

Information for students with a visa/residence permit for the purpose of studies (§ 16 AufenthG)

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!

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Finance

BAföG

Unfortunately, international students who hold a visa/residence permit for the purpose of studies generally cannot receive BAföG benefits. The requirements for international students are listed in § 8 BAföG, see our information sheet “BAföG for students with foreign nationality (§ 8 BAföG)” at www.studierendenwerk-hamburg.de ~ International affairs ~ Students from abroad.

Our Counselling Centre for Study Financing – BeSt will be happy to advise you!

State funding for international students

If you are **not entitled to BAföG**, you may be eligible for benefits from state funding: The **merit scholarship** is awarded by the universities. Please contact your International Office.

International students who are not entitled to BAföG can receive an **examination grant** for their graduation (usually within the last 12 months of their studies). However, there is no legal entitlement to this funding. Further information can be found at www.studierendenwerk-hamburg.de ~ International affairs ~ Students from abroad.

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 an overview of „Scholarships for students“ at

www.studierendenwerk-hamburg.de ~ International affairs ~ Students from abroad.

The **German Academic Exchange Service** (www.daad.de) is responsible for the support of incoming international students. Since you have to apply for a DAAD scholarship approx. 1.5 years before you start your studies, you should apply in time by using the DAAD funding database. Our Counselling Centre for Study Financing – BeSt will be happy to advise you!

Student loans

As a rule, international students cannot take out a state student loan.

In the final phase of your studies, however, please check whether you are eligible for an interest-free loan.

Our Counselling Centre for Study Financing – BeSt will inform you on all components regarding study financing. We're looking forward to meeting you!

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Good to know

Working

More than 75% of the students in Hamburg work in addition to their studies. The number of international students is even higher. This makes working one of the most common forms of financing for students from abroad. With a residence permit for the purpose of studying (§ 16 AufenthG), international students can work up to 120 full days or 240 half days per year. In addition, you can work at the university or at institutions close to the university (e.g. Studierendenwerk, STUBE Nord, etc.). Self-employment is generally not permitted, but can be applied for separately. Apart from the work permit regulations, there are other aspects that need to be taken into account when working in addition to studying. **Our recommendation is therefore that you seek advice from our Counselling Centre for Social & International Affairs – BeSI before you start working.**

Social benefits

As a rule, international students with a residence permit for the purpose of study preparation or studying are excluded from social benefits. In certain circumstances (e.g. pregnancy), access to corresponding social benefits may be possible. A claim to a housing benefit is also conceivable under certain conditions.

Our Counselling Centre 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, Hafencity University, Hamburg University of Fine Arts, Hamburg University of Music and Drama and Hamburg 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

Right of residence

The visa or residence permit for the purpose of study preparation or studying is associated with a number of legal regulations. Detailed information can be found on the website of Hamburg Welcome Center at www.hamburg.com ↻ study

Advice can also be obtained from the Counselling Centre for Social & International Affairs – BeSI.

Health insurance

International students are subject to special regulations regarding health insurance. In our info sheet “Health Insurance during studies”, we have compiled detailed information: it can be found at

www.studierendenwerk-hamburg.com ↻ Our counselling services ↻ Counselling centre for social & international affairs.

Due to the importance of health insurance coverage (e.g. for the residence permit) and of the different possibilities, **we recommend international students to seek advice at the Counselling Centre for Social & International Affairs – BeSI**

The Team of Counselling Centre for Social & International Affairs – BeSI supports students with solving social, personal and economic problems. We're looking forward to meeting you!

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The website www.study-in.de also offers you a good overview.