

VISA INFORMATION SHEET



General information

Having a legal permit to enter Germany is essential to start your studies at Frankfurt School. Since getting a visa can sometimes take several months, it should be one of the first things to organize.

We have gathered some information about visas here, but please note that you should always check the webpage of the Federal Foreign Office for detailed and up-to-date information. Please also contact the local German embassy or consulate in your country of residence. This is especially important since the list of required documents can vary depending on the country you come from or the embassy / consulate you apply at.

Who needs to apply for a visa?

You are...

I. An EU/ EEA/ Swiss citizen

EU/EEA/Swiss citizens do not need a visa to study in Germany.

II. A Non-EU citizen

a. Students from a visa waiver country

There are a few countries whose citizens do not require an entry visa. If you are a citizen of one of the following countries*, you can enter Germany with a valid travel document, e.g. your passport:

- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Israel
- Japan
- South Korea
- United Kingdom
- USA

Please note that you will need to provide sufficient funds when applying for the residence permit in Germany (10,332 € per year). We recommend to open a blocked account (Sperrkonto) while still in your home country or get a so-called Verpflichtungserklärung from the responsible German embassy in your home country. Please make sure you have sufficient funds by the time you start your program.

b. Students from all other countries

You need to apply for a visa at a German embassy or consulate in your country of residence. It is important that you apply for the right kind of visa (see section below). Make sure you enquire well in advance about visa application procedures and processing times.

III. A Non-EU student already studying in the EU

If you have a current student residence permit issued by a Schengen state, you can stay in Germany up to 90 days within a six-month period. Since our semester times usually exceed these 90 days, you need to apply for a German residence permit within this time. If you are living in the EU, but do not have a student residence permit status you will need to apply for a German student visa, in your country of residence.

For example, if you are an Indian student studying in France, with a French student residence permit, you can apply in Germany for a student residence permit.

If you are an Indian student studying in France with a family residence permit status, you must apply for a German visa at a German embassy in France.

*List not complete, countries not listed but also eligible include Andorra, El Salvador, Honduras, Monaco, New Zealand, San Marino

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What type of visa is required for study purposes?

There are different types of visas which allow you to enter Germany. But not all of them will allow you to stay in Germany as a student.

National visa

When your studies in Germany are your purpose of stay, you need to apply for a so-called national visa. It is intended for a longer stay and can be valid for up to one year. The national visa can be converted into a residence permit for the whole period of your study program.

Tourist / Schengen visa

Even if you have a valid tourist / Schengen visa, you cannot enter Germany with this for your study program. The tourist / Schengen visa is issued for a certain purpose and only valid for up to 90 days within a six-month period. It cannot be extended or changed into a residence permit for students during its validity period or after its expiration. Students that entered Germany with a tourist / Schengen visa have to leave Germany after 90 days.

What documents do you need?

Please confirm the specific required documents with your local embassy or consulate. Frankfurt School will provide you with invitation and acceptance letters.

Please note that a confirmation of housing is not necessary. It is ok to still be looking for housing, since you apply for your visa so far in advance. Frankfurt School will issue a letter of support upon request.



Disclaimer:

Please note that the content of this flyer is subject to change and for general information purposes only. It does not constitute legal or any other form of advice. Frankfurt School is not responsible for visa issues of its students. Check with your local embassy or consulate before planning your journey to Frankfurt. It is each student's individual responsibility to obtain the correct visa in time to start their program at Frankfurt School.