

Information Sheet – STUDY IN GERMANY

Why study in Germany

- A degree obtained from a German higher education is generally synonymous to better chances for the future. Studying in Germany offers the opportunity to earn first-class education with degrees that are recognized worldwide.
- German universities are widely recognised for excellence in research and teaching as well as for the development of personal and intellectual potential.
- Cost of living in Germany is moderate compared with other countries around the world.
- No tuition fees at higher education institutions.

German higher education system

- Currently, about 18,000 courses are offered in German higher education institutions, where around 12% of the students come from abroad.
- Types of higher learning institutions: university (*Universität*), university of applied sciences (*Fachhochschule*), Colleges of art, film and music as well as specialized institutes. https://www.study-in-germany.de/en/plan-your-studies/types-of-universities_26607.php
- More than 90% of students are enrolled in state-run universities and colleges.
- Various degree options: Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, and doctorate.
- In Germany, students can register and start during winter semester (October) or summer semester (March), each year.

Studying and mastering German is paramount for both your studies and everyday life

- A few universities offer courses and programs in English, however doing studies in German offer better chances in terms of affordability (study in state-run universities), academic choices, social and intellectual integration and on later professionally.
- Learning German gives an entry into a society and market of 90-95 Million of people.
- The earlier you start learning German the better. German courses are offered in Rwanda by the widely renowned Goethe Institute. <https://www.goethe.de/ins/rw/de/index.html>
- Studying in Germany and learning German should be planned time in advance and the first step being taking German classes as early as primary or secondary school.

Steps to studying in Germany

- To enrol in German universities, one requires a secondary school certificate. However, many universities require to attend a foundation course (or „*Studienkolleg*“) before enrolment.
- Using the following link, students can check whether they meet the requirements for the degree program of their choice in Germany. <https://www2.daad.de/deutschland/nach-deutschland/voraussetzungen/en/57293-database-on-admission-requirements/>
- Visa requirements are obtained through the German embassy in Kigali. Apart from requirements such as the university admission, the primordial requirement for the obtention of a student visa is the proof of financial resources („*Finanzierungsnachweis*“). Since 01.01.2020, applicants have to prove that they have 10,236 Euros at their disposal for one year. However, other forms of proof are possible. Additional information can be found on the following link <https://kigali.diplo.de/rw-en/service/05-VisaEinreise/-/1790364>



Application process

- The registration for admission in any German university has been simplified and can be done through one portal www.uni-assist.de. Although this process is simplified, most applicants require assistance from somebody who has previously gone through the same process. Students studying already in Germany as well as some members of the Rwanda Diaspora Community offer this assistance either on a benevolent basis or for a relatively affordable fee. Further information can be obtained by sending a request to the following email address, studyingermany@rwandadiasporagermany.de
- Looking for and finding an accommodation can also be a tedious process. It is very important to obtain accommodation prior to your arrival in Germany. Universities as well as student unions provide some support in this regard, however candidates might here also require additional assistance. https://www.study-in-germany.de/en/plan-your-stay/accommodation/finding-accommodation_26611.php

Financing and Scholarships

- Various institutions in Germany offer scholarships to international students. Using the DAAD database you can find the types of scholarships offered by DAAD as well as other funding organisations. <https://www2.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/datenbank/en/21148-scholarship-database/>
- Generally, master's and doctorate candidates in science and engineering fields stand a big chance to benefit from these scholarships.

The Rwandan Diaspora in Germany

- There are several associations bringing together the Rwandan diaspora in Germany, the commonly known being the Rwandan Diaspora in Germany e.V., RDG also member of the Rwanda Diaspora Global Network. <http://rwandadiasporagermany.de/>
- Students communities in their respective universities have also informal social platforms where they meet to socialise and assist each other in and outside academic life. The known student's association, also the largest is the "Association des Etudiants Rwandais de Kaiserslautern, AERK".
- RDG is initiating online public talks centred around the topic of "Studying in Germany", where thematic sessions will be organised starting from January 2021. These sessions are organised and animated by students, young and much older graduates willing to share their different experiences and backgrounds.