

Germany Student Visa Checklist

Personal Documentation

- Two completed national visa application forms
- Valid national passport
- Two recent biometric portrait photographs

Admission and Language Proficiency

Proof of admission at a German education institution (Any one):

- University admission letter (Zulassungsbescheinigung)
- Letter of admission in a foundation course, issued by a Studienkolleg
- Letter of admission in the course
- Letter of admission in a preparatory German language course

Proof of German language proficiency (For German-only and mixed-language study programs):

- German Language University Entrance Examination for International Applicants (DSH)
- Test of German as a Foreign Language (TestDaF)
- Goethe Institute German Language Diploma (GDS)
- German Language Diploma of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs, Level II (DSD)

Proof of English language proficiency (For English and mixed-language study programs):

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) - Accepted results are PbT (paper-based test) 550 Points, CbT (computer-based test) 213 Points, and IbT (internet-based test) 79-80 Points
- The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) - Accepted scores by German universities are 5 – 6.5

Academic Qualifications

Authenticated certificates of earlier education, including:

- German university entrance qualification “Abitur” (If you’ve studied in a German education provider abroad)
- Recognized foreign academic qualification equally recognized as the German Abitur
- Academic records or transcript
- Curriculum vitae, accompanied by evidence of previous work experiences, if any

Financial Means

Means of subsistence “Finanzierungsnachweis” (Any one):

- Blocked bank account (e.g., Expatrio's Blocked Account).
- Letter of commitment by a resident “Verpflichtungserklärung”
- Letter of a declaration by a parent, supplemented by their bank statements of the latest 6 months
- Scholarship awarding certificate
- Student health insurance with at least 30,000 EUR coverage, valid for at least 3 months (e.g., EDUCARE24 by DR-WALTER)

Additional Documentation

- Motivational letter stating the reason behind your choice of university and study program, career plans, and how your education will help your career
- Marriage certificate (if married), supported by the birth certificate(s) of child(ren), if any
- Proof of payment for the German student visa application fee

Do I Need A Study Visa To Study In Germany?

If you are from any of these countries, you don't need a student visa but would need a residence permit.

- European Union
- Norway
- Switzerland
- Iceland and Liechtenstein
- Australia
- Canada
- Israel
- Japan
- New Zealand
- United States of America
- South Korea

Visa Fees

Applicants Under 18: €37.50

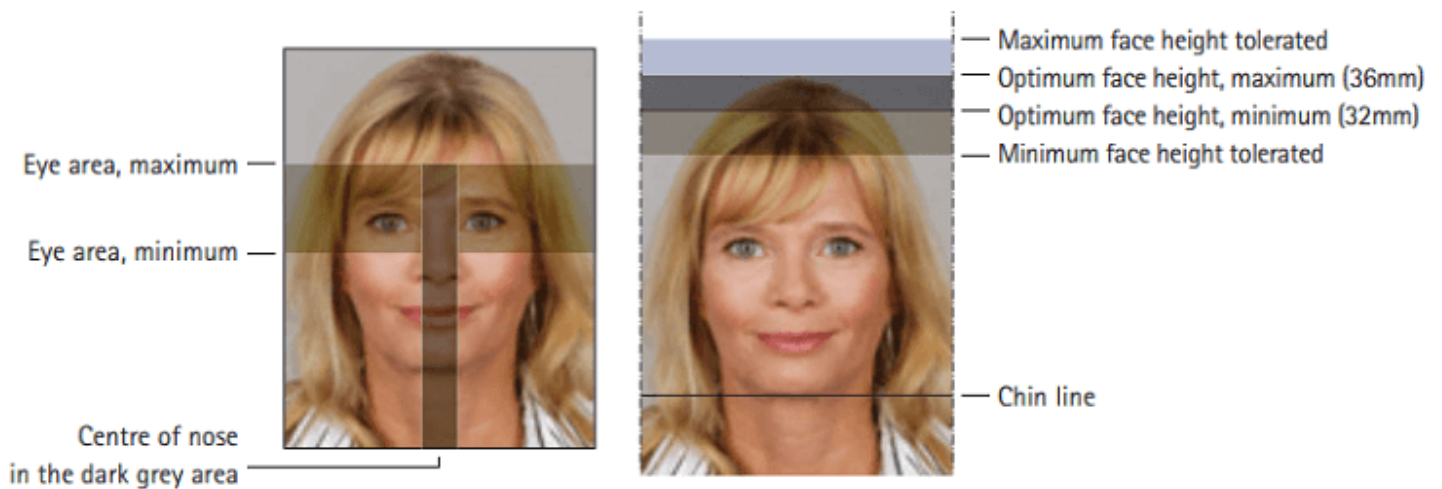
Applicants Above 18: €75

Passport Requirements

- Must have at least 3 months of validity beyond your planned departure from Germany
- Must not be older than 10 years on your departure day from Germany
- Must have at least two blank pages
- Passport data must be clear and legible
- Passport must be undamaged (no tears, burns, or wet pages)
- Submit a copy of your passport's data page along with your visa application
- Include older passports with expired visas or stamps and no blank pages, if applicable
- Do not staple documents together; use a rubber band

- These rules apply to all nationalities, adults, and children

Photo Requirements



- Snap taken within 6 months
- Photo size: 35×45 mm (1.37×1.77 inches)
- Face must occupy 70-80% of the picture
- Frontal view as in the sample
- High-quality, must represent your true appearance
- Light grey background
- Sharp, clear, well-contrasted
- No red eyes, reflections, or shadows
- Lighting must be even, neither too dark nor too bright
- Quality paper: glossy/matte
- 600 dpi resolution
- Provide 2 identical photos

Blocked Bank Account

A Blocked Account is a specialized bank account tailored to the needs of foreign students in Germany. Its primary purpose is to hold a prescribed amount of funds to cover living expenses for a year. You need to open an account as soon as you receive your university offer letter. The minimum amount as of October, 2022 is €11,208 and the student may withdraw €934 per month.

Can I Get My Visa Without A Blocked Account?

Yes, it is possible to get a German student visa without a blocked account under certain conditions. To obtain a German study visa without a blocked account, you can consider the following alternatives:

Parent's Financial Support: You can submit your parent's documents certifying their income and financial assets as proof of your financial support. This should demonstrate that your parents have the financial means to cover your living expenses during your studies in Germany.

Guarantee from a Friend or Relative: If you have a friend or relative with permanent residence in Germany, they can provide a formal obligation letter (Verpflichtungserklärung) guaranteeing to cover your living expenses. This commitment must be made at the local "Foreigners Authority."

Scholarship Award: If you have been awarded a scholarship from a recognized institution such as the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) or the Max Planck Society, you can present the scholarship award notification as proof of financial support.

Declaration of Commitment (Verpflichtungserklärung)

A Declaration of Commitment (Verpflichtungserklärung or VE) is a crucial document for obtaining a German visa. This formal obligation letter serves as proof that someone in Germany, whether a relative, friend, or business entity with legal residency or registration, is willing to cover all your financial responsibilities during your visit.

This commitment includes financial support for your sustenance (food, clothing, etc.), accommodation, as well as medical, nursing, and return costs. The host's eligibility to become your financial sponsor is determined by the Foreign Office, based on their income, residency status, and accommodation conditions. This assessment occurs after they formally apply to become your financial guarantor.

Declaration of Commitment for Long-Term Stay (National Visa)

This document demonstrates financial coverage for visits lasting more than 90 days in Germany, including activities like attending language courses, study preparatory courses, full-time studies, PhD programs, or job-seeking as a graduate of a German university. It is a mandatory requirement for obtaining a German long-term stay visa (national visa) and cannot be used for German family reunion visas or similar long-term visa categories.

Validity Period of a Letter of Commitment

For Schengen visas, a Declaration of Commitment is valid for 6 months. However, for national visas, it remains valid for 5 years from the date of issuance. Should you require this document after its expiration, you'll need to obtain a new, valid letter of commitment that corresponds to the type of German visa you are applying for.

Obtaining a Formal Obligation Letter

The formal obligation letter must be sent to you by your host in its original, signed form.

Qualifying Preconditions for a Letter of Commitment:

Several conditions must be met to ensure your host qualifies as a financial supporter.

- Your visit plans must be clear, including the dates of your arrival and departure from Germany.
- Your host must possess the financial means to cover your maintenance expenses, proven by sufficient income or savings.
- Your host must have a registered residential address within Germany.
- Your host must be a legal resident in Germany, holding a valid residence or settlement permit, or another applicable residence permit with validity extending beyond your visit period.
- The host must personally undertake the formal obligation, either by signing it in person at the local "Foreigners Authority" or through a representative with a signed Power of Attorney, accompanied by a photocopy of the host's passport or national ID card.

Declaration of Commitment for Short-Term Stay (Schengen Visa):

This document confirms that you have financial support for visits lasting up to 90 days in Germany. It is essential for obtaining a German short-term stay visa (Schengen visa) for purposes such as visiting relatives or friends, attending business meetings or conferences, or touring the country.

Requirements For A Formal Obligation Letter

Host needs to submit these documents when applying for the declaration of commitment:

- Duly filled-out "Angaben zur Verpflichtungserklärung" form
- Valid passport or national ID card
- Valid national passport
- Proof that the host is a legal resident in Germany (if the host is a foreigner in Germany)
 - Host's German residence permit
 - Host's German settlement permit
 - Another German residence permit of the host
- Proof that the host has sufficient income or savings
 - Proof of host's income from employment
 - Salary statements of the past 6 months, including that of the spouse (For long-stay visa)
 - Salary statements of the past 3 months (For short-stay visa)
 - Contract of their employment with a validity period covering at least 6 upcoming months
 - Formal letter of the employer issued over the past 2 weeks to confirm the host is their existing employee
 - Proof of host's income of unemployment
 - Determination notice ALG I, issued by the Federal Employment Agency, showing your host is a recipient of unemployment benefit (ALG I)
 - Proof of host's income from self-employment
 - Certificate of monthly net incomes by a tax consultant and signed by the host
 - Existing Business Evaluation (BWA) "Betriebswirtschaftliche Auswertung", showing the current cost/profit of the company or Revenue Surplus Bill
 - Tax registration certificate or business registration extract or shareholder contract

- Proof of monthly contribution for private long-term health insurance
- Proof of funds received from a job (If have a start-up funded by a job)
- Latest income tax assessment
- Proof of host's income from business activity
 - Duly completed "Examination Report" and supporting documents stated in the report The report has to be completed by a tax consultant or representative
 - Tax registration certificate
 - Existing business register extract
 - Income Surplus Invoice
- Proof that your host lives in a rented/own residence
 - Confirmation of registration
 - Rental contract. It must be supported by a letter of confirmation by the landlord of the rented place
- Proof of host's divorce from spouse or children (If applies)
 - Proof of complete and monthly maintenance payments
 - Certificate of maintenance advance fund, issued by the respective youth welfare council
 - Proof of paid maintenance obligations
 - Court documents showing an officially ended marriage

* All documents must be submitted in both original and in photocopy.

Fee to obtain a financial obligation letter: €29 and €14, 50 for minors and an additional fee of 0.50€ for each photocopy of the original documents.