

SHAHEEN PAKISTAN

Module: Further Study in Germany



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GLOSSARY¹

English Term	German Term
Conditional Approval	Bedingte Zulassung
Confirmation of Application	Bewerberbestätigung
Federal Employment Agency	Bundesagentur für Arbeit
Foundation course	Studienkolleg
German university entrance assessment examination	Feststellungsprüfung
Information boards on campus	Schwarzen Brettern
Letter of Admission	Zulassungsbescheid
Student Applicant Visa	Studienbewerbervisum
University Entrance Qualification for undergraduate programs	Hochschulzugangsberechtigung
Student Visa	Studentenvisum
Letter of Motivation	The same as a statement of purpose or personal statement.
Doctoral Regulations	On university pages, this section/tab usually contains all the academic requirement information and document regulations for the doctoral programs. This includes information regarding the admissions process, admission conditions, regulations regarding document submission etc.

¹ Mention any terms that are specific to this country, or terms that may have a different definition in this country

Dean's office	Dekanat
Board of examiners	Promotionsausschuss

INTRODUCTION²

GENERAL INFORMATION

According to the [BBC](#), Germany has been ranked as one of the most supportive countries for international students. This is because it has incorporated internationalization into its policy (following global trends of this), by encouraging German students to go abroad while also encouraging international students to study in Germany. There are many incentives for Pakistani students to apply for further studies in Germany (please refer to the 'Motivation' section below for more information). During 2017-18, according to [Study in Germany](#), there were a total of approximately 5228 Pakistani students studying in Germany, making it one of the largest groups of international students from Asia there.

When considering applying to Germany, students tend to have certain general concerns - the following are some we hope to clear:

1. Will I need to pay taxes?

If you are working in Germany, and earn past a certain minimum level, then taxes will automatically be deducted from your income -- this is applicable to anyone who arrives in the country and plans to stay for 6 months or longer. For this, you will need to get a tax number, after which a certain amount will be deducted from your income every month. Note however, that you may be able to file for a tax return and get this money back at the end of the year. For more information on taxation in Germany, please [click here](#).

2. Can I bring my spouse/children/parents to Germany while I study there?

Bringing your family (spouse, minor child and/or parents) with you while you are studying in Germany is possible, given that certain requirements are met. One of the major requirements is providing proof that you have enough financial resources to pay for living expenses for you and the family member/s that is joining you. Other requirements include language requirements, proof of relationship between you and the family member, and more. [Click here](#) for more information.

3. Do I need to have a bank account in Germany in order to study there?

As part of your student visa application, you will need to prove that you have the finances to live in Germany. For this you will need to open a **blocked bank account** in a German bank. A blocked bank account is a special account for international students, which is used to prove that you can finance your living expenses. For more information on blocked bank accounts, please refer to the '[Visa](#)' section of this country profile.

² General information about the country, specific to Pakistan, Number of international students studying there,

4. Will I need health insurance?

Having health insurance is a requirement for all international students living in Germany - a part of your university application process is having a health insurance plan (note that this requirement of health insurance is also applicable to researchers and visitors in Germany). Additionally, according to [Studying in Germany](#), having a good health insurance plan can improve your chances of getting a student visa. Check out this [Health Insurance Guide](#) for a detailed overview of health insurance options in Germany.

[Immigration of International Students from Third Countries](#) is a good resource for a general overview on various aspects of applying, studying and later staying in Germany. It is recommended that you consult this, in addition to this country profile, before applying. Note that this is a German-based resource and so some content may be marketing the country as a study and/or work destination.

MOTIVATION TO APPLY TO GERMANY³

1. Tuition Fees

One of the things Germany is famous for is free higher education (i.e. no tuition fees). This is not only for its citizens but also international students from all countries, who are applying to **public** undergraduate programs/schools (note however, that most public universities have German-taught programs). This free education is not applicable to private schools or programs that require prior professional experience (here the tuition fees can be €20,000 or above, per year, which is approximately US\$23,400 per year, according to 2018 exchange rates -- we recommend that you convert current cost figures to the current exchange rate for an accurate estimate) For such higher education institutions (where you pay tuition fees), students who stay and work in Germany can, in many cases, deduct previously paid tuition fees from their income tax. Note however, that this may not always be the case.

2. Support for International Students

Most universities in Germany have international offices dedicated to handling the needs of international students and assisting their shift. In addition to this, many universities offer courses that teach international students the German language (many of which are for free), which help students adjust to the language and culture barriers/gaps that exist after shifting.

International Office:

The international office should be your point of contact for queries related to issues about admission, accommodation, language issues and much more. They also organize orientation events and other ways of improving your integration into the education institute. For contact details of international offices of various universities, [click here](#).

³ Specific benefits of studying in this country, how is it better than other places?

3. Diversity

Since Germany attracts many international students, there is a lot of diversity within education institutions. Alongside this, Germany has a diverse population and so you will be exposed to a variety of cultures.

4. Cultural and Historical Background

When studying in Germany, you can explore the rich cultural and historical heritage present there. Germany has contributed to history, culture and science in many ways, some of which you may not even know. So it is good to research before applying, and using the opportunity of studying there to fully understand the background of the country.

Variety of Subjects

Germany has around 400 higher education institutions. Many of such institutions offer courses taught in English; a total of approximately 1000 of such courses currently exist (in 2018).

Job Prospects⁴

Note that this section focuses on prospects/chances of work in Germany - for information about eligibility requirements, check the relevant subsections within the 'Applying for a Visa' section of the profile.

Whether you are working while studying or working after graduation, there are two barriers that will always be present. The first hurdle is the preference for EU/EEA citizens - though Germany has a vibrant economy, job prospects for non-EU/EEA citizens tend to be limited. The second major hurdle is knowing the German language; a good knowledge of German can prove to be an asset when applying for work. In this way it is good to take full advantage of the introductory courses on the German language that many universities offer international students, or to take up such courses while you are studying in Pakistan.

Working while studying

As an international student in Germany, you are allowed to work up to 120 full days **or** 240 half days a year, where a full day is 8 hours of work, while a half day is 4 hours. More information on the allowed hours of work can be viewed in the 'Applying for a Visa' section.

There are many ways in which you can work in Germany, while studying, ranging from working as a waiter to teaching as a private tutor. You can try to get a job in the university as a teaching assistant or research assistant, but your chances of getting these posts is largely dependent on your academic standing (i.e. your grades). Note that working in these positions (i.e. teaching or research assistantships) might not be counted as part of your total allowed work hours - you should confirm with the university for this. You can also work in the summer at internships, if you manage to get any (as

⁴ Why should one apply to the UK? What are job prospects like after you complete your degree -- in your home country, and country of study, and maybe even in other countries?

mentioned before, there tends to be a preference for EU citizens). Note that you are **not** allowed to work in a self employed or free-lancing job. Job opportunities can be found by asking student services in university or by contacting Bundesagentur für Arbeit ([Federal Employment Agency](#)).

Working in Germany after graduation

While we would hope that Pakistanis return to Pakistan to play a part in building the country, we do want to share that - for those interested in staying abroad - after graduating, students have the option to work in Germany. As mentioned before work opportunities will be very limited if you are not fluent in the German language. Additionally, preference will first go to specifically German citizens and generally to EU/EEA citizens, and then (if such candidates do not qualify) you will be considered. For details on how to be eligible to work in Germany after graduation, please refer to the 'Applying for Visa' section of this country profile.

For more information, consult the following resources:

- [Opportunities After Graduation](#)
- [Career Planning Tips](#)

OVERVIEW OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

Once students in Germany finish their secondary education, they move on to higher education (as is the case in Pakistan). Previously, German higher education was offered as an integrated "long" one-tier programs (i.e. one long program leading to one degree), which led to a Diplom- or Magister Artium degree (with a total duration of 4-5 years) or ended with a State Exam (with a total duration of 3-6 years). After this, students could opt for doctoral study (lasting for 3-4 years).

Now, however, Germany has adopted the 3-tier degree system, as is followed by the European Higher Education Area. This involves:

- Undergraduate Study: the Bachelor's (lasting for 3-4 years) degree
- Postgraduate Study: the Master's (lasting for 1-2 years) degree

Both of these replace the integrated system, which can then be followed by:

- Advanced Postgraduate research: Doctoral degrees (which is the same as before, i.e. lasting for 3-4 years).

The exceptions for this are Law and Medicine degrees, which still follow the integrated system.

Check out [this video](#) to get a better idea about what the German Higher Education System consists of.

MISCONCEPTIONS⁵

- **Studies in Germany take longer to complete than in other countries**

This might have been true in the past when the long one-tier programs were common -- now however through the 3-tier system, studies can be completed in the average time (or even quicker, e.g. completing Bachelor's degrees in 3 years instead of 4, or completing Master's degrees in 1 year instead of 2).

- **Studying in Germany is expensive**

Compared to other countries such as the US or UK, Germany has more affordable education (see Fees sub-section in the [Undergraduate](#) and [Postgraduate](#) sections for more information on this)

- **There are no top-tier or reputable universities in Germany**

Germany has many top ranking universities, with 8 such universities appearing in the top 150 universities in the world, in 2019. For more information on this, [click here](#).

- **Germans are unfriendly**

This is not the case -- like other countries (including your home country), you will meet many different kinds of people, some of which may be unfriendly.

- **Do I need to know German to study in Germany?**

While a majority of the courses/programs in Germany are taught in German, many are taught in English (a.k.a. [International Programs](#)). Such English-taught programs are increasing in number and are offered at both undergraduate and postgraduate (Master's and PhD) levels. For more information on these, please refer to the 'Applying' subsection within the [Undergraduate/Postgraduate](#) sections of this country profile. Note that this just means that you do not need to be proficient in German to study here. However, if you plan on working in Germany during or after your studies, then proficiency in the German language is generally required for many jobs. Additionally, in terms of socializing in Germany, some knowledge of German will help you while you are living there (generally, when studying in foreign country, which has a non-English official language, it is useful to have some basic understanding of that language so that you can integrate better in the social environment of that country).

⁵ Any key myths that Pakistani students have concerning education in that country? Things that prevent people from applying? Or things that make people apply for the wrong reasons, only to be disappointed later?

UNDERGRADUATE STUDY

TYPES OF INSTITUTIONS

1. **Universities:** These types of institutions offer a whole range of academic disciplines and focus more so on theoretical knowledge.
2. **Technical Universities** (Technische Universität, TU) or **Colleges of Education** (Pädagogische Hochschule, PH): These are universities that specialize in particular subject areas. They have a greater focus on research and theory, as compared to Universities of Applied Sciences (explained below).
3. **Universities of Applied Sciences** ('Fachhochschulen' and 'Hochschulen für angewandte Wissenschaften'): These types of institutions offer courses that have a larger practical component (as compared to universities). They encourage practice-oriented study or practical application of theory, more so than theoretical study. Training in these institutions aims at developing skills required for professional work. The program is thus structured in such a way that includes practical phases, which could last for one or more semesters (varies according to program). The kind of subject areas taught in these institutions include Economics, Technology, Social Work, Medicine and more.
4. **Colleges of Art, Film and Music:** Such institutions focus on 'artistic subjects', such as music, architecture, visual arts, drama, dance, modern media, industrial and fashion design. For these programs, you will likely need to give an entrance exam to demonstrate your talent in the particular field you are applying to. ***Note, however, that most of the programs in such institutions are taught in German.***

For more information on types of higher education institutions in Germany, [click here](#).

TYPES OF DEGREES⁶

Types of Undergraduate Degrees	Duration (Full time programs)
Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)	Typically 6-8 semesters
Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.)	Typically 6-8 semesters
Difference between BA and BSc: The BA and BSc degrees in Germany are equivalent to the BA and BSc (Hons) in the UK. Usually, a BA refers to programs in the Liberal Arts/Humanities/Social Sciences, and BSc includes programs like Mathematics/Business/Economics.	
Other Undergraduate degree types	
Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.)	This degree is for programs that are based in the field of education or that provide teacher training/education to students.

⁶ How many tiers are there? Identify differences in costs, criteria for admission, quality of education, duration and structure of program post-educational opportunities and career prospects. How does one choose one tier over another?

Bachelor of Engineering (B.Eng.)	This degree is for students pursuing engineering sciences for their undergraduate study. Alongside the BA and BSc, this is one of the more common Bachelor's degrees in Germany.
Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)	This is a Law degree which trains students to become familiar with the German legal system. This degree is usually offered by Universities of Applied Sciences and takes around 8-10 semesters to complete (note that it can take longer than this standard duration).
Bachelor of Music (B.Mus.)	This degree is offered by Colleges of Art and Music, and it offers artistic training.
Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.)	Similar to the B.Mus., the BFA is also offered by Colleges of Art and Music.

For more information on the types of degrees, click [here](#).

HOW TO PREPARE FOR AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE⁷

EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN⁸

To check where you stand in terms of the German schooling system, enter your qualifications into [this](#) link. The following is a general overview on different education backgrounds and their respective requirements.

British Curriculum (O Levels/IGCSEs/A Levels)

If you have completed your A Levels, you are eligible to apply for direct admission into a German undergraduate program but your admission will most likely be **subject-restricted**. This means that if you have done Humanities based subjects at A Level, you can only apply for a Humanities based degree, and so on for Commerce based or Science based courses, etc. You will also have to fulfill the general requirements of the specific university you are applying to.

Pakistani Curriculum (Matriculation/HSSC)

A HSSC degree is not readily accepted in Germany -- applicants need to take a preparatory course before they can apply for the bachelor's degree. If you complete your HSSC with a grade of **50% or above**, you are eligible to apply for a **subject-restricted preparatory/foundation** course/assessment (more information on this course/assessment below). If for example, you have done your HSSC in the Commerce side, you can apply to a foundation course that will ultimately lead you to a Commerce

⁷ What education system most closely follows this specific country's education system?

⁸ British, Pakistani, American, etc? Which one is the best to choose for this country compared to the rest? How can you get in with a different schooling system?

based degree only. There might be exceptions to this rule, but you will have to confirm these with your specific university of choice. **Note that if you get a grade below 50%, you will not be eligible to apply.**

Foundation Course

If you have done the HSSC alone, you must pass the German university entrance assessment examination, called the "Feststellungsprüfung". You can do this by either:

- Enrolling into a foundation course that prepares you for the exam i.e. "Studienkolleg"
- Applying straight for the exam (although this is not recommended)

More information on the Feststellungsprüfung can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

For students who have already completed a Bachelor's degree in Pakistan and want to apply for another Bachelor's degree in Germany:

- If you have done the HSSC and completed 1-3 years of study in a Bachelor's degree program in Pakistan, you are eligible for **direct admission** to a university, but it will most likely be **subject-restricted**. This means your German degree will have to be something similar to your Pakistani degree. This rule continues to apply even if you have completed a 2-3 year Bachelor's degree.
- If you have done the HSSC and completed a **Bachelor's degree of at least 4-5 years**, you are eligible for **direct general admission**. This means you can apply to a German higher education institution in any subject area.

International Baccalaureate

If you have completed your IB under certain conditions (which can be viewed [here](#)), you are eligible for direct general admission into German universities. This means you can apply to a German higher education institution in any subject area.

APPLYING

OVERVIEW

Information on the various aspects of curriculum in German institutions can be viewed [here](#).

WHERE TO APPLY

When considering where to apply, you will need to keep a few things in mind:

1. Language of Instruction

Firstly, you will need to decide which language you would prefer to be taught in -- English or German. We would recommend opting for German only if you have proficiency in the German language, enough to meet the admission requirements and enough to be comfortable studying with the language. Otherwise, there are a growing number of English-taught programs available in Germany. If you are considering applying to an undergraduate program in a public university in Germany -- it is important to note that the majority of the programs in such institutions are German-taught (very few English-taught programs exist here).

2. Choosing fields of study

The next thing you should decide on is a [field of study](#) that suits you (the link is a good resource for evaluating the state of various fields in the higher education system in Germany. Other useful resources include [DAAD](#)).

When considering which degree to study, you should keep the following in mind:

- *For medical study:* Such programs/degrees usually last for a minimum of 6 years and 3 months. It is important to know that most medical training is done with German as the language of instruction. Some Master's or Bachelor's degrees within the field of medicine are in English, but the actual clinical training (giving you the title of 'Doctor') is done in German. In this way, Germany may not be the ideal place to study medicine, if you aren't proficient in German (you will need to get high scores on the German Language proficiency tests as a part of admission - these tests are elaborated below).
 - If you want to study medicine in English in Germany, note that there is one Bachelor's degree in the field, namely a BSc in Medical Natural Sciences (as of 2019).
 - Note that applications to medical fields tend to be very competitive. It is recommended that students who have exceptional grades in their secondary level study apply for such programs.
 - For more information on studying medicine in Germany, check out the following links:
 - [Medicine in Germany](#) - DAAD
 - [How to study medicine in Germany](#) - Top Universities
 - [Medical specialist training](#) - Study in Germany

- *For Law study:* The courses taught in Law programs in Germany are largely based on the German legal system. Additionally, similar to Medicine, Law degrees are also exclusively taught in German (as of 2019). Such courses also have very difficult course content, with reportedly high rates of failure during the study. In this way, [DAAD](#) discourages foreign students from applying to such programs.
- *For Journalism/Mass Communication study:* As of 2019, all Journalist's training courses are done in the German language. These courses have a significant practical component, including work like writing articles and documentaries, investigating a topic etc. In this way, you need to be really proficient in the German language to pursue this field. It is also important to note that competition in applications for this field are also tough. Applicants usually come from fields that are related to the kind of area they plan to work or study in later. Any English-taught courses related to Journalism in general or Mass Communication focus mostly on role of media in a given society and so fall more within Political Science. Hence, Journalism degrees are also discouraged for foreign students who have not mastered the language.
- *For Education/Social Work study:* Degrees within this field also usually require proficiency in the German language, because they have a significant practical component which involves interacting with German-speaking clients/children. In order to realistically pursue this field, you will thus need to have good German language knowledge. Additionally, such degrees also are focused largely on the German society, culture and Law, and so may not be relevant to applicants who plan on working outside of Germany post-degree.

The above comments show that you need to be mindful about the state of the field you are interested in applying to, in Germany. One of the ways to find out whether you should pursue a field in Germany or not, is to firstly see whether the programs in that field are taught in English (if you are not proficient in German). There are various resources that can help you find programs:

- [DAAD](#) - (after selecting 'Bachelors' as the Course Type) select the course language ('English only' or 'German only') depending on which you would prefer. Additionally, if you have selected a field of study, then click on that to shortlist the program options.
- [Study in Germany](#) - (after selecting 'Bachelors' as the Degree) select the course language depending on which you would prefer (e.g. 'English'). Additionally, if you have selected a field of study, then click on that to shortlist the program options.

After this, you should go over the course content/modules for various relevant programs to find out about the kind of things that are taught in your selected programs and to see whether that is something you want to study. You should thus keep your study plan and career aspirations in mind when selecting programs -- find programs that teach content that is relevant to your future plans.

3. Choosing amongst programs

As mentioned in the previous section regarding types of institutions, different universities offer different kind of study option.

- If you are interested in more theory or research based study, or if you want to pursue a PhD in Germany after your studies, then universities would be a better option.
- If however you want to learn the more practical side of the field, then universities of applied sciences will be more suitable.
- The kind of field you pursue may also affect the kind of institution you apply to (e.g. if you want to study medicine, then you will likely need to apply to universities of applied sciences).
- If you are interested in the study of artistic or design-oriented areas, then you should apply to a college of art, film or music
- For more information on different types of institutions, please refer to the section above, titled '[Types of Institutions](#)'.

Additionally, certain programs have course structures that are different to traditional learning. For example, certain programs offer the option of a work-experience or professional development component -- these are called [dual study](#) options. The benefits of such degrees is that they:

- Train and test you in both the academic and practical components. So you will study and give exams in the traditional way, based on the academic side of the degree, but your professional component will also be tested and will contribute to your final grade.
- If you are currently working in Germany, you have the opportunity to pursue your studies while you continue working.
- It can give you an opportunity to network and get in touch with the German job market, which can be useful if you plan on working in Germany after graduation.

If you are interested in this kind of learning, you can look for programs that offer such studies. On their program or university pages they usually provide information on the kind of companies they work with. Note that these programs are not available for all fields and they often require applicants to be proficient in the German language to apply. For more information on these kinds of programs, [click here](#).

Application Components

The admission criteria largely depend on the program you are applying to; you can check out university admission pages or directly call their Foreign Students' Office (Akademischen Auslandsamt) to find out more about their requirements.

Generally, programs require the following:

- University Entrance Qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung)
 - This is your secondary school-leaving certification. If you have the certificate and it is approved (see below, 'Getting your qualifications checked'), then you are qualified to

study at a German university. However, if it isn't, then you will need to take the *Feststellungsprüfung* (assessment test) -- as mentioned above, it is recommended that you take these preparatory courses in Germany to prepare for this ([click here](#) for more information on this). Note that in order to apply for these courses, you will be required to have good German language skills (Level B1, i.e. Independent User in terms of the [European Framework of Reference for Languages](#)).

- You can check whether you are qualified (or whether you need to take preparatory courses) by checking out the following links:
 - [DAAD Entrance Qualification Database](#)
 - [Anabin](#) (in German - will need to be translated)
- For more information, [click here](#).
- Good Letter of Motivation and relevant experiences
- Interviews or Admission Tests
- CV
- Identity Documents
- Proof of Language Skills (German or English)
 - If you are applying to a German-taught program: the following certificates are considered good proof for proficiency in the German language:
 - [TestDaF](#) (Test of German as a Foreign Language). Click [here](#) and [here](#) for more information.
 - [DSH](#) (*Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang ausländischer Studienbewerber*)
 - German Language Diploma Level II (*Sprachdiplom der Kultusministerkonferenz Stufe II*)
 - *Zentrale Oberstufenprüfung* ([ZOP](#))
 - *Großes Sprachdiplom* ([GDS](#))
 - *Kleines Sprachdiplom* ([KDS](#))
 - If you are applying to an English-taught program: to prove proficiency in English, for non-native English speaking students will need to take TOEFL or IELTS (or other acceptable tests of language proficiency outlined by the program).

Other important things to remember when applying:

- Always confirm with the university that you are applying to, whether the documents you are sending require any additional legalization or notarization (additional to the requirement of translation of documents)
- Confirm whether your qualification is recognized in Germany **before** applying, so you can apply for the foundation courses (as elaborated above)
- Make sure to double check all the documents before sending, to make sure you aren't forgetting anything!

More information on applying can be viewed [here](#).

Application Cycle

Winter Semester	Application season usually begins in early May and ends in mid-July
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(starting in September/October)	
Summer Semester (starting in March April)	Application season usually begins in early December and ends in mid-January

GENERAL ADMISSION TIPS

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Useful Links:

- <https://www.studying-in-germany.org/motivational-letter-university-admission-germany/>

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION (LOR)

[Studying in Germany](#) suggests the following kind of content within the LORs:

- How did the student go about during their studies?
- How did the student participate in teamwork, or the learning environment?
- What difference did the student bring?
- How did they think about the subject in matter?
- How did the student react to setbacks and criticisms?
- How did the student think about bringing multiple concepts together?
- How has the student matured and excelled over time?
- Did the student challenge themselves, and in what ways or in what kind of circumstances?
- How did the student's passion show towards specific subjects or activities?
- If there was an achievement, how did it happen and how has it affected education?
- What was the student's level of creativity during class and assignments?

Useful resources to consult:

- [Studying in Germany - LORs](#)

Useful Links:

- <https://www.studying-in-germany.org/how-to-write-a-recommendation-letter/>

FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIP⁹

Note that the figures/exchange rates provided are based on data in 2018/19, we recommend that you check current figures and convert them according to the current exchange rate for an accurate estimate

FEES

Public universities in Germany (outside the state of Baden-Württemberg) currently do not charge their international students any tuition fees. Instead you are required to pay a fee of around **€60-300** per semester (approximately US\$68-335 per semester, according to 2019 exchange rates) for administrative and other miscellaneous facilities (as of 2019). This rule does not apply to any university in the state of Baden-Württemberg, where public universities charge a fee of around **€1,500** per semester (approximately US\$1680 per semester, as of 2019)..

Private universities charge a considerable amount of fees, and can charge up to **€20,000** per year (approximately US\$22,360 per year, as of 2019). If you are doing a science or engineering degree, this figure could be even higher.

Additionally, [click here](#) and [here](#).

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

There are a number of scholarships and grants opportunities available for you. Below are some organizational avenues for funding:

The Deutschlandstipendium	This funding mechanism supports talented individuals, regardless of nationality and income. It is offered by the university you attend (participating institutions only) to students who meet requirements (set by each individual institution).
DAAD Scholarships	DAAD offers a number of scholarships for a variety of subjects or type of students. You can explore this database to find out what is relevant to you.
Erasmus	Many German universities participate in the Erasmus scholarship scheme. Click here for more information. <i>Note however, that some scholarships within this scheme are in the form of exchange programs.</i>
Privately-Funded Scholarships:	The main one that you may be eligible to apply for is the Heinrich Boll Foundation Scholarship .

⁹ Mention all scholarships available to Pakistani Students, include information on general finance + living expenses/travel cost

Otherwise, you should contact your selected institutions and ask them about institution-specific scholarships, grants or other funding opportunities that you are eligible for.

OTHER FUNDING OPTIONS

- **Working part-time to finance a portion of living expenses:** You can work part-time to earn some extra income to help you finance your stay. Note however, that you should not rely on this income to fund your living expenses -- usually the income is not sufficient to finance all living expenses. The amount of income you receive will depend on the nature of the job, and if you exceed a particular amount, then you will be liable to pay taxes. Please refer to the 'Job Prospects' and 'Applying for Visa' section for information on job possibilities and eligibility requirements for working while studying.
- **Student loans:** These are not easy to obtain and are generally few in number for non-EU applicants. Many require students to be legal residents of Germany in order to be eligible to apply. Otherwise some loan providers may provide a loan to students who have a guarantor -- in this case there are usually conditions placed on the loan, such as a requirement for the student to work in Germany for a period of time after graduation. It is best to first contact the university you are applying to, to find out whether they provide student loans, before looking into other organizations. Some relevant organizations include the Federal Education and Training Assistance Act ([BAföG](#)) and the [Bildungskredit](#).

POSTGRADUATE STUDY

DIFFERENT KINDS OF INSTITUTIONS (TIERS)

There are typically four types of universities that offer Master's and PhD Degrees in Germany.

1. **Research Universities:** these are mostly publicly-administered universities that provide facilities to help students pursue Research-based Master's or PhDs.
 - a. **Technical Universities:** these are a sub-type of Research Universities; they focus on science, technology and engineering.
2. **Universities of Applied Sciences:** these are usually private institutions that focus on engineering, business and social sciences. It is common for these universities to be affiliated with professional or commercial organizations and they typically offer Master's degrees -- few offer PhD programs, unless they have partnered with an organization only to offer specialized PhD programs. These universities usually offer courses in Engineering, Business Administration, Social Sciences, Design and more.
3. **Colleges of Art, Film and Music:** these are sub-types of, both, Research Universities and Universities of Applied Sciences. They specialize in offering creative disciplines (as a result, candidates are expected to have creative skills and experience).

TYPES OF DEGREES ¹⁰

For Master's degrees:

Types of Degree	Duration (Full time programs)
Master of Arts (M.A.)	Typically 2-4 semesters
Master of Science (M.Sc.)	Typically 2-4 semesters
Master of Engineering (M.Eng.)	Typically 2-4 semesters
Master of Music (M.Mus.)	Typically 2-4 semesters
Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.)	Typically 2-4 semesters
<p>Master's degrees can be divided into three types:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consecutive Master's Degree: this is for those students who want to pursue their Master's in the same (or closely-related) field they did their Bachelor's in. For these courses, only those who have a relevant Bachelor's degree will gain admission. Note: it is not uncommon for students to opt for this without a (significant) gap after their undergraduate study (i.e. many students join a Consecutive Master's program right after their undergraduate degree). 2. Non-consecutive Master's Degree: this is for those students who 	

¹⁰ How many tiers are there? Identify differences in costs, criteria for admission, quality of education, duration and structure of program post-educational opportunities and career prospects. How does one choose one tier over another?

want to focus on an area that is different (but somewhat related) to what they did their undergraduate study in. It is common for students pursuing this kind of degree to gain some professional experience before enrolling (i.e. after their undergraduate degree, many students do work experience in this other field before applying for a Master’s degree in it).

3. Professional Master’s Degree: this is for those students who want to focus on vocational training for areas such as teaching, nursing, practising law etc. These courses typically focus on seasoned professionals (i.e. candidates with significant work experience in that field).

For PhD degrees:

<i>Individual Doctorate Study:</i>	<p>This kind of a PhD program follows the traditional PhD route, whereby applicants have a research idea and pursue that research individually, under the supervision of one professor. These usually last between 3-5 years and allows more flexibility of the student in terms of study plans. Students pursuing this type of a PhD need to have good organization skills, initiative and motivation because they will need to take charge and get their work done. As of 2019, this type of PhD program is more common.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can either work alone during your PhD or with other researchers. Additionally, you can choose to work at a university, at a non-university research organization or at a company. For more information on each, please click here. • Find your Individual PhD Program is a good resource to evaluate various options within this type of PhD program.
<i>A Structured Program:</i>	<p>For these programs, PhD students are put into groups and they work with a team of academics (who take the role of supervisors for this group and are often termed as a ‘thesis committee’). These programs have less flexibility as compared to the individual PhD programs -- these have structured compulsory classes/lectures, seminars, credit requirements and assessments. Many of these structured programs are taught in English, and usually take 3-4 years to complete. For more information, please click here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Find Your Structured PhD Program is a good resource to evaluate various options within this type of PhD program.

For more information on each, please click [here](#) and [here](#).

HOW TO PREPARE FOR A POSTGRADUATE DEGREE

EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN FOR MASTER'S¹¹

Specific requirements for Master's programs will likely vary across programs, however the general requirement is that applicants must have completed 16 years of education previously (this study can include BSc, BEng, MSc and MA degrees completed previously).

EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN FOR PHDs

Specific requirements for PhD programs will likely vary across programs, however the general requirement is that applicants must have completed 18 years of education previously, including a Master's degree equivalent to the German Master's program. With regards to your pre-Master's level study, individual institutions usually make decisions about these degrees individually.

When applying to programs, you will need to submit an application for the recognition of your higher education qualifications to the Dean's office ("Dekanat") or the Board of examiners ("Promotionsausschuss") at the respective institutions.

Note: if you haven't completed a Master's degree, but are an exceptional candidate (i.e. exceptional grades), then you may be allowed to pursue the PhD program -- this is called a 'fast-track program'. Whether institutions accept this varies. If you do follow this route, an examination is usually required before you can join the program.

¹¹ British, Pakistani, American, etc? Which one is the best to choose for this country compared to the rest? How can you get in with a different schooling system?

APPLYING

OVERVIEW

Information on the various aspects of curriculum in German institutions can be viewed [here](#).

WHERE TO APPLY

When considering where to apply, you will need to keep a few things in mind:

1. Language of Instruction

Firstly, you will need to decide which language you would prefer to be taught in -- English or German. We would recommend opting for German only if you have proficiency in the German language, enough to meet the admission requirements and enough to be comfortable studying with the language. Otherwise, there are a growing number of English-taught programs available in Germany. If you are considering applying to a postgraduate program in a public university in Germany -- it is important to note that the majority of the programs in such institutions are German-taught (very few English-taught programs exist here).

There are various resources that can help you find programs:

- [DAAD](#) - (after selecting 'Masters' or 'PhD/Doctorate' as the Course Type, depending on which level you are applying for) select the course language ('English only' or 'German only') depending on which you would prefer. Additionally, if you have selected a field of study, then click on that to shortlist the options.
- [Study in Germany](#) - (after selecting 'Masters' as the Degree) select the course language depending on which you would prefer (e.g. 'English'). Additionally, if you have selected a field of study, then click on that to shortlist the options.
- [PhD Germany - Database](#) - select the 'Working Language' as 'English' or 'German' depending on which you would prefer. Then choose the field of research you are planning on pursuing during the degree.

2. Choosing field of study

The next thing you should decide on is a [field of study](#) that suits you (the link is a good resource for evaluating the state of various fields in the higher education system in Germany. Other useful resources include [DAAD](#)).

Note if you are planning on applying for Medical Studies: Please refer to the section on 'medical studies' sub-section in 'Undergraduate studies' for more information (Undergraduate Studies → Applying → Where to apply)

When considering fields to study, you should go over the course content/modules for various relevant programs to find out about the kind of things that are taught in your selected programs and to see whether that is something you want to study. You should keep your study plan and career aspirations in mind when selecting programs -- find programs that teach content that is relevant to your future plans.

3. Choosing amongst programs

Type of institution

As mentioned in the previous section regarding types of institutions, different universities offer different kind of study option. If you are interested in research-dominant work, then research universities of applied sciences would be a better option. Otherwise if you want more a degree with more of a practical component, then universities of applied sciences The kind of field you pursue may also affect the kind of institution you apply to (e.g. if you want to study Business, then you will likely need to apply to universities of applied sciences). For more information on different types of institutions, please refer to the sub-section above, titled 'Types of Institutions'.

Resources of Institution

When choosing amongst programs, you should look into the kind of resources they have and compare these to the resources you need for your study plan. One of the major things to look into for Master's/PhD programs are faculty members, because you will likely need to write a thesis or work on research projects, under the supervision of faculty. So find programs that have faculty who are working in areas or have published contents that are related to your areas of interests. You should also look into the library resources, relevant equipment (for degrees such as Music, Art or Architecture etc.), class sizes etc.

Application Components¹²

The admission criteria largely depend on the program you are applying to; you can check out university admission pages or directly call their Foreign Students' Office (Akademischen Auslandsamt) to find out more about their requirements.

Generally, programs require the following:

- A recognized Bachelor's Degree
 - The German International Office (Akademisches Auslandsamt) is responsible for checking the credibility of this diploma.
 - If your degree is not recognized, you may be required to take the Propaedeutic Course (preparatory course), which can be taken before the semester begins or during the first semester. This is just to make sure you have the necessary background for your degree (e.g. language requirements, math/physics knowledge for engineering programs etc.).
 - Universities may check the content/breakdown of your undergraduate degree, including relevant courses or the sufficiency of the number of credits you completed.
- A recognized Master's degree (for PhD applications)
- Good Letter of Motivation (this is equivalent to an 'Admissions essay', 'Personal Statement' or 'Statement of Purpose')
- Interviews or Admission Tests

¹² Any broad tips or guidelines for these components specifically in comparison to other countries/anything different for specific countries?

- Proof of Language Skills (German or English)
German universities place a lot of significance on language requirements - they need you to be able to understand what is being taught in the classroom.
 - The following certificates are considered good proof for proficiency in the German language:
 - [TestDaF](#) (Test of German as a Foreign Language). Click [here](#) and [here](#) for more information.
 - [DSH](#) (*Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang ausländischer Studienbewerber*)
 - German Language Diploma Level II (*Sprachdiplom der Kultusministerkonferenz Stufe II*)
 - *Zentrale Oberstufenprüfung* ([ZOP](#))
 - *Großes Sprachdiplom* ([GDS](#))
 - *Kleines Sprachdiplom* ([KDS](#))
 - To prove proficiency in English, for non-native English speakers, students will need to take TOEFL or IELTS etc.

Other admission requirements:

- Some competitive programs may also require information on your secondary school education

Note: Acceptance into Master's and PhD programs is largely based on academic performance in the past.

Useful links:

- [Master's requirements](#) (note that this resource is Uni-Assist and may contain content that is only relevant to the universities who are listed with them)
- [PhD requirements](#)

Other important things to remember when applying:

- Always confirm with the university that you are applying to, whether the documents you are sending require any additional legalization or notarization (additional to the requirement of translation of documents, if needed)
- Confirm whether your qualification is recognized in Germany **before** applying, so you can apply for the foundation courses (as elaborated above)
- Make sure to double check all the documents before sending, to make sure you aren't forgetting anything!
- Also, [click here](#) for a detailed overview on what to be aware of when applying to a Master's degree program in Germany.

For PhD applications:

- Note, it is not usually required for students to write their post-doctoral thesis in German; this is dependent on respective doctoral regulations, which can be viewed on the university/department website.
- Some common FAQs for Phd Applicants can be viewed [here](#).

Application Cycle

Application deadlines usually vary according to university; according to Study in Germany, the following are general deadline timelines for a Master’s degree:

Winter Semester (starting in September/October)	Application season usually begins in early May and ends in mid-July
Summer Semester (starting in March April)	Application season usually begins in early December and ends in mid-January

Nonetheless it is best to check university-specific deadlines!

Application process PhD applications:

The application process for PhD applications varies depending on the type of PhD program (structured vs individual).

The table below outlines the application process for structured PhD programs:

For your structured PhD	
Find a PhD program	<p>You should start by researching programs and shortlisting the ones you want to apply to. When choosing programs, you should ask yourself the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the programme, the institution and the environment suit my doctoral proposal (i.e. are their research interests similar to mine)? • What are the requirements? • What is expected of doctoral students, in terms of course structure, assessments, timetables etc.?
Start working on your application	<p>This involves the following stages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First you will need to submit the application, usually involving the CV, copy of your degree certificate, brief description of your doctoral research proposal and often a letter explaining why you are applying to the program. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Make sure your CV is precise and clear. b. For PhD applications, good or very good grades are required to be accepted. c. When explaining your reasons for applying, make sure to write about how you are a good fit for the program. This can include how your research interests match with the program, how the faculty members have the background that can be useful for your research, the kind of other resources the program has that you need for your study etc. d. Most PhD programs are structured so that they are interdisciplinary (i.e. incorporating multiple fields/areas), but the programs usually have specific research goals (that can be found on the program website, or if not then by

	<p>contacting the program directly). If you have decided on a program, you should make sure that your research proposal matches with these specific goals.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> e. In your letter or through the research proposal, make sure you clearly explain your motivations for applying and your future goals. It is important to be very clear about these from the start of the application. f. You should also research about the program and make sure you know how it works. Then you should write about relevant things in your letter, to show that you know about the program and have made an informed decision about applying. <p>2. Next, if the program thinks that you may be a good potential candidate for the program, then they will ask you to submit a more detailed application, which usually includes the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A more comprehensive explanation about your research project. b. Details of your time schedule (your availability during the course of the program, if you are doing something alongside your doctoral studies) c. References from professors d. Copy of documents, including certificates etc. e. Copy of your thesis (from your previous, usually Master's degree) f. Language proficiency tests (sometimes required)
<p>If your application is accepted - Give your interview</p>	<p>Usually if the documents pass the requirements of the program, then candidates are called in for an interview. This interview can happen in person or on call (as a conference call), depending on the rules of the program.</p> <p>During the interview, you should talk about the work you have done so far that is relevant to your research proposal (i.e. any work in this area that you have done previously -- to show that you have had exposure and experience in this before preparing the research proposal).</p>

The table below outlines the process for individual PhD programs:

<p>For your Individual PhD</p>	
<p>Find a supervisor</p>	<p>You first step towards this type of a PhD is to find a supervisor to work with during your doctoral studies. One way to do this is to first shortlist institutions that have research interests that match yours, and then to find relevant faculty within these institutions. The following resources can be used to find such research institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GERIT -- this allows you to browse through research programs, by location or by subject area • PhDGerman -- this site publishes PhD openings and specifically targets international students (so most programs will be English-based) • Higher Education Compass -- this also has a search engine, which

	<p>can help you find PhD programs</p> <p>Additionally, you can also try the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● You could also ask your professors or university in Pakistan, whether they know of any suitable program/supervisor. ● You can attend academic conferences, which focus on your subject area -- this can build your network and possibly help you get contacts or information for your future PhD program. <p>It is extremely important to invest a lot of time in finding the right supervisor, because they will potentially be working with you for a number of years.</p> <p>Useful resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How to Find a German PhD Supervisor or Research Partner
<p>Apply for a supervisor</p>	<p>Once you have found a supervisor, you need to apply directly to this professor and ask them if they will be willing to work with you for your PhD studies. Within your application, you will need to include information about your academic past (achievements etc.), the topic of your Master's thesis, and the subject area you hope to specialize in. Additionally, you will need to include a research proposal about what you plan on working on during the PhD.</p> <p>Keep the following tips in mind when applying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● You should demonstrate your interest and knowledge in your research area, and link it to your supervisor's area of interest. In this way, you should show your interests match. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Through this, you should also show that you know what to expect during your research within this field/area of interest. ○ When deciding your research topic, design it to match the interests of the professor ● You should also write about your own experiences in the field, to further show initiative and interest. ● You need to give explicit and clear reasoning for why you would like to work with this professor. ● Make sure that you are clear about what you plan on doing. You need to show the supervisor exactly where your interests lie and what you plan to do, from the start of the process (so that they can make an informed decision about whether they can work with you). ● Show that you know what a doctorate degree in Germany of this type (Individual) involves. <p>Note that a supervisor can reject your request, in which case you will need to apply for others. So it is important to plan and play out this process as early as you can.</p>
<p>Apply for a PhD program</p>	<p>After you have found a supervisor (who is willing to work with you), you need to be accepted into the PhD program. There are two ways that this can happen; either the relevant department doctoral committee will confirm your eligibility as a doctoral candidate, or you will need to apply</p>

	<p>for admission (for the latter, you may need to take relevant doctoral examinations).</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In both cases, you will need to submit a statement by your doctoral supervisor, certified copies of relevant certificates and your university degree.• Some programs will require you to enrol as a PhD candidate (these are usually the ones where you have apply for admission), while others don't. In some ways it is beneficial to enrol, because it can give you a better legal status as a foreign resident.
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For more information, check out [this guide](#).

GENERAL ADMISSION TIPS

PERSONAL STATEMENT

As a part of your application, you will likely need to write up a personal statement (a.k.a. the motivation letter), which aims to demonstrate that you are a capable candidate for the program you are applying for. For applications to Master's programs, you will need to explain your motivation for applying for this degree/program. You should also write about what you hope to achieve through the degree and why you applied to the particular university/program that the personal statement is going to be sent to. Note that you should always consult with the university website, to check whether they have specific requirements for the personal statement or whether they have outlined questions they expect answered within it.

It is recommended that you revise and recheck the statement, because it is possible that there will be an interview afterwards, which may include questions related to the things you mentioned in the personal statement.

Useful resources:

- For Master's applications we **highly recommend** that you read these guidelines on the [Letter of Motivation - DAAD](#), designed specifically for Paksitani applicants.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

- You should be precise and clear about what your research project (about why you are wanting to pursue this particular area/question and what exactly it is).
- Make sure you are clear about what the research question entails and what it would involve (and what it would **not** involve).
- There should be a clear purpose for why you are wanting to pursue a particular research question/area. You should have a clear idea about what you hope to achieve or what problem you hope to solve through your future research.

- Try to develop a good and strong argument for why your research proposal should be accepted.
 - Make sure to highlight the most important aspects of your research goals.
- Make sure to focus on the research topic. Avoid writing about other areas or things that are not directly relevant to your research project.
- The research proposal is an overview -- you shouldn't focus on minor details too much, unless you feel that it is absolutely necessary.

FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIP¹³

FEES

Consecutive Master's

These courses will not have a tuition fees even for international students (unless your university is in the state of Baden-Wurttemberg). You will still have to pay the administration fees or fees for other facilities, which could go up to €300 per semester.

Non-Consecutive Master's

If you choose to go to a public university, you will have to pay tuition fees of up to €5,000 per year. If you go to a private university, this cost could rise up to €30,000 per year.

PhD

You will not have to pay any tuition fees as a Doctoral candidate for the first six semesters of your studies, not even in the state of Baden-Wurttemberg. You will of course, still have to pay the administrative fees which can go up to €300 per semester.

FUNDING

There are multiple potential sources of funding for students applying for graduate level study in Germany (Master's and/or PhD). The following is an overview of these (the following list includes grants, fellowships and other sources of funding):

- **DAAD Scholarships:** DAAD is Germany's largest scholarship provided, providing multiple scholarships for international students. These include:
 - [DAAD Scholarships for Medical Doctors](#)
 - [DAAD Graduate Programme: Public Policy / Good Governance](#)
 - [DAAD Development-Related Postgraduate Courses- Educating Professionals for Sustainable Development](#)
 - [DAAD Research Stays for University Academics and Scientists](#)
 - [Leibniz-DAAD Research Fellowships \(recent postdocs\)](#)
 - [DLR-DAAD Research Fellowships in the fields of Space, Aeronautics, Energy and Transportation Research](#)
 - [DAAD Graduate School Scholarship Programme](#)
 - [Study Scholarships For Foreign Graduates in the Field of Architecture](#)
 - [Study Scholarships for Foreign Graduates in the Field of Fine Art, Design, Visual Communication and Film](#)
 - [Study Scholarships for Foreign Graduates in the Field of Music](#)
 - [DAAD Research Grants for Phd-students and postdocs](#)
 - [Research Grants - One Year and Short-term grants](#) (DAAD)
 - [Research Grants - Doctoral Programs in Germany](#) (DAAD)

¹³ Mention all scholarships available to Pakistani Students, include information on general finance + living expenses/travel cost

- You may be able to find other scholarships on the [DAAD scholarship database](#).
- **The [Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft](#) (German Research Foundation, DFG):** This is another one of the largest funding sources in Germany. They usually do not require students to be working within a particular field, when applying. For more information on their funding programs please [click here](#).
- **The [Alexander von Humboldt Foundation](#):** This organization focuses on providing funding to international researchers who are collaborating with German researchers. Their aim is to promote cultural dialogue. For more information on their funding programs, please [click here](#).
- **The [Max Planck Society](#) (Max-Planck-Gesellschaft):** This is a non-university source of funding, and they focus more on students pursuing research in the natural, biological and social sciences and the humanities. For more information on their funding programs, please [click here](#).
- Other relevant sources of funding include:
 - [The EU](#)
 - [Erasmus+](#)
 - [Research Organizations](#)
 - [Companies](#)
- You should also contact the university you are planning on studying in about whether they have scholarships or funding options, that you may be eligible for.

For more information you can use the following links:

- For PhD applicants - [Research in Germany](#) has a good list of database to consult for funding.
- [Funding organizations](#)

OTHER FUNDING OPTIONS

- **Job earnings:** One way to reduce financial pressures is to get a job. Many universities allow students to work in the university as a teaching- or research-assistant. Otherwise you can also apply for work opportunities in research organizations or companies in the private sector. Note that this will likely not be able to finance all your studies/expenses -- this is just to reduce the burden of finances (i.e. job earnings shouldn't be relied upon as the main source of funding).
- **Student loans:** These are not easy to obtain and are generally few in number for non-EU applicants. Many require students to be legal residents of Germany in order to be eligible to apply. Otherwise some loan providers may provide a loan to students who have a guarantor -- in this case there are usually conditions placed on the loan, such as a requirement for the student to work in Germany for a period of time after graduation. It is best to first contact the university you are applying to, to find out whether they provide student loans, before looking into other organizations. Some relevant organizations include the Federal Education and Training Assistance Act ([BAFöG](#)) and the [Bildungskredit](#).

GENERAL INFORMATION

(Applicable to all Applicants)

APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

For Undergraduate and Master's degrees:

(For PhD application processes, please refer to the [postgraduate section](#))

Uni-Assist: Application portal

[Uni-Assist](#) is an application portal, accepted by over [180 German universities](#), aiming at processing applications of international students. Their core purpose is evaluating international qualifications and determining their equivalence to German qualifications. You can send certificates, as required by your programs of choice, to Uni-Assist for approval, at any time of the year. In addition to this, they also act as a body through which you can apply to several universities. After your documents have been approved, they can send your application to the university/s you are applying to (as long as these [universities are listed with Uni-Assist](#)) The application deadline is usually some months before the semester begins. The cost of applying is 55 Euro for your first application and 15 Euro for all additional universities you apply to (as of 2019).

Useful Links:

- [Uni-Assist - Deadlines](#)
- [Uni-Assist - Checklist of required documents](#)
- [How to apply: Status, evaluation and admission](#)
- [Plan your application](#)

If your university of choice is not listed with Uni-Assist, then you can apply through the university directly.

Timeline

(This information was taken from [DAAD](#))

15 months before your planned trip to Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start researching education opportunities in Germany.• Look into whether you qualify or match the requirements/criteria of the universities you are interested in.• Evaluate your finances and whether you will be able to study and live in Germany, if you get accepted. Check out scholarship opportunities, and whether you are eligible for any).
9 months before your planned trip to Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decide on a degree program and short-listed universities.• Contact the International Office of the universities you have selected and discuss your eligibility requirements, any documentation queries or issues etc.
4-5 months before your planned trip to Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and submit your admission applications. Keep in mind respective admission deadlines.• Evaluate your accommodation options; if you plan to live in a student hall of residence, then you should apply for that now too.

When you receive an acceptance letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Apply for a visa straight away.● Sort out any health insurance policies necessary for your stay.
One month before your trip	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Make sure you have collected any necessary documents (e.g. passports, health insurance coverage confirmations, vaccinations etc.)● Sort out your accommodation!

For a more detailed overview on the timelines and list of required documents, check out the [Study in Germany](#) guide.

BUDGETING

As an international student, you will have to account for a lot of costs besides just the tuition fees. These include, but may not be limited to, the following:

1. Travel expenses
2. Health and travel insurance
3. Accommodation and living expenses
4. Travel and sightseeing
5. Textbooks and other course materials
6. Food and drink
7. Miscellaneous

You are advised to have **€850** per month (approximately US\$950 per month, as of 2019) for all of these expenses. The bulk of this money will go towards your accommodation rent. According to this figure, you will need approximately **€9,600** per year (approximately US\$10,730 per year, as of 2019). If you are based in Munich, Frankfurt, or Berlin however, these costs could go up to **€10,800** per year (approximately US\$12,100 per year, as of 2019). Munich is often cited as the most expensive German city to live in.

For your first six months, you are usually eligible to get a "[Semesterticket](#)" from your university, which is a ticket that is part of your administrative fees and allows you to travel on buses, trams, subways, and local trains within your university city without any additional costs. Make sure to avail this opportunity if you study in Germany.

TRANSLATABILITY KEY

How applications to Germany are different to those to the US and the UK?

The purpose of this key is to show how the application processes for Germany compare to applications in the UK or the US (in terms of timelines, component requirements, degree types etc.) This information should allow you to: i) look at the field-specific tips given for USA or UK; then ii) adapt these tips for an application to another country (using the 'translatability key' in that country's profile). Please refer to the table below:

TRANSLATABILITY KEY	Are they required? How important are they compared to the US/UK?	Anything that needs to be added/removed (as compared to US/UK) in these components? <small>Content in this column shows how the application process is different to that for the UK/US, and so explains the kind of content that you would need to read with caution or ignore when reviewing the UK/US field-specific tip sheets.</small>
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE	Required	
LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION	Required	
STANDARDIZED TESTS	Undergraduate: Not usually required. Graduate: GRE/GMAT sometimes required	For Master's/PhD applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GRE and GMAT are more often required by US graduate level programs, but are not that common of a requirement for programs in Germany (i.e. some German programs may require these, but it is not as common). In this regard, Germany and the UK are similar (i.e. in both Germany and the UK, the GRE and GMAT are not always required).
TRANSCRIPTS (which qualifications are accepted; if they are not, then what happens?)	Required	For undergraduate applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The kind of secondary school system you attended before applying for your undergraduate degree can influence the kind of field you can study. If you come from an HSSC or A level background, then you face subject-restricted admission (more information on this can be found in the section below titled 'Education Selection in Pakistan'). This differs for IB students, who usually don't face this restriction. The US and UK usually don't have such restrictions. For these

		<p>countries, the kind of secondary school education is less important. They are more concerned with the subjects you previously studied.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSSC degrees are not readily acceptable -- the "Feststellungsprüfung" exam needs to be passed for you to be eligible. The UK and US don't have such requirements for students with this background. <p>For Masters/PhD applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Germany, your GPA/grades in your prior studies are one of the most important aspects of your application and competition is very tough. The UK is similar in this regard. US programs, however, have varying GPA cutoffs, with some programs expecting very high scores, and others accepting lower scores.
INTERVIEWS	Sometimes required	
LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TESTS	Required. English Proficiency tests are required for english-medium programs, while German-proficiency tests are required for German-medium programs.	Since the US and UK don't have any german-medium programs, there is no requirement for this mentioned in the tip-sheets. If you are applying for such a program in Germany, you will need to add the Germany proficiency test component
<p>FINAL COMMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PhD structure is different in the US, in that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Applicants in the US are not usually expected to have a clear research plan. PhD programs in the US are more structured, with applicants attending courses etc. (the first two years are similar to a Master's level program) and discovering their research interests along the way. Candidates are still expected to provide a research proposal, but they are allowed to explore the field before they have to finalize their topic. This contrasts with individual PhD programs in Germany, where applicants have their research interests in mind and are not expected to attend classes etc. Additionally, as compared to the US, PhD programs in Germany require students to have completed a Master's level degree to be eligible to apply. In this regard, Germany and the UK are similar in their required background. ○ Since individual programs are more common in Germany, applicants usually have to first find a supervisor who is willing to supervise their research. In comparison, in the US, applicants usually enrol directly into the PhD program (similar to the structured programs in Germany). 		

APPLYING FOR A VISA

Information in this section has been taken from [German-Visa](#) and [German Missions in Pakistan](#)

DO YOU NEED A VISA¹⁴

If you want to study in Germany, you will need to apply for one of the following visas:

1. Student Applicant Visa (Visum Zur Studienbewerbung) -- This visa is for students who have “applied for university studies or preparatory measures, having been confirmed as applicants and having decent prospects for admission but yet haven’t been officially admitted to enroll in studies, as they have to comply with other admission requirements, i.e. sitting an examination, attending an interview” or other similar conditions. To apply for this, you will need to submit some proof confirming the conditions mentioned above: maybe a confirmation of application (Bewerberbestätigung) or a conditional approval (bedingte Zulassung). For more information (including requirements and application process), please refer to [this link](#).
2. Student Visa (Visum zu Studienzwecken) -- you should apply for this visa, if you have already received admission to a German university. To apply for this, you will need to submit the letter of admission (Zulassungsbescheid). For more information (including requirements and application process), please refer to [this link](#).
3. Language Course Visa -- you should apply for this if you are going to Germany for an educational program of length 3-12 months. These are for participation in short German language courses. You will need to submit some proof of registration for the language program (certificate of registration, receipt for course fees). For more information (including requirements and application process), please refer to [this link](#).

If you wish to study in Germany after your language course ends, you should state that in your application so that you can be issued with a Student Visa or a Student Applicant Visa instead (provided you fill their requirements).

Note: Do not enter Germany using a tourist visa -- this can not be converted to a student visa!

¹⁴ What are the different kinds of student visas? Which one should you apply for?

WHEN SHOULD YOU APPLY¹⁵

The processing time for a study visa is typically 5-10 weeks. If you are applying for a visa for the next semester, make sure you give the Embassy a minimum time frame of 5 weeks. If you hand in your application less than 5 weeks before the semester begins, the Embassy might not accept your application.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST¹⁶

The fee for a German student visa application is €75 (as of 2019). This fee will not be reimbursed if your application for a visa gets rejected.

Note: You will have to make this payment via a bank transfer (the bank may have some service charges). And there may be an additional fee to pay if your passport is being returned through a courier service.

HOW LONG CAN YOU STAY IN GERMANY

Student Applicant Visa	This is valid for 3 months and can be extended to 6 months if required. If you plan on staying for longer, then you will need to apply for a student residence permit.
Student Visa	This is also valid for 3 months. Students are required to apply for a residence permit to study, during these 3 months This residence permit will last for 2 years, after which you can gain an extension if your study is not completed.
German Language Course Visa	This is valid for 3-12 months (depending on the length of the course).

OTHER INFORMATION

Valid Health Insurance

The visa application requires 6 months valid health insurance. As a part of your visa application, you will need to submit a certificate confirming your health insurance coverage.

Useful links:

- [Health insurance](#) (DAAD)
- [Valid health insurance is really important](#)

¹⁵ The earliest you can apply for a visa; how long it takes for the decision to arrive, and any other relevant information

¹⁶ General cost, try to add a link here in case of changing information (and date it); if there are any extra costs that will be incurred when applying, mention those too

Blocked Bank Account

A major part of the student visa application is proving that you have the financial resources to live and study in Germany. One of the ways to do this is to create blocked bank account and deposit the required amount of money within it (usually this is the amount of money required to finance your stay for a year).

Useful links:

- [How to open a blocked bank account for foreign students](#)
- [Blocked bank account for foreign students](#)
- [Options to finance your studies](#)

Note that this is not a requirement, but one way of proving your financial resources are sufficient. Other methods can be viewed [here](#).

Other

- If your program is taught in English, you will need to submit TOEFL or IELTS scores. For minimum scores, check the visa application website.
- If your program is taught in German, you will need to submit proof of German proficiency through one of their language proficiency tests. (This will not be necessary if your university states in your letter of admission that your language proficiency is sufficient, or if you are enrolling in an intensive German language course in Germany and can provide proof of this).
- There is a German Embassy in Islamabad, and a Consulate General in Karachi. Applicants from Sindh and Balochistan are advised to visit the Consulate General in Karachi.

APPLYING¹⁷

This section was last updated in November 2018.

To learn how to apply for a German study visa, click [here](#).

You will most likely need to submit the following documents: filled student visa application forms, a valid passport and all previous passports, passport photos, family information, security questions, employment/education background, proof of sufficient funds, bank statements of your sponsor (if applicable). This list is not exhaustive and may have been updated. For more information, visit the link embedded above.

Visa Interview

Your visa application process will typically include a fairly lengthy visa interview too. To learn more about the kind of questions asked in this interview and how to answer them, you are advised to go through this [resource](#). You can also find some general interview tips in it.

¹⁷ Visa application process (specify when this section was last updated and provide a relevant link as well): online application, day of visit + documents required, after submission, collecting your documents

COMMON PROBLEMS¹⁸

How can these be avoided?

- Book your appointment as early as possible -- even during the admission process. Many students find that they can either not find a visa appointment, or that their appointment is scheduled very late. Do not wait until you receive the formal admission letter -- that could be too late.
- Make sure you double check the passport number and your name on the application.
- Make sure you have all the documents you need for your visa, and the required copies. There will, most likely, be no photocopy services on the embassy premises. If you do not have all your required documents, you will have to forfeit your appointment.
- Do cancel your visa appointment if you know you are not going to use it. That will allow other applicants to use your slot.
- Ignore any 'agents' at the entrance of the Diplomatic Enclave, who claim that your application is missing some documents, or specific documents are incomplete -- and then ask you to pay very high prices in exchange for providing the missing copies or completing your application form. These so-called agents are not associated with the Embassy in any way. The staff at the actual premises of the German Embassy can let you know if your documents are complete or not.

VISAS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS/DEPENDENTS¹⁹

You are allowed to bring your spouse and/or children to Germany with you if you have a residence permit, but you will need to apply for a residence permit for them. For more information, please [click here](#).

WORKING IN GERMANY

Working while studying

As mentioned before, you are allowed to work up to 120 full days **or** 240 half days a year. Note that the following text must be stamped on your residence permit/student visa (for you to be allowed to work 120 full days or 240 part-time days):

'Beschäftigung bis zu 120 Tage oder 240 halbe Tage im Jahr sowie Ausübung studentischer Nebentätigkeit erlaubt.'

If you wish to work for longer, you will need to get permission and consequently a work permit from the Agentur für Arbeit (local employment agency) and the Ausländerbehörde (foreigners' registration office). Your chances of getting permission depend on the level of unemployment in the federal state

¹⁸ Common problems that Pakistani students face/have faced in the past, and solutions (discuss these in interviews)

¹⁹ How easy it is for spouses/children to get visas? How long does it take? Is it generally an option that Pakistanis opt for?

you are applying in (if the level of unemployment is high, then your chances of acceptance may be lower - as mentioned before, there is a bias towards German citizens specifically and EU citizens generally, so if such people are unemployed then they will be given preference). Note that internships or work experience that are a compulsory component of your degree are not included in the 120 day limit (this includes work being done for your thesis). Other exceptions include working on campus of the university you are studying at (for example, as a teaching or research assistant, as mentioned before).

Additional points to note:

- **Summer Internships:** If these are not a compulsory component of your degree, then the number of hours worked here will be subtracted from the total 120 hours allowed.
- **Students Taking Language or Foundation Courses:** Such students can only work after getting permission from the Federal Employment Agency and the Foreigners' Office. Even then, work can only be done during break/recess times.
- **Job-hunting Processes:** You can consult the [Federal Employment Agency](#) or check your university's job listings on student resource sites, on boards or in newspapers.
- **On-Campus Job Opportunities - Academic Assistantships:** These are good job opportunities for students, including supervisory roles, leading tutorials or engaging in research. To find out about such job openings, you will have to contact the university's administrative office.
- **Off-Campus Job Opportunities:** These include work opportunities such as waiting tables, babysitting, or working with a courier service. Students who have teacher training can give tuition, and students who have a publishing background can work with the newspaper. Otherwise jobs are also available associated with the degree/program you are studying. Note however that **self employment is not allowed**.

Note that **you can not finance your degree by doing side-jobs**; it is important not to work too much as it can result in your degree program being extended for no reason. It is better to fund your education through scholarships (elaborated in later sections).

Working in Germany after graduation

As mentioned before, though work opportunities exist, non-EU citizens studying and later hoping to work in Germany, face more restrictions and have limited work opportunities, as compared to EU citizens. Nonetheless, there are still chances of gaining work experience here after graduation, the process of which is outlined below.

1.	Temporary German Residence Permit Extension for Job Seeking Purposes	After graduating, your student residence permit expires automatically, and so the first step in working after graduation would be applying for an extension in your Residence Permit, for job-seeking purposes, through Foreigners' Registration Office. In fact, it is recommended that you apply for this German Residence Permit during your final year of study, so you have time to look for career opportunities. The permit allows you to stay
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		in Germany for an additional 18 months, to look for a job; you must have sufficient finances/funds available to support you and you are also allowed to work within this allotted time. If you find a professional job with a legal contract, you can then apply to an EU Blue Card.
2.	EU Blue Card	Graduates with special skills can apply for an EU Blue Card (similar to the Green Card in the US) to work in Germany. The requirements include a university degree and proof of employment. Additional requirements can be viewed here . Generally the EU Blue Card is valid for 4 years; if your work contract lasts for less than 4 years, then it is valid till 4 months after the contract expires (2018). Extensions can be applied for.

A more detailed overview on eligibility requirements of working in Germany (while studying and after graduating) can be viewed [here](#) (2017). It is recommended that you read this document so to understand the legal details of eligibility and processes required to work. Note that this document was prepared in 2017, and certain details may have changed. In such cases it is good to additionally consult the [German Academic Exchange Service](#).

ACCOMMODATION

Information for this section has been taken from [Studying in Germany](#)

GENERAL INFORMATION²⁰

Students in Germany have two main accommodation options: Student Union halls of residence and private accommodation. Halls of residence tend to be cheaper than most private accommodation options.

PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION

Finding private accommodation in Germany, especially as an international student, is not easy and it is recommended that it is done in person (and not prior to your arrival in your city of study). On the other hand, you can apply for accommodation in halls of residence as soon as you receive your acceptance.

It is common for private apartments and rooms to not be fully functional or furnished: for instance, many places will not have kitchen cabinets, refrigerators, curtains or stoves and you will need to purchase them on your own -- without receiving any compensation from your landlord. Fully-furnished options are available but they are rare and costly.

Renting a Private Place

When you are renting a private place, be sure to keep the following in mind:

- Lease contracts are usually written in German, and landlords may include unfair conditions. Make sure you have a translator who can evaluate the lease for you, before you sign it.
- Landlords often have long-term rental contracts -- meaning you will not be able to move into another place of residence (e.g. you may find a cheaper option in your second year of study, or may want to opt for a shared space)
- Landlords, in some cases, may add conditions in the lease that allow them to increase the rent over time.
- When searching for private apartments or rooms to rent, make sure you know the abbreviations used in advertisements. For more information, visit [this link](#).
- Renting a place will usually require you to deposit three months of rent in advance. This will act as your security deposit (meaning it will be returned to you as long as the apartment and furniture has not been damaged during your stay).

²⁰ Try to find accommodation options for both undergraduate and graduate study. If there is no major distinction, then look for general options. Use interview to get more information as well

Private Accommodation Options

Type	Details
Single Apartment	This is when you choose to live alone in an apartment (meaning you would be the only resident). While this option offers privacy, it can be expensive since you will have to single-handedly deal with rent and utility costs. It might also present you fewer opportunities to interact with other students.
Flatshare	This is a more popular option, especially for international students. When you live in a flatshare, all costs (rent and utility) are shared. Some areas in the house may be communal, like the kitchen or the living room. With this option, you will probably find more opportunities to meet new people.

HALLS OF RESIDENCE

Student halls of residence are an attractive option for many international students for multiple reasons:

- They are the cheapest accommodation option.
- They enable more social interactions (because they are located close to the university campus).
- There will be an administrative committee that will organize social and cultural events, especially to help integrate new/international students.

Different types of Halls of Residence

All halls of residence are not the same: they can vary according to what each city's student union is offering. The size and level of furnishing of these halls vary from place to place. You can choose from a number of options, such as single rooms, single apartments, shared apartments, and single-parent accommodation.

How to Apply

You will have to apply online on the web-page of your specific city Student Union. Once you receive a confirmation email, you will have to submit a matriculation certificate by the stated deadline. You will receive an offer for accommodation in a few weeks (including all relevant information like lease agreement and procedures etc.), after which you can accept or reject the offer by the deadline.

Sometimes you may receive a "Quick Accommodation Offer" in which all the students on the waiting list are emailed about an available accommodation spot. The first person to reply will be the one to get the room.

Note: This was last edited in November 2018 so the process might have been updated. You are advised to get in touch with your specific city Student Union or your university's International Office to find out the exact application process

Application Deadline

It is advised that the application for halls of residence should be submitted as soon as you receive your letter of acceptance, as the available spots finish very quickly.

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

Living in temporary accommodation until you find a permanent place of residence is very common for international students in Germany. There are many options that you can opt for, as shown below. It is advised that you make the online reservation early enough, well before your departure date.

Temporary Accommodation Options
Cheap Hotels
Low-cost Hostels
Youth Hostels (for this you will need to be a member of the National Association of the International Youth Hostel Federation. It will require you to pay a small fee.)
Private B&B rooms
Guest House

TIMELINE

You can find a step-by-step summary of how you should get accommodation in Germany below.

Steps	Details
Step 1: Finding a Temporary Place	<p>Search online and find a <u>temporary</u> place of residence before travelling to Germany. The earlier you do it, the better. You can use the information that is available online and on social media groups to find suitable temporary options -- or you can email the International Office of the university you will be studying at.</p> <p>Note: this will not be required <u>if</u> you have already secured a place in your Student Union Hall of Residence.</p>
Step 2: Arrival in Germany	<p>Before arriving in Germany, make sure you arrange transportation from the airport that can take you to your temporary place of residence. It is useful to have the name and address written down (in English and German). Make sure you also have the documents showing your online booking.</p> <p>Try to visit the International Office at your university, and request</p>

	them to share information about student-friendly places that are available for rent in the area.
Step 3: Finding a Permanent Place of Residence	<p>There are two options for this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You can either opt for <u>private accommodation</u> (make sure you visit this places in person, and inspect them carefully before signing any papers) - Or you can opt for the <u>Halls of Residence</u>. You can do this by applying online on Studentenwerk for the city you are currently living in.
Step 4: Registering your Permanent Residence	As soon as you have received your desired accommodation, visit the local Resident Registration Office to register your address as your official/permanent residence. You can request the International Office at your university to help you with the registration process.

Cities ranked according to cost of living

- Private Accommodation rent prices tend to be much higher in these cities: Berlin, Munich, Frankfurt, Cologne and Hamburg.
- Leipzig is considered to be one of the most affordable cities to live in in Germany. Dusseldorf is also considered less expensive than some other areas.
- For more information on living costs in each city, go through this [resource](#). It contains city-specific guides that include information on:
 - the universities in said city,
 - the general cost of living in said city,
 - general city tips and other travel information.
- For more information on the general cost of living in Germany, it is recommended that you go through this [resource](#) (it has information on which region is the most expensive, in terms of rent and other living costs).

CONTRIBUTORS

This information was compiled with the valuable help of SHAHEEN volunteers. We thank our volunteers for their contribution, and hope their tips and advice will help you in your application.

In addition, the following sources were consulted in developing this tip-sheet and we encourage you to consult these sources for additional information and guidance on your application.

- [Study in Germany - A practical guide for international students](#)
- [Make it in Germany](#)
- [Study in Germany - Undergraduate degree](#)
- [Master's in Germany](#)
- [DAAD Islamabad](#)
- [Immigration of International Students from Third Countries](#)

Furthermore, the following sources were also consulted in developing this country profile:

[Studying in Germany](#), [DAAD](#), [Blue Card](#), [Study in Germany](#), [German Higher Education](#), [Just Landed](#), [Research in Germany](#), [TestDaF Brochure](#), [TestDaF Levels](#), [Part-time jobs](#), [Side-jobs](#), [Working opportunities for international students in Germany](#), [Working in Germany](#), [Residence permit](#), [How to work in Germany during or after your studies](#), [DW - Accommodation](#), [Study Visa](#), [Germany Visa](#), [The Local](#), [The Independent](#), [University World News](#), [Prospects](#), [Educations](#), [Times Higher Education](#), [Expatica](#), [Conditions](#), [DAAD Islamabad](#), [Germany](#), [Business](#), [10 myths, facts and common questions about studying in Germany](#) [Types of universities](#), [Higher education system in Germany](#), [University degrees and programs](#), [Fields of study](#), [International programs](#), [Find program and university](#), [Master's studies](#), [Faechergruppen](#), [Video](#), [Prep-courses and foundation courses](#), [Applications](#), [Admission requirements](#), [PhD](#), [Why Germany](#), [PhD supervisor](#), [Language requirements](#), [Study in Germany for Pakistani students](#), [How to obtain a PhD](#), [Individual doctorate](#), [Housing nightmare for students in Germany](#), [German cities](#), [Accommodation in Germany for students](#), [Cost of living in Germany](#), [Study Visa](#), [Student Visa](#), [German student visa interview questions and time](#), [Are people from certain countries more likely to be denied a German student visa?](#), [German universities reintroduce tuition fees for international non-EU students](#), [University World News](#), [How much does it cost to study in Germany](#), [Funding and financial aid](#), [Germany will reintroduce tuition fees for non-EU students](#), [Cost of studying at a university in Germany](#), [Grants and loans in Germany](#), [Financing and scholarships](#), [Funding by organization](#), [How to finance your PhD](#), [PhD studies in Germany](#), [what to know](#) [Study in Germany for Pakistani students](#), [the German education system and the children garden](#), [Higher education system in Germany](#), [German degrees](#), [Ways to do your PhD](#), [Higher education system](#), [International programs](#), [Work after study in Germany](#), [Study in Germany prospects](#) and [Euro Education - Germany](#)