Start of Studies - What you need to know

5 October 2022

www.hamburg.com/welcome
OUR MEETING POLICY

Please turn off your microphones to avoid background noise.

Please turn off your camera to ensure a stable connection.

You are welcome to post questions in the chat during the presentation, we will answer them there. You will also get the opportunity to ask questions after the presentation.

We will send you the presentation by mail after the event. newcomers@welcome.hamburg.de
Residence matters

Registration matters and issuance of residence permits
For foreign self-employed persons, researchers, students, furthermore for employees and freelancers with a current income of at least 44,304 Euros (§18b Abs. 2 S. 2 Aufenthaltsgesetz)

Advice and clearing on residence law

Advice on language courses and professional language courses

Services around the job
Job placement
Support in the application process
INFORMATION ABOUT LIVING AND HOUSING IN HAMBURG

We provide support for general questions...

- Social security system
- Childcare
- Government Services
- School system
- Healthcare system
- Apartment search
- Mobility
- Public transport

... and offer special information sessions, e.g. for international students who will be graduating soon and would like to work in Hamburg afterwards.
HAMBURG WELCOME PORTAL

hamburg.com/welcome/

- Contact
- Forms and Checklists
- Events

Newcomers section: residence permit, studying, job search, health insurance, taxes, bank account, housing and renting...
CONTACT DETAILS

Süderstraße 32b, 20097 Hamburg

Opening hours:
Mon – Wed: 9 am to 3 pm
Thu: 10am to 6 pm
Fri: 9 am to noon

Telephone Hotline: +49 040 42839-5555
Email: info@welcome.hamburg.de

www.hamburg.com/welcome/hwc/
YOUR FIRST STEPS IN HAMBURG

1. Find an apartment or dorm
2. Address Registration
3. If necessary: Open up a bank account
4. Health insurance
5. Residence permit
FIND AN APARTMENT

- Consider just taking a room at first (shared apartment/Wohngemeinschaft WG)
- temporary option would be to look for a short term accommodation

**Note**: make sure you get confirmation for registration (Wohnungsgeberbestätigung)

Advice how to find an accommodation in Hamburg

- In our guide: How to find an apartment
- list of abbreviations for housing ads
- More info on renting on our website

Agencies for short-term accommodation (can be pricey)

- **HomeCompany**  
  [https://hamburg.homecompany.de/en/index](https://hamburg.homecompany.de/en/index)
- **City-Wohnen Hamburg**  
  [https://www.city-wohnen.de/eng](https://www.city-wohnen.de/eng)
- **Ihre mitwohnzentrale**  
Hamburg is divided in **seven** districts. Each district has several **Customer Service Centers.**

**Registration:**
You can go to any Customer Service Center (Kundenzentrum) - book an appointment in advance.
What documents are required?
- national passport
- Application form
- Confirmation of the landlord (Wohnungsgeberbestätigung)
- fee = 12,00 Euro

Where to go?
- every customer service center
- please book an appointment online
  https://serviceportal.hamburg.de/HamburgGate/way/FVP/FV/Bezirke/DigiTermin/Dsgvo
- Hamburg Welcome Center

You have to register your place of residence within two weeks after moving in.

More info and forms here
Hamburg is divided in **seven** districts

Each district has several **Customer Service Centers**

**Registration:**

You can go to any Customer Service Center (Kundenzentrum) - book an appointment in advance

**Residence Permit:**

You have to contact the immigration authority (Ausländerbehörde) of the District where you live or the Hamburg Welcome Center
RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR STUDENTS

Application either at
• Immigration authority in your district
• Hamburg Welcome Center for Professionals

Submitting documents:
contact the relevant authority directly
Recommended: use of online tool Serviceportal Hamburg

If you have already submitted an application to a district immigration office, you will unfortunately only be able to submit your application to the Hamburg Welcome Center the next time you apply.
RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR STUDENTS

- entitles to stay in Germany for the purpose of studying
- unlimited entry and departure, BUT: If you leave Germany for longer than 6 month, your residence permit will expire.
- a visa is not required for short term stays in the Schengen-area (up to 90 days)
- Please apply at least 6 weeks before expiry of the visa (or within 90 days after entry if no visa is necessary)
- visa as an applicant for a university place: has to be changed immediately after enrollment
How to prove sufficient finances

A blocked account is not mandatory, but may be established.

As proof of funding can serve:

1. A **declaration of commitment**
2. A **scholarship** from German public funds or a funding organization recognized in Germany or public funds from the country of origin, if the DAAD or another German scholarship-granting organization has been responsible for the placement.
3. Your **own bank statement**
4. Under certain circumstances: **income generated by work permit-free employment for 120 days or 240 half days as proof of financing (submit employment contract).**  
   - **recognition is decision of responsible immigration office**
5. Deposit of a **bank guarantee** that needs to be renewed annually.

The different verifications can also be combined with each other.
EU/EEA/Switzerland: unrestricted internships
Self-employment or being employed
Limit: 20 hours/week

All other intern. Students:
Jobbing 120 days or 240 half days per year (regardless of salary)
Limit: 20 hours/week
Self-check
This also includes voluntary internships (also unpaid)

Exception: Student secondary employment at the university/university-related activities + mandatory internships

Consultation: Studierendenwerk Hamburg
SETTING UP A BANK ACCOUNT

- There are two types: branch-based banks and direct banks (only online)
- Everyone who lives in the Europe Union has the right to open up at least a basic bank account
- Some bank accounts are free of charge under certain conditions, while others demand an account maintenance fee → compare the different offers
- Required documents:
  - valid ID card or passport,
  - registration certificate
  - for some banks and/or account types: a pay statement from your employer and your residence permit.
- Banks usually check the creditworthiness of new customers with a Schufa query

More info here
STUDENTS FROM UKRAINE - CONSULTATION

Study preparation, study support & workshops

University of Hamburg Coordination Center #UHHhilft
Study orientation for refugees

Address:
Von-Melle-Park 9
Room B134
20146 Hamburg

Phone: +49 40 42838 – 4547
E-mail: uhhhilft@uni-hamburg.de

Personal consultation hours:
Monday to Thursday,
10am to 12pm and 1 to 4pm.

Telephone office hours:
Monday to Thursday, 10am to 12pm.

Video office hours (Zoom):
Monday to Thursday, 1 to 4pm.
Meeting ID: 981 6496 4227
Password: 615237

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STUDENTS FROM UKRAINE – MORE INFO

University Hamburg FAQ for students from Ukraine and Russia: https://www.uni-hamburg.de/en/uhhhilft-ukraine/faq.html

HAW Hamburg: More capacity in English-language Biomedical Engineering, Process Engineering, Pharmaceutical Biotechnology and Renewable Energy Systems Master's courses in order to accept additional Ukrainian guest students. Interested? Write directly to lectures-Ukraine@haw-hamburg.de.
HEALTH INSURANCE FOR STUDENTS

In Germany, adequate health insurance coverage is mandatory.

EHIC
Remain insured in your home country and receive medical benefits in Germany

Statutory compulsory insurance for students
76.04 € plus additional contribution and nursing care insurance

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EHIC - HEALTH INSURANCE FOR EU CITIZEN

Who?
EU citizens who live in Germany temporarily
Health insurance follows the place of work

How?
EU Citizen → Doctor → German insurance → Insurance in home country

What?
All benefits to which public health insurance patients in Germany are also entitled
HEALTH INSURANCE FOR STUDENTS

**Students older than 30:**
Private health insurance

You can read in these documents what are the minimum requirements for private health insurance:

- For a stay *up to one year*
- For a stay *over one year*
HEALTH INSURANCE FOR STUDENTS

Students younger than 30:
Public health insurance is mandatory

• Possible until 14th semester

• Exception is possible (switch to private insurance) but only for the duration of the entire study

More about health insurance for students here
HEALTH INSURANCE FOR STUDENTS

How to find health insurance?

- List of public health insurance companies:
  - www.gkv-spitzenverband.de -> Startseite -> Service -> Versichertenservice -> Krankenkassenliste

- List of private health insurance companies:
  http://www.pkv.de/verband/mitglieder/
  - Caution: Switching to public health insurance won’t be possible during studies

- Chatbot Euraxess/ DeGiS: Exploration Chatbot - DeGiS
German student health insurance (whether public or private) usually includes the following benefits:

- Hospital treatment,
- Doctor's visits,
- Prescription medications,
- Hearing aids, wheelchairs or other assistive devices,
- Cancer screening,
- Dental examinations,
- Certain dental procedures such as crowns and dentures.
WHAT BENEFITS DO I GET?
ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUAL BENEFITS

- Self-pay benefits which are not covered by the public health insurance
- Additional services: Not medically necessary, but can be useful
- For example: travel vaccination, plastic surgery, couples therapy, certain ultra sounds, high quality dentures…
Foreign students in Germany might need two types of health insurance:

**Travel health insurance for students:** This is short-term insurance for the period from the day you leave your home country to the start of your semester in Germany.

**Student Health Insurance:** This is a long-term health insurance policy that covers you for the duration of your studies and until you return home. You will need health insurance in order to enroll at the university.
HOW MEDICAL CARE WORKS

You are feeling sick?
- Family doctor („Hausarzt“)
- If necessary: refers you to a specialist
- Prescription for medication

Opening hours – Doctors office closed?
- Call 116 117 for the 24/7 doctor service (Arztruf Hamburg)

In case of an emergency (life threatening)
- Hospital
- Call 112 for an ambulance
HEALTH CARE: COMMON TERMS

- Hausarzt, Hausärztin = therapist/ family doctor
- Allgemeinmediziner, Allgemeinmedizinerin = also therapist/ family doctor
- Kinderarzt, Kinderärztin = paediatrist, child doctor
- Zahnarzt, Zahnärztin = dentist

How to find a doctor
Search for a doctor via city and language (in German)
HEALTH CARE: MEDICATION

Pharmacy (Apotheke)
- Prescription drugs
- Over-the-counter medicines, painkillers

Payment for prescription (Rezeptgebühr)
- Upon receipt of a prescription from a doctor (on the pink prescription form):

for public health insurance:
10% of the cost of the medicine, minimum 5 €, maximum 10 € per prescription

Drug store (Drogerie)
- Nutritional supplements, vitamins, patch, etc.

More on the topic here
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION – HOW TO GET AROUND HERE

Use S-Bahn, U-Bahn or Bus

Provided by HVV

Buy Tickets at the station, online or in APP

Website: www.hvv.de/en

Ask at your university - sometimes the season ticket is already included in the semester fee.
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION – HOW TO GET AROUND HERE

StadtRad (City Bike)

Provided by Deutsche Bahn

• Rent a bike at one of the stations
• First 30 minutes of every ride are free

Website: https://stadtrad.hamburg.de/en
APP (in English or German)
Citizens of the EU, the EEA and Switzerland: freedom of movement.

Graduates from third countries:

A. Take up employment (according to the acquired qualification):
Application for residence permit required before starting work (employment, EU Blue Card, researcher).

B. Seeking employment (corresponding to the acquired qualification):
Application for issuance of a residence permit for job search.
- Residence permit possible for up to 18 months directly after completion of studies
- Taking up a job to secure livelihood is possible
TIME FOR YOUR QUESTIONS
HAMBURG WELCOME CENTER

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facebook.com/HamburgWelcomeCenter