



Study and Research
in Germany
Annotated Weblinks

WWW



DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst
German Academic Exchange Service

“New energy for the future.”

Baris Karacay from Turkey studies electrical engineering at RWTH Aachen University.



The picture was taken at a charging station in front of the SuperC building at RWTH Aachen University.

www.study-in.de

Study in
Germany



Land of Ideas

Study and Research
in Germany
Annotated Weblinks

8th Edition

DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst
German Academic Exchange Service

Publisher DAAD

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Key



Weblink



Provider



Description



Languages



Facebook page



Twitter account




Studies – Important Contact Points

DAAD: Study and Research in Germany

 www.daad.de
www.daad.de/deutschland



 The German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst e.V. – DAAD) is a joint organisation of German institutions of higher education and student bodies. It is the world's largest organisation dedicated to promoting academic cooperation. The DAAD helps young academics gain international experience around the world. Awarding scholarships is just one of the many facets of its diverse programme. The DAAD promotes internationalisation at German universities, strengthens German Studies and the German language abroad and helps developing countries establish more efficient universities. The DAAD is an important German foreign policy partner in matters of culture, science, education and development.

 The DAAD homepage provides information on the German higher education system and on studying in Germany, on the funding opportunities offered by the DAAD and other

organisations (search engine), on language and short courses, on language tests, and, of course, on living in Germany, in general. The website also provides the addresses of all DAAD offices, at home and abroad.



German, English and Spanish

DAAD: Portal www.study-in.de



www.study-in.de



The Internet Portal for foreign students and pupils provides information about studying and living in Germany – including interactive elements, such as blogs, chats and games. Furthermore, you can also find an easy search option for degree programmes, checklists for downloading, dates of upcoming student fairs as well as ten information videos (“Student Life – Inside Germany”).



German and English

DAAD: International Bachelor, Master and Doctoral Programmes in Germany



www.daad.de/international-programmes







“International Bachelor, Master and Doctoral Programmes” are of particular interest to international students, graduates and young researchers. These programmes lead to internationally recognised degrees and have generally been accredited. In most cases, the language of instruction is English. The curriculum includes international aspects, stays abroad and / or courses taught by international visiting lecturers and professors. Foreign students are supported by special guidance and advice services. The database presents more than 1,500 bachelor, master and doctoral programmes, preparatory courses as well as language and short courses. The information provided includes details on the course structure, educational goals, on support and advice offerings, funding opportunities, as well as the contact details for the respective university or institution of higher education. The advanced search options enable you to search by different criteria such as the amount of tuition fees or to look for online degree programmes.







English

HRK – Higher Education Compass


-  www.hochschulkompass.de
-  German Rectors' Conference (HRK), see page 15
-  The Higher Education Compass (Hochschulkompass) database provides information on and links to all state and state-recognised higher education institutions in Germany, information on the first and (post)graduate studies they offer, on doctoral study opportunities and on the international cooperation agreements maintained by Germany's higher education institutions.
-  German and English


studienwahl.de

-  www.studienwahl.de
-  The 16 German Federal States (*Länder*) and the Federal Employment Agency (Bundesagentur für Arbeit) – see also the chapter on “Entry, Employment, Insurance”
-  This page offers short descriptions of all the academic fields offered in Germany along with a database containing information and links to all the degree programmes. The website also provides a whole range of information and advice on studying for foreign students, such as the job market situation, the various kinds of higher education institutions, on how to finance studies, on insurance matters and much more (especially for German students, but with some information specifically for foreigners).
-  German, English, French and Spanish (database only available in German)

National Association of Student Services Organisations: Information for foreign students

 www.internationale-studierende.de

 The National Association of Student Services Organisations (Deutsches Studentenwerk – DSW) is the umbrella organisation of student services organisations (Studentenwerke) in Germany. These organisations are partner organisations of the universities that support around two million students in Germany with study-related services.

 This website offers practical tips and information for foreign students on topics like how to enter Germany, on accommodation, health insurance, financing, matriculation and registration, or residence permits. The page additionally has a quiz on studying in Germany, information on key terms [like assessment test (*Feststellungsprüfung*), or preparatory courses (*Studienkollegs*)] plus addresses of the student services organisations.


 German and English

DAAD Facebook page “Study in Germany”

 www.facebook.com/Study.in.Germany



 German Academic Exchange Service, see page 5

 The Facebook page “Study in Germany”, administrated by the DAAD, addresses foreign students interested in studying and living in Germany. This is where you can ask any questions you might have, and can obtain prompt answers as well as exciting and interesting information about the country and its people. Due to the ever-growing number of registered fans foreign students will be able to find many like-minded people on their way to and through Germany.


 English



Admission to German Universities

DAAD: Admission database

 www.daad.de/admission

 The DAAD admission database gives an initial idea of whether or not your higher education entrance qualification, i. e. your school leaving certificate, is recognised in Germany. Please select your country of origin, if applicable your certificate and answer some additional country-specific questions in the following few steps. The result will let you know what kind of possibilities you can generally expect for admission in Germany.

 German, English and Spanish

Preparatory courses (*Studienkollegs*)



www.studienkollegs.de



Working group of heads of preparatory courses (*Studienkollegs*) at German universities



The *Studienkollegs*, or preparatory courses, prepare international students for the “Test to assess the suitability of foreign applicants for academic study at universities in the Federal Republic of Germany”, known as the *Feststellungsprüfung*. This test has to be taken by international students whose school-leaving certificate does not qualify them for a course of study in Germany. The website provides information about this test and the preparatory courses. It contains a list of all *Studienkollegs*, a description of the different types of course on offer (which differ according to intended course of study) and an example of the admissions examination.



German and English

Application Services for International Students (*uni-assist*) e.V.



www.uni-assist.de



Application Services for International Students (*Arbeits- und Servicestelle für internationale Studienbewerbungen uni-assist e.V.*) was founded by 41 German universities, the German Rectors’ Conference (HRK) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) to make the admissions procedure for international applicants simpler, more efficient, less costly and more user-friendly.




uni-assist currently processes an application for admission to a German higher education institution for a fee of 43 to 68 euros (and then 15 euros for each additional higher education institution), as long as the higher education institution in question is a *uni-assist* cooperation partner. More than 150 universities in Germany currently have this status with *uni-assist*. The advantages for foreign applicants lie in reduced application costs and quicker processing. The website provides a list of all the *uni-assist* member universities plus a detailed description of the application process. You can also apply online.




German, English, French, Russian and Spanish

Foundation for University Admissions

 www.hochschulstart.de

 Foundation for University Admissions (Stiftung für Hochschulzulassung)

 If you'd like to study an admissions-restricted subject (*numerus clausus*) and are either a national of an EU/EEA country or are a *Bildungsinländer* (i. e. you gained your higher education entrance qualification at a school in Germany or at a recognised German school abroad), you have to apply to the Foundation for University Admissions for your study place.


The website www.hochschulstart.de provides detailed information on the applicable conditions and deadlines and on the subjects for which admissions restrictions are currently in force. It also contains a glossary which explains all important terms relating to the university application procedure.


 German

INOBIIS – Orientation and Application

 www.inobis.de

 uni-assist e.V., see page 10

 The website offers orientation aids to help prospective students choose which subject to study (e. g. self-tests and information on how German degree programmes are organised and on the degrees they award). Additionally, a database contains application checklists that take account of the target degree, the chosen university and the country of origin. The portal also includes practical tips on all kinds of topics related to living and studying in Germany.

 German and English

EU: Information on the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System – ECTS



ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/ects_en.htm



The European Commission launched the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) to facilitate uncomplicated academic mobility.



ECTS was introduced to encourage the recognition of academic achievements between European universities and to raise the transparency of study programmes. The above website explains exactly how ECTS works for students.



German, English and French. The most important information is also provided in 13 other languages.

Test for Academic Studies



www.testas.de



Gesellschaft für Akademische Studienvorbereitung und Testentwicklung e.V., ITB Consulting GmbH, Bonn, TestDaF Institute, Bochum



TestAS is a central, standardised Academic Aptitude Test for foreign students. The TestAS result provides international students with information on how they are performing in comparison with other applicants. Applicants from abroad can improve their chances of getting a study place in Germany by achieving good results in the Test for Academic Studies. The test is held several times a year and can be taken at test centres all over the world. The website offers information on when and where the test will be held, how much it costs to take the test, and includes tips on the registration process. It also offers sample questions.




German and English



Scholarship-awarding Organisations

DAAD: Scholarship database

 www.funding-guide.de

 The scholarship database provides information on DAAD programmes and funding opportunities for international students, graduates and postdocs offered by other selected organisations. The DAAD has taken the enormous and diverse range of scholarship programmes for foreigners and has carefully selected a total of more than 170 funding opportunities offered by more than 75 organisations. Consequently, the DAAD scholarship database also contains the programmes offered by all the major organisations that fund young gifted and talented students, for example, those maintained by the political parties and the churches in Germany. When users enter their country of origin, subject area and academic status, the system displays those programmes which perfectly match the user's personal profile.

 German and English

German Research Foundation (DFG)



www.dfg.de



The German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft – DFG) is the central public funding organisation for academic research (universities and publicly-funded research institutes) in Germany.



The DFG also funds foreign academics and researchers in Germany when they aim to work in Germany in research or academia at a later stage. For example, the DFG awards research grants for fixed topic or limited term research projects. The DFG website offers extensive information on all programmes and has all information leaflets, guidelines and forms available for downloading (PDF- and RTF-Formats).



German and English

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH)



www.humboldt-foundation.de



The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung – AvH) enables highly-qualified foreign postdocs (academics and researchers) to come to Germany to complete a long-term research project.



The AvH website describes all the programmes offered by the AvH in detail and allows users to download the application forms. The latest news on the work of the AvH can be found in the online magazine “Humboldt Kosmos”. The “Practical hints for your stay in Germany” for visiting researchers and scholars offer plenty of detailed tips, for example, on finding a place to live, buying a car and other everyday problems. The Guide can be found in the “Sponsorship” section under the heading of “Service”. The services of the AvH are complemented by the Humboldt Foundation Network Database, where you can search for many Humboldtians worldwide.




German and English




Higher Education System

German Rectors' Conference (HRK)

 www.hrk.de

 The German Rectors' Conference (Hochschulrektorenkonferenz – HRK) is a voluntary association of state and state-recognised universities and higher education institutions in Germany. The HRK currently has 268 member institutions and addresses questions relating to the responsibilities of higher education institutions: research, teaching and studies, academic (postgraduate and postdoc) continuing education and training, knowledge and technology transfer, international cooperation plus university self-government.

 Besides the link to the Higher Education Compass (see chapter on “Studies – Important Contact Points”), the website offers reports on the resolutions, projects and initiatives of the HRK plus press releases.

 German and English

Conference of the Ministers of Education (KMK) and Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB)



www.kmk.org
www.kmk.org/zab
www.anabin.de



The KMK (Kultusministerkonferenz) is the standing conference of the federal states (*Länder*) ministers or senators responsible for education, training, higher education and research plus cultural affairs.



The KMK website offers information on fields such as the KMK's work on securing and developing a common higher education structure in Germany or its activities in respect of European and international education, research and culture policy.

The ZAB (Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen) is based at the Secretariat of the KMK. Its website provides information on the responsibilities and services which the ZAB performs in the field of evaluating and recognising foreign educational qualifications and certificates.

The ZAB information system on the recognition of foreign educational certificates and degrees can be found at:

www.anabin.de.




KMK: German and English


ZAB: German

anabin: German (English version planned)

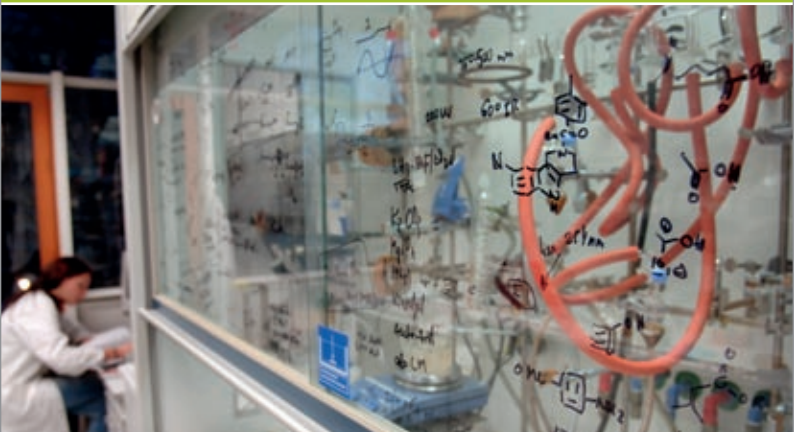
CHE/DIE ZEIT: University Ranking

 <http://ranking.zeit.de/che2013/de>

 DIE ZEIT is the leading German weekly newspaper in Germany. The DIE ZEIT website hosts the university ranking jointly carried out by the Centre for Higher Education Development (Centrum für Hochschulentwicklung – CHE).

 This website also contains current German university rankings. So far, the ranking has examined more than 30 popular subjects from various faculties. Since 1998, more than 350 universities have been included in the ranking. More than 200,000 students and around 15,000 professors have participated in the interviews for the current ranking. The findings of the survey are not simply added together to produce a total score. Rather, the survey produces a multidimensional ranking: several league tables, arranged on the basis of various criteria, reflect the strengths and weaknesses of the individual faculties and departments. To use this free service, you have to register on the website.

 German and English




Doctorates and Research

Research in Germany

 www.research-in-germany.de



 Published by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF, see page 20). Editorial responsibility for the portal lies with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD, see page 5).





 The English internet portal “Research in Germany” provides scientists and researchers from abroad with a wealth of easily accessible information on Germany’s research landscape and its latest research achievements. It also offers initial information on research funding, gives practical tips for a research stay in Germany (FAQs) and lists more than 300 annotated links to the most relevant and important sites on science and research in Germany. Users can subscribe for a newsletter that appears once every four months. It includes up-to-date articles and interviews on collaborative international research as well as on appropriate sources of funding.

 English, with basic information also given in German

Research Explorer – The German research directory

-  www.daad.de/research-explorer
-  The German research directory is a joint project of the DFG (German Research Foundation, see page 14) and the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service, see page 5).
-  The database Research Explorer contains information on some 19,000 German institutes and departments as well as on research institutions and organisations working outside the university sector. Listings contain current postal and internet addresses which are constantly checked and updated.
-  German and English

DAAD: PhDGermany – The Platform for Doctoral Positions and Research Opportunities in Germany

-  www.phdgermany.de
-  German Academic Exchange Service, see page 5
-  In the DAAD database, you will find PhD positions specifically for foreign applicants. Once you have found a PhD offer matching your interests, you can directly apply online via the DAAD portal.
-  German and English

Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)



www.bmbf.de



Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung der Bundesrepublik Deutschland)



The website provides information on the BMBF, its staff, structure and goals, as well as on its policy fields, initiatives, lead projects, support programmes, project sponsors and publications.



German and English

EURAXESS Germany – Germany for Researchers



www.euraxess.de



The National Coordination Point at the Humboldt Foundation (see page 14) is part of the European EURAXESS project.





EURAXESS Germany advises and informs researchers about sources of funding, job offers, social insurance, tax, etc. The website provides information for researchers who come to Germany, go abroad from Germany and return to Germany. It also links researchers with contact points all around Europe.







German and English

DFG: Lists of Research Training Groups and Collaborative Research Centres

- 
www.dfg.de/gk (Research Training Groups)
www.dfg.de/sfb (Collaborative Research Centres)
-  German Research Foundation (DFG), see page 14
-  The DFG website contains lists of the DFG-funded Research Training Groups (*Graduiertenkollegs*) and Collaborative Research Centres, arranged by research areas and Federal States. The lists include the name of and contact for a Research Training Group or Collaborative Research Centre and the start date plus a link to further information.
-  German and English

DFG: Excellence Initiative

- 
www.dfg.de/exzellenzinitiative
-  German Research Foundation (DFG), see page 14
-  The DFG provides information on the backgrounds and objectives of the Excellence Initiative passed by the German federal and state governments and presents the individual funding lines and the funded projects on this website. The Excellence Initiative to promote science and research at German universities was founded in 2005 by the German federal government and federal states. A total of 4.6 billion euros has been allocated to graduate schools to fund talented young researchers, clusters of excellence to promote cutting-edge research and future-oriented concepts for the project-based expansion of top university research by the end of 2017.
-  German and English



General Information on Germany

Portal for Germany



www.deutschland.de



Federal Foreign Office and Frankfurter Societäts-Medien GmbH



“deutschland.de” is the official and independent web-based portal of the Federal Republic of Germany. It offers a collection of important links to German sites and sources with information in the following categories: politics, life, knowledge, business, culture and environment.

The magazine “DE – Magazine Deutschland”, which is published in ten languages, can also be downloaded from this website.




German, English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish

Young Germany

 www.young-germany.de  

 Federal Foreign Office and Frankfurter Societäts-Medien GmbH


 The website provides information on career opportunities, innovative developments in research and science and on trends, lifestyle and the everyday life of young people in Germany. This mix of topics with blogs and podcasts is complemented by services and information of interest to people coming to Germany for work, education or training. Interactive services help users search for a job or find accommodation and make their first contacts.

 English

Tourism in Germany

 www.germany.travel  

 The German National Tourist Board (Deutsche Zentrale für Tourismus – DZT) is mainly financed from resources made available by the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Technologie).

 This page provides information about tourism and travelling through Germany, and presents sights such as towns, palaces, nature and national parks, and tourist routes, such as the German Wine Route *Deutsche Weinstraße* or the Romanesque Route *Straße der Romantik*. The page also offers an interactive Map of Germany and a calendar of events.

 German, English plus 27 other languages

Facts about Germany



www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de



Federal Foreign Office and Frankfurter Societäts-Medien GmbH



The Internet version of the printed guide “Facts about Germany” (“Tatsachen über Deutschland”) provides information on Germany and its people, on the system of government, on social life, on the political forces and developments, on the economy, business and industry and on Germany’s cultural diversity. There is also a glossary “Basiswissen über Deutschland”, which explains 120 terms, and a list of links.



German, English plus 17 other languages

Federal Agency for Civic Education



www.bpb.de



The Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung – BpB) is a subsidiary agency of the Federal Ministry of the Interior and aims to promote an understanding for political facts and aspects by providing and communicating information on politics and society.








The BpB’s free-of-charge publications are presented on the website and can be ordered online. Sending publications only costs a handling charge of 4.50 euros per title plus postage and packing. Publications can also be sent abroad. Some items, such as issues of “Information zur politischen Bildung”, “Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte” or the “Pocket-Reihe” series of lexicons are available online, as well.









German, some basic information in English

German Culture International

-  www.deutsche-kultur-international.de 
-  German Culture International (Deutsche Kultur International) is a community project of the Association for International Cooperation (Vereinigung für Internationale Zusammenarbeit – VIZ) and is funded by the Cultural Section of the Federal Foreign Office.
-  This website presents those organisations which play an active part in German foreign cultural policy, listing them by areas of responsibility. The site offers brief outlines, for example, of projects and programmes which promote international academic exchange or of opportunities for learning German at home or abroad. These sections also refer users to the German intermediary agencies, such as the DAAD or the Goethe Institute.
-  German and English

Deutsche Welle

-  www.dw-world.de  
-  Deutsche Welle (DW) is a public broadcasting station funded by the federal government. DW delivers a comprehensive overview of political, economic and cultural life in Germany on the radio, on television, and on the internet around the world, while presenting and explaining German positions on important questions.
-  The Deutsche Welle service offers news from around the world (upon request also by e-mail newsletter), along with analyses and commentaries, a guide to DW radio and TV programmes in all available languages plus complementary service information, such as on how best to receive the broadcasts (channels and frequencies, for example). Users can also listen to the radio and watch TV online. Under the heading “Deutsch lernen”, online German courses and language training are also available.
-  German, English plus 29 other languages from Albanian to Urdu

Deutschlandradio



www.dradio.de



DeutschlandRadio with its three radio channels – Deutschlandfunk, Deutschlandradio Kultur and DRadio Wissen – is the national radio broadcasting corporation of the Federal Republic of Germany.



The DeutschlandRadio website not only lets you tune in to the radio online, but also offers a wealth of additional news and information, plus book tips and film reviews, radio plays and much more.



German

Tip

German media news in English on the Internet

All of Germany's daily and weekly papers also operate a website, in most cases in German only.

But the German press do offer news in English, for example, on the following websites:

www.thelocal.de >> This portal gathers the latest news on Germany and translates them completely into English.

www.spiegel.de/international >> English-language service offered by **Spiegel Online** (website of the news magazine "Der Spiegel")

www.signandsight.com >> English-language service by www.perlentaucher.de, a website that analyses and summarises the cultural pages of Germany's largest papers every day and presents a weekly round-up of international magazines.

Kulturportal Deutschland

-  www.kulturportal-deutschland.de
-  The Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media
-  This portal takes users to the Culture Portals of the various federal states (*Länder*), which offer information on current and up-coming events, for example. It also includes information on Germany's cultural policy.
-  German, State Portals partly offered in English as well




Entry, Employment, Insurance

Federal Foreign Office

 www.auswaertiges-amt.de




 Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt – AA)

 The website of the Federal Foreign Office is the first place to look for answers to all your questions about entering Germany. The website also offers information about and contact details for Germany's diplomatic and consular missions abroad. Important forms such as the Visa Application Form can be downloaded in the “Entry & Residence” section and it is also possible to apply for a visa online.

 German, English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish

DAAD: Info Sheets on Entry, Residence and Employment

 www.daad.de/deutschland/download


 The DAAD offers two detailed information sheets, one on the **Entry and Residence Provisions** and one on the **Employment Provisions** relating to foreign students, academics and researchers. These not only explain the current law but also detail the related administrative procedures.

 German and English

Federal Ministry of the Interior: Portal on the Immigration Act

 www.zuwanderung.de

 Federal Ministry of the Interior (Bundesministerium des Innern – BMI)

 The website provides detailed information on the German immigration act. The section “law on foreigners” answers FAQs on the subject of German laws on foreigners. The brochure “Welcome to Germany – Information for Immigrants” is also available here for downloading. It contains useful tips that will help you get used to everyday life in Germany, and the (internet) addresses of numerous advisory services. The brochure is available in German, English, Arabic, French, Polish, Russian and Turkish.

 German and English

Federal Employment Agency



www.arbeitsagentur.de



The Federal Employment Agency (Bundesagentur für Arbeit – BA) and its branch offices, the Employment Agencies (Agenturen für Arbeit) are the first government contact points for the unemployed and for those looking for a job in Germany.



The Federal Employment Agency website offers information for job seekers and, above all, various job exchanges with job search and job offer options, including work and industrial placements, internships, and temporary / casual jobs. The English and French pages offer a comprehensive range of essential information on the topic of “Working in Germany” for foreigners.



German, basic information also in English and French

Tip

Internship Placement Agencies

Are you looking to complete some practical training in the form of an internship or work placement? The Internship Office (Praktikantenamt) or International Office at your university will be pleased to advise and help you.

The following student organisations will also be able to assist you in word and deed:



www.aiesec.de >> **AIESEC Deutschland** (German)







www.elsa-germany.org >> **ELSA Deutschland e.V.** (European Law Students' Association) (German and English)



www.iaeste.de >> **IAESTE** (International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience) (German and English)

German Social Insurance System

-  www.deutsche-sozialversicherung.de
-  The European Representation of the German Social Insurance System, on behalf of the central associations of the German social insurance system
-  The website explains the basic principles of the German social insurance and the five categories of unemployment, old age, health, accident and nursing care insurance. For each type of insurance, this site explains exactly who is covered by statutory insurance and who can take out voluntary insurance, what is covered (paid) by the insurance and how it is organised, complemented by additional documents and links.
-  German, English and French

Tip

Job-hunting on the Internet

Social networks, such as the German network www.xing.com or the worldwide network www.linkedin.com, are a very popular way of making professional and career contacts. Networks like these can help you get in touch with companies looking for new staff or interns. In addition, you can find job exchanges that concentrate more on student and/or academic job searches at the following websites:

- www.academics.com
- www.studentenjobs24.de
- www.jobber.de
- www.jobscanner.de (searches through company websites)
- www.jobworld.de (metasearch engine)
- www.jobs.zeit.de
- www.stepstone.de
- www.monster.de



Learn German

DAAD: Language and Specialist Courses



www.summerschools.de



In the DAAD database “Language and Short Courses” you can find more than 350 courses offered by German universities specifically for international students. The range of available courses is enormous. Besides specialist courses such as European Studies, Renewable Energies or Art History, there are many courses designed for learning German, focussing on different aspects such as German cultural studies, cross-cultural communication, or German for lawyers. The courses can be searched by place, topic, date, duration and language of instruction.



German and English

TestDaF: Standardised German as a Foreign Language Test



www.testdaf.de



The TestDaF Institute is affiliated to the University in Hagen and the Ruhr University Bochum and offers a standardised German as a foreign language test worldwide.



Study applicants from abroad generally have to prove that they are sufficiently proficient in the German language to be able to take up a course of studies in Germany. TestDaF is the central, standardised Test of German as a Foreign Language (*Test für Deutsch als Fremdsprache*) and is modelled on the US Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). TestDaF provides foreigners with an opportunity to gain the German language certificate required for admission to higher education in Germany while they are still in their home country. The TestDaF website provides details on the next examination dates, a sample set of examination questions and the addresses of all the test centres around the world at which the TestDaF can be taken.



German (basic information in PDF format also available in section “Infos in Ihrer Sprache” in English, French, Spanish plus 15 other languages)

Goethe Institute



www.goethe.de



The Goethe Institute (GI) is the largest intermediary organisation in the field of German foreign cultural policy. With its 149 institutes and 10 liaison offices in 93 countries worldwide, the Goethe Institute is responsible for teaching and spreading knowledge about German language and culture.







The website provides information on topics like “Society”, “Learning German”, and “Teaching German”, plus access to all the institutes and the information services and language courses they offer, an online shop and useful links. The website includes various special online offers and services, such as distance learning courses and online materials for German learners and teachers.








German, English and Spanish. The websites of the institutes in English and / or the national language

Learning Languages in Tandem

-  www.slf.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/etandem
-  Department of Language Teaching Research at the Ruhr University Bochum (Seminar für Sprachlehrforschung)
-  The Learning in Tandem concept is a kind of open learning system in which people with differing mother languages work in pairs to learn their languages from each other and to find out more about each other and about the tandem partner's cultural background. This website informs you about ways to learn a language using eTandem. Tandem partners are organised free of charge for all languages. The site also contains learning aids and plenty of tips and advice on the subject.
-  German, English plus 12 other languages

Learning Languages in a Social Community

-  www.polyglot-learn-language.com


-  The Polyglot Community matches people by their language preferences. Online and in local meetings language fans can make conversation and improve their skills by talking to each other.
-  English plus about 45 other languages

Tip

For German studies students

- www.erlangerliste.de >> “Erlanger Liste”**
 The “Literature” section of the Erlanger List provides links on German departments and institutions
- www.germanistenverzeichnis.de >> Online List of German Departments and Teachers** On this site, more than 4,800 Germanists from more than 50 countries provide information on their research fields.
- www.germanistik-im-netz.de >> Virtual Specialised Library for German Studies** Parallel search in selected library catalogues, weekly information service on new publications, overview of German studies journals, bibliographies, links etc.
- www.litrix.de >> Litrix.de – German Literature Online**
 Information portal for the worldwide promotion of contemporary German literature (German, English, Russian)
- guttenberg.spiegel.de >> Gutenberg Project-DE**
 The largest online collection of German literature with more than 6,000 works by more than 1,200 authors
- www.canoo.net >> German Dictionaries and Grammar**
 Dictionaries and information on word grammar, word formation, sentence grammar and spelling (German and English)
- www.goethe.de/lks >> Catalogue of Links: Germany on the Internet** Collection of links at the Goethe Institute with a wide range of links for German learners and teachers (German and English)



Telecommunications, Travel and Accommodation

Das Telefonbuch



www.telefonbuch.de



Deutsche Telekom Medien GmbH is a subsidiary of Deutsche Telekom AG.



The DeTeMedien website offers a search engine for its German telephone directory.



German

Gelbe Seiten



www.gelbeseiten.de



Deutsche Telekom Medien GmbH and their publishing partners



The Gelbe Seiten is a telephone directory that lists businesses according to field.



German

Tip

Phoning home at reasonable rates



www.skype.com >> Skype enables registered users to call each other via the internet free of charge, and even to make reasonably cheap calls worldwide to a landline or mobile phone.

Various providers enable you to make international calls from your mobile at reasonable costs. It's worthwhile comparing the prices for making calls to the home country.



www.toolani.com



www.dcalling.com



www.simmini.de.



German, English, www.toolani.de also available in three other languages, www.skype.com also in 27 more languages





VerkehrsmittelVergleich

-  www.verkehrsmittelvergleich.de
 
-  fromAtoB GmbH, sponsored by a spin-off of RTWH Aachen University and the LMU Entrepreneurship Center
-  This website offers a search engine for all traffic connections available across Germany and compares the connections by price and travel time.
-  German, English and 9 other languages

Tip

Car-sharing agencies

A value-for-money form of transport is offered by car-sharing agencies (Mitfahrzentralen). The passengers and the driver share the travel costs.

-  www.citynetz-mitfahrzentrale.de >> The homepage of the 9 "Citynetz" car-sharing agencies; requests can be submitted online.
-  www.mitfahrzentrale.de >> A Europe-wide, web-based car-sharing agency, with a search engine for car-sharing deals. To view the complete profile of a driver you have to pay a membership fee.
-  www.mitfahrgelegenheit.de >> Contact platform for car-sharing in Germany and Europe, free of cost
-  www.mitfahrzentrale.de is available in English and French as well as German. www.mitfahrgelegenheit.de is also available in five other languages.

German Railway Timetable



www.bahn.de



Deutsche Bahn AG



The website offers a search engine that provides details on the timetable, train connections, travel times and ticket prices for German railway services operated by Deutsche Bahn AG as well as offering an online ticket reservation service.



German, English and 9 other languages

Finding coach services and booking tickets



www.busliniensuche.de



Green Parrot UG, a team of three students from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)



On this website you can compare coach services in Germany, find the cheapest offers and book tickets directly.




German

Tip

Booking flights


You can book flights by going to the websites of the various airlines. However, some websites also enable you to compare several airlines. The following websites offer this service, for example:

 www.billigflieger.de

 www.swoodoo.com

 www.skyscanner.de

STA Travel (www.statravel.de) is a tour operator specialising in offers for students. Flights can also be booked online here.

 German, www.swoodoo.com also in Lithuanian, www.skyscanner.de in 26 other languages and www.statravel.de in 7 other languages

Tip

Overnight accommodation at reasonable rates

You don't have a place to stay yet when you arrive in Germany? Or you would like to travel through Germany and are looking for reasonably-priced overnight accommodation options? There are several ways to find an inexpensive place to spend a night:

-  **www.couchsurfing.org** >> Network of couch owners around the world who offer free-of-charge overnight stays
-  **www.9flats.com** and **www.wimdu.de** >> Bringing travellers from around the world together with locals who offer their flats or sublet rooms for a temporary stay
-  **www.jugendherberge.de** >> Finding youth hostels online and booking rooms
-  **www.hostelbookers.com** and **www.hostelworld.com** >> Finding hostels online and booking rooms
-  **www.trivago.de** and **www.swoodoo.de** >> Meta search engines for hotels, compare the hotel prices of more than 100 hotel booking sites
-  **www.swoodoo.de** only in German, **www.jugendherberge.de** in German and English, **www.9flats.com** in around 5 more languages, **www.hostelbookers.com**, **www.wimdu.de**, **www.hostelworld.de**, **www.couchsurfing.com** and **www.trivago.de** also in more than 10 further languages

Tip

Looking for a place to live


Students in Germany either live in a student hall of residence or in private accommodation. In contrast to other countries, German universities do not automatically allocate rooms to students when they enrol. Students are usually responsible for finding their own accommodation.

You can obtain further information about finding a place to live at the website **www.study-in.de** (in the section finding a flat) which also presents student halls of residence.

Some accommodation exchange services have specialised in offering shared flats (Wohngemeinschaften or WGs), which are particularly popular among students, such as:






-  **www.studenten-wg.de** >> Accommodation market for university towns, offering commission free-rooms rooms and apartments only
-  **www.studenten-wohnung.de** >> Accommodation exchange service for landlords and students, e-mail notification on the latest flats
-  **www.wg-gesucht.de** >> Accommodation exchange for flats / apartments, shared flats and houses plus tips and checklists for moving flat, information on landlord and tenant law and car-sharing agency

Advice and support on renting accommodation, rent agreements, etc. can also be found on the homepage of the German Tenants Association (Deutscher Mieterbund – DMB) at **www.mieterbund.de** (German).

-  To use these services you do need to be able to understand some German. The websites **www.study-in.de** and **www.wg-gesucht.de** are available in German and English.

Contact

Where to find more information

-  www.daad.de/aaa >> Addresses of the International Offices at German universities. The International Office (*Akademisches Auslandsamt – AAA*) is your first point of contact when you want to study in Germany.
-  www.daad.de/offices >> Addresses and links to all world-wide DAAD branch offices and information centres
-  www.facebook.com/Study.in.Germany >> See page 8
-  www.goethe.de >> See page 34
-  www.auswaertiges-amt.de >> See page 28



www.daad.de

www.facebook.com/Study.in.Germany