

Do you need a visa to study in Germany? If so, which one?

Citizens from the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, and Vatican City

→ **You do not need a visa to enter Germany.**

If you plan to stay longer than three months in Germany you have to register your place of residence at the respective Registration Center of your city or apply for a Residence Card (Switzerland) at the Foreigners Office.

Citizens from Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, UK, the USA, Andorra, Brazil, El Salvador, Honduras, Monaco, and San Marino

→ **You do not need a visa to enter Germany.**

If you plan to stay longer than three months in Germany you will need a residence permit. You can only apply for a residence permit from within Germany. The respective Foreigners Office of your place of residence in Germany will be responsible for issuing the residence permit.

For stays of up to a maximum of one year, it is possible to apply in advance for a national visa for the entire stay. Therefore, you need to consult with the German embassy in your home country. If you receive a visa under this procedure, you will not have to apply for a residence permit in Germany.

Citizens from all other non-EU states

→ **You will need a visa to enter Germany.***

Please apply for a visa in a timely manner (about 8 weeks before you plan to arrive in Germany) at the German Embassy or the appropriate German Consulate in your home country or your current country of residence. There you will receive all of the necessary information and documents for your visa application.

If you plan to stay longer than three months in Germany, you will need a national visa (D visa). The national visa is a residence permit that allows a longer-term stay (for example, for studies or research) or employment in Germany. The national visa is normally issued for a period of three months. Once in Germany, you must extend your national visa at the local Foreigners Office into a longer-term residence permit.

If your stay in Germany does not exceed twelve months, there is an option to apply for a national visa (D visa) for the entire duration of your stay (under Article 18 Paragraph 2 of CISA - Convention of 19 June 1990 implementing the Schengen Agreement) in your home country or current country of residence.

* Exceptional cases: SAR passport holders from Hong Kong and Macau are exempted from the visa requirement. Ukrainian citizens do not need a visa for stays of a maximum of 90 days within a period of 180 days - except for work related stays.

Tips & additional information

The Schengen visa (C visa) is not appropriate for students or scholars who will stay for a longer period of time in Germany. This is why you should apply for a national visa, not a Schengen visa.

Before you apply for your visa make sure your passport is valid for the entire duration of your stay in Germany. Otherwise, your residence permit in Germany can only be issued up to the expiration date of your passport and must then be extended; this may incur fees.

For further information on visa requirements, go to the website of the German Foreign Office.

For questions or more information, please contact the UE Welcome Center at: **welcome.services@ue-germany.de**