?](#)

Find out more before you start your studies at [an insitute of higher education or an advice center](#).

Score: [16.10.2017]

## Can You Continue Your Studies if You Have A Diploma?

Yes. The requirements depend on what diploma (Studienabschluss) you have and what diploma you want to obtain:

- PhD
- Master's or
- Bachelor's

In German, the word "Studienabschluss" means the same thing as "Hochschulabschluss".

## You Want to Start a PhD?

Hop-on is mainly for people that don't have a diploma yet. You can't find much information about PhD's here.

You should first check whether your degree is comparable to a degree from a German university (diploma, graduate degree, state-exam or master's). In Germany, you can only get a PhD at university.

The university makes the decision. Ersetzt mit: Mehr Informationen finden Sie auf [Deutsch](#) und [Englisch](#) auf der Webseite Research in Germany.

## You Want to Start a Master's?

The rules for residency and financing of your studies are the same as for a bachelor's. You can do different types of master's, just like bachelor's. You can find more information at [What ways are there to getting an academic degree in Germany](#)

There are 2 important steps to take before you do a Masters:

- 1 The Evaluation of Your Diploma In Germany
- 2 How to Understand the Technical Requirements for a Master's Degree

### 1 The Evaluation of Your Diploma In Germany

You need to check whether your diploma also counts as a diploma in Germany.

We have summarized general information. You can get concrete information from the institute of higher education.

There are three important steps to take in order to know if your degree is also a degree in Germany and how it is evaluated:

- 1 Search in the anabin database

2 Sworn translation of your certificate and authenticated copies

3 Examination of your certificate through the institute of higher education or uni-assist

### **1 Search in the anabin database**

In the [anabin](#) database you can get information. You can search for the country and the institute of higher education. The database is in German.

It filters through the names of the institutes of higher education.

On anabin, you can look up either your [institute of higher education](#) or your [course of study](#). The website is in German.

In a [Video of the Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft Berlin](#) you can see what information you can find on anabin. The video is in Arabic, German, English and French.

There can be multiple results when you search using your course of study:

a) your institute of higher education or your course of study is on the list:

For each course of study, it evaluates how equivalent the degree is to a German degree. It will say: [bedingt vergleichbar](#), [entspricht oder gleichwertig](#) (somewhat comparable, comparable or equivalent).

If you get "gleichwertig", this is the clearest result. It means that your diploma is of equal value and the same as the German diploma.

b) your institute of higher education is on the list but your course of study isn't:

Find out more information directly at the institute of higher education you are applying to.

### **2 Sworn translation of your certificate and authenticated copies**

Often, for the evaluation of your diploma, you need to get it translated. There can be an exception to this if all of your certificates are in English (and sometimes if they are in French). There are rules for the translation. The translation must be done by translators that have a permit issued by the court - they must be sworn translators.

You can have a look on this [website](#) for sworn translators in German, English and French.

You can also search on this [website](#) for sworn translators in German, English, French, Italian, and Spanish.

You also need copies and authentication. Authentication means that an official institution/person puts a stamp on your copies to prove they are the same as the original.

More information can be found in a [summary](#) of the Free University of Berlin in German and English or on the Handbook Germany in [Arabic](#), [German](#), [English](#) and [Farsi](#).

### **3 Examination of your certificate through the institute of higher education or uni-assist**

The institute of higher education can determine themselves which documents they need for an application and how the documents need to be evaluated.

Many institutes of higher education use uni-assist to check documents.

On uni-assist, you can find a list of institutes of higher education in [German](#) and [English](#).

You can also find information about evaluation of certificates and applying for masters on uni-assist in [German](#) and [English](#).

Find out more information directly at the institute of higher education you are applying to.

## **2 How to Understand the Technical Requirements for a Master's Degree**

In Germany, you can do a "konsekutive Master" (consecutive master's) or a "nicht-konsekutive Master" (non-consecutive master's). Most master's programs are consecutive. Consecutive means that you do a bachelor's in the subject you want to do your master's.

Basically, during a bachelor's, you learn the basics and then when you do a consecutive master's, you specialize in certain topics. That is why a bachelor's degree can also be called an undergraduate degree and a master's degree can be called a postgraduate degree.

For example:

You can only do a Master of Economics if you have done a Bachelor of Economics. Or you can prove that you have learnt the same thing as the bachelor's by showing the diploma you already have.

#### **Note:**

Non-consecutive master's are often called postgraduate master's. Often, this course of study is for people with professional experience. Sometimes they cost money - even at state-run universities.

Concrete information can be found at the [institution of higher education](#).

## **You Want to Start a (new) Bachelor's?**

The rules and requirements are the same as for your first studies.

You can find more information at [What requirements do you need for your studies?](#)

### **Mehr Informationen**

- [Wo finde ich Beratungsangebote und Projekte zum Thema Studium?](#)

Score: [31.07.2017]

## How Can I Be Prepared for My Studies? What is "Studienvorbereitung"?

"Studienvorbereitung" means that you prepare for your studies alone or by taking a course. Preparing for your studies can mean different things.

Preparing for your studies can mean :

- 1 That you need to meet the requirements for a successful application to get a spot for studying, or
- 2 That you need to meet the requirements for a successful application to study, if you already have a spot for studying.

Most things that you can prepare for your studies can be either voluntary or mandatory - for example, an internship, a German course or a preparatory course.

Whether the preparatory is mandatory or voluntary depends primarily on :

- Whether you have your higher education entrance qualification
- Whether you have the necessary German language skills
- What the federal province, the institute of higher education or the course of study require from their applicants, or
- Whether you got a spot to study.

There are different reasons for and ways to prepare your studies.

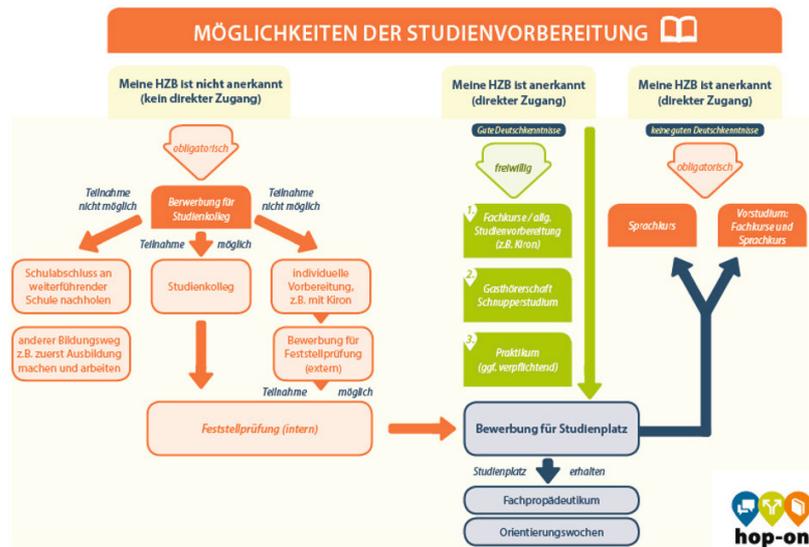


Abbildung: Possibilities for Preparing for Your Studies

## What Can You Do If You Can't Study Straight Away?

It can be that a high school diploma is not sufficient to apply for your studies. This means that you don't have a direct higher education entrance qualification. This can be the case if the educational system, the content or the length of your studies at school in your country of origin are different to Germany.

If this is the case, you have to take an entrance exam first. For this test you have to show that you have the skills that you need to study at an institute of higher education. This is called "Studierfähigkeit" (ability to study). For example, you need good mathematical skills for technical courses of study. In humanities, social sciences or law, you need very good speaking skills and need to be able to understand complex texts.

Usually, you have to do a preparatory course for a year at a preparatory college (Studienkolleg). At a preparatory college, you prepare for the entrance exam.

More about preparatory college can be found in the chapter called [What is preparatory college?](#)

## What Can You Do if You Want to Start Studying Straight Away But You Don't Have Enough Technical and/or Language Skills?

If you have a higher education entrance qualification but your technical and/or language skills aren't sufficient, you can do preliminary studies (Vorstudium) at an institute of higher education. In a [Video project](#) Joseph Yateem, Mohammed Bakr und Muhammed Sabsabi talk about their experience with preliminary studies and how they started studying medicine at the University of Tübingen.

If you don't have an institute of higher education close by, you can study online; for example at Kiron. If you get a spot for your studies later on, you can transfer your credit points (Leistungen) from Kiron to your studies.

It's important that you also find out *how* to study in Germany und *what* is expected of students. This offer helps you to refresh, deepen and add to what you learnt at school.

More about preliminary studies and what institutes of higher education offer can be found in the chapter called [What Are Preliminary Studies or A Preliminary Induction Semester?](#)

More about Kiron can be found in the chapter called [What is Kiron?](#)

## **What Can You Do if You Are Not Sure Whether to Study at a University of Applied Sciences or at a University?**

If you want to get a general overview of what it is like to study in Germany and try out some specialist courses, you can:

- Be a guest student (Gasthörer(in)) or
- Study online with Kiron.

Find out more about being a guest student in the chapter called [What Is A Guest Student Program?](#)

More about Kiron can be found in the chapter called [What is Kiron?](#)

## **How Can You Prepare For Your Studies (bachelor's and master's) Online?**

You can also prepare for your studies online. There are many offers with different subjects and goals. The offers are free.

### **1 Kiron**

An offer that prepares you for a bachelor's is called Kiron. Online preparatory courses are, for example a possibility if you live in a place where there aren't any institutes of higher education or if you have to work and you don't have a lot of time. Kiron is currently only for refugees that want to do a bachelor's.

You can find out more about Kiron in the chapter called [What is Kiron?](#)

### **2 FIT 4 Study**

FIT 4 Study is a free online course with videos. In the 6 week long courses you can learn about the German higher education system and get all the important training. The course is in Arabic and German. In this [Video](#) you can see how FIT 4 Study works.

On the [oncampus](#) website you can find more online preparatory courses for refugees.

The courses are for people that want to do a bachelor's or master's.

### 3 Mathematik-Kurse (Math courses)

In many courses of study, Math is the foundation of your studies.

The Technische Universität Berlin has an online course to prepare for technical studies/0>. The course is in German and English.</p>

On the [Offenen Hochschule Niedersachsen](#) portal you can find different Math courses - general or specifically for IT or engineering. The course is in German.

Also at the HAW Hamburg there is an online course to [prepare for technical studies](#). The course is in German.

The courses are for people that want to do a bachelor's or master's.

## How Can You Better Your Chances for Enrollment into Your Studies if You Already Have a Spot?

You can also do the online courses mentioned above.

At many institutes of higher education, there are special events for new students that will prepare you for studying. Some institutions of higher education have what they call "Orientierungswochen" which are a few weeks of orientation before the semester begins. Some institutes of higher education have courses for certain courses of study that start before the start of a semester. For example, induction courses (Vorkurse) or summer schools.

There are different voluntary offers on-site at institutes of higher education. Courses in English can be found in [the DAAD database](#). Subject-specific courses and language courses/0> can also be found in the DAAD database. Many courses cost money.</p>

## What Can You Do if You Don't Have a Spot?

Around half of the courses of study are open admission. This means that you don't have to meet certain criteria.

The other half are restricted admission (zulassungsbeschränkt). Some institutes of higher education and most courses of study are very popular. That is why institutes of higher education only select a certain amount of applicants for certain courses of study.

In some courses of study there are always more applications than spots for studying. Currently, these courses of study are medicine (doctors, veterinary medicine and dentistry) and pharmacy. That may change every year. More information can be found in the chapter called [What additional requirements and rules are there?](#)

An important criteria for applications for restricted admission courses of study are your school grades. When a lot of people with very good grades apply, it can be less likely to get a spot.

There are other possibilities if you don't get a spot.

## Apply in another city

Institutes of higher education in big cities are very popular. If an institute of higher education is very popular, there are more applicants. That means that it is less likely to get a spot.

Some courses of study are in small cities and are also open admission (except for medicine, law and pharmacy).

## Waiting (Wartesemester)

If you are sure that you want to take a course of study, you can improve your chances of getting a spot by waiting for it. This wait time would be between getting your high school diploma and the beginning of the studies. During this time you could :

- Do a mandatory internship or "Pflichtpraktikum" (if this is part of your studies),
- Do vocational training or "Ausbildung" in a similar field, or
- Volunteer work or "ehrenamtlich arbeiten" (for example a [voluntary social year](#) or a ["freiwilligen sozialen Jahr"](#)).

How long you have to wait usually depends on the course of study. For a spot in medicine, it is currently 14 semesters (7 years). For more information, have a look at this [article on Zeit Online](#) for example. The article is in German.

If you start a course of study, you can't also be waiting for a spot in another course of study.

If you want to study something in a similar subject, you can sometimes transfer your points (Leistungen) to a later study.

### Note:

Universities have different rules for courses of study with restricted admission. Concrete information about application and what options there are can be found at the [institution of higher education](#).

## Look for an Alternative

### Studying

There are more than 10.000 undergraduate studies (bachelor's or state exams) and 9.000 postgraduate studies (master's) at different institutes of higher education.

If you can't start your studies, you can decide whether you want to start a different course of study. This decision is not easy. In the chapter called [How Can I Decide What to Study?](#) you can find a few tips.

### Vocational training

In Germany, there is a difference between:

- Vocational training (Ausbildung) with the aim of getting a professional degree and,

- Academic training (Studium) with the aim of getting a university degree.

If you want to be a doctor, lawyer or an engineer, you need to get a university degree.

If you want to work in the general field of health, law or engineering, you can either get a degree (through studies) or a professional degree (through vocational training).

The German system for vocational training is special. In particular the system put in place for dual training as this type of vocational training doesn't exist in most other countries.

People can still get a degree through vocational training even if they are not studying at a university.

Vocational training is a great option for people who don't study because

- they can't (for example, don't have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification) or
- they don't want to (for example, they would rather learn in a more practical way and work).

With a professional degree you can also find a good job and work as a professional. You can still decide to continue to study later on.

After vocational training, you can decide whether you want to start studying.

## **What Can You Do if You Want To Get Practical Experience?**

If you want practical experience, you can do an internship.

More about internships can be found in the chapter called [What is an internship?](#)

Score: [31.07.2017]

## What Are Preliminary Studies or A Preliminary Induction Semester?

Preliminary studies (Vorstudium) are courses about preparing for studies. The courses are organised by the institutions of higher education.

Sometimes the courses are also called "propädeutisches Vorsemeester", "Propädeutikum" in German. This is called "Prestudy Program" or "Preliminary Induction Semester".

In these courses you will learn, for example, the basics for working and studying science or certain other skills depending on the subject.

Many institutes of higher education have special preliminary studies for refugees that want to study. These programs are a mix of German courses (B1/B2 to C1 level), professional studies and support. It usually lasts one to two semesters. After preliminary studies, you can apply for a regular course of study if you meet the requirements. These offers are almost always for refugees that already have higher education entrance qualification and that are still missing some subject-specific or German skills. Many programs for refugees have "Integra" in the name. Integra stands for "Integration von Geflüchteten ins Fachstudium (integration of refugees in professional studies)". This program is financed by Deutschen Akademischen Austauschdienst (German Academic Exchange Service). [In the DAAD database](#) you can see what cities and what institutions of higher education offer Integra. The database is in German.

Many institutions of higher education haven't included a link to more information in the database. The information can be found on the websites of these institutions of higher education.

### Tip:

Sometimes, preliminary studies means the same thing as "Studienkolleg" (preparatory college). With that, you can get higher education entrance qualification. More about preparatory college can be found in the chapter called [What is preparatory college?](#)

It is important that you get more information from the student advice center at the institute of higher education. You should try and find out more about what qualifications you need and what possibilities for studying there are when you are taking part in a program like that.

## Do I Need A Spot For My Studies If I Am Doing Preliminary Studies?

No. If you want to get a spot for your studies, you still have to apply. It is important that you get more information from the student advice center at the institute of higher education. You should try and find out more about what qualifications you

need and what possibilities for studying there are when you are doing preliminary studies.

Many institutes of higher education also have certain counselling services for refugees such as the "Welcome" offers. You should also find out how to apply for this.

In some institutions of higher education, parts of preliminary studies are also parts of regular studies. This means that you can collect credits or points for regular studies.

**For example:**

*Sarah comes from Syria and would like to do a bachelor's in Social Work.*

*She has a direct higher education entrance qualification and a temporary permission to stay. She is still missing some German skills and an internship in the right area of work.*

*She applies for preliminary studies at a university of applied sciences. In her preliminary studies, she does a C1 German course and an internship.*

*At the end of her preliminary studies, she meets all the entry requirements. Straight away, at the institute of higher education, she has a student mentor and a student from the institute of higher education that give her advice and help her with her application for a spot for her studies. The 10 credits she got are taken into account for her bachelor's.*

More about internships can be found in the chapter called [What is an internship?](#)

You can find out more about German courses in the chapter called [What language skills do I need for studying?](#)

## Can I Receive Financial Aid For My Preliminary Studies?

No. If you do preliminary studies, you aren't officially signed up as a student. That is why you wouldn't be able to receive the BAföG.

Sometimes, institutes of higher education can pay for your travel costs for preliminary studies.

Student-BAföG can only be received if the courses are recognised by [AföGVorkHSV](#).

More information can be found at the institute of higher education.

*You receive money from the Jobcenter?*

The start of preliminary studies, for which you can receive Student-BAföG also means you won't be able to receive Arbeitslosengeld II (unemployment benefits). The same applied if you can't receive Student-BAföG. The rules are available in [§ 27 SGBXII](#).

Whether or not you can receive money from the Jobcenter depends on each individual case.

The rules for the Student-BAföG und Arbeitslosengeld II are very complicated. Find out more before your preliminary studies. You can have a look at [social advice centers](#) for example.

## **I Have A Temporary Permission to Stay or an Exceptional Leave to Remain. Can I Do Preliminary Studies?**

Yes, you can also do preliminary studies with a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain.

You can find more information in German here: [Handreichung Studium und Hochschulzugang von Flüchtlingen](#).

*Note:*

Ask what financial help can be obtained for preliminary studies. If you can theoretically get a Student-BAföG, you should clarify the following questions:

With an exceptional leave to remain, you can't receive any financial help from the Student-BAföG if you have lived in Germany for 15 months.

With a residence permit, you can't get any help from the Student-BAföG. An exception to this is if, for example, you or one of your parents have lived and worked in Germany for 5 years. The rules are available in [§8 BAföG](#).

If you have lived in Germany for 15 months, the beginning of your preliminary studies can influence the financial aid you currently get and whether you can get a Student-BAföG ([BAföG-Fälle - Seite 47](#)). The rules are available in [§ 22 SGBXII](#). Find out more before you start your preliminary studies at a [social or legal advice center](#).

## **What Can I Do If There Aren't Any Institutes of Higher Education or Preliminary Studies in My City?**

You can prepare for a bachelor's online, for example with Kiron.

Kiron is a possibility for refugees:

- That live in a city without institutes of higher education and can't move,
- That don't have an institute of higher education in their surroundings where preliminary studies are a possibility and can't move
- That don't have any time to do preliminary studies full-time, or
- That didn't receive a spot in preliminary studies.

You can find out more about Kiron in the chapter called [What is Kiron?](#)

You can learn German in other courses. You can find out more information in the chapter called [What language skills do I need for studying?](#) or in Hop-on Vocational Training in the chapter called [Where can I learn German?](#)

## **I Receive Money From The Jobcenter and Should Take Part in An Integration Course. What Can I Do?**

In your preliminary studies, you will also learn German. The difference is that in an integration course, you will also complete the orientation course. The orientation course can be important if you want to apply for a settlement permit in the future.

If you are already taking part in preliminary studies at an institute of higher education or a preparatory college then you can usually complete the preliminary studies.

If you haven't started preliminary studies or preparatory college then you need a permit from the Jobcenter.

Speak to your Jobcenter

Score: [31.07.2017]

## What Is Preparatory College?

Preparatory College (Studienkolleg) is a special institute for people that:

- You didn't do your high school diploma in Germany, and
- You can study in your country of origin directly (you have a higher education entrance qualification), but
- You can't study in Germany directly because your high school diploma isn't a higher education entrance qualification for a German institute of higher education.

## How Do I Know Whether I Should Go to Preparatory College?

Every international high school diploma is examined if you want to study.

There are 3 possible outcomes for the examination:

- Direkte Hochschulzugangsberechtigung (direct higher education entrance qualification) - you can study straight away if you meet the other requirements.
- indirekte Hochschulzugangsberechtigung (indirect higher education entrance qualification) - you have to go to preparatory college and pass an exam (Feststellungsprüfung), or
- keine Hochschulzugangsberechtigung (no higher education entrance qualification) – you can get your high school diploma again or decide to follow another path.

More information about high school diplomas, higher education entrance qualification and exams for certification in [What Requirements Are There For Studying?](#)

In a preparatory college, you can prepare for your studies at a German institute of higher education. In preparatory college, you learn technical and linguistic content. The technical content depends on the subject that you want to study.

*For example:*

*Mr. A would like to study Economics. His high school diploma is from Iran isn't recognized as a direct higher education entrance qualification. He has to go to a preparatory college. He is looking for a preparatory college with the subject focus course W. This course is for every person that would like to study Economics and Social Science. In preparatory college he has to study different subjects, for example:*

- *German*
- *Mathematics and Computer Science*
- *Political Economics*
- *Business Administration*
- *History/ Geography/ Social Studies*
- *English*

**Note:**

If you want to study Medicine, you have to take other subjects.

At the end of preparatory college, you have to take an exam. This exam is called Feststellungsprüfung and has more parts. You will be tested in different subjects that you took in preparatory college? You have to do a written exam in 3 subjects, for example German. In the other subjects, you have to take a speaking exam.

If you pass the Feststellungsprüfung, you can apply in all of Germany for a spot for studying. More information about preparatory college can be found on the [Studienkollegs website](#). The website is in German and English.

More information about Feststellungsprüfung can be found on the [Kultusministerkonferenz \(KMK\) website](#). The website is in German.

## **What Differences Are There Between Preparatory Colleges? What Should I Look Out For?**

There are 2 differences that are important when choosing your preparatory college:

1. Preparing for your studies at a university (Universität) or at a university of applied sciences (Fachhochschule)
2. Preparing for certain subjects

### **1 Preparing for your studies at a university (Universität) or at a university of applied sciences (Fachhochschule)**

There are 2 types of preparatory colleges:

- Universitätskollegs (College for universities)
- Fachhochschulkollegs (College for universities of applied sciences)

If you went to a Universitätskolleg and you passed the exam, you can go study at a university or at a university of applied sciences after the Studienkolleg.

If you went to a Fachhochschulkolleg and you passed the exam, you can study at a university of applied sciences.

**Note:**

In the states of Nordrhein-Westfalen, Bremen und Brandenburg, there aren't any state Studienkollegs. In Nordrhein-Westfalen, there are state-recognized private Studienkollegs.

In Bremen and Brandenburg there are other exams. These are called "interne Hochschulprüfungsverfahren". This means that every institution of higher education has its own admissions exam. These exams are only valid for a specific institution of higher education. At the institute of higher education, you can find out more information on whether you can also study at another institute of higher education.

### **2 Preparing for certain subjects**

Preparatory colleges are usually specialized in certain areas of study such as economics or humanities. There are 5 different types of courses at preparatory colleges. You can find out more information about the preparatory colleges at the institute of higher education where you want to learn or at the preparatory college itself. A list with the contact details of the preparatory colleges can be found on the [Studienkolleg website](#).

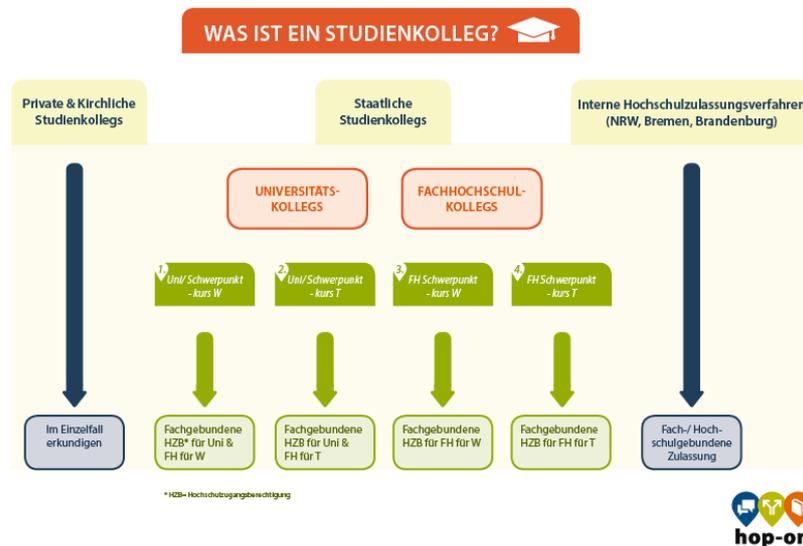


Abbildung: Differences between preparatory colleges

## How Long Is Preparatory College?

Usually, preparatory college takes 1 year to complete. The lessons are around 28 to 32 hours per week.

## ***I Have A Temporary Permission to Stay or an Exceptional Leave to Remain. Can I Go To Preparatory College?***

Yes, with a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain, you can take part in a preparatory college. You have to meet the formal requirements and you have to apply.

## **How Do I Apply for A Spot at A Preparatory College?**

The most important thing to know is what you want to study at the preparatory college. If you want to go to a preparatory college, you usually have to apply for a spot through [uni-assist.de](#) before hand.

The requirements for preparatory college are:

- German skills of at least B1 level
- Indirect Higher Education Entrance Qualification

In addition, you have to take an exam in German and sometimes in Maths before you start. On the [deutschlernen-blog](#) website, you can find links to exercises for the exam. On the [studienkollegs.de](#) website, you can find the individual steps are explained in [German](#) and [English](#).

**Note:**

The information is for international students. If you live in Germany, you don't need a visa.

## **How Much Does Preparatory College Cost? Can I Get Financial Aid for Preparatory College?**

Most preparatory colleges are state-led and don't cost any money for students. The state preparatory colleges are often also institutes of higher education. There are also private preparatory colleges that cost money. It is important for you to inform yourself.

But: at every institute of higher education, you have to pay a Semesterbeitrag (semester fee) every semester just like in regular study. Some universities can make an exception if you submit a request.

You can submit an application for financial assistance at a preparatory college. This financial support is called Schüler-BAföG (student BAföG). BAföG is the acronym for the law that regulates financial support, the [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz](#) (Federal Vocational Education Assistance Act). The law applies to students at an institute of higher education and in a school-based vocational training. There are rules about the requirements for the BAföG, for example your age. You only have to pay back half of the BAföG for your studies. In most cases, you don't have to pay back the Schüler-BAföG. It depends on the school type. In the region for vocational training, the BAföG-Office is responsible for the Schüler-BAföG. On this [website](#) you can look up the BAföG-Office in your region. The website is in German.

You can also apply for funding from the so-called Garantiefonds Hochschule. For funding, you have to meet [certain requirements](#). Whether you get advice doesn't depend on your residence permit. More information can be found in the chapter called [Where can I find counselling services and projects about studying?](#) or on the [Bildungsberatung Garantiefonds Hochschule](#) website in Arabic, English, Farsi and Russian.

### ***You receive money from the Jobcenter?***

If you can't receive the Student-BAföG, you can only very rarely receive more money from the Jobcenter. The rules are in the Social Security Statutes (Sozialgesetzbuch) under ([§ 27 SGB II](#)). Speak to your Jobcenter

The rules for the Student-BAföG und Arbeitslosengeld II are very complicated. Find out more before you start your vocational training, for example at a social advice center. You can find more information in German on [studis-online](#).

### ***You have a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain?***

Your residence status influences whether you can get Student-BAföG or BaföG. You can find the rules in the The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act ([§8 BaföG](#)).

With an exceptional leave to remain, you can't receive any financial help from the BaföG if you have lived in Germany for 15 months. You can find for information at the [BAföG-Office](#) or at an advice center.

With a temporary permission to stay, you can't receive a BaföG. An exception can be made if you have lived in Germany for 5 years and worked or one of your parents has worked, for example.

**Note:**

If you lived in Germany for 15 months and you have a temporary permission to stay, going to a preparatory college can have an influence on the financial support you are receiving currently. The rules are available in [§ 22 SGBXII](#). Find out more before you start your studies at a [social or legal advice center](#).

## What Can I Do if I Can't Go to Preparatory College?

Not being able to go to preparatory college can be because:

- You didn't get a spot,
- You don't have a preparatory college nearby,
- You don't have higher education entrance qualification (neither direct nor indirect),
- Your German isn't good enough yet,
- You can't get any financial support.

There are various possible solutions to this:

1. Finish a German course
2. Prepare for the entrance exam yourself,
3. Take part in the Kiron offer,
4. Get the high school diploma you need, or
5. Think about whether you want to do vocational training.

### **(1) Finish a German Course**

More information can be found in the chapter called [Where Can I Learn German?](#)

### **(2) Prepare for the Entrance Exam Yourself**

You can also take the entrance exam (Feststellungsprüfung) externally. This means that you take the exam without going to the preparatory college. This is called "Externenprüfung" (external examination). In order to pass the external exam, it is important that you get advice from the preparatory college and that you prepare yourself for the exam in a very intensive way. To qualify to take the "Externenprüfung", you have to have applied to a preparatory college and you have to meet the same requirements as the participants at the preparatory college. You can only take the entrance exam twice. Therefore, it is very important that you prepare properly for the exam. A list with the contact details of the preparatory colleges can be found on [Studienkollegs.de](#) in German and English.

### **(3) Take Part in the Kiron Offer**

You can use the time there is until the next semester to continue to learn independently, for example online with Kiron.

#### **For example:**

*Mrs. M comes from Afghanistan and wants to study Computer Science in Germany. Her high school diploma isn't recognized as a direct higher education entrance qualification. This means that she has to go to a preparatory college before she can study at an institute of higher education. There aren't any preparatory colleges near to the city she lives in. She can't move because of reasons related to her family. Another reason is that she is taking an Integrationskurs there. She went to the preparatory college to ask them about doing a bachelor's in computer science at a university of applied sciences. She wanted to know whether she can apply for an external exam and what she can do next. After getting advice from the preparatory college, she will choose suitable online courses at Kiron that would help her prepare for the exam or help her apply for a spot next year at a preparatory college. In order to motivate herself and others, she joined a Lerngruppe (study group).*

You can find out more about Kiron in the chapter called [What is Kiron?](#)

### **(4) Get the High School Diploma You Need**

You can get the high school diploma (Schulabschluss) you need. This means that you will do a Abitur (high school diploma) or a Fachabitur (subject-specific high school diploma). You can find more information in the chapter called [What high school diploma do I need so I can start my studies?](#)

### **(5) Think About Whether You Want to Do Vocational Training**

Vocational training can be an alternative to studying. It depends on what profession you want to do. For certain occupations, like medicine, you have to study at a university. For other occupations, there is also the possibility of doing vocational training in the area that you want to work in. You can also study after you do vocational training. For information about vocational training and getting a professional degree, have a look at [Hop-on Compass Vocational Training](#). More information about the difference between vocational training and studying can be found in the chapter called [What is the difference between vocational training and studying?](#)

If you're not sure what you should do or what options are available to you personally, you should ask for advice. Advice centers can be found in the chapter called [Where can I find counselling services and projects?](#)

Score: [31.07.2017]

## What Is A Guest Student Program?

A guest student program (Gasthörerschaft) means that you can visit certain courses (Lehrveranstaltungen) at an institute of higher education.

You would not be an official student but rather a guest that can listen to the courses.

A guest student program is a possibility for people that are deciding what they want to study, want to know how courses (Unterricht, lessons) work at institutes of higher education or are interested in studying a subject in a scientific way.

As a guest student, you can't take any exams and you won't receive any points (credits). In most institutes of higher education, you can get credits for the courses you took part in as a guest student if you study it afterwards.

This means that you can't get a degree as a guest student. You also can't get a spot for studying because you are a guest student. You will get a confirmation that you have participated.

Anyone can register as a guest student at an institutes of higher education. It doesn't matter what language level you have nor what high school diploma. A guest student program sometimes costs money. You can ask at the institute of higher education whether there are exceptions for people who have little money, for example because they receive Arbeitslosengeld II (unemployment benefit from Jobcenter) or Social assistance (Sozialhilfe).

You can find out information about guest student programs on the website of the institute of higher education. On [study-in.de](http://study-in.de) you can find a databank with all of the institutes of higher education and courses of study in Germany. The website is in German and English.

## I Have A Temporary Permission to Stay or an Exceptional Leave to Remain. Can I Register As A Guest Student?

Yes, you can register as a guest student with a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain. A guest student program is not an official course of study and you can't get a degree.

## Can I Get Financial Aid for A Guest Student Program?

A guest student program isn't an official course of study. This means that you won't receive any financial help for a guest student program.

### ***You receive money from the Jobcenter?***

A guest student program usually means that you visit a course. You can do that after a German course or after work. You can continue to receive Arbeitslosengeld II if you have enough time to take a course or look for a job. Speak to your Jobcenter

***You have a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain?***

You receive the same financial help as you did before your guest student program.

**Are There Other Possibilities Besides Guest Student Programs?**

On the website called [onweekexperience](#) you can find a student. You can get to know a course of study, see what an institute of higher education and a student's life is like for a week.

In this [Video](#) you can find out information on how to do a week like that.

You have to [register](#) on the website. The website is in German.

The offer is also available for [vocational training](#).

Score: [31.07.2017]

## What Is An Internship?

During an internship (Praktikum) you can get to know a company and one or more professions better. For some courses of study, you have to do an internship before you can apply. These internships are called mandatory internships (Pflichtpraktikum).

Looking for an internship works in the same way as looking for a job:

1. You need to know what professions interest you.
2. You need to find a company that works in the area of that profession. Most companies want a written application.

There are different ways to look for a company and an internship. More information can be found on Hop-on Vocational Training in the chapter called [How can I find a job?](#)

## I Have A Temporary Permission to Stay or an Exceptional Leave to Remain. Can I Do An Internship?

If you found a company, you usually need a permit from the Immigration Office that proves that you are allowed to do an internship. It is called a "Beschäftigungserlaubnis" (employment permit) or an "Arbeitserlaubnis" (work permit). You are doing an internship at a company. This is why you also need an employment permit for an internship.

There are many rules and exceptions to the rules. For example it depends on:

- What type of internship you want to do and
- What is in your papers.

There are different types of internships, for example:

1. Mandatory internship (Pflichtpraktikum)
2. Internships to prepare for a job
3. Internships to prepare for vocational training
4. Internships to provide orientation
5. Internship during vocational training or your studies
6. Introductory training
7. Volunteering

The process and the exceptions to the rules are sometimes different in other federal states. That is why it is important that you find out more information.

In your papers (temporary permission to stay or exceptional leave to remain), it usually says "Beschäftigung nur mit Erlaubnis der Ausländerbehörde" (Employment only with the permission of the Immigration Office).

Usually, you can only get an employment permit if you have lived in Germany for at least 3 months.

If it says "employment/work are prohibited" in your papers, get more information from an advice center.

If the country you migrated from is "[safe](#)"), there are additional legal rules to follow. Contact an advice center to know more.

## **More information**

- [Where can I find counselling services and projects about studying?](#)
- [Where can I find a migration or legal advice center?](#)

Score: [31.07.2017]

## What Is Kiron?

Kiron Open Higher Education is a social company. Kiron wants to provide academic education to refugees, no matter where they are. Kiron has different offers.

The offers are especially designed for people that:

- Are missing the necessary language skills for a regular course of study
- Are missing necessary documents.
- Can't get financial aid (BAföG) for a regular course of study (temporary permission to stay)
- You don't have preparatory colleges or institutes of higher education nearby and can't move, or
- Want to know if studying in Germany is suitable for them.

Refugees can prepare for a bachelor's in Germany at Kiron.

Kiron is:

- free,
- online and
- in English.

There are 5 study tracks at Kiron currently.

Kiron also provides online support services, for example:

- Language courses,
- Forums and Tutorials (exercises)
- Mentoring,
- Counseling and
- Student Advisory Service.

If you later apply for a bachelor's degree at a German university and get a spot, you can also get your Kiron credits recognized.

### **For example:**

*Frau A. kommt aus Syrien und hat dort schon drei Semester (1,5 Jahre) Betriebswirtschaft studiert. Eigentlich möchte sie in Deutschland sofort weiterstudieren und einen Bachelor-Abschluss machen.*

*She had a look on [anabin.de](http://anabin.de) and found that her high school diploma is recognized in Germany as an Abitur (direct higher education entrance qualification). To get a spot for her studies, she should have a good level of German.*

*She attended an intense language course and has a job. That is very tiring and that's why she doesn't have a lot of time. She started a marketing course at Kiron that is 5 hours a week. She can choose when and where she learns herself. Therefore, in theory, she could study at Kiron until she can apply and improve her English because all the courses are in English at Kiron.*

*Sahid comes from Syria and studied Medicine there for a semester.*

*On hochschulkompass.de, he looked up where he can study medicine in Germany. Thanks to the student advice center at a university, he discovered that he has a direct higher education entrance qualification to study medicine. He also realized that it is actually quite difficult to get a spot to study medicine in Germany. He was also told that he had to start his first semester again. Also, he needs a very good level of German.*

*Sahid thought about what to do. He really enjoyed Maths and Physics at school. He decided that he would rather do a bachelor's in mechanical engineering in Germany.*

*There aren't any institutions of higher education where he lives. Sahid starts with the online studies at Kiron during which he learns German and learns the basics for mechanical engineering. He also has a Kiron-Buddy. This is a German student that meets with him once a week through online videochat. This helps Sahid to settle in Germany and learn German. This motivates him to keep going.*

*After 15 months, his German is very good. With support from Kiron, he applies at a partner university for a bachelor's in mechanical engineering. A lot of the content from his online studies (Kiron-credits) were transferred to his bachelor's as points (ECTS-Credits).*

**Note:**

The courses at Kiron have similar content to courses at a university. This means that the courses are at the same academic level as a bachelor's.

Kiron is not an official institute of higher education. This means:

- You don't receive ECTS-Credits or a degree from Kiron.
- You don't receive higher education entrance qualification through Kiron.
- You won't automatically receive a spot for your studies when you take part in Kiron.
- You won't receive a residence permit or a visa when you take part in Kiron.
- You won't receive financial aid from Kiron.
- You won't receive the BAföG because you take part in Kiron.

On the [Kiron website](#) you can have a look at all the important information. Man kann auf der [Webseite](#) auch testen, ob Kiron das Richtige für einen ist. The website is in English.

## What Requirements Do I Have to Meet to Take Part In Kiron?

1. Man kann auf der [Webseite](#) testen, ob Kiron das richtige Angebot für einen ist.
2. You have to apply and prove that you are a refugee.
3. You need regular access to fast internet and a computer (Laptop/desktop or tablet). Everything at Kiron is digital and online. You can also study using

your smartphone but that is difficult. The screen is small and there isn't the right keyboard.

4. You also need a calm and quiet place to learn and you have to organise your studies yourself.
5. You need a good level of English because most of the online courses are in English.

**Note:**

Kiron isn't an official institute of higher education. If you want to get a degree later on, you need to apply to an institute of higher education to get a spot for your studies. To apply you need to meet the requirement for the institute of higher education.

## How Do the Online Studies Work at Kiron?

The courses at Kiron have similar content to courses at a university. This means that the courses are at the same academic level as a bachelor's.

Kiron has an online platform. On this platform you have access to a lot of online courses. These courses are called MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses).

You can decide for yourself when you want to start a course and when you want to finish it. Most online courses are in English. This means that you need a good level of English. Most online courses are self-paced. This means that you need to decide for yourself when you take a course and how many courses you can do (at the same time).

[Hier](#) kann man erfahren, ob wie das Online-Studium bei Kiron funktioniert.

## Can I Get Financial Help From or For Kiron?

You can't receive money from Kiron.

Kiron isn't an official institute of higher education. That's why you're not signed up as an official student at Kiron. This means that, according to the law, you aren't a student. You can't receive financial help (BAföG) for taking part in Kiron.

***You receive money from the Jobcenter?***

Kiron is an online offer, that you can do after a German course or after work. You can continue to receive Arbeitslosengeld II if you have enough time to take a course or look for a job. Speak to your Jobcenter

***You have a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain?***

You receive the same financial help as you did before you start taking part in Kiron.

## **What Can You Do if You Are Interested in Other Courses of Study?**

There are 5 study tracks at Kiron currently.

A lot of institutes of higher education have offers that are only to help refugees prepare for their studies.

These offers are usually not as concrete as the offers from Kiron.

For more information have a look at [How Can I Be Prepared For My Studies?](#)

Score: [31.07.2017]

## What is an institute of higher education?

The institutions of academic education are called "Hochschulen" (institute of higher education) in German.

There are different types of institutes of higher education:

- Universities (including Technical Universities)
- University of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschule/Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften)
- Art academy (including music academies)
- Distance Learning University (Fernuniversität)

The institutes of higher education are differentiated by:

- Main topics of the studies,
- Organisation of the studies,
- Study offers and
- Requirements for registration.

There are state and private institutes of higher education.

At state institutes of high school education usually doesn't cost any money (exception: Semestergebühren, semester fees). It depends on the course of study. In-service master's often cost money. In private institutes of higher education studies will often cost money.

A diploma from a state institute of higher education has the same value as a diploma from a private institute of higher education. We will concentrate on state institutes of higher education.

### Mehr Informationen

- [What is a university?](#)
- [What is a university of applied sciences?](#)
- [What is an art academy?](#)
- [What is a distance learning university?](#)

Score: [15.07.2017]

## What is a university?

Universities (Universität) usually offer many different types of courses of study.

The focus of universities is often science (Wissenschaft). Science means that you learn a lot of the theory and research methods.

At a university, you can study languages, law, history, economics or philosophy. Some courses of study can only be studied at certain universities like for example medicine or teaching.

A special type of university are technical universities. At a technical university, you can mainly (but not only) study natural sciences or engineering.

Universities are especially good at preparing you for a scientific career because you can do a thesis for example.

## What Are the Biggest Differences with Other Institutes of Higher Education?

- You need general higher education entrance qualification (allgemeine Hochschulreife, Abitur) or subject-specific higher education entrance qualification (Fachabitur).
- There is a big focus on research.
- You have more choices for a honors bachelor's degree (for example Economy and English Literature).
- You can get a PhD.

You can find a good summary of the differences between university and university applied sciences in an article on [zeit.de](#).

## More information

- [What is a university of applied sciences?](#)
- [What is an art academy?](#)
- [What is a distance learning university?](#)

Score: [15.07.2017]

## What is a university of applied sciences?

Most universities of applied sciences in Germany are called "Hochschulen für Angewandte Wissenschaften", some are called "Fachhochschulen"

Above all, universities of applied sciences offer practical courses.

"Practical courses" means:

- The focus is on the skills needed for a practical job rather than a research job,
- For your studies, practical experience (like a "Pflichtpraktikum", mandatory internship) is sometimes necessary.

### **An example from Business and Economics:**

Universities

The course of study [Betriebswirtschaftslehr \(Business Administration\)](#) at Humbolt University in Berlin focuses "on learning and applying sophisticated quantitative economic methods".

University of applied sciences

The course of study called [Business Administration](#) at the Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Recht Berlin (Fachhochschule) and the goal is to "understand business concepts and instruments and to describe and to analyze current problems in the context of the international economy and to develop solutions with scientific means".

Typical courses at universities of applied sciences are engineering (Technik), social work (Soziale Arbeit), economics (Wirtschaftswissenschaften) or design (Kommunikationsdesign). However, there are also other courses of study like health science (Gesundheitswissenschaft).

Most universities of applied sciences are smaller than universities and offer less types of study. Usually, there are also less students. This also means that the groups in seminars are often smaller than at universities.

The professors at universities of applied sciences are often people that have worked in the profession. This means that they have worked in the profession or still work as well as teach at the university of applied sciences.

The diploma from a university of higher education is the same as the one you get from university. This means that you can continue on to do a master's at another institute of higher education.

But you can't do a PhD at a university of applied sciences.

You can find a good summary of the differences between university and university applied sciences in an article on [zeit.de](#).

**Note:**

In some Federal states, there are also vocational academies. Currently, there are vocational universities in Berlin, Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Lower Saxony, Saarland, Schleswig-Holstein. A vocational academy is not always an institute of higher education. Since 2004, a bachelor's degree from a vocational academy has the same status as a bachelor's degree from an institute of higher education. In terms of diplomas, the difference between these two degrees is if you want to do a PhD later on.

## **What Are the Biggest Differences with Other Institutes of Higher Education?**

- You can start studying with an applied sciences higher education qualification.
- You focus more on the practical side of the course than at university.
- You can't do a PhD at a university of applied sciences.
- There are more courses of study that you can do as dual studies.
- The groups in the seminars will often be smaller than at university.
- There are certain courses of study that you can't study (only at university).

## **More information**

- [What is a university?](#)
- [What is an art academy?](#)
- [What is a distance learning university?](#)
- [What are dual studies?](#)

Score: [15.07.2017]

## What is an art academy?

Art academies (Kunsthochschulen) are universities for various arts. There are art academies for acting, singing, film, dancing or music.

You have to meet specific requirements to study at an art academy. Above all, talent is most important. That means that if you want to study music, you have to be able to play instruments and take an entrance exam.

The diploma is the same as the one you get from university. This means that you can continue on to do a master's at another institute of higher education.

There are more than 1000 art academies. On the "Hochschulkompass" website you can find all of the courses of study for an art academy and conservatories (Musikhochschulen, institutes of higher education specifically for music) in [German](#) and [English](#).

There are state, private and religious art academies. Sometimes, private institutes of higher education cost money. We set the filter to state (öffentlich-rechtlich, public) owned. Under "Suche anpassen" (customize search), you can change the filter.

## What Are the Biggest Differences with Other Institutes of Higher Education?

- Art academies sometimes have their own rules when it comes to requirements.
- You are usually expected to have a lot of talent and the art academy usually asks you to take an exam before your studies.
- The focus of most of the courses of study is usually on perfecting the art (for example dancing or singing).
- You can't get a PhD at all art academies.

## More information

- [What is a university?](#)
- [What is a university of applied sciences?](#)
- [What is a distance learning university?](#)

Score: [15.07.2017]

## What is a distance learning university?

There are differences between distance learning schools and distance learning universities. At a distance learning school, you can take courses, like an English course. You won't receive a diploma but rather a certificate.

At a distance learning university, you can do distance learning studies and get a diploma. The diploma is the same as one from a university.

There is currently only one state distance learning university that only offer distance learning studies: [FernUniversität in Hagen](#). The studies you can do at FernUniversität Hagen cost money. It currently costs 20 euros per hour per week in a semester (Semesterwochenstunde, SWS). A seminar usually has 2 SWS' and is a semester long.

Some universities and universities of applied sciences offer a few of their courses as distance learning courses. For more information have a look at the chapter called [Was ist ein Fernstudium/Online-Studium?](#)

## What Are the Biggest Differences with Other Institutes of Higher Education?

- There is only one distance learning university organised by the state.
- There are not a lot of choices of courses of study.
- You study online mostly.
- You can't do a PhD at FernUniversität Hagen.

### More information

- [What is a university?](#)
- [What is a university of applied sciences?](#)
- [What is an art academy?](#)

Score: [15.07.2017]

## What ways are there to getting an academic degree in Germany?

For Hop-on, academic degree (Akademischer Abschluss) means that you complete your studies at an institute of higher education and pass an exam. Other terms for academic degree are university degree (Hochschulabschluss), diploma or degree (Studienabschluss).

Generally, you differentiate between studies at an institute of higher education by:

- Undergraduate studies (grundständiges Studium) and,
- Postgraduate studies (weiterführendes Studium).

You can start your post-graduate studies if you already have a degree. The degree you get from post-graduate studies is for example, a master's.

An undergraduate degrees are your first studies if you don't have an academic degree yet. Most of the time, an undergraduate degree is a bachelor's. For certain studies, you get an academic degree through a state exam.

At Hop-on, we concentrate on adults that don't have a university degree yet. This means that the information is interesting if you want to start your undergraduate studies (bachelor's). However, you will find a little bit of information about post-graduate studies (master's). Hop-on has no information about PhD's. Mehr Informationen zur Promotion findet man auf [Deutsch](#) und [Englisch](#) auf der Webseite Research in Germany.

There are different ways to get a university degree. For every way, there are special rules.



Abbildung: Wege zum akademischen Abschluss, Infoillustration von [Riesenspatz](#) für Hop-on, ist lizenziert unter einer [Creative Commons Lizenz CC-BY 4.0](#)

In the following chapters, there are answers for the most important questions:

- [What are full time studies?](#)

- [What Are Part Time Studies?](#)
- [What are dual studies?](#)
- [What is a distance learning/studying online?](#)
- [I have a degree. Is my degree also seen as a degree in Germany? What is recognition?](#)

We can also find answers to your questions. [Contact us.](#)

## **Mehr Informationen**

- [What is a university?](#)
- [What is a university of applied sciences?](#)
- [What is an art academy?](#)
- [What is a distance learning university?](#)

Score: [01.09.2017]

## What are full time studies?

Full time (Vollzeit) means that you focus above all else on your studies. Full time doesn't mean that you will be at the institute of higher education or in a seminar every day for 8 hours.

For all seminars and lectures, the institute of higher education outlines the amount, the length (Semesterwochenstunden, hours per week in a semester) and type of classes (seminars, lectures). The documents where you can find all this information are called Studienordnung (conditions of study) und Prüfungsordnung (examination rules). Every course of study has a Studienordnung and a Prüfungsordnung. You can find an example of a Studienordnung for medicine on the [Universität Rostock](#) website.

In the description of the courses, the institute of higher education will tell you how much additional time you will need to complete it. For example, to look over the content and to finish additional tasks. It also means that you might have to do additional tasks after attending the seminars - for example, seminar work, writing papers or preparing presentations. You can see the entire length through the points that you will receive from an event. The points are called "Leistungspunkte" or Credits/ECTS. In this video, you will find an explanation of the Leistungspunkten in [Arabic](#) and [German](#).

In Germany, studies are usually organized in full time. The point is to finish the studies in the same length of time as the full time studies. The "Regelstudienzeit", standard study length, is the usual amount of time it takes to finish your studies. For a bachelor's in full-time, the standard study period is usually 3 years (6 semesters) and for a master's it's usually 2 years (4 semesters).

There are sometimes special offers given by institutes of higher education where students receive more time. This means that, for example, at the beginning of the studies, you have four semesters (2 years) to receive your Leistungspunkte instead of the usual two semesters (1 year). This also means that your studies will be longer.

Usually, no one systematically checks which and how many courses students go to. Students are responsible for their own schedule and studies.

There are other types of studies that are organized in part time or that you can attend on a part time basis. For more information have a look at [What Are Part Time Studies?](#)

### Tip:

The institutes of higher education also have rules about the maximum length of time your studies can last. The rules are decided upon by the institutes of higher education. If studies take too long, it could be problematic later on when you are getting your diploma.

Financial aid like the BAföG is usually given for full time studies (standard study length). This means that if you need more time because you attended too few courses, you can encounter problems with your financial aid. For the BAföG you need arguments that explain why you need more time for your studies than the regular amount. The rules are available in [§15 BAföG](#).

More information about the BAföG can be found on *Can I Get Financial Aid for Full Time Studies?*

## Where Can I Do Full Time Studies?

You can do full time studies in any institute of higher education. There are state and private institutes of higher education. The diplomas (bachelor's and master's) are the same.

Bachelor's at a state institute of higher education are free (exception: semester fees, Semestergebühren). Private institutes of higher education always cost money.

We will focus on the state institutes of higher education.

There are more than 8000 courses of study in Germany for bachelor's studies. In the "Hochschulkompass" database, you can find a list of all of the courses of study in [Germany](#) and [English](#). The filter is on grundständig (standard, bachelor's), full time and state institute of higher education (public, öffentlich-rechtlich).

Most courses are taught in German. There are only 138 courses of study that are taught in [English](#).

More than 7000 courses of study are for master's studies. In the "Hochschulkompass" database, you can find a list of all of the courses of study in [German](#) and [English](#). The filter is on grundständig (standard, master's), full time and state institute of higher education (public, öffentlich-rechtlich).

Most courses are taught in German. There are currently 892 master's courses of study in [Englisch](#).

### Tip:

The institutes of higher education are always developing new courses of study. This means that the amount and the teaching language can change.

Some master's courses also cost money in state institutes of higher education. The costs are defined by the institutes of higher education. You should always check if your studies cost money before you start them.

## What Requirements Are There For Full Time Studying?

The general requirements for your studies are the same: higher education entrance qualification and language skills.

## What can I do if I did not meet the requirements to study full time (yet)?

There are different possibilities. It depends what requirements you don't meet.

You can find more information about this in the chapters called:

[What High School Diploma Do I Need For Studying?](#)

[What Language Skills Do You Need for Studying?](#)

For refugees, there is a special online offer by Kiron. [Kiron](#) currently offers preparatory courses for a bachelor's. You can find out more about Kiron in the chapter called [What is Kiron?](#).

## I Have A Temporary Permission to Stay or an Exceptional Leave to Remain. Can I Take Full Time Studies?

Yes. you can start studying full time if you have met all of the requirements of an institute of higher education.

But: your residency status has an influence on the possibilities for receiving financial support like the BAföG.

More information about financial aid can be found on [Can I Get Financial Aid for Full Time Studies?](#)

## I Have a Temporary Permission to Stay or an Exceptional Leave to Remain. Can I Get a Residence Permit for My Full Time Studies?

You can only get a residence permit for your studies if you apply for it from abroad. Other rules apply for international students that have a visa to study in Germany.

The Integration Act of 2016 has introduced new rules. The rules are in the Residence Act (Aufenthaltsgesetz) ([§60a AufenthG](#)). If you meet specific criteria, you can get an exceptional leave to remain for the duration of your training. An exceptional leave to remain means there is a "suspension of deportation". This means that you can stay for the duration of your vocational training in Germany.

These rules are only available for vocational training that lasts at least 2 years. With a job as a specialist, you can get a residence permit for the 2 years after.

Studying for a degree is not vocational training.

An exception to this are dual studies. This is when you do both vocational training and study at the same time. For more information have a look at [What are dual studies?](#)

## Can I Receive Financial Aid For My Full Time Studies?

Financing your full time studies isn't always easy. There are different possibilities for financial aid for students. The most important and common financial support is the BAföG.

### Bundesausbildungsfördergesetz (BAföG)

BAföG is the acronym for the law that regulates financial support, the [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz](#) (Federal Vocational Education Assistance Act).

The law applies to students at an institute of higher education and in a school-based vocational training. You don't usually have to pay back the Student-BAföG in a school-based training system. It depends on the school type.

You usually have to pay back the BAföG or partially pay it back.

You can currently receive a maximum of 735 euros per month.

5 years after your studies, you have to start to pay the money back in small or big proportions. You don't have to pay interest. You have to pay back half of the money and maximum 10.000 euros. You don't have to pay back as much money if you finished your studies particularly quickly or if you did well in them. If you aren't earning enough money by the time the 5 years are up, you can pay back the money later.

You have to apply for the BAföG. Whether or not you receive the BAföG depends on individual situation and particularly on :

- The income of your parents or partner and
- Your Age.

Usually, you can only receive the BAföG for a bachelor's if you are under 30 years old. However, there are exceptions. The rules are available in [§10 BAföG](#).

The Student Union at the institute of higher education has all the information about the BAföG and how to apply. On the student services website, you can look up more information in [English](#) or [German](#) about social advice given by student services.

### ***You receive money from the Jobcenter?***

If you start to study at an institute of higher education, you will no longer be able to receive unemployment benefits (Arbeitslosengeld II) even if you don't get the BAföG. The rules are available in [§ 27 SGBXII](#).

Whether or not you can receive money from the Jobcenter depends on each individual case. The rules are very complicated. Find out more before you start studying, for example at a social advice center. On the student services website, you can look up more information in [English](#) or [German](#) about social advice given by student services.

You can find more information in German on [studis-online](#).

### ***You have a temporary permission to stay?***

With a residence permit, you can't get any help from the BAföG. An exception to this is if, for example, you or one of your parents have lived and worked in Germany for 5 years. The rules are available in [§8 BAföG](#).

Wenn Sie 15 Monate in Deutschland leben, kann der Beginn eines Studiums (Immatrikulation) Einfluss auf die finanzielle Unterstützung haben, die Sie aktuell bekommen - auch wenn Sie kein BAföG bekommen können ([BAföG-Falle - Seite 47](#)). The rules are available in [§ 22 SGBXII](#). Find out more before you start your studies at a [social or legal advice center](#).

### ***You have an exceptional leave to remain?***

With an exceptional leave to remain, you can't receive any financial help from the BAföG if you have lived in Germany for 15 months.

You can find the rules in the The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act ([§8 BAföG](#)).

### **Are there other possibilities for financial aid for full time studies?**

There are many different possibilities for how you can finance your studies. We will give a short overview of 3 of these possibilities. Mehr Informationen zum Thema Finanzierung findet man zum Beispiel auf [Arbeiterkind.de](#) oder in einem [Flyer der Studentenwerke](#). The information is in German.

### **1 Stipendium (scholarship)**

There are many different scholarships. You usually don't have to pay back a scholarship.

In the [e-fellows.net](#) database, you can look up what scholarships there are. A scholarship is usually aimed at a special target group - for example students that get good results, are politically engaged or that study a certain subject. The database is only in German.

The DAAD database is in [German](#) and [English](#). It has less filters than the e-fellows database.

### **KfW-Studienkredit (student loan)**

The Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) is a major bank. They offer credit with low interest rates for students. Alle Informationen finden man auf der Webseite der KfW [auf Deutsch/](#)) und [Englisch](#).

But: there are rules about what nationality you need. For a student loan, you or your family must be of German or European nationality. If you have another nationality, the only other way you can qualify is if you got your high school diploma (higher education entrance qualification) in a German school.

## 2 Bildungskredit (education loan)

An education loan is a special type of credit for students that study at an institute of higher education or do school-based vocational training. You can only get education credit if you have completed studies or completed school-based vocational training. You can get education credit additionally to the BAföG or if you don't receive the BAföG (anymore).

You need to pay back all of the education loan but with low interest rates.

All the information about education loans can be found on the [Bundesverwaltungsamts](#) website.

Aber: Der Aufenthaltsstatus hat Einfluss auf die Möglichkeit, einen Bildungskredit zu bekommen. Alle Informationen zu den Voraussetzungen findet man [hier](#).

For people with a temporary permission to stay or exceptional leave to remain, there are special rules. For example, how long you have lived in Germany or whether you worked [yourself](#) or [one or more of your parents](#).

### Note:

You can also get a normal loan from a bank. However, the banks often require high interest rates if you are earning little or no money. Before you take out a loan, you should get advice from a social advice center. On the student services website, you can look up more information in [English](#) or [German](#) about social advice given by student services.

## 3 Work

Most students work while they are studying - also additionally to receiving the BAföG.

However, there are rules about:

- How much you earn (Höhe des Einkommens) as this is important for your insurance (Versicherung) and
- Amount of time you work for.

More information can be found on the [Studentenwerke website](#).

There are also types of studies that combine working and studying. Mehr Informationen finden Sie unter [Was ist ein duales Studium?](#) und [Was ist ein Studium in Teilzeit?](#)

## **Mehr Informationen**

- [What are dual studies?](#)
- [What Are Part Time Studies?](#)
- [What is a distance learning/studying online?](#)

Score: [15.07.2017]

## What Are Part Time Studies?

Theoretically, you can do any of the full time studies (bachelor's and master's) in part time. Part time (Teilzeit Studium) means that you have less lessons during a Semester than full time studies. Part time also means that your studies will be longer.

There are different types of part time studies:

1 Unofficial part time studies (nicht-offizielles Studium in Teilzeit); where you go to less lessons than described in the regulations.

2 Official part time studies (offizielles Studium in Teilzeit),

3 Official part time studies; where you also complete (or have completed) an in-service (berufsbegleitendes) or a vocational integration (berufsintegrierendes) course of study.

## What Requirements Are There For Part Time Studying?

The general requirements for your studies are the same: higher education entrance qualification and language skills.

## What can I do if I did not meet the requirements to study part time (yet)?

There are different possibilities. It depends what requirements you don't meet.

You can find more information about this in the chapters called:

[What High School Diploma Do I Need For Studying?](#)

[What Language Skills Do You Need for Studying?](#)

For refugees, there is a special online offer by Kiron. [Kiron](#) currently offers preparatory courses for a bachelor's. You can find out more about Kiron in the chapter called [What is Kiron?](#)

For part time studies, you also have to meet additional requirements. It depends on the type of part time studies.

## What Types of Part Time Studies Are There?

### 1 Unofficial Part Time Studies

Most courses of study are full time studies. The point is to finish the studies in the same length of time as the full time studies. The "Regelstudienzeit", standard study length, is the usual amount of time it takes to finish your studies. For a bachelor's in full-time, the standard study period is usually 3 years (6 semesters) and for a master's it's usually 2 years (4 semesters).

For all seminars and lectures, the institute of higher education outlines the amount, the length (Semesterwochenstunden, hours per week in a semester) and type of classes (seminars, lectures). The documents where you can find all this information are called Studienordnung (conditions of study) und Prüfungsordnung (examination rules). Every course of study has a Studienordnung and a Prüfungsordnung. You can find an example of a Studienordnung for medicine on the [Universität Rostock website](#).

Sometimes, students go to less of the classes than the minimum stipulated in the Studienordnung. For example because they need to work or take care of their families.

The institutes of higher education also have rules about the maximum length of time your studies can last. The rules are decided upon by the institutes of higher education. If studies take too long, it could be problematic later on when you are getting your diploma.

Financial aid like the BAföG is usually given for full time studies (standard study length). This means that if you need more time because you attended too few courses, you can encounter problems with your financial aid. For the BAföG you need arguments that explain why you need more time for your studies than the regular amount. The rules are available in [§15 BAföG](#).

More information about the BAföG can be found on *Can I Get Financial Aid for Part Time Studies?*

## 2 Official Part Time Studies

Official part time studies means that you have a permit that proves that you are allowed to do a full time course of study in part time instead.

You are officially going to less classes per semester as described in the Studienordnung (conditions of study). Therefore, your studies are longer.

You can get a permit if you apply and meet specific requirements.

Examples of possible requirements can be found on the [Humboldt-Universität of Berlin website](#).

You can still change to full time studies later on.

On the "Hochschulkompass" website, you can find all of the courses of study (bachelor's and master's) that you can do as part time studies in [German](#) and [English](#). The filter is on state institute of higher education (public) and part time.

There are only 138 courses of study that are taught in [English](#).

**Note:**

There is a difference between completing your studies as official part time studies and completing studies that are organised as part time studies.

Only a few institutes of higher education offer courses of study that are organised as part time studies. An example of this is the bachelor's course of study called [Angewandte Geowissenschaften \(Applied Earth Sciences\)](#) at the TU Darmstadt.

In the results from the Hochschulkompass, there are also courses of study that are organised as dual studies, in-service studies or distance learning studies. For these courses, you have to meet additional and different requirements.

Every institute of higher education has rules about what courses of study can be completed as part time studies and what requirements you need to meet.

In some courses of study, it's usually not possible to do part time studies- for example in medicine.

### 3 Official Part Time Studies: In-Service Studies or Vocational Integration Studies

There are institutes of higher education that organise extra part time studies for people that already work. This means that people study after work and additionally to their jobs.

There are two types of these kinds of studies:

1 In-Service Studies

2 Vocational Integration Studies

#### 1 In-service studies

In-service studies are for people that have professional experience and have a job.

An example is a bachelor's for [Applied Business Administration](#) at the Hochschule Neubrandenburg (a university of applied sciences). These studies are in-service studies and that means that it is for people that already work.

Every 2-4 weeks, the students go to the institute of higher education for 2 days for their classes. The rest of the time, they learn independently at home.

A requirements for these studies is:

- To have a job that has a minimum of 15 hours a week or an internship contract.

#### **Note:**

Every institute of higher education decides on the requirements and the organisation of the studies themselves.

In-service studies cost money - even in state institutes of higher education. Find out more about how you can receive financial support before you start studying.

In-service courses of study combine most classes by region through online study. There are differences between in-service studies and online studies or distance learning. The amount of courses per region depends on the course of study and the institute of higher education. More information can be found at [What Is Distance Learning/Studying Online?](#)

## 2 Vocational Integration Studies

Vocational integration (Berufsintegrierend) means that your studies and your professional life are combined. Often, vocational integration studies are also called dual studies (dual studium). This is because, like in dual studies, in vocational integration studies you study part time and you work part time at a company.

These studies, like in-service studies, are for people that :

- Already have professional experience and
- Have a job.

The requirements for vocational integration studies are :

- You have a contract for a job in a company in the field you want to study and
- the company works with a University.

Sometimes, you have to pay for these studies - even at state institutes of higher education. Sometimes, companies can fund you and pay for the costs.

An example of a vocational integration bachelor's studies is [Process Technology](#) at TH Bingen (university of applied sciences).

On the "Hochschulkompass" website, you can find all of the courses of study (bachelor's and master's) that you can do as part time studies in [German](#) and [English](#). The filter is on state institute of higher education (public) and vocational integration.

The courses are taught in German. Only a course in the field of dance is taught in English.

Vocational integration studies are very similar to in-service studies and dual studies. However there are also differences. During vocational integration studies, the company usually doesn't work with the institute of higher education to develop content. In dual studies, the company works very closely with the institute of higher education. More information can be found in the chapter called [What Are Dual Studies?](#)

### **Note:**

The institutes of higher education are always developing new courses of study. This means that the amount and the teaching language can change.

## I Have A Temporary Permission to Stay or an Exceptional Leave to Remain. Can I Take Part Time Studies?

Yes, you can start studying part time if you have met all of the requirements of an institute of higher education.

If you want to do in-service studies, you have to have a job. To get a job, you have to have an employment permit (Beschäftigungserlaubnis).

You can find out more information about employment permits in the chapter called [How can I find a job?](#)

Your residence status influences what financial support you can get (for example BAföG). More information about financial aid can be found on [Can I Get Financial Aid for Part Time Studies?](#)

## **I Have a Temporary Permission to Stay or an Exceptional Leave to Remain. Can I Get a Residence Permit for My Part Time Studies?**

You can only get a residence permit for your studies if you apply for it from abroad. Other rules apply for international students that have a visa to study in Germany.

The Integration Act of 2016 has introduced new rules. The rules are in the Residence Act (Aufenthaltsgesetz) ([§60a AufenthG](#)). If you meet specific criteria, you can get an exceptional leave to remain for the duration of your training. An exceptional leave to remain means there is a "suspension of deportation". This means that you can stay for the duration of your vocational training in Germany.

These rules are only available for vocational training that lasts at least 2 years. With a job as a specialist, you can get a residence permit for the 2 years after.

Studying for a degree is not vocational training.

An exception to this are dual studies. This is when you do both vocational training and study at the same time. For more information have a look at [What are dual studies?](#)

## **Can I Receive Financial Aid For My Part Time Studies?**

There are different possibilities for financial aid for students. The most important and common financial support is the BAföG. BAföG is the acronym for the law that regulates financial support, the [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz](#) (Federal Vocational Education Assistance Act).

The law applies to students at an institute of higher education and in a school-based vocational training. You don't usually have to pay back the Student-BAföG in a school-based training system. It depends on the school type.

The type of part time studies also influences whether you can receive the BAföG - no matter what residence papers you have.

## **In-Service Studies**

You can't receive the BAföG, [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz](#) (Federal Vocational Education Assistance Act). The reason is that you are working and earning money.

Receiving the BAföG depends on the individual situation and particularly on:

- The income of your parents or partner and
- Your Age.

The Student Union at the institute of higher education has all the information about the BAföG and how to apply. On the student services website, you can look up more information in [English](#) or [German](#) about social advice given by student services.

## **Official Part Time Studies**

You can't receive the BAföG for official part time studies. More information can be found on the [TU Darmstadt](#) website.

## **Unofficial Part Time Studies**

You can receive the BAföG. The BAföG is based on the usual length of full time studies. You need arguments that explain why you need more time for your studies than the regular amount. The rules are available in [§15 BAföG](#).

### ***You receive money from the Jobcenter?***

If you start to study full time, you will no longer be able to receive unemployment benefits (Arbeitslosengeld II) even if you don't get the BAföG. The rules are available in [§ 27 SGBXII](#).

Whether or not you can receive money from the Jobcenter depends on each individual case. The rules are very complicated.

You can get Arbeitslosengeld II for official part time studies.

Find out more before you start studying, for example at a social advice center. On the student services website, you can look up more information in [English](#) or [German](#) about social advice given by student services.

### ***You have a temporary permission to stay?***

With a residence permit, you can't get any help from the BAföG. An exception to this is if, for example, you or one of your parents have lived and worked in Germany for 5 years. The rules are available in [§8 BAföG](#).

If you have lived in Germany for 15 months, the beginning of your studies (enrollment) can influence the financial aid you currently get and whether you can get a BAföG ([BAföG-Falle - Seite 47](#)). The rules are available in [§ 22 SGBXII](#). Find out more before you start your studies at a [social or legal advice center](#).

### ***You have an exceptional leave to remain?***

With an exceptional leave to remain, you can't receive any financial help from the BAföG if you have lived in Germany for 15 months. You can find the rules in the The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act ([§8 BAföG](#)).

### **Are there other possibilities for financial aid for part time studies?**

#### **KfW-Studienkredit (student loan)**

The Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) is a major bank. They offer credit with low interest rates for students. You can find all the information about KfW on their website in [German](#) and [English](#).

But: there are rules about what nationality you need. For a student loan, you or your family must be of German or European nationality. If you have another nationality, the only other way you can qualify is if you got your high school diploma (higher education entrance qualification) in a German school.

#### **Bildungskredit (education loan)**

An education loan is a special type of credit for students that study at an institute of higher education or do school-based vocational training. You can only get education credit if you have completed studies or completed school-based vocational training. You can get education credit additionally to the BAföG or if you don't receive the BAföG (anymore).

You need to pay back all of the education loan but with low interest rates.

All the information about education loans can be found on the [Bundesverwaltungsamts](#) website.

An [education loan](#) isn't possible for in-service studies or in official part time studies.

For unofficial part time studies, you can receive an education loan.

But: your residence status has an influence on whether you can get an education loan.

All the information about the requirements can be found [here](#).

For people with a temporary permission to stay or exceptional leave to remain, there are special rules. For example, how long you have lived in Germany or whether you worked [yourself](#) or [one or more of your parents](#).

**Note:**

You can also get a normal loan from a bank. However, the banks often require high interest rates if you are earning little or no money. Before you take out a loan, you should get advice from a social advice center. On the student services website, you can look up more information in [English](#) or [German](#) about social advice given by student services.

## Stipendium (scholarship)

There are different scholarships. A scholarship is usually aimed at a special target group - for example adults with a professional degree and experience.

In the [e-fellows.net](#) database, you can look up what scholarships there are.

The DAAD database is in [German](#) and [English](#). It has less filters than the e-fellows database.

## Arbeitslosengeld II (Hartz IV) (unemployment benefits)

You can only get Arbeitslosengeld II (Hartz IV) for official part time studies. There are rules about the requirements. With a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain, you can't receive Arbeitslosengeld II (Hartz IV). More information can be found at a Studierendenwerk in [German](#).

### Note:

Find out more before you start studying directly at an institute of higher education or at a social advice center. On the student services website, you can look up more information in [English](#) or [German](#) about social advice given by student services.

## Mehr Informationen

- [What are dual studies?](#)
- [What is a distance learning/studying online?](#)
- [What are full time studies?](#)

Score: [15.07.2017]

## What Are Dual Studies?

In dual studies, an institute of higher education and a company work together to provide a course of study.

Dual studies are organized in the same way as dual training. You learn the practical side at a company and the theoretical side at an institute of higher education.

As a student doing dual studies, you have a contract with a company. This means that you earn money. The advantage for the company is that the student get to know the company and the job. The students can use the experience they have from their job at the institute of higher education, for example for their seminar work. They can also use the knowledge they gain from the institute of higher education at their job.

If you get a degree, you can use it straight away for all the jobs at the company.

On [azubiyo](#) you can find information about dual studies. The website is in German.

On BR Alpha you can find a [video](#), where students explain what they think about taking dual studies. The video is in German.

## What Requirements Are There For Dual Studies?

The general requirements for your studies are the same: higher education entrance qualification and language skills.

## What can I do if I did not meet the requirements for dual studies (yet)?

There are different possibilities. It depends what requirements you don't meet.

You can find more information about this in the chapters called:

[What High School Diploma Do I Need For Studying?](#)

[What Language Skills Do You Need for Studying?](#)

For refugees, there is a special online offer by Kiron. [Kiron](#) currently offers preparatory courses for a bachelor's. You can find out more about Kiron in the chapter called [What is Kiron?](#).

For dual studies, you also have to find a company where you can do dual studies.

## What Types of Dual Studies Are There?

Dual studies are organized differently depending on what institute of higher education you go to and what course of study you want to do. A good overview of this can be found on the [Duale Hochschule Rheinland-Pfalz website](#).

There are different types of dual studies:

1 Ausbildungsintegrierendes Duales Studium (Dual Studies with Vocational Training)

2 Praxisintegrierendes Duales Studium (Dual Studies with an Internship)

## **1 Ausbildungsintegrierendes duales Studium (dual studies with vocational training)**

"Ausbildungsintegrierend" (integrated vocational training) means that vocational training and studying are combined. You have the possibility of getting a professional diploma and a degree at the same time. This means that you are taking dual training and studying at the same time. This also means that you have to take the final exam for vocational training and the final exam (including the dissertation or thesis) for your studies.

These studies usually take longer than regular full time study.

For these studies, you need a vocational training contract with the company (or technical college) that also works for the institute of higher education.

In Germany, there are around 400 offers for studies with vocational training. All offers have German as the teaching language. A list can be found on the Hochschulkompass website in [German](#) and [English](#).

You can search for companies that offer dual studies in the [ausbildung plus](#) database.

For example:

The Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Recht Berlin offers different possibilities for [dual studies](#). For example you can get a [professional diploma as an industrial clerk and a bachelor's in business administration](#) at the same time. A requirement for this is a vocational training contract with Siemens.

If you find a company isn't working with an institute of higher education yet, you can also ask whether the boss would be interested in dual studies.

Studies with vocational training can also be taken as school-based training, for example physiotherapy combined with a bachelor's in applied theater studies at [Hochschule Niederrhein](#).

## **2 Praxisintegrierendes duales Studium (dual studies with an internship)**

"Praxisintegrierend" means that practical work is integrated into the studies. You will mainly be working during the semester holidays or in the internship semester. Sometimes, courses of study also have an addition called "mit vertiefter Praxis" which means "with intensive practice".

In most courses of study, you can earn money during the practical phase of your studies (when you are working). The amount of money you earn depends on your company and the amount of time you work for the company.

These studies can sometimes, but not always, take longer than regular full time study.

The difference with dual studies with vocational training is that you can get a degree but you can't get a professional diploma.

An example of this is the Bachelor's for [Agricultural Engineering](#) at the Hochschule Weihenstephan-Triesdorf (university of applied sciences).

In the Hochschulkompass database, you can currently find more than 300 offers [German](#) and [English](#).

There are only 2 offers where the teaching language is [English](#).

You can search for companies that offer dual studies in the [ausbildung plus](#) database.

## What Courses Of Study Are There For Dual Studies?

You can't do all of the courses of study as dual studies. Most often, it is courses of study that are in technological, economic or health fields.

You also can't do dual studies in any company. Most institutes of higher education already have companies that work with them. You can also speak to a company and ask them whether they are interested in dual studies.

Not all institutes of higher education offer dual studies. Most institutes of higher education that offer dual studies are universities of applied sciences (Fachhochschulen).

### Tip:

The institutes of higher education are always developing new courses of study. This means that the amount and the teaching language can change.

## I Have A Temporary Permission to Stay or an Exceptional Leave to Remain. Can I Start Dual Studies?

Yes. you can start your dual studies if you have met all of the requirements of an institute of higher education and of the company.

### Note:

Starting dual studies usually means that you have a contract with a company and that you earn money. This means that you have to get a work permit. A work permit means that the Immigration Office (Ausländerbehörde) gives you

permission to work.

More information about work permits can be found in the Hop-on Book in the chapter called [How can I find a job?](#).

## **I Have a Temporary Permission to Stay or an Exceptional Leave to Remain. Can I Get a Residence Permit for My Dual Studies?**

The Integration Act of 2016 has introduced new rules. The rules are in the Residence Act (Aufenthaltsgesetz) ([§60a AufenthG](#)). If you meet specific criteria, you can get an exceptional leave to remain for the duration of your training. An exceptional leave to remain means there is a "suspension of deportation". This means that you can stay for the duration of your vocational training in Germany.

These rules are only available for vocational training that lasts at least 2 years. With a job as a specialist, you can get a residence permit for the 2 years after.

Only dual studies with vocational training are considered, according to the law, as vocational training.

## **Can I Receive Financial Aid For My Dual Studies?**

The most important and common financial support is the BAföG. BAföG is the acronym for the law that regulates financial support, the [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz](#) (Federal Vocational Education Assistance Act).

The law applies to students at an institute of higher education and in a school-based vocational training. You don't usually have to pay back the Student-BAföG in a school-based training system. It depends on the school type.

In dual studies, you usually earn money and work at a company for many hours.

BAföG depends on:

- your individual situation and
- especially on your own income.

If you earn more than 450 Euro per month, you can't receive the BAföG. There are special rules for self-employed work and internships. More information can be found in German on the [bafög-rechner](#) website.

### **Tip:**

Find out more before your dual studies about the possibility of getting the BAföG. On the student services website, you can look up more information in [English](#) or [German](#) about social advice given by student services.

## ***You receive money from the Jobcenter?***

If you start dual studies, you will earn money and you are officially a student. This means that you will not receive Arbeitslosengeld II. The rules are available in [§ 27 SGBXII](#).

The rules are very complicated. Find out more before you start studying, for example at a social advice center. On the student services website, you can look up more information in [English](#) or [German](#) about social advice given by student services.

## ***Are there other possibilities for financial aid for dual studies?***

### **KfW-Studienkredit (student loan)**

The Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) is a major bank. They offer credit with low interest rates for students. You can find all the information about KfW on their website in [German](#) and [English](#).

But: there are rules about what nationality you need. For a student loan, you or your family must be of German or European nationality. If you have another nationality, the only other way you can qualify is if you got your high school diploma (higher education entrance qualification) in a German school.

### **Bildungskredit (education loan)**

An [education loan](#) isn't possible for dual studies. The reason for this is that it is like studying part time.

### **Stipendium (scholarship)**

Most scholarships are aimed at students that are studying in full time.

In the [e-fellows.net](#) database, you can look up what scholarships there are.

The DAAD database is in [German](#) and [English](#). It has less filters than the e-fellows database.

#### **Note:**

Find out more before you start studying directly at an institute of higher education/company or at a social advice center. On the student services website, you can look up more information in [English](#) or [German](#) about social advice given by student services.

### **Mehr Informationen**

- [What Are Part Time Studies?](#)
- [What is a distance learning/studying online?](#)
- [What are full time studies?](#)

Score: [15.07.2017]



## What is a distance learning/studying online?

Distance learning (Fernstudium) means, above all, that you are studying at home and independently. Distance learning can also be called online studies (Online-Studium) because the institutes of higher education use digital media to teach classes and as class material. For example, the courses are online. In addition, there are dates where you have seminars and exams on site at the institute of higher education.

Distance learning is especially interesting for people that work or that don't have institutes of higher education close by.

The aim of distance learning is to get a degree (bachelor's or master's).

On the [oncampus](#) website, you can see how distance learning works. If you have an Ad-Blocker, you have to switch it off on this website. The website and videos are in German. Oncampus also offers a [taster course](#) about distance learning for master's courses of study. A taster course is a course that shows you what an offer is like.

In the [oncampus](#) blog, a student explains their experience with getting a master's and another student explains their experience with getting a bachelor's.

There are differences in the organisation of distance learning. It depends on the offer and the institute of higher education.

There is currently only one state distance learning university that only offer distance learning studies: [FernUniversität in Hagen](#). You can find more information at [What is a distance learning university?](#)

State institutes of higher education offer some courses of study as distance learning too. Many courses of study can't be taken as distance learning courses - for example medicine or teaching.

There are many private institutes of higher education that offer distance learning. The degree is the same. Distance learning always costs money. The cost depends on the institute of higher education.

We will focus on the state institutes of higher education.

On the Hochschulkompass, you can find more than 200 courses of study (bachelor's and master's) in distance learning. In the Hochschulkompass database, you can currently find more than 300 offers [German](#) and [English](#). The filter is on state institute of higher education (public) and distance learning.

Currently, there are [19 courses of study](#) that have English as their teaching language. Only one course of study is a bachelor's degree.

Most distance learning offers are post graduate courses of study with the aim of getting a master's.

**Tip:**

The institutes of higher education are always developing new courses of study. This means that the amount and the teaching language can change.

## What Requirements Are There For Distance Learning/Studying Online?

The general requirements for your studies are the same: higher education entrance qualification and language skills.

## What can I do if I did not meet the requirements for distance learning/studying online (yet)?

There are different possibilities. It depends what requirements you don't meet.

You can find more information about this in the chapters called:

[What High School Diploma Do I Need For Studying?](#)

[What Language Skills Do You Need for Studying?](#)

For refugees, there is a special online offer by Kiron. [Kiron](#) currently offers preparatory courses for a bachelor's. You can find out more about Kiron in the chapter called [What is Kiron?](#).

## What Types of Distance Learning/Studying Online Are There?

Distance Learning/Studying Online has different types:

1 Full time

2 Part time

### 1 Full Time Distance Learning

In the Hochschulkompass database, you can currently find more than 300 offers [German](#) and [English](#). The filter is on state institute of higher education (public), bachelor's (undergraduate) and full time.

In the Hochschulkompass database, you can currently find more than 300 offers [German](#) and [English](#). The filter is on state institute of higher education (public), master's (post graduate) and full time.

Some courses of study can be taken full time or part time. An example of that is the new bachelor's for [Renewable Energy](#) at the Jade-Hochschule.

The difference between full time and part time is the possibilities for financial support. More information can be found on *Can I Get Financial Aid for distance learning?*

## 2 Part Time Distance Learning

Most distance learning courses of study are organised in part time. Usually, institutes of higher education call their part time courses of study "berufsbegleitend" (in-service). This means that you can study as well as work. There isn't any connection in terms of content between the job and your studies.

After distance learning, there are also other option for part time studies. For more information have a look at [What Are Part Time Studies?](#)

The differences between full time and part time is the length and possibilities for financial support. More information can be found on *Can I Get Financial Aid for distance learning?*

### Tip:

The terms used are not always the same everywhere. If you find an interesting offer, you should first ask your institute of higher education about it.

## I Have A Temporary Permission to Stay or an Exceptional Leave to Remain. Can I Start Distance Learning?

Yes. you can start full time distance learning if you have met all of the requirements of an institute of higher education.

But: your residency status has an influence on the possibilities for receiving financial support like the BAföG.

The type of distance learning also influences whether you can get the BAföG for your studies at all. More information about financial aid can be found on *Can I Get Financial Aid for Distance Learning?*

## I Have a Temporary Permission to Stay or an Exceptional Leave to Remain. Can I Get a Residence Permit for Distance Learning?

No.

The Integration Act of 2016 has introduced new rules. The rules are in the Residence Act (Aufenthaltsgesetz) ([§60a AufenthG](#)). If you meet specific criteria, you can get an exceptional leave to remain for the duration of your training. An

exceptional leave to remain means there is a "suspension of deportation". This means that you can stay for the duration of your vocational training in Germany.

These rules are only available for vocational training that lasts at least 2 years. With a job as a specialist, you can get a residence permit for the 2 years after.

Studying for a degree is not vocational training. An exception to this are dual studies. This is when you do both vocational training and study at the same time. For more information have a look at [What are dual studies?](#)

## Can I Receive Financial Aid For Distance Learning?

The type of financial help you can get depends on the type of distance learning:

### Full Time Distance Learning

You can receive the BAföG, [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz](#) (Federal Vocational Education Assistance Act), if you meet the requirements.

Receiving the BAföG depends on the individual situation and particularly on:

- The income of your parents or partner and
- Your Age.

As well as these requirements, there are also additional specific requirements for distance learning. The rules can be found in [§3 BAföG](#).

Find out more before you start studying directly at the institute of higher education or at the social advice center of the student services (Studentenwerks) at your institute of higher education. On the student services website, you can look up more information in [English](#) or [German](#) about social advice given by student services.

### ***You have a temporary permission to stay?***

With a residence permit, you can't get any help from the BAföG. An exception to this is if, for example, you or one of your parents have lived and worked in Germany for 5 years. The rules are available in [§8 BAföG](#).

If you have lived in Germany for 15 months, the beginning of your studies (enrollment) can influence the financial aid you currently get and whether you can get a BAföG ([BAföG-Fälle - Seite 47](#)). The rules are available in [§ 22 SGBXII](#). Find out more before you start your studies at a [social or legal advice center](#).

### ***You have an exceptional leave to remain?***

With an exceptional leave to remain, you can't receive any financial help from the BAföG if you have lived in Germany for 15 months. You can find the rules in the The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act ([§8 BAföG](#)).

## Part Time Distance Learning

You can't receive the BAföG through the [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz](#) (Federal Vocational Education Assistance Act). The reason for this is that your studies aren't the only thing you are focused on.

### ***You receive money from the Jobcenter?***

If you start to study full time, you will no longer be able to receive unemployment benefits (Arbeitslosengeld II) even if you don't get the BAföG. The rules are available in [§ 27 SGBXII](#).

Whether or not you can receive money from the Jobcenter depends on each individual case. The rules are very complicated.

With part time distance learning, you can receive Arbeitslosengeld II if you still have enough time left to look for and start a job. More information can be found at a Studierendenwerk in [German](#).

Find out more before you start studying, for example at a social advice center. On the Studierendenwerk (student services) website, you can look up more information in [English](#) or [German](#) about social advice given by Studierendenwerk (student services).

## Are There Other Financial Aid Possibilities for Part Time Distance Learning?

### **KfW-Studienkredit (student loan)**

The Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) is a major bank. They offer credit with low interest rates for students. You can find all the information about KfW on their website in [German](#) and [English](#).

But: there are rules about what nationality you need. For a student loan, you or your family must be of German or European nationality. If you have another nationality, the only other way you can qualify is if you got your high school diploma (higher education entrance qualification) in a German school.

### **Bildungskredit (education loan)**

An education loan is a special type of credit for students that study full time at an institute of higher education or do school-based vocational training. You can only get education credit if you have completed studies or completed school-based vocational training. You can get education credit additionally to the BAföG or if you don't receive the BAföG (anymore).

You need to pay it all back but with low interest rates.

All the information about education loans can be found on the [Bundesverwaltungsamts](#) website.

But: your residence status has an influence on whether you can get an education loan.

All the information about the requirements can be found [here](#).

For people with a temporary permission to stay or exceptional leave to remain, there are special rules. For example, how long you have lived in Germany or whether you worked [yourself](#) or [one or more of your parents](#).

An [education loan](#) isn't possible for part time distance learning.

## Stipendium (scholarship)

There are different scholarships. A scholarship is usually aimed at a special target group - for example adults with a professional degree and experience.

In the [e-fellows.net](#) database, you can look up what scholarships there are.

The DAAD database is in [German](#) and [English](#). It has less filters than the e-fellows database.

The Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, BMBF (Ministry of Education and Research) also has a [database](#) in German.

Sometimes, institutes of higher education also have scholarships. Ask about them.

## Arbeitslosengeld II (Hartz IV) (unemployment benefits)

With part time distance learning, you can receive Arbeitslosengeld II if you still have enough time left to look for and start a job. More information can be found at a Studierendenwerk in [German](#).

### Note:

Find out more before you start your distance learning directly at an institute of higher education or at a social advice center. On the student services website, you can look up more information in [English](#) or [German](#) about social advice given by student services.

## Mehr Informationen

- [What Are Part Time Studies?](#)
- [What are full time studies?](#)
- [What are dual studies?](#)

Score: [15.07.2017]

## I have a degree. Is my degree also seen as a degree in Germany? What is recognition?

You can or should check whether your diploma (Hochschulabschluss) also counts as a diploma in Germany.

For some academic diplomas, you need official recognition to be able to work in that profession in Germany. These professions are called regulated professions (reglementierte Berufe). Examples of this are doctor, teacher and lawyer.

Recognition or to recognize means that you compare your diploma from another country to a diploma from Germany. The official term is "Gleichwertigkeitsprüfung" (equivalence assessment).

For most academic diplomas, you don't need recognition of your diploma to be able to work in that profession in Germany. These professions are called non-regulated professions (nicht-reglementierte Berufe). Examples of this are IT, Languages or Economy. For these professions, there is no formal procedure for recognition (Gleichwertigkeitsprüfung). When you are looking for a job, companies often want to see whether your diploma is also an academic diploma in Germany too. This can have an affect on your salary. You can apply for the evaluation of your diploma.

In this [graph of the IQ support program](#) you can see the difference in recognition. The graph is in German.

[You can find out more information about the evaluation and recognition of diplomas here.](#) The website is available in German, English, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, Polish, Turkish and Greek.

### **Note:**

There are many different institutions responsible for recognizing or evaluating a diploma and many different processes. There is a difference between academic diplomas (Hochschulabschluss) and vocational diplomas (Berufsabschluss).

More information about the recognition of vocational diplomas can be found in the [Hop on Vocational Training](#).

## I Would Like To Know Whether My Diploma Is Also A Diploma in Germany

We have brought together a few important steps. There is more concrete information about recognition advice at the IQ support program. There you can find out about:

- Whether recognition is necessary or useful,
- What documents you need and

- What institutions are responsible for recognition (relevant authorities).

In every federal province, there are counselling services. Getting advice from them is free.

On [Anerkennung in Deutschland](#) you can look up a counselling service from the IQ support program. The website is available in German, English, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, Polish, Turkish and Greek.

You can find more important information in [English, Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Tigrinya and Pashto on this app](#). You can also use the app to find a counselling service in your area.

If you would like to know whether your diploma also counts as a diploma in Germany, you must clarify:

- 1 Is the diploma a non-regulated diploma in Germany?
- 2 Is the diploma a regulated diploma in Germany?

All regulated professions in Germany can be found on this [website](#). The website is in German, English and French.

## 1 Non-regulated Diploma's

There are three important steps to take in order to know if your diploma is a non-regulated diploma in Germany and how it is evaluated:

- 1 Search in the anabin database
- 2 Sworn translation of your certificate and authenticated copies
- 3 Get your certificate evaluated through the Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen (ZAB) (Central Office for Foreign Education)

### 1 Search in the anabin database

In the [anabin](#) database you can get information. You can search for the country and the institute of higher education. The database is in German.

It filters through the names of the institutes of higher education.

On anabin, you can look up either your [institute of higher education](#) or your [course of study](#). The website is in German.

In a [Video of the Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft Berlin](#) you can see what information you can find on anabin. The video is in Arabic, German, English and French.

There can be multiple results when you search using your course of study:

- a) your institute of higher education and your course of study are on the list:

For each course of study, it evaluates how equivalent the degree is to a German degree. It will say: [bedingt vergleichbar](#), [entspricht oder gleichwertig](#) (somewhat comparable, comparable or equivalent).

If you get "gleichwertig", this is the clearest result. It means that your diploma is of equal value and the same as the German diploma.

You can apply using a document from anabin. You can also request an additional evaluation of your diploma at the Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen, ZAB (Central Office for Foreign Education). Evaluating your certificate costs money. You can find more information about this in the text.

b) your institute of higher education is on the list but your course of study isn't:

You can apply to get your certificate evaluated at the Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen, ZAB (Central Office for Foreign Education). Evaluation of your certificate costs money. More information can be found in the text.

a) your institute of higher education and your course of study aren't in the list:

You can apply to get your certificate evaluated at the Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen, ZAB (Central Office for Foreign Education). Evaluation of your certificate costs money. More information can be found in the text.

**Note:**

It is possible that your diploma isn't an academic diploma in Germany but rather a professional qualification. More information can be found by seeing a professional at the IQ support program.

**2 Sworn translation of your certificate and authenticated copies**

For the evaluation of your diploma, you need to get it translated. There can be an exception to this if all of your certificates are in English. For the evaluation of your certificate, you don't need a translation if the documents are in Arabic, English, French, Italian or Spanish. A translation is necessary if you want to study or find a job afterwards.

There are rules for the translation of the documents. The translation must be done by translators that have a permit issued by the court - they must be sworn translators.

You can have a look on this [website](#) for sworn translators in German, English and French.

You can also search on this [website](#) for sworn translators in German, English, French, Italian, and Spanish.

You also need copies and authentication. Authentication means that an official institution/person puts a stamp on your copies to prove they are the same as the original.

More information can be found in a [summary](#) of the Free University of Berlin in German and English or on the Handbook Germany in [Arabic](#), [German](#), [English](#) and [Farsi](#).

**3 Get your certificate evaluated through the Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen (ZAB) (Central Office for Foreign Education)**

Auf der Webseite der [ZAB](#) stehen alle Informationen für den Antrag auf Deutsch und Englisch.

Man kann auch direkt das [Land](#) auswählen, dann bekommt man Informationen über die notwendigen Dokumente.

In diesem [Infoblatt](#) vom Förderprogramm IQ können Sie sehen, welche Ergebnisse nach einer Zeugnisbewertung möglich sind. The leaflet is in German.

**Tip:**

An evaluation of your certificate isn't possible if you did not finish your studies.

More information can be found by seeing a professional at the IQ support program or at the ZAB.

## 2 Regulated Diploma's

There are 3 steps if you want to know if a regulated diploma is recognized in Germany:

1 Seeing A Professional About Recognition

2 Get a sworn translation of your certificate and authenticated copies

3 Formal recognition through the relevant authority

### 1 Seeing A Professional About Recognition

The first step is to see a professional at the IQ support program for recognition to inquire. Then you can decide,

- Whether recognition is necessary or useful,
- What documents you need and
- What institutions are responsible for recognition (relevant authorities).

In every federal province, there are counselling services. Getting advice from them is free.

On [Anerkennung in Deutschland](#) you can look up a counselling service from the IQ support program. The website is available in German, English, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, Polish, Turkish and Greek.

[You can find more important information in English, Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Tigrinya and Pashto on this app.](#) You can also use the app to find a counselling service in your area.

### 2 Sworn translation of your certificate and authenticated copies

For the recognition of your diploma, you need to get it translated. There can be an exception to this if all of your certificates are in English (and sometimes if they are in French). There are rules for the translation. The translation must be done by translators that have a permit issued by the court - they must be sworn translators.

You can have a look on this [website](#) for sworn translators in German, English and French.

You can also search on this [website](#) for sworn translators in German, English, French, Italian, and Spanish.

You also need copies and authentication. Authentication means that an official institution/person puts a stamp on your copies to prove they are the same as the original.

More information can be found in a [summary](#) of the Free University of Berlin in German and English or on the Handbook Germany in [Arabic](#), [German](#), [English](#) and [Farsi](#).

### **3 Formal recognition through the relevant authority**

Recognition or to get recognized means that the relevant authority compares your studies with the studies in Germany. The relevant authority is the institution that is responsible for your profession.

The rules about content and the process of recognition for the regulated academic professions (medicine, teachers, engineering, psychotherapy and law) can be found on [recognition in Germany](#). The website is available in German, English, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, Polish, Turkish and Greek.

More information can be found by seeing a professional at the IQ support program.

## **What German Skills Do You Need For Certificate Evaluation or Recognition?**

There is a difference between advice about recognition and the recognition procedure.

Getting advice about the recognition of your certificate can usually be done in different languages. However, a lot of the advice is in German. That's why it would be useful to know the basics in German. Check what languages are available before you meet with a professional about recognition. You can always bring an interpreter to help you.

To get advice about recognition, you do not necessarily need a translation of your certificate. But it would be easier for your consultant if it was translated so he/she can plan the next steps with you.

For the recognition procedure, you usually need all the documents translated in German. If your certificate is in English, you don't usually need a translation.

For regulated professions, you sometimes need a certain level of German for full recognition. The rules depend on the profession.

The IQ support program has many offers for people that want diploma to be recognized. Information can be found on [advice about recognition](#).

## **I Have an Temporary Permission to Stay or an Exceptional Leave to Remain. Can I Get My Certificate Evaluated Or Recognized?**

Yes. The recognition procedure costs money. There are rules about financial aid. More information can be found later on in the text.

## **How Much Does The Evaluation or Recognition of My Certificate Cost? Can I Recieve Financial Aid?**

There is a difference between advice about recognition and the recognition procedure.

Seeing a professional about recognition is always free.

However, the translation of your documents aren't free and the price does vary.

The evaluation of your certificate by the ZAB and the recognition procedure also cost money.

### ***You receive money from the Jobcenter or from the Employment Agency?***

The Jobcenter or the Employment Agency can pay for the translation and/or the evaluation of your certificate by the ZAB or the recognition procedure. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You have to show that this is important in order for you to find a job in the future. Before the translation, the evaluation of your certificate by the ZAB or the recognition procedure, speak to the Jobcenter or Employment agency about financial aid. The Employment Agency and the Jobcenter make a decision according to each individual case.

### ***You don't receive money from the Jobcenter or from the Employment Agency?***

The Employment Agency can pay for the translation and/or the evaluation of your certificate by the ZAB or the recognition procedure. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You have to show that this is important in order for you to find a job in the future. Before the translation, the evaluation of your certificate by the ZAB or the recognition procedure, speak to the Employment agency about financial aid. The Employment Agency make a decision according to each individual case.

If you haven't registered with the Employment Agency yet, you can still declare at the Employment Agency that you are "[arbeitsuchend](#)" (looking for a job).

### ***You have a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain?***

The same rules apply. You must register with the Employment Agency as someone who is looking or a job. To get financial aid through the Employment Agency you must also :

- Live in Germany for a minimum of 3 months and
- Receive a work permit. A work permit is proof from the Immigration Office that you are allowed to work.

In your papers (temporary permission to stay or exceptional leave to remain), it usually says "Beschäftigung nur mit Erlaubnis der Ausländerbehörde" (Employment only with the permission of the Immigration Office).

If it says „Beschäftigung nicht gestattet“ or „Erwerbstätigkeit nicht gestattet“ (employment/work are prohibited) in your papers, get legal advice on any further action. Wenn Sie aus einem „[sicheren Herkunftsland](#)“ kommen und eine Aufenthaltsgestattung oder Duldung haben, gibt es zusätzliche gesetzliche Regeln. In this case, you should get legal advice.

**Tips:**

The IQ support program has many offers for people that need to get their diploma recognized. These offers don't depend on your residency status.

If the Employment Agency or the Jobcenter can't pay for the recognition, the federal province can also fund some of the cost for recognition. These costs could be the translation, certification, recognition or German courses for the profession.

Here you can find information in German for [Baden-Württemberg](#), [Berlin](#) and [Hamburg](#).

Since December 2016, you can get financial help from all the federal provinces. You can find more information in German [here](#).

You can find more important information in [English](#), [Arabic](#), [Dari](#), [Farsi](#), [Tigrinya](#) and [Pashto](#) on this app. You can use the app to find a counselling service in your area. Or have a look at the [Recognition in Germany](#) website about finding a counselling service for recognition in your area. The website is available in German, English, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, Polish, Turkish and Greek.

## Mehr Informationen

- [How do I register with the Employment Agency?](#)

Score: [31.07.2017]

## How Can I Decide What to Study?

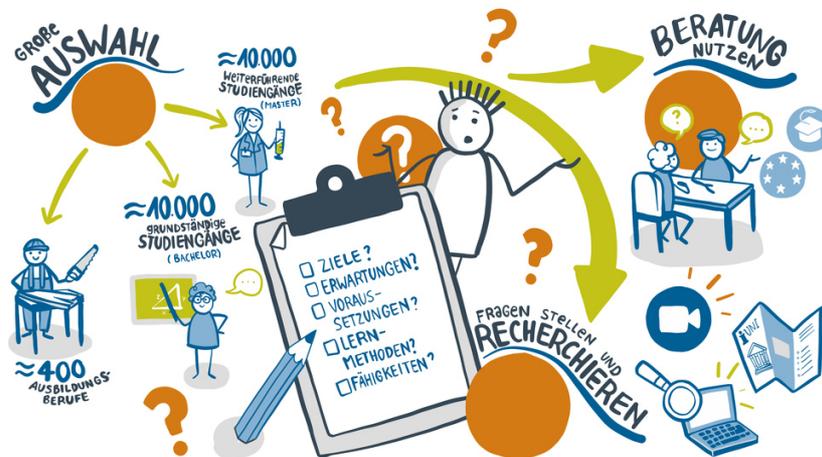


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In Germany there are currently more than [400 professions with vocational education \(Ausbildungsberufe\)](#) and more than [19.000 courses of study \(Studiengänge\)](#).

There is a difference between:

- Vocational training (Ausbildung) with the aim of getting a professional qualification and
- Academic education (Studium) with the aim of getting an academic degree.

If, for example, you would like to be a doctor, a lawyer or an engineer, you need a degree.

If you want to work in the general sector for health, law or engineering, you can get a degree or a professional qualification (vocational training).

The German system for vocational education is special. The dual training system is especially rare in other countries as they don't always have this type of education. More information about professions that require vocational training can be found in the Hop-on Vocational Training Book [How Can I Prepare For A Profession That Requires Vocational Training?](#)

Generally, you differentiate between studies at an institute of higher education by:

- Undergraduate studies (grundständiges Studium) and,
- Postgraduate studies (weiterführendes Studium).

Undergraduate degrees are your first studies if you don't have an academic degree yet. Most of the time, an undergraduate degree is a bachelor's. For certain studies, you get an academic degree through a state exam. Once you have your first degree, you can start your postgraduate studies. A postgraduate degree is, for example, a masters.

Out of the 19.000 courses of studies, around 10.000 are undergraduate and 9.000 are postgraduate. The course of studies are either organised by the state or by private institutes of education. Private institutes of higher education always cost money.

It's hard to find a course of study that fits your interests, skills and goals.

In an [article from Zeit-Online](#), different students talk about what they decided to study. The article is in German.

If you need help, you can get personal advice. Every institute of higher education has a student advice center. In all of the German Federal States, there are institutions that give advice about education and professional orientation. In the chapter called [Where can I find counselling services and projects about studying?](#), you can find a list of counselling services.

You can make a decision by asking yourself different questions. We will give you some ideas for the type of questions you should be asking yourself. There are many more of course.

4 important factors for the choice of a course of study are:

- 1 Interest for the subject
- 2 Personal competences and skills
- 3 Expectations of the study
- 4 Professional Goals

## 1 How Can You Find Out What Interests You?

You can ask yourself the following questions:

- What subjects was I interested in at school?
- What are my hobbies? What do I find fun?
- What do I dedicate myself to or involve myself in?
- What activities make me forget the time?
- What would I voluntarily get up for in the mornings?
- What have I always liked to do?

You can also take a test online, using the [Hochschulkompass](#) website or the [studifinder.de](#) website from North Rhine-Westphalia, for example. The tests are in German.

## 2 How can you find out what competences and skills you have?

You can ask yourself the following questions:

- What kind of educational and professional experience do I have?

- What can I do well (not only at school but also in other areas)?
  - Am I good at being organised?
  - Am I good at quickly understanding technical systems?
- What subjects did I have good grades in?
- What qualifications or certificates do I have?
- Which profession do I already have experience in?

If you don't know where to begin, you can get an idea of what skills you have by taking Ruhr-University Bochum's online test [Borakel](#). The website is in German. You have to register.

## How Can You Know Whether a Course of Study Matches Your Expectations?

You can:

- Speak to students at the institutes of higher education and ask them questions,
- Find out information at the student advice center,
- Attend informative events at institutes of higher education,
- Register as a guest student.

If you can't meet any students personally, you should have a look on the internet. On the website called [oneweekexperience](#) you can find a student. You can get to know a course of study, see what an institute of higher education and a student's life is like for a week. In this [Video](#) you can find out information on how to do a week like that. You must register on the website. The website is in German.

You can find out more information about being a guest student at [What is a guest student?](#)

Some institutes of higher education also offer an online study selection assistant (Online-Studienwahl-Assistenten, OSA). An OSA can help you get a first impression of a course of study. All OSAs are currently only in German.

Here are 3 examples of OSAs:

[OSA of the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam, study track Information and Data Management](#)

[OSA of the University of Hamburg, Psychology Studies](#)

[OSAs of the Free University of Berlin, many courses of studies](#)

## How Can You Find Out What Career Opportunities You Have With A Specific Degree?

You can talk to people that work in the profession you want to work in.

If you don't know anyone personally, you can also have a look on the internet. On [whatchado.com](https://www.whatchado.com) you can watch some videos. In the videos, people talk about what professions they have and how they got them, for example a [Steuerberater](#) (tax consultant) or an [IT Projektmanager](#) (IT project manager). It is an Austrian website so a lot of people speak Austrian German. There are some videos in English and other languages.

You can also look at statistics. The Employment Agency regularly analyses the German labor market. Using the analysis, twice a year, they determine which professions are hiring many employees and which regions don't have enough people with the right qualifications for that profession. The Employment Agency differentiates these professions by qualification. This means they distinguish between professionals of skilled labor (professional qualification), specialist (master craftsmen) and expert (academic degree). These professions can be found on the [Employment Agency Website](#) . The website is in German. The [positive list](#) is created using the analysis.

There are professions where a lot of people need to be hired with professional qualifications or academic degrees and there aren't enough people with the right qualifications for that profession. There are mainly professions in the field of Engineering, IT and Health Care.

## Which Degrees Can Get You A Job the Fastest and Pays Well?

There is no simple answer to this question.

Often, there are differences between regions in Germany, for example in terms of unemployment or salary.

Also there isn't always an automatic link between the chances of finding work and the salary. Also, even if many employees are looking to be hired, it doesn't always mean that you earn a lot of money in that profession.

There are various websites that give information about salary in vocational training or a profession. Often, you can get this information for all of Germany, East Germany, West Germany or the Federal States.

On the website called [Professional Development Navigator \(Berufsentwicklungsnavigator, BEN\)](#), you can look up a profession and see how many applicants there are in a city for that profession for a job. Click on „wieder einsteigen" (re-enter) and it will give you a profession (for example, interpreter) and a city.

### Tip:

Researchers have shown that you will be especially successful when studying if your interests and skills match well.

For example:

The prospects on the labour market for scientists and engineers, natural scientists and engineers are very good. But more students drop out of these subjects than they do any other subjects. In [Maths and Natural sciences 39 % of student drop out and in Engineering it is 36 %](#).

This is why your professional goal and prospects on the labor market aren't the only things to keep in mind. You should also think about:

- What professional goal do I have and why?
- How can I reach my professional goal?
- Which way best suits me personally?
- What kind of ideas and concepts do I have from school?

Dropping out is not the end of a career. During your studies, you will learn a lot of things that can be used in different ways. If you started a study but you're now unsure about it, you can take a test on [PrevDrop](#). The test is in German, English and Italian. At the end you will also get more information about advice centers and alternatives.

## You Want To Speak To Someone About Your Personal Ideas and Questions?

In the chapter called [Where can I find counselling services and projects about studying?](#), you can find counselling services in your state.

## You Don't Have A Computer?

In every city or region, there are institutions with computers where you can look up jobs, professions or vocational training for free.

The Employment Agency has, for example, the Center for Professional Information (Berufsinformationszentrum, BiZ). You can talk to them about finding vocational training, courses or jobs. You can also write an application and print it out. On the [Employment Agency Website](#) there is a list of addresses for the BiZ. The website is in German.

You can also go to libraries and use a computer for free for a certain amount of time. Sometimes you have to sign up too the library before hand.

On the [library portal](#) you can find all the libraries in Germany. The website is in German.

## Mehr Informationen

- [What Requirements Are There For Studying?](#)
- [What ways are there to getting an academic degree in Germany?](#)

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## Where can I find counselling services and projects about studying?

In Germany, there are many institutions that offer free advice. Here we focus on the following topics:

- German courses, school, vocational training and studying (educational advice and migration advice)
- Residency and asylum (legal advice)
- Financial situation and financial help (social advice)
- Studying (advice for your studies)

There are laws and rules that apply to the whole of Germany. But the different German states also have their own sets of laws and rules - especially for academic and school education. Every state also has its own websites with information about the study opportunities for refugees.

There are also a lot of projects currently that support people that have applied for asylum and want to study at an institute of higher education. You can find more information about this under "Projects".

We have collected a few websites and projects. Of course, there are still many more. If you notice or know of an offer that is missing from the list, write to us.

## General Information

### **Bildungsberatung, Migrationsberatung und Rechtsberatung (Education, Migration and Legal Advice)**

In almost all of the German Federal States, there are institutions that give advice about education (vocational training and studying) and professional orientation. This advice is called Bildungsberatung (advice about education).

Furthermore, in every state, there are also institutions that give free advice to migrants. The subjects for this advice are German language courses, family, legal advice or financial aid. This advice is called Migrationsberatung für Erwachsene (migration advice for adults from 27 years old) und Jugendmigrationsdienste (migration advice for young people under 27 years old).

A list of all the education, migration and legal advice can be found on [Hop-on Compass Advice about Education](#).

### **Social Advice (Sozialberatung)**

Social advice is for people that have questions about their financial situation or need financial help.

There is :

1 Social advice for everyone

2 Social advice for students

### **1 Social advice for everyone**

Social advice focuses usually on questions about:

- Arbeitslosengeld II (Hartz IV) and sometimes also Arbeitslosengeld I
- Unemployment Rights
- Social Help

In the [Tacheles database](#) you can look up a social advice center. The database is in German.

Social advice is free. Getting advice from a lawyer can cost money. Before you make an appointments, you should ask how much this would cost.

### **2 Social advice for students**

All institutes of higher education have Studierendenwerk (student services). Studierendenwerk are responsible for giving social advice and answering financial questions. The BAföG-Office is run by the local Studentenwerk. BAföG is the acronym for the laws that determine how the state's financial aid is used for studying. BAföG stands for [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz \(The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act\)](#).

The Studierendenwerk also offer social advice - regardless of whether you receive the BAföG. This advice will give you information about the possibilities of getting financial help for your studies.

On the student services website, you can look up more information in [English](#) or [German](#) about social advice given by student services.

## **Bildungsberatung Garantiefonds Hochschule (Educational Advice provided by Garantiefonds Hochschule)**

This advice is especially for people that didn't go to school in Germany and now want to study at an institute of higher education. This means that the advisers know a lot about the system, the requirements and financial aid.

The advice is free and is, like migration advice, organized by charities (Wohlfahrtsverbänden).

This advice will give you information about:

- Language courses
- Recognition of high school diplomas
- Preparing for Studying
- Choosing what you will study
- Applying for your studies
- Scholarships and financial support

The Garantiefonds Hochschule can also give people financial support (finanziell fördern) before they start studying. The Garantiefonds Hochschule doesn't offer financial support for your studies. You can get financial support if, for example, you take part in:

- German courses to C1 level,
- English courses or
- a Studienkolleg.

For **financial support** you need to meet [special requirements](#):

- Residence permit: §§ 22, 23 or 25 Articles 1 and 2 [AufenthG](#) or Familiennachzug,
- Maximum 2 years after entry into Germany (or maximum 1 year since being recognized as a refugee).
- Age: less than 31 years old.

Whether you get **advice** doesn't depend on your residence permit. You can find out more information on the [Bildungsberatung Garantiefonds Hochschule](#) website in Arabic, English, Farsi, Russian, Spanish and Turkish.

You can get this advice at [a fixed place or mobile](#). Mobile means that the consultants go from place to place.

## Make it German

If you speak Arabic and you have questions about studying, you can go on [Facebook](#) or on the [Make it German](#) website to find more information. You can also ask questions and see what the answers other students have received.

Unfortunately, we couldn't find a similar website in Persian.

## Information and Advice About Studying in German States

The following websites contain:

- General information about studying and what the states offer,
- Specific information for international students (visa) and
- Specific information for refugees (asylum procedures with a temporary permission to stay, an exceptional leave to remain or a residence permit).

The difference is important because people that applied for an asylum:

- Must meet the same requirements as international students (Higher Education Entrance Qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung, HZB) and language skills (Sprachkenntnisse)),
- But don't need proof of their financial resources like international students do,
- You can receive financial help from the state for your studies if you have an exceptional leave to remain or a temporary permission to stay (in contrast to international students).

Additionally, you can find information on the websites to contact the people that can offer advice at an institute of higher education. Advice (Beratung) about studying include questions about entry requirements but also questions about what to study.

## Baden-Württemberg

On the "Ministeriums für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kunst" (Ministry of Science, Research and Art) website, you can find all the information about studying in Baden-Württemberg in [German](#) and [English](#). Under "Ansprechpersonen" (contacts), you can find a list of people that can answer your questions.

## Bayern

On the "Studieren in Bayern" website, you can find general information about studying. The website is in German. For refugees, there is also a list of people from institutes of higher education that can answer your questions in [German](#) and [English](#).

## Berlin

On the [Studieren in BB](#) website you will find general information about studying in Berlin and Brandenburg. The website is in German. On the website for the "Senatsverwaltung für Bildung, Jugend und Familie" (senate department for Education, Young People and Families" you will find a PDF in [German](#) and [English](#) with the contacts of institutes of higher education that specialize in helping refugees.

## Brandenburg

On the [Studieren in BB](#) website you will find general information about studying in Berlin and Brandenburg. The website is in German.

On the [Ministeriums für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kultur website](#) you can find a flyer in [German](#) and [English](#) about studying.

## Bremen

Auf [bremen.de](#) finden Sie Informationen zum Studium auf [Deutsch](#).

The HERE initiative, Higher Education Refugees Entrance, offers advice about studying for refugees in Bremen and Bremerhaven. The website is in [German](#) and [English](#).

## Hamburg

Hamburg provides general information [German](#) and [English](#) about studying. On the website you can also find offers for refugees in [English](#).

## Hessen

On the [Ministeriums für Wissenschaft und Kunst website](#) you can find general information in German about studying in Hessen.

On the "Study in Hessen" website you can find information about [English for International Students](#).

On the "Flüchtlinge an Hochschulen" website, you can find information in [German](#) and [English](#) about scholarships for refugees with a residence permit.

On the "[Hessische Hochschulen](#)" website you can find contact people for refugees on the left side. The website is only in German.

## Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Auf der Webseite Studieren mit Meerwert findet man allgemeine Informationen zum Studium in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern auf [Deutsch](#) und [Englisch](#).

Not all institutes of higher education offer special information for refugees. On the "[Universität Rostock](#)" website you can find information in German. On the "[Hochschule Wismar](#)" website you can find information in many languages. On the website of Greifswald university, you can find information in [German](#) and [English](#).

## Niedersachsen

On the "[Studieren in Niedersachsen](#)" website you can find general information about studying.

On the website, there is also specific information for refugees. You can choose between [Arabic](#), [German](#), [English](#) and [French](#). The website is in German.

## Nordrhein-Westfalen

On the "[Ministeriums für Kultur und Wissenschaft](#)" website you can find general information about studying in Nordrhein-Westfalen.

On the website, you can also find specific information in [Arabic](#), [German](#), [English](#) and [French](#) for refugees.

Since July 2017, there are brochures about studying in Nordrhein-Westfalen and more advice - "[Der Weg an die Hochschule](#)". You can choose between Arabic, German and English.

## Rheinland-Pfalz

On the "[Studienmöglichkeiten für Flüchtlinge](#)" website you can find information about the institutes of higher education. You can choose between Arabic, German, English and French. Under "Weg zum Studium" you can ask questions. The results will tell you what you can do next.

## Saarland

On the "[Bundeslands Saarland](#)" website you can find general information about studying. The website is in German.

On the "Willkommen im Saarland" website you can find information in [German](#), [English](#) and [French](#).

On the website for Saarland university, you can find specific information for refugees in [German](#) and [English](#).

## Sachsen

On [sachsen.de](#) you can find general information in German about studying.

You can find important questions and answers about studying for refugees in [Arabic](#), [German](#), [English](#) and [Persian](#).

Additionally, you can receive specific information for refugees in [Arabic](#), [English](#) and [Persian](#).

## Sachsen-Anhalt

On the [Wirklich weiterkommen](#) website you can find a list of the institutes of higher education in Sachsen-Anhalt. The website is in German.

There aren't any websites with general information in other languages.

The Madgdeburg University has specific information for refugees [German](#) and [English](#) about studying. Hochschule Harz also has specific information in [German](#) and [English](#).

## Schleswig-Holstein

On the website for the state of Schleswig-Holstein you can find general information in [Deutsch](#) about studying. On this website there is also specific information for refugees in [Arabic](#), [German](#), [English](#), [Farsi](#), [Kurdish](#) and [Russian](#).

For international students, there is a summary in [English](#) written by an international student.

## Thüringen

On the [Campus Thüringen](#) website you can find general information in German about studying. In the "Internationals" category, you can find information in [German](#) and [English](#).

On the Thüringen website you can find specific information for refugees in [Arabic](#), [German](#), [English](#), [French](#) and [Persian](#).

## Projects and Advice About Studying At The Institutes of Higher Education

The Deutsche Akademische Austauschdienst (DAAD) finances projects at institutes of higher education that prepare students for their studies. The projects are specifically for refugees.

There are 2 types of projects:

- *Welcome*: these projects engage students - for example with German language courses or Veranstaltungen (events).
- *Integra*: the projects combine some German language courses and subject-specific courses.

In the [DAAD database](#) you can see what cities and what institutions of higher education offer *Welcome* and *Integra*. A lot of institutes of higher education didn't include a link in the database to see more information. The information can be found on the website of the institute of higher education.

**Note:**

Not all institutes of higher education have *Welcome* or *Integra* projects. Taking part in the project doesn't mean that you will be a student at an institute of higher education. Taking part in the project is also not the same as taking part in the Studienkolleg. The institute of higher education decides what requirements you need to meet in order to participate.

Auf der Webseite der Hochschulrektorenkonferenz findet man Informationen zu den Angeboten der einzelnen Hochschulen (auch unabhängig vom DAAD) - auf Deutsch unter [Links zu Hochschulprojekten](#) und auf Englisch unter [Refugee Projects in German Higher Education](#).

All institutes of higher education have an Akademisches Auslandsamt/International Office and a Studienberatung/student advisory service. You can find a list in the DAAD database in [German](#) and [English](#). The information can be found on the website of the institute of higher education.

## More Projects

### Kiron

Kiron Open Higher Education is a social company. Kiron wants to make academic education possible for refugees - no matter where they are. Kiron offers different things. Kiron is a possibility for everyone, if:

- You are missing the necessary German language skills for a regular course of study
- You are missing documents,
- You can't get financial aid (BAföG) for a regular course of study (temporary permission to stay)
- Don't have preparatory colleges or institutes of higher education nearby and can't move, or
- You didn't get a spot in a project to prepare your studies.

You can find out more about Kiron in the chapter called [What is Kiron?](#).

## **IQ Support Program**

The Förderprogramm Integration durch Qualifizierung (support program for integration through qualification) has different offers in every state for people that have a professional diploma (Berufsabschluss) or a high school diploma (Hochschulabschluss).

In some states, there are courses for people that have a high school diploma. The courses often focus on specific courses of study. On the [IQ website](#) you can look up the offers that are available in your region in their database - for example, by searching "Hochschulabschluss" oder "Hochschulabsolvent". The database is in German.

Score: [31.07.2017]