

Landeshauptstadt



Hannover

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Information for those on (or preparing for) courses of study

I have completed my preparations for my study programme (e.g. a language course), but have not yet been registered for my studies. What must I bring to my appointment?

You will need to present proof, in the form of a certificate or similar documentation, that you have successfully completed your language course or the Preparatory Foundation Course (*Studienkolleg*). If you have already received confirmation of admission from a university or other higher-education institution, please also bring this with you.

Please note that, under the German Residence Act (AufenthG), a residence permit can – for the purpose of preparation for one's studies – be issued for an overall maximum of two years. However, if registration for your course is not possible until the next semester begins, it is in many cases possible to bridge this gap by issuing a provisional permit (*Fiktionsbescheinigung*).

What financial resources do I need to cover my living expenses?

Proving that you can cover your living expenses is a prerequisite for the granting of a residence permit. Since January 1st 2023 the current monthly minimum requirement for purposes of studying is €934.00, the availability of which must be ensured for at least six further months. This means the minimum balance on a blocked account must be €5,604.00.

Alternatively, these requirements can be met by a Declaration of Commitment (*Verpflichtungserklärung*, in which a German resident commits to covering your living expenses); a grant, scholarship or the like; or a part-time job. The latter must be documented by a contract or other written confirmation valid at least for this period.

If, instead, you are in receipt of funds from your parents abroad and are unable to set up a blocked account, you can document this in the form of a parental declaration of financial support (*Kostenübernahmeerklärung*). You may also be asked, on one occasion only, to present other proof.

I have created a blocked account on a previous occasion. Do I have to set up a new one?

Generally, an existing blocked account is automatically closed when the full amount subject to blocking has been withdrawn. However, if you continue to use the account, you do not have to again submit confirmation that you have this account. All that is required is for you to present a current bank statement clearly showing that your remaining funds are sufficient. The account number or IBAN will be used to verify that this account is the same as the one for which confirmation was previously provided.

If your bank allows the blocked amount to be ascertained via a request (involving entry of access data) using an online portal, then repeated confirmation regarding this account is not required.

Please note that the account in question must, without exceptions, be with a German-based bank.

My course of study is nearly over; what do I have to do?

If you are still registered for your course, it remains the case that the purpose of your stay in Germany is to study. An application for a job seeker residence permit, or for an employment residence permit, can be considered only when you have received your degree certificate. A

grade sheet (*Zeugnis*), or a letter from the university or other higher-education institution, is not a sufficient substitute for this official certificate.

If you have already received your degree certificate, please let us know as soon as possible so we can discuss the next steps required. If you have an appointment, bring your certificate with you!

Please also note that, under the German Residence Act, a residence permit for study purposes can be issued for a maximum of 10 years (including the preparation period). If the duration of your studies exceeds the normal period for a higher-education course, or the maximum possible period of residence, you may be requested to submit a certificate stating the Faculty's predicted outcome of your studies. Furthermore, a doctoral degree that – in conjunction with a relevant contract – is already primarily for the purpose of employment, is in many cases no longer included in the maximum period of residence.

What must I do if I have already completed my studies but have yet to receive a degree certificate?

If you have other proof of completion (written confirmation, proof of deregistration from your course), please bring this with you. However, please note that a residence permit for the purpose of employment, or of seeking work, after your studies cannot be granted until you have received your degree certificate. A grade sheet (*Zeugnis*), or a letter from the university or other higher-education institution, is not a sufficient substitute for this.

After receipt of your degree certificate, a job seeker residence permit valid for up to 18 months can be issued. However, please note that this 18-month period begins on the date your degree certificate is issued, and not the date on which you made the request.