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Study in Germany





Studying with a Practical Orientation

Universities of Applied Sciences in Germany

2nd Edition



Contents

6	What are the benefits of studying at a university of applied sciences (UAS)?
10	What subjects can I study at UAS?
12	How are degree programmes structured?
14	How do I find a suitable UAS?
16	What are the admission requirements?
20	How good does my German have to be?
22	How much does it cost to study in Germany?
26	How can I finance my studies?
28	What is a dual study programme?
30	Are there any special programmes for international students?
32	What are my career prospects after graduation?
34	Where can I find more information?



What are the benefits of studying at a university of applied sciences (UAS)?

German universities of applied sciences (UAS) are known for their strong practical orientation in research and teaching. They are an excellent choice for those who wish to earn university qualification in preparation for a specific occupation.

CORPORATE PARTNERS

All UAS maintain partnerships with mainly commercial and industrial companies. These are generally regional firms. This close collaboration with the corporate sector fosters application-oriented research and encourages the development of practical solutions.

INSTRUCTORS WITH PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

The professors who teach at UAS have usually worked for several years themselves in companies in their field. Students benefit from their practical knowledge and their commercial and industrial contacts.

HIGH QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION

Students are guaranteed high-quality instruction and optimal conditions for learning and conducting research. They also receive intensive academic supervision. Classroom instruction generally takes place in small groups, enabling professors to cater to the students' individual strengths and interests.

OPTIMAL CHANCES FOR CAREER ENTRY

The contents of the degree programmes at UAS are strongly oriented to the labour market and its demand for trained professionals.

Consequently, students have optimal chances to quickly enter the job market following graduation.



Prof Dr Jörg Bagdahn

is the president of the Anhalt University of Applied Sciences and spokesman for the UAS member group at the German Rectors' Conference (HRK).

Professor Bagdahn, what distinguishes UAS programmes from other study opportunities?

Like the name says, universities of applied sciences specialise in application-based research. They offer degree programmes with a strong practical orientation and are directly related to the student's future vocational field. The programmes are closely coordinated with corporate and industrial partners. The focus on practical orientation is central to this form of higher education institution – and that's what makes it so attractive.

Is there a difference between the degrees offered at a UAS and a traditional university?

No, all German higher education qualifications are equivalent – irrespective of whether you earned them at a UAS or a traditional university.

Who would you recommend studying at a UAS?

For those who wish to utilise and practically apply the knowledge they've gained in their studies, studying at UAS is the right path. It's also ideal for those who have already gained professional training and would like to underpin their practical skills with a theoretical foundation.



The UAS success story

Universities of applied sciences are relatively young compared to traditional German universities. Their success story began in the 1970s when the first universities of their kind – called technical colleges – were established.

Within the space of a few decades, UAS became an integral part of the German higher education and research sector.

While comprehensive universities focus on basic research, UAS specialise in application-based research activities. The practice-oriented character of UAS is not only attractive to students, but employers are very much aware of their advantages.

Just under 1.1 million students are currently enrolled at UAS – more than one-third of all students in Germany. And their number is growing!

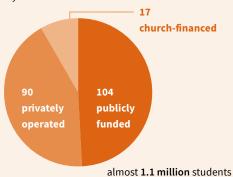
This type of higher education institution has become increasingly popular among international students as well. Around 158,000 international students are currently studying at UAS.



Two names, one concept: universities of applied sciences (Hochschulen für angewandte Wissenschaften) = technical colleges (Fachhochschulen)

FUNDING BODIES OF UAS (AS OF 2023)

211 UAS in Germany



TYPES OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Universities of applied sciences	211
Traditional universities	108
Art academies	52
Colleges of public administration	30
Other university types	22
Total number of universities in Germany	423

UNIVERSITY AND UAS IN COMPARISON

University	UAS
Basic research	Applied research
Collaboration with other research institutes	Collaboration with companies
Large universities, many students	Smaller universities, intensive supervision
Freedom to customise study according to one's preferences	Degree programmes follow a prescribed structure



What subjects can I study at UAS?

Universities of applied sciences offer a wide range of study opportunities. Over 7,200 degree programmes are offered at more than 200 UAS in Germany.

DIVERSE RANGE OF SUBJECTS

Basically, every subject of study is represented – from agricultural management, business administration, design, electrical engineering and computer science to medical technology and business law.

Many UAS offer a broad range of diverse subjects. Technical, engineering and business degree programmes are especially common at UAS.

EXCEPTION: MEDICINE, PHARMACY, LAW AND TEACHING

There are a few subjects which can only be studied at a comprehensive university in Germany. These are tied to a specific career goal and conclude with a state examination: medicine, pharmacy and law. The other exception is teaching degree programmes which qualify students to teach at public schools.





Prof Dr Manuela Schwartz
is the Rector of the Magdeburg-Stendal University of
Applied Sciences.

Professor Schwartz, what sets UAS degree programmes apart from those at other universities?

Universities of applied sciences combine academic qualification with practical application and offer doctoral study opportunities as well. Especially in the last few years, we've seen lots of new attractive degree programmes whose curricula specifically address current social and global challenges. Students in these programmes work on developing solutions to very concrete problems. That can be incredibly motivating for students!

What else distinguishes these programmes?

Many UAS degree programmes are inherently interdisciplinary. For example, the engineering, psychology and social sciences departments all participate in the programme "Human-Technology-Interaction" at our university. And the programme "Language and Communication in Organizations" explores the challenges of new communication formats at companies.

English-language degree programmes are internationally oriented by nature and are especially attractive to students from around the world. Our relatively new master's programme "StREaM – Sustainable Resources, Engineering and Management" is comprised of some 70 students from 14 different countries!



How are degree programmes structured?

All UAS offer bachelor's and master's degree programmes which conclude with the conferral of internationally renowned higher education certificates.

Compared with traditional universities, degree programmes at UAS are more rigorously structured. This helps many students plan and organise their studies more effectively.

A special feature of UAS is that practical semesters, project phases and work placements are integrated into the degree programmes.

BACHELOR'S PROGRAMMES

Bachelor's programmes usually take six to eight semesters to complete, of which one is often a practical semester. As a rule, most bachelor's programmes contain integrated practical phases. They offer students the chance to gain work experience and cultivate contacts with potential employers during their studies. They also encourage professional orientation, as students can familiarise themselves with a potential vocational field intensively for an entire semester.

MASTER'S PROGRAMMES

Master's programmes are generally four semesters long and have a clear, practice-oriented focus. Many students write their master's thesis at a company. This entails researching a topic that is important to the respective company and finding concrete solutions which can be practically applied. In many cases, students are offered a job by these same companies after graduation.

Eight German UAS currently offer doctoral programmes of their own. However, with a master's degree from a UAS, students are eligible to apply for doctoral admission at traditional universities as well.



Sherzod Nosirov

studies *Digital Transformation* at the Dortmund University of Applied Sciences.

IT'S GREAT TO LEARN IN SMALL GROUPS

What I really like about the programme is that it's so practiceoriented. The professors in our seminars present us with case studies from real companies – mostly from the IT consulting sector. During our first semester, we were given the opportunity to consult a local service provider. We developed a concept of how we could digitalise operations within the company.

In my programme, I've got nine mandatory subjects and three electives. There's also a large project, and at the end, of course, the master's thesis. I like that there are very few lectures. Instead, we mainly have seminars and projects in which we work in small groups. It's just so much fun! Some seminars are held as compact courses – in other words, an entire week of workshops, devoted to a certain topic.



How do I find a suitable UAS?

With over 200 UAS and more than 7,200 degree programmes to choose from, deciding where to study is not always easy.

ALL OPTIONS AT A GLANCE

For a solid overview of where universities are located and what programmes they offer, the Higher Education Compass of the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) is a good place to start: www.daad.de/ study-programmes.

At <u>www.daad.de/online-programmes</u>, you can find distance-learning opportunities which are partly or entirely conducted online.

PROGRAMMES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Many UAS offer international degree programmes tailored to the specific needs of international students. You can find a listing of these degree programmes and study preparation courses at www.daad.de/international-programmes.

UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

The quality of research and teaching is relatively high at all German universities. Consequently, university rankings in Germany do not play such an important role as they do in other countries.

A popular ranking list is the CHE University Ranking which assesses the evaluations of some 120,000 students and 3,000 professors. You can find information on around 40 subjects of study at 250+ universities at www.daad.de/che-ranking.



Gernot Welschhoff advises international students at the University of Applied Sciences (HTW) Berlin.

Mr Welschhoff, how would you go about looking for a suitable UAS?

I would first go to www.myguide.de to get an overview of what universities offer my subject of study. Then I'd compare degree programmes: How are the programmes structured? What topics do they concretely focus on? And what prerequisites do I have to meet?

After that, I would take a closer look at my top picks. How internationally oriented is the UAS? Are there individual advising services for international students? And then, of course, my personal preferences also play a role. What do I find more appealing – larger or smaller UAS? Where would I like to live?

What should international students consider when planning their study visit?

Start collecting information as early as possible and reach out to the representatives at the UAS for advice. Another thing – to make sure that you always have the most current information, go directly to the source. For example, for visa matters, check out the website of the German embassy!



What are the admission requirements?

Requirements for admission can vary depending on your choice of degree programme and university. For some programmes, applicants must first complete a work placement to be eligible for admission (prestudy internship).

As prerequisites can vary, it is a good idea to inquire at the UAS of your choice about its specific admission criteria as soon as possible.



The International Office at your university is the first place of contact for questions about degree programmes, study requirements, planning a course of study and residing in Germany.

UAS ENTRANCE QUALIFICATION

As a rule, all prospective students must hold a higher education entrance qualification to study in Germany. This could be, for example, a school-leaving certificate, such as the German *Abitur* or *Fachabitur*, which qualifies students for admission to a German UAS. Various international school-leaving certificates are considered equivalent to the German higher education entrance qualification.

At <u>www.daad.de/admission-database</u> or, <u>www.myguide.de</u>, international students can determine whether their school-leaving certificate is recognised as a higher education entrance qualification in Germany.

Sometimes it is possible to study at a UAS without higher education qualification. In such cases, one must hold a recognised vocational qualification and/or have gained several years of work experience.

ASSESSMENT TEST AT A PREPARATORY COLLEGE

If your school-leaving certificate is not sufficient for admission, you can earn your higher education entrance qualification here in Germany under certain conditions.

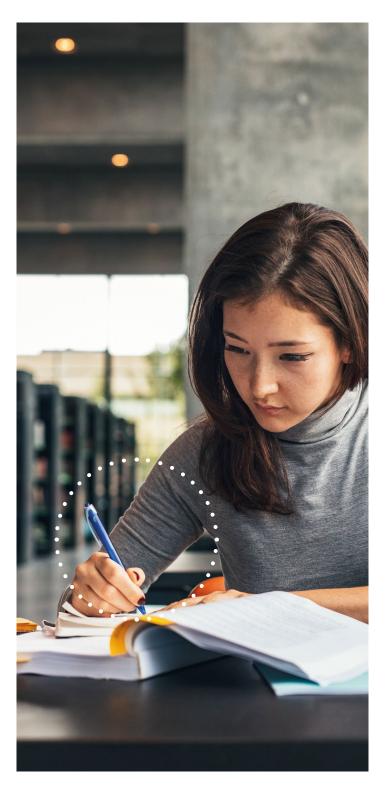
This takes place at a so-called *Studienkolleg*, or preparatory college, where prospective students can prepare for university study. Most courses take two semesters to complete and conclude with an examination. The website www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/plan-your-studies/studienkollegs/ offers further information on the "Studienkolleg".

STARTING AFTER A BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMME

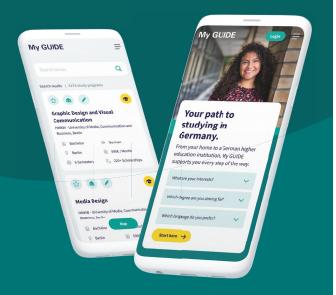
Often it is easier for international students to gain admission to a German UAS after earning a bachelor's degree in their home country or another country.

Depending on one's country of origin, international students may require an entry visa to travel to Germany. For more information, contact the German embassy or consulate in your country, or visit www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/visa-service.





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How good does my German have to be?

Like in any country, the same holds in Germany– good German language skills will go a long way to help you feel comfortable in your new environment, master the challenges of everyday life and make contacts. The question of how good your German has to be in order to study, and which language exam or test score is required for admission, is up to the universities to decide. And even these can vary depending on your choice of degree programme. More information is available at the International Office at the respective UAS.

STUDYING IN ENGLISH

More and more degree programmes are offered in English every year at UAS. In fact, English is the primary language of instruction in almost 700 degree programmes. Those who apply to such a programme must present proof of good English skills

STUDYING IN GERMAN

Likewise, one must present proof of sufficient German proficiency to get accepted to a German-language degree programme. This is done with an official test score from a recognised language exam.

As a rule, pupils who earn an *Abitur* at a German school abroad are not required to take a German language test.

GERMAN LANGUAGE TESTS

There are several fee-based tests, with which you can prove your German language proficiency. These include:

- The Test of German as a Foreign Language (TestDaF), which one can take at over 500 testing centres in almost 100 countries, and
- The German Language Test for Admission of Foreign Study Applicants (DSH), which is offered at universities in Germany.

Most UAS also recognise other language tests, such as the Goethe-Zertifikat C2 and the telc Deutsch C1 Hochschule exam.



Laís Viera Trevisan

is pursuing her doctorate in Management Science at the Research and Transfer Department "Sustainable Development and Climate Change Management" at HAW Hamburg.

Ms Trevisan, why did you decide to get your doctorate at HAW Hamburg?

My doctoral supervisor at HAW Hamburg is one of the most distinguished researchers in my field of study. That's why I contacted him and discussed my research project with him. Fortunately, I also received a DAAD scholarship to finance my research stay.

How good was your German when you arrived in Germany?

To be honest, not very. But that wasn't a problem. For my work at the research centre, I mainly need English.

Since I've been in Hamburg, I've attended several German courses and improved my language skills. But I still don't feel proficient enough in all contexts to express myself in German. In any case, knowledge of German is enormously helpful for getting to know the country better, and naturally, for making friends.



How much does it cost to study in Germany?

There are various expenses tied to living and studying in Germany. In addition to regular living expenses, students have to pay for health insurance and their semester fees. Depending on your university and degree programme, you may also be required to pay tuition fees.



All students at German higher education institutions pay semester fees. These are not tuition fees. Semester fees finance the work of the Studierendenwerk (Student Support Services) and the student council.

LIVING EXPENSES

The costs of daily life in Germany are slightly higher than the European average.

Students spend around 867 euros per month. However, this figure is only an average. The amount of money you will actually need largely depends on your personal lifestyle. Taking a room in a student hall of residence, for example, is cheaper than renting a flat. The location of the university also plays a role. Large cities are usually more expensive than smaller ones.



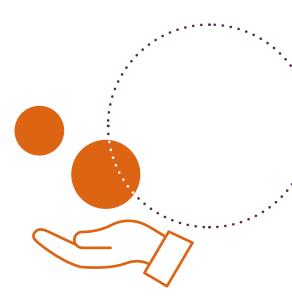
International students are required to present proof of financial resources to confirm that they can finance their studies by themselves. Currently students must show that they have 934 euros per month at their disposal, or 11,208 euros per year.

TUITION FEES

More than half of German universities of applied sciences are publicly funded. As a rule, bachelor's and most master's programmes at these state universities are tuition-free. For certain post-graduate master's programmes, students may be required to pay tuition fees, but compared with other countries, the tuition is relatively low.

The exception: In the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, international students from non-EU countries are required to pay 1,500 euros in tuition per semester (= half year) for their first degree programme.

The tuition costs at private universities can be even higher – from 260 to 1,500 euros per month. In general, it makes sense to inform yourself on the website of your desired university about the current tuition fees, as they can change.





Martin Ignacio Flugelman studies Architectural Lighting Design at the Wismar University of Applied Sciences.

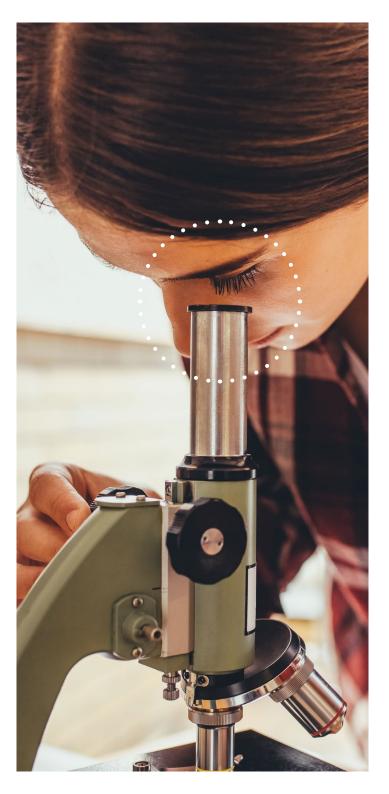
I FEEL AT HOME IN WISMAR

The degree programme *Architectural Lighting Design* at the Wismar University of Applied Sciences is practically like no other in the world. That's why I came to Wismar – to this beautiful, Gothic city situated on the edge of the German map.

Having lived so long in the huge metropolis of Buenos Aires, it seemed almost absurd living in a quiet, little town like Wismar. But it turns out that its manageable size helps you form a strong connection to the other students. I quickly felt like I belonged here.

A big advantage over living in the large city is that you can find reasonably priced apartments and rooms. You can get everywhere on foot or by bike, so you don't lose time commuting. That makes life here really pleasant.

Personally, I find the landscape in Mecklenburg very attractive. And of course, the proximity to the Baltic Sea. I can gaze out at the endless horizon whenever I want.





How can I finance my studies?

There are a wide range of institutions and foundations which offer numerous scholarships and funding opportunities to international students. Funding is available for short- and long-term study visits, as well as language courses and work placements.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Numerous funding possibilities for international students can be found in the DAAD Scholarship Database at www.funding-guide.de.



The DAAD operates a global network of regional offices, information points and information centres which can assist you with finding and applying for a suitable scholarship.

Universities offer scholarships as well. For instance, over 10,000 students at UAS in Germany receive financial aid through the Deutschlandstipendium. Therefore, it pays to inquire about such scholarships at the university of your choice.

PART-TIME JOBS

A part-time job can help you finance your studies in Germany. However, it is almost impossible to cover your entire living expenses with a part-time job while studying at the same time.

UAS offer students jobs as research assistants, but there are many other places which always need part-time help – cafés, restaurants, delivery services, private tutoring etc.

Depending on one's country of origin, special rules apply regarding how many days per year international students are allowed to work without special permission from the Federal Employment Agency.



Dicle Sancar studied *Architecture* at the Wismar University of Applied Sciences.

Ms Sancar, why did you decide to study in Germany?

My interest in sustainability began when I was studying architecture. So, I looked around for corresponding master's programmes. I found one at the UAS in Wismar. I was so impressed by the curriculum and the professors' research fields that I immediately applied.

How did you finance your studies?

I received a DAAD scholarship and worked part-time for three semesters at the International Office of the UAS in Wismar. Most international students I know work at cafés or restaurants or try to find paid internships which match their course of study.

Wismar is a small city, and the cost of living is quite low. You don't need much money to live comfortably here. You can find inexpensive second-hand goods with apps such as "Kleinanzeigen" and "Vinted", or discounted groceries on "Too Good To Go" – to help save money and live more sustainably.



What is a dual study programme?

A dual study programme combines academic study at a university of applied sciences with vocational training at a company. Currently there are over 1,400 dual study opportunities at German universities of applied sciences.

STUDY AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

When enrolled in a dual study programme, students enter a contract with a company. They are employed there and are paid for their work. Many companies, which offer on-the-job training in dual study programmes, hire their trainees after graduation. In other words, a dual study programme can help you quickly find employment in the German labour market.

MOTIVATION AND PERSEVERANCE

Studying and completing vocational training at the same time can be quite a challenge! To get the most out of a dual study programme, candidates must be highly motivated and possess self-discipline and perseverance. Good German skills are also a plus. Depending on one's country of origin, international students may require a work visa to participate.

In the database AusbildungPlus and the Higher Education Compass, you can find a list of all dual degree programmes and further information: www.bibb.de/ausbildungplus and www.daad.de/study-programmes.



Lisa Schneideradvises international students at the Baden-Wuerttemberg
Cooperative State University (DHBW).

Ms Schneider, what makes dual study appealing to international students?

Dual study programmes are offered at UAS in relatively small groups. Courses rarely have more than 30 students, which guarantees intensive supervision and helps create a pleasant and personal learning environment. Students also receive intensive supervision during their practical phase at the company. This makes it easy to establish private and professional contacts – and to get acclimated in Germany.

What students might find especially attractive is the financial independence that dual study programmes offer. During the entire programme, students are employed at the company and receive a monthly salary.

How are the career prospects?

Dual study offers the best career opportunities and easy entry into the labour market! More than 85% of graduates of the Baden-Wuert-temberg Cooperative State University are hired by the companies they trained at and have usually signed an employment contract even before they've completed their studies!



Are there special programmes for international students?

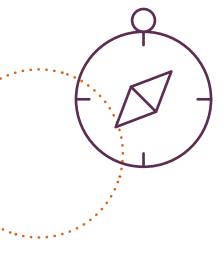
The International Offices at universities of applied sciences provide assistance, advice and a wide range of support services to students from around the world.

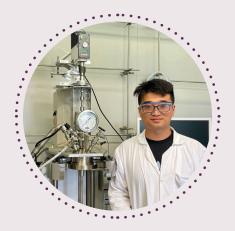
ORIENTATION COURSES

Many UAS offer orientation courses or other information events for international students at the beginning of their degree programme. They help new students get off to a good start in their studies and everyday life in Germany.

BUDDY PROGRAMMES

Buddy programmes are offered at many universities. These programmes pair up international students with experienced students who guide them in their first days in Germany. For example, they accompany them to registration offices, provide orientation on campus and answer any questions they have.





Tianyi Guo

studied Applied Polymer Sciences at the

Aachen University of Applied Sciences and is now pursuing his
doctorate in the field of chemistry and biotechnology.

FULL SUPPORT WITH ALL YOUR QUESTIONS

Mr Guo, did you feel well taken care of at your university of applied sciences?

Yes, absolutely! In the beginning, we received extensive support from the International Office. In my experience, international students at the UAS Aachen can always find someone to help them to handle the challenges of daily and academic life.

What I found incredibly useful were the German courses offered in the first two semesters. That's where I learned everything I needed to know language-wise for the courses, presentations and even the internships.

You spent two years during your studies supporting other international students as a "buddy".

Yes, that's right. When I came to Germany, I, too, received support from a buddy. That really helped me get oriented to the campus and everyday life!

That's why it was important for me to share my experiences with others later on as a buddy. I wanted to do my part to make new students feel comfortable here. It was a lot of fun!



What are my career prospects after graduation?

An important goal of UAS is to prepare students for the demands of the labour market as best as possible by providing them with a practically oriented, academic education.

PROMISING CHANCES WORLDWIDE

Universities of applied sciences not only prepare graduates for entry in the German labour market, but also ample opportunities for joining the global market. Consequently, many UAS offer courses with an international orientation and cooperate closely with partners around the world.

German UAS have an excellent reputation worldwide. As a result, UAS graduates have very good chances of securing jobs on the labour market.

CORPORATE CONTACTS

After completing practical phases and work placements, students at UAS already start cultivating contacts with companies during their studies. These same companies often become the graduates' first employers.



Calvin Xu

studied Business Intelligence and Process Management at the Berlin School of Economics and Law. Today he works for a hedge fund in New York.

MY DEGREE IS HIGHLY RESPECTED BY US EMPLOYERS

Mr Xu, why did you study at a UAS in Germany?

The degree programmes at UAS are very practice-oriented. Instruction takes place in small groups where students can work closely with each other and their professors. My university of applied sciences cooperated with local companies which allowed us to work on actual projects. This early practical experience was especially beneficial for my job search later on.

Did your programme meet your expectations?

Yes, absolutely. I especially liked working on projects with local startups in Berlin, but also with established German companies.

Was your degree recognised in the United States?

Yes! In my experience, American employers highly value German UAS degrees. Academic training in Germany has an excellent reputation here. And it was no problem getting my German degree officially recognised in the US. Consequently, it was easy finding work after graduation.



Where can I find more information?

<u>www.daad.de/en/</u>: The DAAD website contains the most important information on studying in Germany. Available in German and English, the website provides information on universities, degree programmes and admission requirements, along with helpful advice on studying and everyday life in Germany.

YOU CAN FIND FURTHER INFORMATION:

- at the Information Centres (ICs), Information Points (IPs) and Regional Offices of the DAAD (for addresses, visit: www.daad.de/ local),
- from the Lektors and instructors assigned to international universities by the DAAD
- at the Goethe-Institute
- at German diplomatic missions abroad, i.e. German embassies and consulates

INTERNATIONAL OFFICES

For those who have already decided on a degree programme and UAS should quickly contact the International Office of their desired university. You can do this, for example, by using My GUIDE (www.myguide.de/en/) or visiting the website of the respective university. Then you can plan your next steps together with the staff at the International Office.

Please bear in mind, that the application process for a study place can take some time depending on the admission requirements and your country of origin.

STUDYING IN GERMANY

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SCHOLARSHIPS AND FUNDING PROGRAMMES

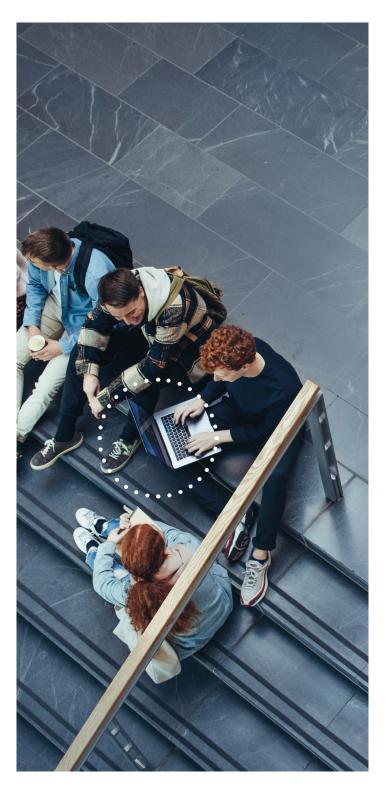
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Universities of applied sciences/ Technical colleges in Germany



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Nadia Büttner, Svenja Wesemann, DAAD

Editorial staff

Dr. Dagmar Giersberg, Bonn

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