

## Applying for Your Student Visa: Germany

### What is a visa?

A visa is official authorization allowing you to enter a country and travel, work, live, or study there for a specific period of time. Generally, a visa is an elaborate stamp that is sealed onto one of the pages of your passport. Visas are issued to American citizens by a foreign country's Embassy or Consulate located in the United States. Every country has its own regulations governing the issuance of visas.

### Do I need a visa to go to Germany?

All persons who wish to study in Germany for a period longer than 90 days must apply for a study visa. US citizens can enter Germany and apply for their study visa once in the country.

### How do I obtain a visa?

Citizens of the United States may apply for their visa *after* arrival in Germany. You will then need to register with the Foreigners' Registration Authority (*Auslanderbehoerde*). US citizens also have the option of obtaining the visa in the United States prior to departure. If you decide to apply for the visa prior to leaving for Germany, contact the consulate that serves the state of which you are a resident in order to find out the procedures and requirements. Requirements for the visas vary from consulate to consulate.

### What do I need to apply for a visa?

To obtain a visa, submit the following documents to the Foreigners' Registration Authority once you arrive in Germany. Then you will receive your visa (*Aufenthaltsgenehmigung*) and your residents' registration certificate (*Meldebescheinigung*). Please take care of these documents as you will need them occasionally, e.g. when opening a bank account or applying for a library card.

- **A valid passport** that will not expire during your stay in Germany, and one copy. Refer to page 1 of your Study Abroad Handbook on how to apply for a passport.
  - **A completed residence permit application form** (the original and a photocopy). This document can be obtained online at <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/Startseite.html>
  - **Two passport photos.**
  - **Letter of acceptance to your host institution**, and one copy.
  - **Evidence of sufficient financial funds** to support yourself while in Germany, and one copy of each of the documents. This could be a notarized copy of a bank statement, or a letter or statement from an outside source (i.e. your parents or a sponsor) which expresses their wish to fund your study.
  - **Visa fee** of US\$92
- **Attention:** This list may not be all-inclusive! Verify this information with the consulate, as the application process can change or may even vary by consulate.

### The German Embassy/Consulates

If you wish to be issued a visa before leaving the US, consult the US German Consulates that are authorized to issue visas which are located in: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, and San Francisco. You can also apply for the residence permit at the Germany Embassy in Washington, D.C.

#### The German Embassy: Washington, D.C.

**States served:** Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

**Address:** 4645 Reservoir Rd. NW, Washington, D.C. 20007-1998

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**Phone:** (202) 298-4000

\* All visa applicants must make an appointment and apply in person.

**German Consulate General: San Francisco**

**States Served:** Northern California, Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming.

**Address:** 1960 Jackson St., San Francisco, CA 94109

**Phone:** (415) 775-1061; (415) 353-0303 (Visa); (415) 353-0369 (Passport/Citizenship)

**Fax:** (415) 775-0187; (415) 353-0340 (Visa/ Passport Section)

If you do not see the consulate that has jurisdiction over your state of residence, please follow the link:

<http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/Startseite.html>