



German student visas for non-EU students: An overview

The visa application process can often seem difficult and intimidating at the first look. An initial understanding of the process can help students to prepare well and avoid any setbacks. In this document, we provide a first overview of the general visa application process for Non-EU students.

Who needs a visa?

Most non-EU students must acquire the German student visa in order to enter and study in Germany. Citizens from some non-EU countries may be able to obtain the visa after arriving in Germany, i.e. USA, Canada, Israel, Australia or South Korea. Do you need to apply for a visa before entering Germany? Please check [here](#) to know if you need to obtain a visa beforehand or not.

Important: Please keep in mind that this document is just a general summary. The requirements and the process itself might be different depending on your home country or your specific situation. Therefore, we advise you to inquire about the visa process in detail with the responsible German mission of your country. All regulations and details concerning your visa application are listed on the German Missions Abroad website of your home country. You can apply for a visa at the German embassy or consulate of your country of residence. The Federal Foreign Office of Germany has listed all German missions abroad on its [website](#).

Please note that in most countries you are required to set up an appointment with the German embassy or consulate in order to apply for a student visa. Often the wait for an appointment takes up to six weeks or even longer. The entire visa application process may take as long as several months. It is therefore very important that you make a timescale for the application process to have your visa in time for your move to Germany. Macromedia University recommends applying at least three months prior to your intended travel to Germany.

Depending on your status (whether your application to Macromedia University is still being processed or you have already received a Confirmation of Admission), you may be able to apply for different types of student visa. In general, you may apply for a student visa after you have received a Confirmation of Admission letter from Macromedia University.

Student applicants who have not yet been fully admitted and have not yet received the Confirmation of Admission can apply for a student applicant visa in most countries. This is valid for three months and can be converted into a student visa once you have been admitted and received your Confirmation of Admission letter. Please note that a student applicant visa may not be available to citizens of all countries. If you are planning on attending a language course in connection with your studies, please be aware that the language course visa is not sufficient as it is only valid for language courses and cannot be converted into a student applicant or student visa. If you take a language course in connection with your studies, you must apply for a student applicant or student visa, which covers both the language course and the university programme.

Which are German Visa Types for Study Purposes?

Whenever you want to travel to Germany for study purposes, you have to apply for the appropriate visa, related to the purpose of your travel and stay here.

In the following you will find the explanation of two types of German Visas for study purposes:

1. Student Applicant Visa / Prospective Student Visa (“Visum zur Studienbewerbung”)

If you have not yet received any notification of admission to Macromedia University, you should apply for a student applicant visa. This three-month visa allows you to meet the requirements for admission to a German university. If you find that three months is not long enough, you may extend your visa to a maximum of six months. If you are admitted to Macromedia University within this period, you may apply for a student visa.

2. Student Visa (“Visum zu Studienzwecken”)

If you have received your Confirmation of Admission, you should apply for a student visa. Student visas are usually valid for three months when first issued. Within these three months, you will have to apply for an extended residence permit at the Alien Registration Office in your university town in Germany.

PLEASE NOTE: Macromedia University strongly advises against entering Germany with a short-stay (Schengen) visa to take up your university course. This type of visa cannot be converted into a study visa in Germany, so students would have to go back to their home country when the short-stay visa period has ended.

Where and How to Apply?

The place where you should apply for your visa is your nearest German embassy or consulate in your country of residence.

Before doing anything else, in order to apply for the student visa you need to set up a visa appointment at the German embassy or consulate. Usually you can check the available dates and make the appointment in the online system on the website of [the German embassy or consulate in](#) your country. It is recommended to check the available dates early enough, as the wait for the appointment often takes up to six weeks or even more.

After securing an appointment for your visa application interview, you should collect your documents and apply for the blocked bank account. Then complete and sign the application form.

Please ensure that you complete the correct form for the long stay national visa (where you should be able to state that it is for studying purposes). In some cases it will be a pdf file to print, or it might be an online form. You will find the correct form on the official homepage of your German mission. Remember to print, sign and bring it with you when attending your visa appointment. Incomplete or wrong forms may be rejected on the day of your interview, so please double check to make sure everything is correct and complete.

On the day of the interview, you have to bring your visa application documents, such as:

- Certificate confirming health insurance coverage
- Proof of financial resources. You can open the blocked account for foreign students which is usually required as financial proof when you apply for a student visa [here](#) or [here](#). Your embassy or consulate will let you know if other proof than the blocked account may be acceptable in your case. Note that obtaining the proof of the blocked account with Deutsche Bank can take around six weeks, so you should apply for opening this account as soon as possible, or consider [Fintiba](#) instead. Your German mission will be able to confirm which amount of money needs to be deposited in the blocked account. Please make sure you provide the exact amount mentioned by your German mission and keep in mind that banks often charge fees for transferring money into accounts abroad. You will need to pay for these bank fees, to ensure the correct amount will arrive in your blocked account.
- Certificates of past academic work and achievements
- (only if you study a programme taught in German: Certificate of German language proficiency or proof that you intend on attending a language course in Germany)
- For a student visa: Confirmation of Admission from Macromedia University (or for a student applicant visa, a statement from the university confirming that your prospects of gaining admission are good)

Macromedia University will issue a Welcome Letter for you once you received your Confirmation of Admission, to further support your application for the student visa. We recommend adding this to your visa application.

IMPORTANT: Please keep in mind that this list might not show all of the required documents. Please check in advance with your German mission the exact requirements for your country and your case.

You will find some helpful information on the page of the [DAAD](#) (German Academic Exchange Service) about the general visa process, proof of sufficient funds and more.

Visa Interview

For the student visa interview, you will meet with the consular officer directly. At the same time, you need to present all the required documents. Please check in advance which documents are required for your student visa application. During a visa appointment, the officer can ask questions about your application, university as well as personal ones which you have to answer carefully and truthfully.

Student Visa Fee

Applicants have to pay the visa fees by bank transfer. The fee is around 60 Euro; please check the exact amount with the German mission before making the payment. Cheque or credit cards are usually not accepted. The money order must be in the name of the consulate in your home country and not older than two months. Make sure to confirm with your German mission how the fee must be paid; in some cases, you may be asked to pay in cash. You should always be able to receive a receipt for your payment of the visa fee.

Please be aware that the visa fee will not be reimbursed if your application for a student visa gets rejected.

Important Things to Know as a German visa applicant and/or holder

- Bear in mind that an incomplete visa application can be refused.
- Consider your passport validity period - it needs to be valid for your entire period of stay, including the expected extended period. It is advised to inquire with the responsible authority about the process of renewing your passport validity.
- Additional documents can be requested by the visa officer upon the visa interview.
- Getting your visa for study purposes is important, because it gives you the opportunity to get a residence permit once you are in Germany. A tourist visa (short-stay / Schengen visa) cannot be extended or converted into a study visa while in Germany.
- In case your visa application is rejected, you will get an official letter, informing about the main reason of rejection. You will be able to lodge an appeal against the decision in written form, and we encourage you to do so, focusing on the reason of rejection the authorities have mentioned in the rejection letter.
- Make sure for your trip to Germany to be scheduled early enough so you will have the needed time in disposition to complete your registration at Macromedia University and attend the orientation on campus.
- The passport often remains at the embassy / consulate during the entire process of visa proceeding.
- Visa appointments should be made only through the online system (not by phone, e-mail, fax or in person) where available. Please be aware that external agencies promising to get early appointments against payments might be fraudulent and double check if anyone asks you for money (other than the official visa application fee).

We wish you all the best with your visa process. Please contact us for details: international@macromedia.de

Disclaimer: The information provided in this document is subject to change without notice. It is furthermore not intended to be exhaustive and does not make any claims of being complete.

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