



Study and Research
in Germany
Annotated Weblinks

WWW



DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst
German Academic Exchange Service

Study and Research
in Germany
Annotated Weblinks

6th Edition

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DAAD

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Key



Weblink



Provider



Description



Languages



Studies – Important Contact Points

DAAD: Study and Research in Germany

- ww
www.daad.de
www.daad.de/deutschland
- 🏠

The German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst e.V. – DAAD) is an association of the higher education institutions and student bodies in Germany. The DAAD promotes international academic exchange and acts as an intermediary organisation in the field of foreign cultural, education and research policy and in the field of education cooperation with the countries of the Third World. The DAAD is also the “national agency” for the EU ERASMUS programme and an information centre for ERASMUS Mundus, Europass, TEMPUS and the Bologna process.
- 📎

The DAAD homepage provides information on the German higher education system and on studying in Germany, on German research, and on the funding opportunities offered by the DAAD and other organisations (search engine), on learning German, on summer schools and courses, on language tests,

and, of course, on living in Germany, in general. In the “Service” section, you’ll not only find application forms for downloading in PDF format, plus the “Application Form for Admission to Studies”, but this section also contains further links, answers to FAQs and much more. The “DAAD worldwide” service provides the addresses, websites and the opening hours of all DAAD offices, at home and abroad.



German, English and Spanish

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 largely or exclusively English. The curriculum for these programmes 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 information provided on each programme includes details on its academic structure, academic goal, support and advice services, possible sources of funding, plus the address and a link for the respective higher education institution.



English

HRK – Higher Education Compass



www.hochschulkompass.de



See page 16



The Higher Education Compass (Hochschulkompass) 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

Study and Career Choice

-  www.studienwahl.de
-  The German Federal States (Länder) and the Federal Employment Agency (Bundesagentur für Arbeit) – see also the chapter on “Entry, Employment, Insurance”
-  This website allows users to view the profiles of all degree course subjects offered in Germany along with a list of which higher education institutions offer these programmes including details on university towns where students may study. The site also provides a whole range of information and advice on studying, 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

German Accreditation Council

-  www.akkreditierungsrat.de
-  The German Accreditation Council (Akkreditierungsrat) has set itself the goal of assessing the quality of degree programmes.
-  Its database of “Accredited Degree Programmes” (already listing 2,418 programmes in April 2009) presents accredited Bachelor’s and Master’s programmes with a Profile of the programme and an Assessment Summary. In addition, the website provides information on how the German Accreditation Council works and on the participating accreditation agencies.
-  German and English (database only in German)

INOBIS – Orientation and Application



www.inobis.de



uni-assist e.V., see page 11



On the one hand, 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). On the other hand, a database contains application checklists that take account of the target degree, the chosen university and the country of origin. The portal additionally includes practical tips on all kinds of topics related to living and studying in Germany.



German and English

National Association of Student Services Organisations



www.student-affairs.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 responsible for meeting public responsibilities relating to promoting the financial, social, health and cultural life of students enrolled at German universities.



This website explains the work of the DSW itself. Links take users to the homepages of all the student services organisations that have a website. Users can also find the addresses of the student services organisations, information on publications that can be ordered or downloaded, information on questions of scholarships and grants, for example, or BAföG training assistance, psychological and social counselling, and legal advice, or on studying with a disability / special needs, on cultural aspects, on accommodation and meals. The “International” section of the website provides information on the Service Set available specifically for foreign students.



German

National Association of Student Services Organisations: Information for foreign students

 www.internationale-studierende.de

 This website offers practical tips and information for foreign students on topics like how to enter Germany, on accommodation, health insurance, tuition fees, matriculation and registration, or residence permits. The page additionally has a quiz on studying in Germany plus information on key terms, like German language skills, assessment test (Feststellungsprüfung), or preparatory courses (Studienkollegs).

 German and English

Tip

Student “communities” on the web

Students, in particular, are increasingly keeping in contact with each other via the web and, consequently, the number of student “communities” is growing all the time. Some of the currently active virtual student communities are listed below:

 www.facebook.com >> Worldwide network for everyone

 www.couchsurfing.com >> A global network of couch owners offering free-of-charge overnight stays

 www.StudiVZ.de >> Info network for students

 www.e-fellows.net >> A network that creates contacts between students and companies, and also awards “online scholarships”

 www.studis-online.de >> Forums and information about studying

But, the “traditional communication channels” for students in Germany, namely the free-of-charge magazines distributed at universities, also present their extensive services on the web. Just go to: www.audimax.de or www.unicum.de.

 German, www.facebook.com plus some 30 other languages, www.couchsurfing.com plus some 20 other languages



Admission to German Universities

Preparatory courses (“Studienkollegs”)

 www.studienkollegs.de

 Preparatory courses prepare foreign students for the “Feststellungsprüfung”, a test to assess their suitability for university study (see below).

 The DAAD website also contains information on whether or not your higher education entrance qualification, i. e. school-leaving certificate, qualifies you for direct admission to full academic studies or whether you first have to take the above-mentioned assessment test known as the Feststellungsprüfung, before you can enrol for studies in your chosen discipline. Besides a list of all Studienkollegs and a description of the various course types on offer (which differ, depending on what you intend to study), the Studienkolleg websites also offer a short German language test for foreign study applicants.

 German

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.) is an association founded by the German Rectors' Conference (HRK), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and 41 German universities to simplify the application process and to relieve the universities of the workload involved in assessing applications from foreign potential students.

 uni-assist currently processes an application for admission to a German higher education institution for a fee of 30.– to 55.– 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 100 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, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, with basic information given in Farsi, Polish and Turkish

Central University Admissions Service (ZVS)

 www.zvs.de

 Central University Admissions Service (Zentralstelle für die Vergabe von Studienplätzen – ZVS)

 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 ZVS for your study place. The ZVS website provides detailed information on the applicable conditions and deadlines and on the subjects for which admissions restrictions are currently in force.

 German

EU: Information on the European Credit Transfer System – ECTS



ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc48_en.htm



The European Commission launched the European Credit Transfer 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 site explains exactly how ECTS works for students.



German, English plus some 14 other languages

Test for Academic Studies



www.testas.de



ITB Consulting, Bonn, TestDaF Institut, Hagen
ITB Consulting GmbH products include selection tests for individual fields of study as well as tests that provide prospective students with an assessment of their skills and abilities. The TestDaF Institute at the University in Hagen and the Ruhr University Bochum jointly produce and organise the German as a foreign language test called: “Test Deutsch als Fremdsprache” (TestDaF).



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 website offers information on when and where the test will be held and includes tips on the registration process. It also offers sample questions. The test is currently held twice a year and can be taken at one of the 100 and more test centres located around the world.



German and English



Scholarship-awarding Organisations

DAAD: Scholarships and Funding

 www.funding-guide.de

 In addition to providing information on DAAD programmes, the scholarship database also lists 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 100 funding opportunities offered by more than 60 organisations. Consequently, the DAAD-Scholarship Database also contains the programmes for foreigners 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 or material / equipment / consumables 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.avh.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 in three different formats. 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 a list of Humboldt Clubs, which also serve as contact points for advising new research fellows before they leave for Germany.



German and English

Capacity Building International, Germany (InWEnt)

-  www.inwent.org
-  InWEnt – Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung gGmbH (Capacity Building International, Germany) is synonymous with human resources and organisational development in international cooperation. With its education, exchange and dialogue programmes attended by some 55,000 people per year, InWEnt is the major joint initiative run by federal government, the federal states and industry. The organisation's courses are intended for professionals, executives and decision-makers in industry, politics, administration and civil society.
-  The website has a search engine with which users can access all the programmes offered by InWEnt. These are presented in detail, including information on the application process. A follow-up contact forum additionally allows former programme participants to exchange their respective experience. The website also presents the topic fields in which InWEnt works.
-  German and English

Tip

Other foundations at a glance

Numerous other foundations exist in Germany, some of which also offer scholarships to support studies and research here.

 www.inwent.org >> InWEnt: Institutions Database, use the internal search engine of the website (search for "INSTDOK")

 www.stiftungsindex.de >> Index of German Foundations (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 258 member institutions and addresses questions relating to the responsibilities of higher education institutions: research, teaching and studies, academic (post-graduate 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”), the website offers reports on the resolutions, projects and initiatives of the HRK, on press releases, a diary, plus a collection of links to external sites offering information on higher education, science and research policy.

 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 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; it also lists further sources of information and publications. 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 and English
 anabin: German

CHE/DIE ZEIT: University Ranking

 www.das-ranking.de
www.university-ranking.de

 DIE ZEIT is the leading German weekly newspaper in Germany. The DIE ZEIT website hosts the German version of the university ranking jointly carried out by the Centre for Higher Education Development (Centrum für Hochschulentwicklung – CHE) and DIE ZEIT at: www.das-ranking.de.

 The DAAD presents the English version “University Ranking” on its website www.university-ranking.de in cooperation with DIE ZEIT and CHE. So far, the ranking has examined more than 30 popular subjects from various faculties. Since 1998, a total of 286 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, such as “student opinion”, “professor’s tip” or “equipment and facilities”, reflect the strengths and weaknesses of the individual faculties and departments.



German and English

Tip

The Virtual University

The University in Hagen (www.fernuni-hagen.de) is a pioneer in the field of virtual courses and studies and is now embarking along new paths with its Virtual University Learning Space “Lernraum Virtuelle Universität” concept.

In addition, recent years have seen a large number of further initiatives launched in the field of virtual universities, e. g. the International University Network (www.oncampus.de) or the Virtuelle Hochschule Bayern (www.vhb.org), a Virtual University for Bavaria.

The website of the Centre for Internet-Based Distance-Learning Courses at Universities of Applied Sciences (Zentralstelle für Fernstudien an Fachhochschulen) (www.zfh.de) provides information on distance studies courses with online learning phases offered at universities of applied sciences in Hesse, Rhineland-Palatinate and Saarland.



Besides the website of the Centre for Internet-Based Distance-Learning Courses at Universities of Applied Sciences (which offers information in English), all these websites are currently available in German only, as are most of the online courses.



Doctorates

DAAD: How to gain a doctorate

 www.daad.de/deutschland/promotion

 The DAAD website provides an overview of the various paths to gaining a doctorate in Germany, with a focus on “Structured Programmes”. These programmes offer scientifically excellent, well structured and transparent international programmes that lead to a doctorate.

 German, English and Spanish

Wiki-Portal Careers in Higher Education

 www.hochschulkarriere.de

 Centre for Higher Education Development (Centrum für Hochschulentwicklung – CHE), German Association of University Professors and Lecturers (Deutscher Hochschulverband), the Association to Promote the Junior Professorship (Förderverein Juniorprofessur) and THESIS e.V., funded by the Mercator Foundation (Stiftung Mercator)

 This web portal on careers in higher education is an open information and communication platform for young and early-stage researchers. It compiles basic information, news, background reports, tips, information and diary dates relating to doctorates, habilitations and junior professorships, and illuminates the occasionally unfathomable structures and frameworks found in academia and research.

 German

DFG: List of Research Training Groups

 www.dfg.de/gk

 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 website contains a list of the DFG-funded Research Training Groups (Graduiertenkollegs), arranged by research areas and Federal States. The lists include the name of and contact for a Research Training Group plus (where available) a link to further information.

 German and English

DFG: List of Collaborative Research Centres

 www.dfg.de/sfb

 The DFG website also contains a list of the DFG-funded Collaborative Research Centres (Sonderforschungsbereiche), arranged by research areas. The lists include the start date and the name of the Collaborative Research Centre plus (where available) a link to further information.

 German and English

Doctoral Students Forum

 www.doktorandenforum.de

 Privately run, non-commercial website

 Information on preparing, producing, financing and successfully completing a doctoral thesis or dissertation, complemented by a list of FAQs and an active forum.

 German

THESIS: Interdisciplinary Network for Doctoral Students and Postdocs

 www.thesis.de

 THESIS e.V. is a Germany-wide, non-profit network for doctoral students and postdocs.

 The website provides information on events organised by the network and on current higher education and research policy topics. It also offers access to various e-mail lists and forums in which doctoral students can exchange information and views.

 German

KoWi: Information for young scientists



www.kowi.de



European Liaison Office of German Research Organisations (KoWi)



KoWi provides information and advice on doctoral and postdoctoral funding programmes in the section “Nachwuchswissenschaftler” and organises information events on national and European sources of funding. The website lists the dates of these events.



German and English

Portal academics.com



www.academics.com



Weekly newspaper DIE ZEIT and magazine Forschung & Lehre



In addition to a wide selection of academic jobs in Germany, academics.com features insights into the fields of activity of German academics in the form of first-hand reports. It also offers a personalised newsletter with matching job offers.



English and German (www.academics.de)

Tip

Search for doctoral theses and positions for doctoral students

- www.daad.de/international-programmes >> Detailed description of more than 200 International Doctoral Programmes (in English only)
- www.DrArbeit.de >> Job exchange with more than 200 offers of positions for students seeking a position to write their doctoral thesis or dissertation in the natural sciences and medicine (in German only)
- www.doktorandenboerse.info >> Offers more than 1,000 positions at all times for doctoral students of all disciplines with focuses in medicine, natural sciences, and engineering, plus experience reports and tips on writing a doctoral thesis/dissertation (in German only)



Research

Research in Germany

-  www.research-in-germany.de
-  Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). Editorial responsibility for the portal lies with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).
-  The English internet portal “Research in Germany” is a BMBF initiative and 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 250 annotated links to the most relevant and important sites with useful information on science and research in Germany. Users can subscribe for a newsletter that appears once every two months.
-  English, with basic information also given in German

BMBF: Map of Research in Germany

-  www.forschungsportal.net
-  Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
-  This research portal shows users how best to contact Germany's research institutions. Information and institutions can either be found with the search function or directly by clicking on the maps.
-  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 EURAXESS Services Network across Europe.
-  EURAXESS Germany advises and informs researchers – incoming, outgoing and returning – about sources of funding, job offers, social insurance, tax, etc., and offers a web portal. It also links researchers with contact points all around Europe.
-  German and English

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) and the DAAD.



The database Research Explorer contains information on some 17,000 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

Max Planck Society



www.mpg.de



The Max Planck Society (MPG) is an independent non-profit research organisation. The MPG funds research done at its own institutes. These engage in basic research in the natural sciences, biosciences / life sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities. Some 12,400 staff, of which around 4,300 are researchers and scientists, work in 76 institutes and numerous research centres, laboratories and research groups. In addition to these, the MPG has some 9,000 doctoral students, postdocs, visiting research scientists and student assistants.



Users can search for MPG institutes by sections, institute names or locations and so find the relevant sites. The website also provides information on projects, on the research fields at the MPG institutes and on their research findings. Working together with various German universities, the Max Planck Society established the “International Max Planck Research Schools” to further strengthen the training of highly-qualified young and early-stage researchers. It is intended that half of the students at these research schools should come from abroad. A list of the research schools provides further information and links to their websites.



German and English

Fraunhofer Society

 www.fraunhofer.de

 The Fraunhofer Society is the leading applied research organisation in Germany. Its 80 research institutes employ some 15,000 staff, mainly researchers and engineers. The Fraunhofer Society advances its international cooperation through its liaison offices in Europe, Asia and the United States.

 The site enables users to search for Fraunhofer Institutes, by locations and research fields. The “Publications” section enables users to order brochures online and free of charge which cover various specialist fields. The annual reports are also available online, while issues of the “Fraunhofer magazine” can be downloaded as PDF files. The interdisciplinary bibliographical database “Fraunhofer-Publica” contains comments and information on publications issued by all the Fraunhofer institutes since 1980. The Fraunhofer Bookshop enables you to order specialist books produced on the basis of the work done at the Fraunhofer Institutes.

 German and English (bookshop only in German)

Leibniz Association

 www.leibniz-gemeinschaft.de

 The Leibniz Association is made of 86 research institutes, arranged into five scientific sections. The research responsibilities of the Leibniz Institutes extend from basic research (see also Max Planck Society) to applied research (see Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft) and so build a bridge between these two poles. The Leibniz Association has more than 14,000 staff.

 The site offers four search options for Leibniz institutes, namely by sections, alphabetically, by abbreviations and by federal states (Länder). Each institute is presented with a brief profile, its core research areas and who to contact. The “News” section includes the latest edition of the “Leibniz-Journal”, which can be downloaded as a PDF file, plus press releases.

 German and English

Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres

 www.helmholtz.de

 The 15 German Helmholtz Centres form the “Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres” with some 28,000 staff in total. The Helmholtz Centres engage in strategic research programmes in the association’s six research fields: Energy, Earth and Environment, Health, Key Technologies, Structure of Matter, Transport and Space. The Helmholtz Mission is to contribute to solving the grand challenges which face society, science and industry by performing top-rate research.

 The website presents each Helmholtz Centre in a short portrait, while a link takes users to the respective centre’s services and programmes. Various Helmholtz Association publications can be ordered free of charge online or can be downloaded. The current research fields and findings of the 15 Helmholtz Centres are presented.

 German, English, Chinese and Russian

Tip

Research News

You can find the latest news and reports on innovative research fields in Germany on the following websites:

 www.kompetenznetze.de >> “Networks for Competence” provides an information and communication platform, reports on innovations in nine fields and eight regions, and is an initiative of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

 www.innovations-report.de >> The website publishes online reports on new research findings in 20 subject areas, plus a job market and information on exhibitions, fairs and competitions.

 Both sites are available in German and English.



General Information on Germany

Portal for Germany

-  www.deutschland.de
-  Press and Information Office of the German Federal Government (Presse- und Informationsamt der Bundesregierung)
-  “deutschland.de” (Deutschland-Portal) is the official and independent web-based portal of the Federal Republic of Germany. It includes a barrier-free version and offers a representative collection of important links to German sites and sources with information in the following categories: education, health, culture, media, sport, government, tourism, environment, business and industry, and education and research.
-  German, English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian

Young Germany



www.young-germany.de



Federal Foreign Office and Societäts-Verlag



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 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, find accommodation and make their first contacts. In addition, a forum offers a communication platform for anyone interested in Germany.



German and English

German National Tourist Board



www.deutschland-tourismus.de



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).



The website invites users to come on a virtual trip through Germany and presents the federal states, regions, cities and holiday routes, like the German alpine route “Deutsche Alpenstraße” or the German wine route “Deutsche Weinstraße”. Furthermore, it provides information on events like fairs and exhibitions or major sporting events.



German, English plus some 30 local websites in the respective national languages

Facts about Germany

-  www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de
-  Federal Foreign Office and Societäts-Verlag
-  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.
-  German, English plus 15 other languages

Deutschland Online

-  www.magazine-deutschland.de
-  Federal Foreign Office and Societäts-Verlag
-  The website of the magazine “Deutschland” that appears once every two months provides information on current topics in Germany and Europe, analyses backgrounds, and in its regional editions reports on bilateral relations between Germany and other parts of the world.
The print version which, just like the website, is offered in many languages can be subscribed for one year free of charge.
-  German, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Chinese, Turkish, Russian and Japanese

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 2 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

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 site 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, while many other links are provided to sites offering specific information.



German and English

Deutsche Welle

-  www.dw-world.de
-  Deutsche Welle (DW) is a public broadcasting station funded by the federal government. DW is responsible for broadcasting radio and TV programmes in German and other languages around the world. These programmes provide a comprehensive picture of political, business and cultural life in Germany. DW also presents and explains German views on important issues.
-  The Deutsche Welle service offers news from around the world (upon request also by e-mail), 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.
-  German, English plus some 30 other languages from Albanian to Urdu

DeutschlandRadio

-  www.dradio.de
-  DeutschlandRadio with its two radio channels – Deutschlandfunk and Deutschlandradio Kultur – 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

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

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.

Tip

Looking for a place to live

If you want to start looking for a place to live while still in your home country, we've compiled some interesting links for you.

The European Shared-Accommodation Ring (Ring Europäischer Mitwohnzentralen – REM) will help you find the right accommodation and, where appropriate, will help you rent out your own flat while you are away. The comprehensive range of services offered by the REM includes: advice for landlords and tenants, or on rent agreements, etc.: www.mitwohnzentrale.de (German, English and French). Besides this option, you can also try the Association of Flat-Sharing Agencies (Verband der Mitwohnzentralen) which some 50 German agencies have joined so far: www.homecompany.de (German and English).

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).

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 and study place exchange
-  www.studenten-wohnung.de >> Accommodation exchange service for landlords and students, e-mail notification on the latest flats
-  www.easywg.de >> Accommodation exchange for shared flats, e-mail notification of newly entered suitable offers
-  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
-  To use these services you do need to be able to understand some German. www.easywg.de is an exception. This website comes in 12 languages.



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: “Welcome to Germany” (Willkommen in Deutschland). The site also offers information about and contact details for Germany’s diplomatic and consular missions abroad. The “Information Service” section lets you download or order publications, including the most important forms, such as the Visa Application Form etc. The site also offers a newsletter with up-to-date reports and information on events in Germany.

 German, English, French, Spanish and Arabic

DAAD: Info Sheets on Entry, Residence and Employment

 www.daad.de/en/form

 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

Portal on the Foreigners Act: info4alien.de

 www.info4alien.de

 The website is run by a private, non-commercial initiative that aims to increase knowledge about the German foreigners act and about the provisions that it contains. The site operators are current or former staff members of the foreigners authorities (Ausländerbehörden) in Germany. These authorities are responsible for dealing with questions relating to foreigners in Germany, such as residence and work permits.

 The website offers a collection of legal texts, a collection of links arranged by content, FAQs and detailed explanations of key legal terms, such as “residence permits” and so on. The operators also administer an active forum in which visitors can ask more specialised questions that are not answered in the general information. As in any other discussion forum, no liability can be assumed for the correctness of answers, which are merely provided as basic information.

 German

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 “Immigration Act from A to Z” explains terms like “residence permit”, “subsequent immigration of dependent family members” or “Green Card”. It also provides answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs), experience reports and comprehensive background information.



German and English

Federal Employment Agency – BA



www.arbeitsagentur.de



The Federal Employment Agency (Bundesagentur für Arbeit – BA) and its branch offices, the Employment Agencies (Arbeitsagenturen) 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. Students and graduates can additionally find interesting information on the topic of placement, recruitment and employment services. The Federal Employment Agency also offers a brochure for foreign EU citizens “Your Job in Germany” which is available in English.



German

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 five pillars of the German social insurance system: the statutory insurance types (illness / health, accident, unemployment, nursing care and old age). 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

Web-based job exchanges

Web-based job exchanges are also becoming much more common in Germany. You will often find job offers from daily newspapers offered on the Internet. So, we recommend that when looking for a job you first visit the website of a regional daily paper; you can find an overview of all the German newspaper websites by going to the website of the German Federation of Newspaper Publishers at www.bdzv.de/zeitungswebsites.html.

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 (metasearch engine)

Tip

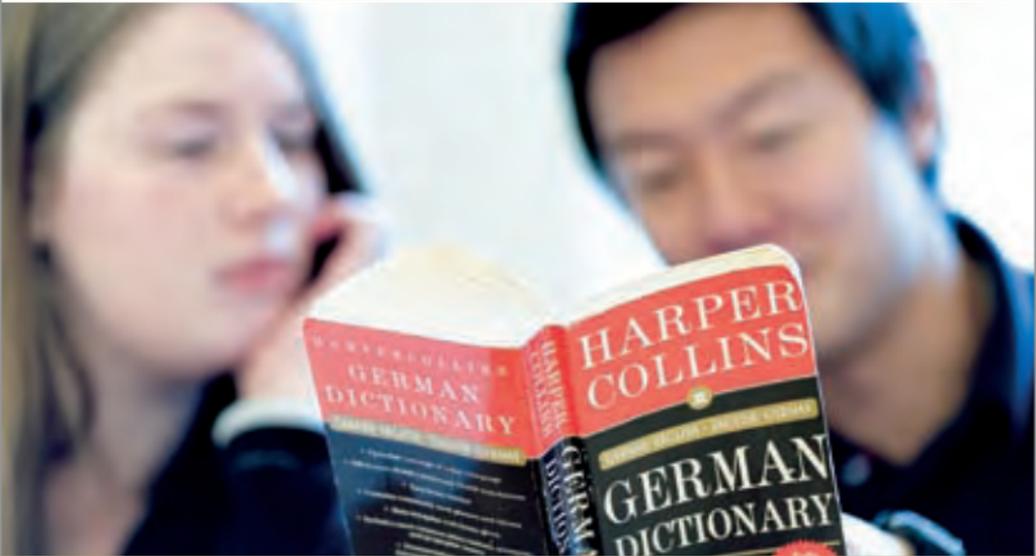
Internship Placement Agencies

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** (Association Internationale des Etudiants en Sciences Economiques et Commerciales) (German and English)
- www.elsa-germany.org >> **ELSA** (European Law Students' Association) (German and English)
- www.iaeste.de >> **IAESTE** (International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience) (German and English)
- www.fs.tum.de/fzs >> The National Union of Students in Germany (Freier Zusammenschluss von StudentInnen-schaften – FZS) (German and English)

It may also be worthwhile for students studying subjects from the fields of technology and engineering to take a look at the traineeship exchange (Praktikantenbörse) on the portal www.ingenieurkarriere.de run by “**VDI Nachrichten**”, the website of the Association of German Engineers (Verein Deutscher Ingenieure – VDI) (German).



Learn German

DAAD: Learn German

- ww
www.learn-german.net
www.summerschools.de
- 📎

The DAAD website includes a section “Learn German” which provides detailed information on schools and institutes offering German language courses, on online learning methods, on funding organisations, and on where German is spoken all around the world, plus an overview of all the recognised German language tests and qualifications.

The section on “Summer Schools in Germany” includes a search engine with selected summer schools offered by German universities. The summer schools can be searched by place, topic and language of instruction.
- 💬

German, English and Spanish (Summer School Database available in German and English only)

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 from www.testdaf.de/html/sprachen/sprachen.htm in English, French, Russian, 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 147 institutes 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 and English, the sites of the institutes in English and / or the national language

Tip

For German studies students

- www.erlangerliste.de >> "Erlanger Liste"**
 The "Literature" section of the Erlanger List provides links on German departments and institutions, text collections, eras and epochs, etc.
- www.travlang.com/languages/german/ihgg >> Internet Handbook of German Grammar** The Internet Handbook of German Grammar has been produced in English especially for foreign students and learners of German with good English skills.
- 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. More than 3,000 colleagues use this information source every month.
- 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, Spanish)
- gutemberg.spiegel.de >> Gutenberg Project-DE**
 The largest online collection of German literature with 1,500,000 text pages, 20,000 poems, 1,800 fairy tales, and 4,800 books
- www.canoo.net >> German Dictionaries and Grammar Dictionaries and information on word grammar, word formation, sentence grammar and spelling (German and English)**

Learning Languages in Tandem



www.slf.ruhr-uni-bochum.de



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, to find out more about each other and about the tandem partner's cultural background, and, finally, to exchange other insights and knowledge as well, for example, about professions and careers. The website not only arranges tandem contacts by e-mail, but also provides a guide to tandem learning and links to other relevant sites.



German, Danish, English, Spanish, French, Dutch, Italian and Russian

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



Transport, Travel and Telecommunications

DeTeMedien

-  www.teleauskunft.de
-  DeTeMedien is a subsidiary of Deutsche Telekom AG.
-  The DeTeMedien website offers a search engine for its German telephone directory plus options for searching the “Yellow Pages”. It also offers an e-mail directory.
-  Telephone directory in German, English, French, Spanish and Turkish, other pages only available in German

Tip

Car-sharing agencies

A value-for-money form of transport is offered by car-sharing agencies (Mitfahrzentralen). These arrange contacts between drivers and passengers; the passenger normally pays the car-sharing agency a small fee and the driver a proportion of the travel costs.

Many “**traditional**” car-sharing agencies now offer web-based services:

 www.citynetz-mitfahrzentrale.de >> The homepage of the 10 or so “Citynetz” car-sharing agencies; requests can be submitted online.

The following sites provide databases for arranging car-sharing deals:

 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 be a premium member in this community.

 www.mitfahrgelegenheit.de >> Contact platform for car-sharing in Germany and Europe, free of cost

 www.mitfahrzentrale.de in German, English and French, other sites only available in German

VerkehrsmittelVergleich

 www.verkehrsmittelvergleich.de

 Spin-off of the RTWH Aachen University, funded by the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology

 This website offers a search engine for all traffic connections available across Germany and compares the connections by price and travel time.

 German

German Railway Timetable

-  www.bahn.de
-  Deutsche Bahn AG
-  The search engine 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. The Deutsche Bahn homepage provides access to further topics, such as prices and special offers.
-  German, English, Danish, Dutch, French, Italian, Polish, Spanish and Turkish

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.flug.de >> searches for available offers in international flight databases and also lets you book the flight online.
-  www.statravel.de >> a tour operator specialising in offers for students. Flights can also be booked online here.
-  www.billigflieger.de >> compares offers by airlines and various tour operators.
-  www.ebookers.com >> compares all available flights by price and shows you the cheapest results first.



Searching the “German” Internet

Clever Search

 www.klug-suchen.de

 This website is essentially a “search engine for search engines” with which you cannot only find general search engines, but also specialist and regional ones, search engines for specific fields and much more. Currently it covers about 1,100 search engines.

 German

German MetaSearch Engine MetaGer

 www.metager.de

 Regional Computer Centre for Lower Saxony (RRZN), University of Hannover

 MetaGer is a search engine that provides parallel search services for keyword(s). MetaGer searches all German (and as required international) search services and summarises the results; a total of more than 40 search engines can be selected. Direct use of individual search services is recommended for more detailed inquiries.

 German

Special “Ask an Expert” Search Service

 www.wer-weiss-was.de

 “wer-weiss-was” is a web-based expert information service. Users can search for persons who know about a specific topic or are interested in it and can then e-mail them questions or simply exchange ideas. The service also offers the opportunity to discuss topics in public with experts and to get to know people with the same interests in topic-oriented live chat sessions. Prospective users need to register first, but the service is free-of-charge and works straightaway. Of course, this service is based on mutual trust between those seeking information and the experts; there can be no guarantees for the correctness of any information given.

 German

Information Search Service (abfragen.de)

 www.abfragen.de

 “abfragen.de” is a free-of-charge service offering numerous categories for the information search. Additionally, the site not only lists links for selected services, but also lets users directly search or contact these services. Examples include post codes and bank sort codes, conversion of various units of measurement, tariff calculators (useful in the search for the most reasonable telecom service provider), currency rates, translations, and much more.

 German

Tip

Online Literature Searches

Various portals enable you to search for specialist literature. For example, you can do this on the following websites:

 www.vascoda.de >> Internet portal for searching for specialist literature in numerous university or scientific libraries and information facilities, options for ordering or downloading documents from various sources

 www.bookya.de >> Internet portal where students can buy and sell books locally at their university at no extra cost

 www.bookya.de is only offered in German, www.vascoda.de is 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.daad.de/dany >> The DAAD virtual advisor answers your questions about studying in Germany at once and 24 hours a day. And he shows you where to find more helpful information (in English only).
-  www.goethe.de >> See page 42
-  www.auswaertiges-amt.de >> See page 36

