Student Guide to Germany

The No.1 European country for international students*

*Based on an annual survey by ICEF.
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Key facts

According to the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), 6 of the top 100, and 18 of the top 200, universities worldwide are German. These institutions are well-known for their quality of education, friendly and safe learning environment and hands-on teaching.

Top ranking

- Germany has the best 4th best graduate starting salary in Europe, according to Business Insider
- Statista reports Germany has the 2nd best unemployment rate in the EU, at 3.4%
- Statistics from the ICEF monitor show Germany as the most popular option for international students looking to study in Europe

Why Germany?

Germany is a highly desirable destination, with a rich cultural history and a dynamic lifestyle combining the modern and the traditional.

Additionally, Germany is recognised for its high-quality education, thus attracting students from all over the world. In fact, it reached its long-term goal in 2017 (three years ahead of target) of welcoming at least 350,000 international students!

Work and study

International students can work part-time for 20 hours a week, or 120 full days in a year, while studying. At an estimate, around 60% of international students in this country have a part-time job. There are a variety of jobs available to students, from translating, tutoring and writing, to working in hospitality or administration.
Some well-known German companies include:

**BMW**
Starting off as an aircraft manufacturer in Munich, BMW has evolved into one of the most popular car brands in the world, with a net-worth valued at €55.8 billion. With several mergers and acquisitions over the years, BMW has overseen production for Land Rover, Rolls Royce and Mini, along with purchasing several plants internationally.

**Puma**
Rudolf "Rudi" Dassler was the founder of the German sportswear brand, Puma, and was the older brother of Adidas founder, Adolf "Adi" Dassler. Nowadays, Puma is the sponsor for Formula One, several basketball players and for a number of football clubs, like Italy, Uruguay, Austria, AC Milan, Borussia Dortmund and Manchester City.

**Aldi**
Karl Hans Albrecht, in partnership with his brother, established the discount supermarket chain called Albrecht Diskont (or Aldi) in 1946. At the time of Albrecht’s death in July 2014, he was the richest person in Germany, with a net worth valued at $25 billion. Currently, Aldi Süd operates in 18 countries across the world and has over 10,000 stores.
Germany’s rich culture is a huge attraction for many international students looking to study abroad. While studying, students get opportunities to visit historic places like the Brandenburg Gate, Cologne Cathedral, Museum Island, Neuschwanstein Castle, the Reichstag and more...
Things to do in Berlin

The Brandenburg Gate
One of the most famous landmarks in Germany and widely considered to be a symbol of peace and unity for the continent.

Reichstag
Built in 1894 to host the German government and fully restored in 1990, the German parliament still meets there today.

Berlin Wall
A reminder of how the capital was once divided and is now united. You can take a tour along where it once stood, or visit the memorial and documentation centre.

Potsdamer Platz
An important public square which is now one of the busiest traffic intersections in Europe. It also plays host to many events, such as exhibitions and light shows.

Tiergarten
The city’s most popular park and one of the biggest city gardens in Germany.

Berlin TV tower (also known as Fernsehturm Berlin)
The highest building in the city, offering unique panoramic views and a revolving restaurant too!

Botanical Gardens
This botanical garden is home to 22,000 different species of plants, a tropical greenhouse and host to a range of various events.

Tempelhofer Feld
This abandoned airfield was historically used in Berlin for military practice and parades.

Berlinale
Every February, major movie stars and talent from the film industry head to Berlin for a week of film screenings, workshops and lectures.
Things to do in Hannover

**Royal Gardens of Herrenhausen**
Hannover’s most famous attraction. The Herrenhausen Gardens are a stunning ensemble of garden art and culture that rank among the most important historical gardens in Europe.

**The Old Town**
Half-timbered buildings, museums and sights in Hannover’s historical centre.

**Tiergarten**
The deer park of Hannover – one of the most popular tourist attractions.

**Eilenriede**
Europe’s largest city forest.

**The Old Town Hall**
A historical building dating back to 1500.

**Marktkirche**
The church at the market place, built in the 14th century.

**Opera House**
One of the most beautiful neo-classical buildings of its kind.

**Hannover Adventure Zoo**
Enjoy the zoo’s exotic landscapes, over 3,000 animals and amazing shows.

**Tropical Sea Life Aquarium**
Fascinating underwater worlds, offering 3,500 square metres of habitats, taking in everything from the local River Leine to the Caribbean and Amazon.
River Elbe and the Port of Hamburg
The river Elbe connects Hamburg to the North Sea and there are several boat and ferry tours you can embark on to explore the river all the way up to the port.

Alster Lakes
The two artificial lakes, dubbed Inner Alster and Outer Alster, are among the most beautiful spots you can visit in Hamburg. In the summer, it is a popular location for water sports and sunbathing. In the winter, the water can freeze and become an ice skating rink for locals.

Planten un Blomen park
One of the biggest parks in the centre of Hamburg, featuring the biggest Japanese garden in Germany and a historic botanic garden. It’s the perfect location for a stroll or a picnic; in addition, the park frequently hosts nightly water and light concerts, as well as musical performances.

St Michael’s Church
The largest church in Hamburg is a beautiful baroque building that features a 132-meter high tower, offering a stunning view of the city from the top.

Hamburg City Hall
The Rathaus, or City Hall, is a striking neo-renaissance building where Hamburg’s Parliament and Senate assemble. Completed in 1897, a large part of the Rathaus is open for public visitation with guided tours.

Chocoversum Chocolate Museum
Tours take approximately 90 minutes and can be delivered in either English or German – with the chance to taste different chocolates and even make your own.
What and where

There are a variety of institutions and programmes to choose from in Germany. One option is leading business school, GISMA, who are in partnership with globally-recognised institutions, including Grenoble Ecole de Management, Kingston University and The University of Law.

“I felt I was in a friendly place where people were curious about me and I could be curious about them...”

Giacomo Petenazzo,
student at GISMA Business School
Choosing GISMA

“...because of the great collaborations... [the] international faculty... and most importantly the 18 month post study work permit that will allow me to kick start my career.”

Manisha Sane from India, MBA student at GISMA in partnership with Grenoble Ecole de Management

Successfully combining theory with practice, GISMA fills the gap between conventional university study and the shifting requirements of today’s global marketplace. Graduates have gone on to work in such sectors as: banking, financial services, engineering, mechanical engineering, oil and gas, information technology, consulting and business services. Some more benefits of studying here include:

- AMBA accreditation since 2011, with highly accredited partners
- Graduates can apply for an 18 month post-study permit
- Scholarships and flexible payment plans available
- Campuses located in city centres
Programmes

At GISMA, you can study a range of degrees, language programmes and executive education courses in Berlin, Hannover and Hamburg.

GISMA’s experienced faculty and excellent locations present ample opportunities for students to gain in-depth knowledge, as well as make invaluable industry and networking links while studying. See the programmes currently available at GISMA below:

- MSc International Agribusiness
- MSc Leadership for Digital Transformation
- University Pathway Programme
- Executive MBA
- MBA
- Master in International Business
- MSc Innovation, Strategy and Entrepreneurship
- MSc Marketing Management
- MSc International Business Management
- MSc Corporate Financial Management
- MSc Global Accounting
- MSc International Marketing
- MSc Leadership and Human Resource Management
- MSc Strategic Business Management
- MSc Digital Sales and Management
- MSc Project Management
- MSc Financial Compliance
- MSc Financial Risk Management
- MSc Digital Marketing
- MSc Business Intelligence and Analytics
- MSc Data Management and Cyber Security
How to apply

Applying is the start of your journey in Germany - and it’s a straightforward process.

For help with your application to any of the programmes at GISMA, you can get in touch with one of our programme advisors today.

- Email us at info@gisma.com

1. Make an enquiry
Choose your programme of interest and enquire on our website. One of our experienced programme consultants will guide you through the application process.

2. Fill out an application
Either apply online or fill out an application form. Our admissions team will review your application and make an offer. If applicable, you can book a visa appointment at this stage.

3. Secure your place
If your application is successful, you will need to pay a required deposit to secure your place.

4. Get your visa
If you haven’t already, you can book a visa appointment! Obtaining your visa can take up to 6 months, depending where you’re from, so be sure to apply in time for when your course starts.

"I’m really impressed by the quality of the tutors... they are real specialists"

Patrick Abt
student at GISMA Business School

www.gisma.com
Obtaining your visa

- If entry requirements are met and all documents are submitted, you will get an acceptance letter.
- Contact the German embassy or consulate in your home country to find out about the visa process.
- Have your documents prepared as the embassy asks. This will depend on your home country.
- You will be called in for an interview at the embassy to give some background information about who you are.
- Your visa confirmation will take, on average, 2-3 months depending on your country.
- Lastly, you will receive your student visa as you’ve been accepted into a German institution.
Accommodation

You can start the accommodation process at GISMA once you receive your visa and book your flight ticket. The process is as follows:

- The “Accommodation & Airport Pick-Up Application form” can be completed on our website at https://www.gisma.com/school/student-experience/accommodation-process

- After you send your application, you will receive an accommodation offer after a minimum of two weeks.

- Your offer will include a description of the accommodation, the local area and costs (rent, deposits and accommodation fee etc).

- If you accept, you will receive booking confirmation, including payment details from your landlord.

- If you request Airport Pick-Up in your application, you will also receive confirmation for this.

Please note: help with your accommodation is not offered as part of your programme fees.
Financing

There are a selection of partial scholarships available, including:

- Principal’s Scholarship for Entrepreneurship
- Exceptional Career Scholarship
- Women in Business Scholarship
- Academic Merit Scholarship
- Rector’s Scholarship
- Family Scholarship

For more information, please speak to one of our programme advisors.

Other ways of financing your studies can include:

**Part-time jobs**

As per the current policy, international students who are pursuing a course in Germany are allowed to work for a maximum of 120 days per year. As of 2019, Germany’s national minimum wage has been increased to €9.19 per hour, up from €8.84 the previous year! Many institutions encourage students to take up part-time employment, with some providing the opportunity to do so on-campus.

**Student referral**

Many German institutions offer subsidised tuition fees for students who refer their friends. This not only helps students to enrol for courses at reduced costs, but also allows their friends to join a college which provides high-quality education. If you know somebody studying at GISMA Business School, you can get in touch with us at [https://www.gisma.com/contact-us](https://www.gisma.com/contact-us).

**Student loans**

Students who want to pursue higher education in Germany can also apply for student loans. There are many government and non-government funded organisations that help students in financing a master’s degree. Students can gain loans of up to €30,000 or opt for flexible payment plans such as monthly, biannual or one-time payments, or even choose a combination of both.
Apply now
and start your journey

gisma.com

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