



Explanations of the Bonus Point System

For individuals with nationality outside the EU and a higher education entrance qualification obtained in a country outside the EU, admission to undergraduate programs (Master's programs are awarded differently!) is generally based on a point system, with a few exceptions. You can find the exceptions at:

<https://www.uni-hamburg.de/en/campuscenter/bewerbung/international/studium-mit-abschluss.html#13652532>.

In this point system, the average grade (GPA) of your higher education entrance qualification (HZB) is converted into a point value. Additionally, you can earn bonus points if you can demonstrate special achievements or knowledge.

A) Average Grade of Higher Education Entrance Qualification (HZB):

- After the recognition of your HZB - check <https://www.uni-hamburg.de/en/campuscenter/bewerbung/international/studium-mit-abschluss/erkennung-auslaendischer-schulbildung.html> - for undergraduate studies (Bachelor, State Exam, Diploma) at the University of Hamburg and the conversion of your HZB average grade to the German grading system, you can find out how many points you will receive for the converted grade in the bonus point table.
- In the table with the point values under <https://www.uni-hamburg.de/campuscenter/studienorganisation/formulare-informationsmerkblaetter/nc-nicht-eu.pdf>, you can see how many points were needed in recent years to gain admission to a program. If your point value is lower than the cutoff for your desired course, you might need bonus points for admission.
- Generally: the more points you have, the better your chances of securing a study place.
- In the online application, you will indicate in which categories and how many bonus points you have earned.
- Upon enrollment at the University of Hamburg (Winter semester: starting late July, Summer semester: starting early February), you must provide proof of your achievements with certificates, diplomas, or attestations.
- If these proofs are missing or incomplete upon enrollment, you will not receive bonus points and risk losing your study place.

Bonus points can be obtained in the following categories:

B) Language Preparation for Studies (15 Bonus Points)

- The basic language requirements for studying at the University of Hamburg are fulfilled if you demonstrate one of the certificates listed at <https://www.uni-hamburg.de/en/campuscenter/bewerbung/international/studium-mit-abschluss/sprachkenntnisse/deutschkenntnisse.html> for enrollment.
- To earn bonus points, you must demonstrate even better German language skills with one of the certificates listed in the bonus point table. Only the certificates specified here are accepted. Other attestations or conversion tables (e.g., from some Studienkollegs indicating equivalence to DSH-3) cannot be considered. Only the original

certificates (DSH certificate, TestDaF certificate, assessment test certificate, etc.) with the results achieved in the bonus point table will be considered.

- Note that it may take 2 to 6 weeks after the German language exam to receive your certificate. Plan your exam accordingly to ensure you have the certificate in time for enrollment (Winter semester: end of July; Summer semester: beginning of February).
- Language certificates must not be older than three years from the first day of the application period for the respective semester (June 1 for Winter semester, December 1 for Summer semester).

Proof of German language exams eligible for bonus points:

- **DSH Certificate:** Only a certificate for a passing DSH exam indicating DSH-3 level earns bonus points.
- **TestDaF:** Both paper-based and digital versions are accepted. The exam includes Reading, Listening, Writing, and Speaking. Results are given as TDN 3, TDN 4, or TDN 5. At least 18 points are needed to earn bonus points.
- **University Placement Exam (Feststellungsprüfung):** Bonus points are awarded if the German subject is passed with a very good grade at a recognized Studienkolleg. The list of recognized Studienkollegs is at <https://studienkollegs.de/Kontakt Daten.html>. A grade of "good" that is converted to DSH-3 level by the Studienkolleg is not accepted— an official DSH-3 certificate confirming exam success is required.
- **Telc C1, Goethe C1, or ÖSD C1** certificates only earn bonus points with a very good grade. Certificates at C2 level (Telc, Goethe, ÖSD) earn bonus points regardless of the grade.
- The **German Language Examination for University Entrance (DSD II)** cannot be considered for bonus points, as it does not include a grade indicating very good performance.

C) Academic Preparation (up to 12 Bonus Points):

- **Studienkolleg:** Bonus points are awarded based on the overall grade in the Feststellungsprüfung, with categories "very good" (1.0–1.5), "good" (1.6–2.5), and "satisfactory" (2.6–3.5).
- **Propädeutikum or preparatory semester** at Hamburg Studienkolleg are no longer offered, but bonus points for completed prep semesters are still awarded. The overall grade is considered in the same categories.
- **At least 30 ECTS credits earned at a recognized German university or private institution,** documented via transcript, can earn bonus points depending on the GPA, using the same grading categories. If no credits or grades can be demonstrated, these cannot be considered. Proof must be provided at enrollment.
- **All certificates and proofs are valid indefinitely.**
- **TestAS:** There are two versions— paper-based and digital—and bonus points can be earned with both.
- The TestAS consists of two parts: core test and subject-specific module; the required module varies by program. Details are at <https://www.uni-hamburg.de/testas>.
- If needed, you can participate in the TestAS multiple times.
- If you take the TestAS multiple times, you can only submit a single TestAS result for the award of bonus points. This means, for example, that you cannot combine the core test from TestAS 1 with the subject-specific module from TestAS 2.
- Due to differing point systems, both are included in the bonus points system.
- In the paper-based TestAS: 106–111 points = 1 bonus point; 112–117 points = 2 bonus points; 118–130 points = 3 bonus points.

- In the digital TestAS: 130–159 points = 1 bonus point; 160–189 points = 2 bonus points; 190–200 points = 3 bonus points.
- Test dates and further info: <https://www.testas.de/de/teilnehmende/mein-testas/testas-termine-und-anmeldung>.

D) Scholarship (1 Bonus Point):

- A scholarship from one of the institutions listed here: <https://www.uni-hamburg.de/campuscenter/studienorganisation/formulare-informationsmerkblaetter/positivliste-leistungstipendien-nicht-eu.pdf> grants 1 bonus point. Proof must be a current scholarship certificate valid for the current or upcoming semester.

E) Social Criteria (1 Bonus Point):

- **Successful participation in the #UHHilft program:** this program supports people with refugee backgrounds in starting their studies in Germany. A participation certificate is issued after successful participation and can be used indefinitely to claim a bonus point.
- **Recognition as a refugee or subsidiary protection status, or recognition of refugee status:** proof via residence permit, uploaded during enrollment.
- Permits such as §22, §23, §24, §25 (various residence statuses) are acceptable.
- Family members (parents, children, spouses) of recognized refugees or those with subsidiary protection must also demonstrate the residence permit of the primary eligible person.
- Fictitious certificates per §81 Abs. 3 and 4 AufenthG, indicating status as recognized refugee, subsidiary protected person, or refugee under Geneva Convention, are also accepted.

Note: The following proofs are not sufficient for bonus points:

- Persons with asylum seeker certificates (e.g., registration of asylum application before formal procedure)
- Asylum applicants with ongoing procedures (e.g., residence permit issued for asylum procedure)
- Tolerated persons (temporary suspension of deportation)
- Persons with deportation protection (§60 Abs. 5 and 7 AufenthG) (residence under §25 Abs.3)