

Information for students with refugee background

Do you intend to study in Hamburg?

Start planning early! We have compiled some information to help you prepare.

Accommodation

Due to the great demand for a room in our residential complexes, waiting times are to be expected. You do not need an admission for your application! If you intend to study in Hamburg, we therefore recommend that you apply as early as possible before starting your studies. You should also note that you will be asked regularly (every 14 days) via e-mail, whether you are still interested in one of our rooms. If yes, please confirm, otherwise you will no longer be on the list of applicants.

The team of the Counselling Centre Accommodation arranges rooms in our residential complexes and provides advice on all aspects of housing. We look forward to meeting you!

Counselling Centre for Accommodation · Studierendenwerk Hamburg · Grindelallee 9, 2. Stock · 20146 Hamburg · Tel. 040 - 41 902 - 268
bewo@studierendenwerk-hamburg.de · www.studierendenwerk-hamburg.de

Finance

If you are still in the asylum procedure, please contact our Counselling Centre for Social & International Affairs – BeSI for questions regarding financing:

Counselling Centre for Social & International Affairs – BeSI · Studierendenwerk Hamburg · Grindelallee 9, 3rd floor · 20146 Hamburg
Tel. 040 - 41902 - 155 · besi@studierendenwerk-hamburg.de · www.studierendenwerk-hamburg.de

If you have completed your asylum procedure, our Counselling Centre for Study Financing – BeSt will be happy to advise you concerning BAföG, scholarships, and student loans.

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BAföG

After completion of the asylum procedure, students with a refugee background can receive BAföG under certain conditions. The requirements for support for students with foreign nationality are listed in § 8 BAföG, see information sheet „BAföG for students with foreign nationality (§ 8 BAföG)“ at www.studierendenwerk-hamburg.de ↻ International affairs ↻ Students from abroad. For initial advice on BAföG, please contact our Counselling Centre for Study Financing – BeSt.

Scholarships

Only a few students in Germany receive a scholarship. There is no central office, where you can apply for a scholarship, or which forwards an application to the funding institutions. You must actively search for scholarship providers yourself and apply individually. You will find further information on [scholarships](#) for students with refugee background at www.studierendenwerk-hamburg.de ↻ International affairs ↻ Students from abroad.

Student loans

Loans must be paid back completely and cause additional costs due to the interest. Students with a refugee background may, under certain circumstances, be able to take out a state student loan after completing their asylum procedure, e.g. if they fall under the conditions of § 8 BAföG and are in the advanced study phase. In the final phase of your studies, please check whether you are eligible for a loan.

The Counselling Centre for Study Financing – BeSt provides information on all aspects of student finance. We're looking forward to meeting you!

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Good to know

Working

More than 75% of the students in Hamburg work alongside their studies. This makes working one of the most common forms of financing for students from abroad. Students with a refugee background may have a limited work permit. Regardless of this, there are other aspects to consider when working, especially when combining several activities or when not having worked in Germany before.

Our recommendation is therefore that you seek advice at our Counselling Centre for Social & International Affairs – BeSI before you start working.

Social benefits

Under certain conditions, social benefits (housing benefit, benefits according to the German Social Code) are available for students with a refugee background especially in the event of a change of status (part-time, semester off) or in special circumstances, pregnancy/childcare, sickness/disability, etc.

Our Counselling Center for Social & International Affairs – BeSI will be happy to advise you.

Help in financial emergencies

Students of the University of Hamburg, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Hamburg University of Technology, Hamburg HafenCity University, Hamburg University of Fine Arts, Hamburg University of Music and Drama and Bucerius Law School, who find themselves in an unforeseen, acute, and temporary financial emergency can apply for an emergency loan or an aid respectively food vouchers for the cafeteria (Mensa) from the emergency fund of Studierendenwerk Hamburg.

Further information can be obtained from the Counselling Centre for Social & International Affairs – BeSI.

Health insurance

In our information sheet „Health Insurance during studies“ (to be found at www.studierendenwerk-hamburg.de ↪ Our counselling service ↪ Counselling centre for social & international affairs). The study progress of students with a refugee background can often be delayed due to the flight, the duration of the asylum procedure and the learning of the German language.

This can lead to the fact that they cannot (any longer) be insured at the student tariff.

We therefore recommend that you seek advice from the Counselling Centre for Social & International Affairs – BeSI on the possibilities of access/extension.

The team of the Counselling Centre for Social and International Affairs – BeSI supports you in clarifying your social, personal, and economic questions. We're looking forward to meeting you!

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