

Studying in Germany

According to the data source in 2017, Germany is the third most popular country for international students. Germany International students constitute 13.76% of the total number of students in Germany.

Statistics :Indian Students in Germany

2 Indian student mobility in Germany is on the rise. The number of Indian students in Germany has more than doubled in the last five years. The latest figures released by the Federal Statistical Office reveal the following:

3. According to data unveiled by the Federal Statistical Office of Germany, in 2019-20 there were 25,149 India nationals registered at German universities, which is exactly 20.85 per cent higher than in the winter semester of 2018-2019 when there were 20,810 Indian students in Germany. The majority of Indian students (around 81 percent) come to Germany for a master's degree. The second largest group among PhD students make up 11 percent of Indian students. For Indian Bachelor students, on the other hand, Germany is hardly attractive. The reasons for this are the lack of direct university admission and the advanced level obligatory German language skills for the preparatory college

4. Indians form the 2nd largest group of international students enrolled at German universities (Bildungsausländer).

Subject fields: Engineering: 68.2%(72 percent in the previous year)
 Mathematics and Natural Sciences: 11.9%
 Law and Social Studies: 13.97%(13 percent in the previous year)
 Other: 6%

Enrolment according to the type of HEI:

Universities or technical universities (TU): 63%
Fachhochschulen (Universities of Applied Science): 36%
Others: 1%

Male/Female students Ratio:

Male: 72.6 (previous year 76%),
Female: 27.4 % (previous year 24%)

Source: Bildung und Kultur: Studierende an Hochschulen; Fachserie 11 Reihe 4.1

5. More than 7200 Indian students are currently enrolled in Undergraduate and Post Graduate programmes in Universities under the jurisdiction of Consulate General of India Frankfurt. CGI Frankfurt is responsible for the German States of Hesse, Rhineland Palatinate, Northrhine Westphalia and Saarland. For the list of Universities and Institutes of Higher Education please click on the following link: <http://cgifrankfurt.de/pdf/List-of-Univ-State-wise-pst270916.pdf>

6. Ambassador of India in Germany had launched the students portal www.indianstudentsgermany.org on 17 December 2015, with an aim to connect young Indian students in Germany. This also offers a platform for prospective students in India seeking higher education in Germany to connect and share information with their peers in Germany. The Ambassador welcomed all Indian Student Associations in Germany to join and make this effort a success. Please contact admininistrator@indianstudentsgermany.org for further information.

Explore Germany as an Education destination

7. Germany is fast emerging as an attractive destination for Indian students who want to pursue their higher education abroad. Germany with its famed technological prowess and booming economy is a major hub for engineering and technical education. Robust and growing economic and business links between India and Germany have added extra sheen to already attractive and affordable education which Germany offers through its vast network of public and private universities and technical institutes.

8. Quality, availability of desired courses, repute of institutes and cost are the major parameters through which students desirous to pursue education abroad whittle down choice of institute to enrol themselves. On all these counts, Germany scores reasonably high.

9. All German universities more or less follow uniform criteria and requirements for admissions. However, depending on the course structure and university-specific requirements some may need specific skill-sets, which may be accessed from websites of the concerned institutes or universities.

10. A primer for students seeking to enrol themselves at the undergraduate or postgraduate level in Germany is as below:

Timeline (Source: DAAD)

About 15 months before your planned trip to Germany

- i. Start gathering information about study opportunities in Germany either online or from a DAAD office near you or from their website
- ii. Find out whether you fulfil the requirements for studying in Germany
- iii. Is your school-leaving certificate sufficient?
- iv. Will you have to take a language test?
- v. Determine how you will finance your study visit in Germany and whether you are eligible for a scholarship

About nine months before your trip

- i. Decide on a degree programme and university
- ii. Contact the International Office at the University of your Choice

About four to five months before your studies begin

- i. Prepare and submit your application of admission. Note the submission deadlines!
- ii. Would you like to live in a student hall of residence? Then apply for a room now

When you receive your notification of acceptance

- i. Do you need a visa? If so, then apply for one now
- ii. Do you have a health insurance policy which is recognised in Germany? Then request a statement confirming your coverage from your provider now.

About one month before your trip

- i. Make sure you have collected all the necessary documents.
- ii. Plan where you will spend your first nights in Germany. If possible, arrange appointments by e-mail to view accommodations.

11. Please see the following link for more information <https://www.daad.in/en/download-publications/>

Undergraduate studies

12. The medium of instruction for undergraduate courses is mainly German, though a few private universities do offer courses in English. However, only a few courses are offered in English.

13. German students undergo schooling for 13 years before being admitted to undergraduate programmes in universities. Indian students who have completed 12 years of school education in India have to undertake one-year Bridge programme (Studienkolleg) before being enrolled in undergraduate courses in Germany. The eligibility for Studienkolleg is an excellent academic record up to Senior Secondary Level (10 + 2) and preferably basic knowledge of the German language.

14. On completion of the bridge program students have to undergo an assessment test to get admission to undergraduate programmes in German Universities/institutes. Students who have cleared the IIT Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) or students who have successfully completed one year of undergraduate studies in India are exempt from both bridge course and assessment test and directly seek admission to undergraduate courses. However, they have to prove proficiency in the German language.

15. In a nutshell students are eligible to apply for an undergraduate programme if they fulfill one of the following criteria:

- i. If applying after 10+2 examination in India, getting admitted to one year bridge program (Studienkolleg) and thereafter clearing the qualification Feststellungspruefung (assessment examination).
- ii) May apply directly for the undergraduate course in technology and natural sciences, if passed the IIT Joint Entrance Examination; and

iii) May apply directly for the undergraduate courses in same stream if successfully completed first year of a bachelors programme from a recognized university in India in the relevant subject field.

16. Success in Feststellungspruefung (assessment exam) which has written and oral components, allows students to be eligible for admission to undergraduate courses in German universities. Please note that success in Feststellungspruefung does not automatically lead to an admission, it makes you eligible for admission.

17. To sum up, students who have completed their education upto Senior Secondary Level (10 + 2) and wish to seek admission in Germany have to apply for admission to the Bridging program / Foundation program (Studienkolleg) with the respective University and qualify the assessment test (Feststellungspruefung). Thereafter they can apply for admission to the undergraduate programme.

Post Graduate Studies

18. The process of admission to post graduate courses is much simpler. The number of postgraduate degree programmes being offered in English is fairly large and an overwhelming majority of Indian students currently in Germany are pursuing their postgraduate or doctorate studies in Germany.

Eligibility

19. A valid three/four years Bachelors degree from a recognized university in the home country. The transcripts should contain all the courses taken and the marks secured in each of these courses and it should be attested by the registrar of the university.

Other requirements

20. English Language Proficiency: As a part of Language requirement, most of the universities accept TOEFL/IELTS scores as reference. Some other universities may opt for GRE scores. The minimum acceptable TOEFL score varies from 71 to 81, IELTS 6.0 and above. There are no GRE/GMAT cut-offs. A good GRE/GMAT score always maximizes chances of getting through any university. Exemptions from GRE/GMAT/TOEFL/IELTS are allowed for students from native English speaking countries.

German Language Proficiency

21. Knowledge of German language is an optional criterion for admission to post graduate courses in most of the cases. Nevertheless, possessing rudimentary German language skills before coming to Germany is an added advantage. Daily life in Germany (especially in non-metro cities and towns) demands basic German language proficiency. Universities offering master programmes in part German/part English would require a minimum of A2/B1 level German language skills from a recognized institute.

Letters of Recommendation

22. Normally an applicant requires three recommendation letters to apply to any German institute, though most of the Universities insist on only two, one from the Professor/Lecturer and another from the superior in the company (if applicant has some work experience). These recommendation letters are to be confidential i.e. the content should not be known to the applicant. The recommender must seal and sign the recommendation letter, put it inside an envelope, paste it, seal and sign on the envelope too, so that the applicant is not able to read the content.

Statement of Purpose / Letter of Motivation

23. A Statement of Purpose is the most important document in the application packet. It should clearly describe the motivation for the application, reasoning on why the applicant aspires to obtain his degree from that particular university and how would it help him build a strong career with the offered degree program. It should include goals and expectations of the aspirant to pursue his/her degree in the respective universities. Some universities require these SOPs to be "hand written".

Curriculum Vitae (CV)

24. Curriculum Vitae should include the personal details of the applicant, his educational qualification & background, contact information, projects, technical abilities etc. Europass format of CV is considered to be the generic format across universities in Germany.

Cost factor

25. In Germany, the tuition fees are quite low compared to other countries and some universities do not charge any tuition fees. Most German universities are financed by the state government. Every federal state can decide for its own, if it has enough money to abolish tuition fees or if it needs additional fees. The federal states of Bayern, Hamburg, Niedersachsen and Nordrhein-Westfalen charge tuition fees. These are obligatory for most students and account for a total of about 500 Euros per semester. All other federal states either do not charge tuition fees or charge fees for long-term students and for a second degree. However, it may be noted that though the tuition fee is highly subsidized, the cost of living in Germany is high. Depending upon the location of the university, the cost of living may vary from 500€ to 650€ a month. The annual cost of pursuing education at a state university would be approximately 10,000 to 14,000€ inclusive of living expenses. Those who want to study at private universities have to factor-in much higher tuition fees. The private universities are financed only from tuition fees and may charge up to 20,000 Euros per year.

Health insurance

26. Everyone who studies in Germany must have health insurance. When you officially enrol, you will be asked to show proof of health insurance coverage. You will also need confirmation of coverage to obtain a residence permit.

27. Enquire at your health insurance provider for more information before coming to Germany. If your insurance policy from India is recognised (be it private or public), you will have to provide a statement at enrolment confirming that you are indeed exempt from mandatory German public

health insurance coverage. To do this, visit the branch office of a German insurance provider before you enrol and request this statement confirming your present coverage. But remember, once your policy is recognised, you will not be able to switch to a public health insurance provider for the duration of your studies.

28. If your health insurance policy from home is not recognized in Germany, you are required to take out a policy in Germany. For students under 30 who have studied no longer than 14 semesters, public health insurance coverage costs approximately 80 euros per month. If you are over 29 or have studied longer than 14 semesters, your monthly premium increases to at least 160 euros per month. Whatever the case, be sure to clarify your health insurance status before you come to Germany. In order to enrol you have to provide proof of health insurance coverage to your university.

29. More detailed information can be accessed from the following websites:

<https://www.daad.de/en/index.html>

<http://www.studying-in-germany.org/>

<http://www.studyingermany.co.in/>

<https://www.study-in.de/en/>

<http://www.dw.de/top-stories/study-in-germany/s-8010>

http://www.ger-net.de/kuehn/fk_uni.htm

<http://www.topuniversities.com/where-to-study/europe/germany/guide>

<http://www.alumniportal-deutschland.org/startseite.html>

30. Please note that this information is only indicative in nature. Students are requested to confirm the information by contacting the relevant educational institutions.

Source: Bildung und Kultur: Studierende an Hochschulen; Fachserie 11 Reihe 4.1

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