

VISA INFORMATION SHEET



Frankfurt School

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 citizen

EU 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
- New Zealand
- USA

Please note that you will need to provide sufficient funds when applying for the residence permit in Germany (10,236 € 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. Please note that you need to provide sufficient funds when applying for the residence permit in Germany (10,236 € per year).

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

Your current residence status allows you to 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 student visa in your country of residence. For example, if you are an Indian student studying in France, you need to apply at a German embassy in France to receive your student visa for Germany.

Exception: if you are a Non-EU student studying in the EU and you are coming on exchange to FS within the ERASMUS program, you can apply for your residence permit after arrival in Germany. Please note you will need a confirmation from your home university about your enrollment in a degree program and your ERASMUS exchange. Please note you will need to provide sufficient funds for living (853 € / month).

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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.