



# Study and Research in Germany

Information Centre Singapore



**DAAD**

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service



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Information Centre Singapore

c/o Goethe Institut

136 Neil Road

Singapore 088865

Tel. (65) 62234226

[www.ic.daad.de/singapore/](http://www.ic.daad.de/singapore/)

[www.facebook.com/daad.singapore](https://www.facebook.com/daad.singapore)

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Editor: Claudia Finner

**On behalf of DAAD**

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst

German Academic Exchange Service

Kennedyallee 50, 53175 Bonn (Germany)

[www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de)

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DAAD (p 7) | Zi Kai Li (p.12) | Xinyuan Wong (p.13) | Ryanne Leong (p.17) |

Amylia Ghani (p.21) | Lichtenscheidt (p 23) | Eunice Chia (p. 24) |

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## Ten Reasons to study in Germany

Germany is the third most popular destination among international students in the world, with more than 12 percent of students at German universities coming from abroad. There are exciting opportunities for learning and researching, and German university degrees are highly respected by employers worldwide. Germany is an attractive place for students and here are 10 reasons why!

### 1. You have a top-class degree that is recognised around the world

Higher education in Germany is one of the best in the world. You can benefit from Germany's long and famous university tradition, especially in the fields of engineering and science.

### 2. You have a diverse range of study opportunities

There are almost 400 state-accredited higher education institutions with more than 18,000 degree programmes in Germany. German universities offer degree programmes in every possible subject and academic level: Bachelor's, Master's, state examinations or doctoral degrees.

### 3. You can study in English

More courses and degree programmes (currently close to 1,800) are being offered in English, especially at the Master's degree level. This is good news if you have no knowledge of the German language or if your German is not proficient. You can find an overview of international degree programmes available in Germany on the DAAD website.

### 4. You are not alone

There are more than 340,000 foreign students at German universities, making it one of the most cosmopolitan locations for studies abroad. The universities offer support to make your start in Germany as easy as possible.

### 5. You usually pay no tuition fees—though if you do, they are very low

As most German universities receive considerable financing from the government, students normally do not have to pay tuition fees, and if so, they are very moderate. There are usually no tuition fees for Bachelor's degree programmes. However, some Master's degree programmes may include tuition fees, but they are not as high as other universities worldwide.

### 6. You have very affordable living expenses

Compared to other European countries, the cost of living in Germany is relatively inexpensive. The cost of food, rent, clothing and cultural activities are equivalent to the EU average. Living expenses are generally lower in smaller towns than in larger cities.

### 7. You can benefit from many scholarship programmes

If you are an international student with outstanding academic achievements, you have a good chance of receiving a scholarship to finance your studies in Germany. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is one of the largest scholarship organisations in the world and offers countless scholarship programmes. No matter what your country, subject or status, you can find a scholarship that matches your profile and needs.

### 8. You will live in a safe country

Germany is a safe country compared to international standards. Whether you live in a big city or in the smaller towns, you can walk outdoors freely during the day or night without much concern.

### 9. You will live in a diverse country in the heart of Europe

Germany is culturally rich with many exciting facets, including 41 landmarks and historic locations recognised as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. You will be living at the heart of Europe and can easily travel to neighbouring countries such as France and Switzerland.

### 10. You can learn a language that will open many doors

German is one of the ten most spoken languages in the world, with some 185 million speakers worldwide. Having some knowledge of the language will make everyday life easier and help you assimilate in the local culture faster.

#### Good places to start your search:

- [www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de)
- [www.study-in.de](http://www.study-in.de)
- <http://ic.daad.de/singapore/>
- [www.facebook.com/daad.singapore](https://www.facebook.com/daad.singapore)



# The DAAD

### Goals and Roles

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is a joint organisation of German institutions of higher education and their student bodies, devoted to internationalising the academic and scientific research system. With the scholarship programmes, the DAAD enables students, researchers and university lecturers to take advantage of the best study and research opportunities available. It promotes transnational cooperation and university partnerships, and is the German national agency for EU higher education cooperation. The DAAD actively supports Germany's foreign cultural and educational policy goals, national scientific policies and development cooperation efforts. In addition to overseeing the International DAAD Academy (iDA), the DAAD operates a network of 71 Regional Offices and Information Centres worldwide.

The DAAD's motto "Change by Exchange" applies not only to the over 127,000 German and foreign students and researchers that we supported in 2015. For the DAAD as a funding organisation, "change" also means taking on the challenges associated with this dynamic process, and helping to shape this process.

With its following three main action areas, the DAAD is prepared to meet the challenges of the future with new ideas while drawing on its strengths and extensive expertise.

- **Scholarships for the best:** Providing scholarships remains the DAAD's "core business". We focus on two main areas: educating young German academics at the best universities around the world, and education and training for outstanding international students, doctoral candidates and researchers here in Germany.
- **Structures for internationalisation:** This second action area focuses on creating and maintaining the structures that make academic exchange and mobility possible.
- **Expertise for academic collaborations:** In the future, the DAAD will apply its competence and expertise even more to providing information and advisory services to institutions of higher education and other academic exchange stakeholders, both in Germany and abroad.

In addition, the DAAD provides a number of services to support the international activities of German universities. These include information and publication programmes, marketing, consultancy, advice and support services, plus programmes aimed at raising the international profile and worldwide appeal of German universities.

### DAAD in Singapore

The DAAD Information Centre (IC) in Singapore was established in September 2001. The centre provides advice to prospective students, academic staff

and researchers interested in study and research opportunities in Germany. This includes individual consultations via email, phone or in person at our office, representation at study fairs and presentations at local schools, Junior Colleges and universities. The DAAD is the first point of contact for anyone considering studying or researching in Germany, providing information and tips to the prospective students.

Under the “Research in Germany – Land of Ideas” programme, together with local research institutes and universities, the DAAD IC Singapore also jointly organizes research focused events on current topics of interest, promoting Germany as a research and innovation location as well as encouraging collaboration between researchers and countries.

Further, the IC Singapore operates as a liaison office for Singaporean institutes of higher education wishing to establish contact with German counterparts. It also serves as a first port-of-call for German higher education institutions seeking cooperation partners in Singapore.

With over 1,500 German companies currently present in Singapore, these students who have studied in Germany enjoy excellent employment opportunities on their return and make a valuable contribution to Singapore’s development. This trend is likely to further stimulate the already very strong economic and industrial relations between Singapore and Germany and serves as a shining example of how academic exchange can strengthen economic cooperation.



## Types of Higher Education Institutions

There are close to 400 officially recognised institutions of higher education throughout Germany. In total, they offer more than 18,000 degree programmes, allowing you to choose a course that matches your very individual needs.

The main types of higher education institutions in Germany are:

1. Universities and Technical Universities (TU) (110 in total)
2. Universities of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschulen - FH) (232)
3. Colleges of Arts and Music (58)

### 1. Universities

Universities in Germany place strong emphasis on research and innovation. Full universities offer courses in virtually all subject areas. Some universities, however, specialise in specific subject areas, such as the Technische Universität (Technical University) or the Medizinische Hochschule (Medical School).

Universities and Technical Universities can award Bachelor's, Master's and doctoral degrees.

With their impressive research resources and facilities, their often long-standing tradition, and extensive libraries and archives, universities provide excellent opportunities for specialisation and advanced research.

### 2. Universities of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschulen/ FH)

Universities of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschulen) offer more practice-oriented studies and applied research. Research at these institutions is primarily directed towards practical requirements. In teaching and research, the Fachhochschulen often closely cooperate with local industries.

Universities of Applied Sciences offer Bachelor's and Master's degrees. However, they typically do not award doctoral degrees; exceptions exist where they can award doctoral titles in cooperation with a university.

Some Universities of Applied Sciences require applicants to complete internships before they can be admitted. You should therefore enquire at the institution of your choice as soon as possible to find out if pre-study practical experience with relevance to your chosen subject is required.

### 3. Colleges of Art, Film and Music

Colleges of art, film and music prepare students for careers as professionals in the fields of art, music, design, media and film. Students wishing to study at a college of art, film or music must demonstrate their particular artistic talent and are usually required to pass an aptitude test. In most cases, applicants have to submit a portfolio of their own

art or design works. Applicants wishing to study music are usually required to demonstrate their outstanding talent in an audition.

Colleges of art, film and music offer Bachelor's and Master's degrees. However, they do not award doctoral degrees.



## Degrees

Most courses offered in Germany are Bachelor and Master degree programmes which are comparable to degrees and programmes offered in other European countries. They replaced the traditional German Degree courses leading to for example a Diplom, a Magister Artium or a Staatsexamen.

Only some degree courses in specific subjects, namely in law, human medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry and pharmacy, still offer a traditional degree, the Staatsexamen, which takes at least five years of studies and is equivalent to a combined Bachelor's and Master's degree.

Most degree courses in Germany are conducted in the German language. However, there are more than 1,800 international degree programmes that run mostly or entirely in English. You can pursue the following degrees in Germany:

### **Bachelor's Degree (BA, BSc, BSEng, etc.)**

Bachelor's programmes are designed with a student workload of around 40 study hours per week completed over 45 study weeks per year. A full Bachelor's programme at a German university takes normally 6 or 7 semesters (3 to 3.5 years).

### **Master's Degrees (MA, MSc, MEng, etc.)**

Students who hold a Bachelor's degree and wish to specialise in a particular area can take up a Master's programme – either directly after completing their Bachelor's or after working for a few years. The chosen degree programme must be closely related to the Bachelor's degree. The majority of Master's programmes offered by German universities takes two years (4 semesters) but there are also some programmes with a shorter duration.

After receiving your Master's degree you can continue studying for the next academic qualification - the doctoral degree.

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You can find a **searchable database** comprising of all degree courses offered by German universities at [www.daad.de/international-programmes](http://www.daad.de/international-programmes)

### State Examination (Staatsexamen)

The Staatsexamen is a state-conferred degree to students of law, human or veterinary medicine, dentistry, pharmaceuticals and school teacher certification programmes. The examination regulations are stipulated by the German states, and not by the university. Students are permitted to take the first state examination upon completion of their studies. After which, they can begin a practical training phase to prepare themselves for the second state examination and/ or enter a doctoral programme.

### Doctoral Studies

Anyone wishing to obtain a doctorate (PhD) will as a general rule need to have completed a course of academic studies up to the Master's level with above-average grades. You can choose between two different approaches: the individual doctorate study and the structured PhD programme.

A majority of the candidates opt for the individual doctorate, which is a very free system with no compulsory attendance or binding curriculum. You will need to find an academic supervisor for your dissertation whose scientific interests match your area of research.

As an alternative to an individual research project, you can enrol in a structured PhD programme offered by universities and research organisations. Graduate schools and international doctoral programmes are mostly in English and cater to the needs of international doctoral candidates.

The Higher Education Compass provides a database on doctoral study opportunities <http://www.research-in-germany.org/en> further you can search for structured PhD-programmes at [www.daad.de/international-programmes](http://www.daad.de/international-programmes) or look for open positions at [www.phdgermany.de](http://www.phdgermany.de)

### International Degree Programmes

Numerous German institutions of higher education offer international Bachelor's, Master's and PhD programmes alongside their regular German degree courses.

International Degree Programmes (IDPs) in Germany provide intensive support, guidance and supervision tailored for foreign students. Except for a small number, these courses are run predominantly or exclusively in English.

These courses are of equal interest to students from abroad and their internationally oriented German counterparts. On average, half of the participants come from countries outside Germany, making the classroom an exciting multinational and multicultural environment.

The DAAD website offers further information on these 1,800 and more programmes in its searchable database on international programmes:

[www.daad.de/international-programmes](http://www.daad.de/international-programmes)

## Admission Requirements for Singaporean Students

### Academic Requirements

#### Undergraduate Courses

Direct admission to study your desired subject at undergraduate level depends upon whether your higher education entrance qualification is considered equivalent to the German school-leaving qualification. Universities decide on admission in accordance with standardised regulations valid throughout Germany.

For Singaporeans, the A-levels and International Baccalaureate (IB) are recognised on condition that certain minimum requirements are met. There are also subject-specific requirements, which you can find below. If you wish to apply for courses where applicants outnumber the places available, you may need to surpass the minimum requirements.

#### A-Levels

Applicants need to have passed a minimum of four A-levels (one subject can be an H1-level). Among the four subjects needed are:

1. A language (The General Paper can replace English in some cases),
2. Mathematics or a science (Biology, Physics, Chemistry) and
3. A second language (which in most cases would be your mother tongue).
4. Proof of General Paper (GP) or Knowledge & Inquiry (KI)

Applicants for medicine, pharmaceutical science, natural sciences courses and technical subjects need A-levels in at least 2 mathematical and natural science subjects.

Applicants for business studies or economics are required to have an A-Level in Economics or Business.

Applicants of other courses are required to have an A-level in a related subject.

#### International Baccalaureate (IB)

International Baccalaureate is generally accepted in Germany. Applicants must have done six subjects, among them they must fulfil the following requirements:

1. Two languages at A or B level (one of them uninterrupted as A or B HL level)
2. One natural science subject (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
3. Mathematics (SL or HL)
4. One social science subject (History, Geography, Economics, Psychology, Philosophy, social Anthropology, Business & Management).

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All subjects must have been taken uninterruptedly during the 2 year diploma cycle.

Three of the subjects need to be at higher level, one of them Mathematics or a Natural Science.

The applicant must have a minimum IB Grade of 4. One subject of grade 3 may be replaced by one with grade 5. The minimum number of points required is 24.

Please feel free to contact [info@daad-singapore.org](mailto:info@daad-singapore.org) for more information.

### Polytechnic Diploma

Polytechnic diplomas are not considered equivalent to the German school-leaving qualification. Therefore, diploma holders cannot be admitted directly to the German universities of their choice. The following conditions would apply:

1. Polytechnic diploma holders can only apply to Universities of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschulen). They cannot apply to Universities or Technical Universities.
2. Polytechnic diploma holders can only apply for degree courses in the same subject they have specialised in at the polytechnic.
3. Before commencing their studies at the Fachhochschule, applicants holding a polytechnic diploma are required to pass a 1-year foundation course at a Studienkolleg (see below for more information).

At the end of the year they will have to pass an assessment test (Feststellungsprüfung). The assessment test will be conducted in German.

Please note that only applicants with a good command of German (minimum of 400 to 600 hours or B1 level) can be considered for admission.

### Exception

Polytechnic Diploma holders with particularly good results (Diploma 'with merit') or those who have obtained an offer to study at the National University of Singapore (NUS) or Nanyang Technological University (NTU) can be admitted directly to German universities of their choice.

The NUS or NTU confirmation has to state that you were granted admission to a regular attendance study course based on your school education, your 3-year polytechnic education, and on the selection procedures of the institution. Furthermore, the subject area to be studied has to be indicated. These students can apply to any university of their choice without going through the foundation year.

### Foundation Year / Studienkolleg

If your educational qualifications are not sufficient for direct admission to an undergraduate course at a German university, you have to attend a one-year preparatory course at a Studienkolleg. The fees cost around 100 to 400 Euros per semester. This is not a university course,

but a pre-university programme leading up to an examination that proves you have the knowledge and qualifications required for studies in a specific subject area.

As the Studienkolleg is conducted in German, applicants are expected to have acquired some command of German before they can be admitted (usually intermediate level B1).

Further, at some Studienkollegs it is possible to complete an “Externe Feststellungsprüfung”. The Externe Feststellungsprüfung can be taken without having completed the foundation course. It is conducted in German and students will require German language proficiency at C1 level.

More information is available at [www.studienkollegs.de](http://www.studienkollegs.de)

### Internships as Prerequisite

Universities of Applied Sciences will often require an internship as a prerequisite for university admission. You should enquire at the university of your choice whether and internship may be obligatory.

It is your own responsibility to find an internship and apply to the companies, but the International Office or, if available, the Internship Office of your university will help and advise you.

### TestAS

TestAS (Test for Academic Studies) is a central standardised aptitude test for international students wishing to take an undergraduate programme in Germany.

Just like the American SAT, TestAS gives prospective students information about their individual ranking compared to other applicants.

With good results, applicants can improve their chances of admission into a German university. TestAS can be taken in English and German. More information can be obtained from the TestAS website at [www.testas.de](http://www.testas.de) or you may also contact the university of your choice to find out if it the TestAS is required.

### Medical Studies in Germany

Medical studies, including pharmaceutical studies, veterinary science or dentistry, have special requirements to other subjects and restrictions applicable to Singapore.

Medical subjects are only taught in German. Applicants must therefore pass a language proficiency test on C1 level such as TestDaF or DSH prior to applying. Applicants may also have to take a special test geared towards medical students: <http://www.tms-info.org>

NOTE: The Singapore Medical Council currently only accepts medical degrees from the following 4 universities: Ruprecht-Karls-University in Heidelberg, Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe University in Frankfurt, Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich and Charite-Universitätsmedizin in Berlin.

## Academic Requirements

### Postgraduate Courses

If you wish to take a Master's degree in Germany, you should hold a related Bachelor's degree from a recognised institution. Some courses have additional requirements such as a minimum GPA or a good GMAT score.

Applicants for PhD studies are generally expected to have obtained their Master's degree. Some institutions may also offer exceptionally qualified Bachelor's degree holders direct entrance into a PhD programme.

**Zi Kai Li,**  
**Internship at Bayer, now studying**  
**Finance at Frankfurt School of**  
**Finance & Management**



*Here I experienced first-hand the work culture in Germany. I managed to learn many new skills and I must say, this three month internship experience was very valuable to me. Not only did I have the chance to practice my German, I also get to work in a truly international surrounding.*

## Language Requirements

### Programmes taught in German

Before you can be admitted to a course with German as the medium of instruction, you have to provide proof that you have reached an appropriate level of proficiency in German. There are several tests that can be taken to show that you have the necessary command of German to follow an academic course of studies.

German at C1 level is typically required and can be proven for example by the following tests:

- **TestDaF** – typically offered in Singapore by the Goethe-Institut in April and November. More dates are available globally.
- **DSH** – offered only at German universities Or alternatively by possessing one of the following:
  - Goethe-Zertifikat C1
  - German Language Diploma (Deutsches Sprachdiplom, Level II)
  - Abitur from a German school
- Positive results of the “Feststellungsprüfung” after attending a Studienkolleg

The TestDaF and DSH assess several levels of language proficiency. Passing at advanced level (TestDaF TDN-4 or DSH-2) is required to be eligible for unrestricted admission to German universities.

Note: Some study programmes (such as Germanistik or German Literature) may require a higher level of German knowledge and respective results in the tests (TestDaF TDN-5 or DSH-3).

If you intend to learn German without any prior knowledge of the language, you should ideally set a minimum of 10-12 months for intensive language courses in Germany before taking the proficiency test.

### International Degree Programmes

International Degree Programmes vary in the level of German they require. Most undergraduate programmes taught in English require no German knowledge at all. Some programmes expect applicants to have some basic knowledge of German (level A1 or A2, see page “Learning German”), which can be acquired in a relatively short period of time.

Postgraduate programmes often do not require any German at all, but will give students the opportunity to learn the language alongside their studies. However, it is certainly advisable to learn some basic German before going to Germany, even if it is not a course requirement.

Most international degree programmes also require applicants to present proof of a good command of English (TOEFL, IELTS, etc).

### Doctoral Studies

As research is frequently conducted in an international context with English as the main medium of communication, PhD students often do not need a proficiency in German to embark on their projects. Please enquire with your course coordinator or academic supervisor to find out if German is required at all and if so, what level should you attain before starting your PhD.

**Xinyuan Wong,**  
studies Liberal Arts and Sciences  
at University of Freiburg

*The English-medium international orientation of my college also means that the student body is remarkably*



*diverse, with students hailing from countries like Romania, Nepal, Ecuador, Brazil, South Africa, Australia, and the*

*United States. Learning is thus not just a classroom endeavour, but a constant intercultural process, which is made especially motivating by the dedicated, highly curious and inspiring lecturers who come from a rich variety of academic backgrounds and the small, discussion-style learning approach.*

*It is also easy to make friends even if you're not very good at German, because people genuinely appreciate your effort to learn the language and are happy to help you practice speaking it.*

## Learning German

One of the advantages of studying in Germany is the opportunity to acquire an important world language together with your degree. Keeping in mind that there are about 1,500 German companies presently operating in Singapore and with Germany as Singapore's most important trade partner in Europe, a good command of German will open up a wealth of employment opportunities in Singapore and abroad.

There are, of course, numerous language courses available at the universities and private institutions in Germany. More information about these courses can be obtained from [www.learn-german.net](http://www.learn-german.net)

A list of courses and language centres can also be found at [www.fadaf.de](http://www.fadaf.de) (page in German) or a selection of courses by a FaDaF consortium of course providers at <http://www.uni-german.de/en/>

German language instruction is also available in Singapore at the Goethe-Institut. The Goethe-Institut offers extensive language courses from A1 to higher levels and additionally intensive courses for level A1. These courses prepare students for the internationally recognised examinations Goethe-Zertifikat (Level C1) or TestDaF, which are widely accepted as proof of proficiency in German for academic purposes.

In Singapore, the TestDaF is typically offered twice a year (currently April, November) at the Goethe-Institut.

Lower level exams, which are sometimes required for admission to international degree courses or Studienkollegs, are also available.

Please contact the Goethe-Institut directly for more information on enrolment, fees and dates:

Web: [www.goethe.de/singapur](http://www.goethe.de/singapur)  
Email: [info@singapore.goethe.org](mailto:info@singapore.goethe.org)  
Phone: + 65 6735 4555

**Dr. Amylia Ghani,  
PhD from TU München**

### ***How were you coping with the German language?***

*I had previously done 2 years of German while I was in NUS for my undergraduate studies. That did help a little when I was out and had to buy bread from the bakery. But the language of instruction in the university for research especially is English. The research groups in the university are so diverse and multi-national that everyone speaks English. So there's nothing much to worry about the language barrier.*

## Application

Often, applicants from abroad need to apply directly to the International Office of the higher education institution at which they would like to study. The application form can be obtained from the website of the institution. Please visit the following links for further information: [www.hochschulkompass.de](http://www.hochschulkompass.de) or [www.study-in.de](http://www.study-in.de)

Higher education institutions expect applicants to enclose certain documents with their application. As a rule, these include an officially certified copy of their school leaving certificate and language certificates.

**NOTE:** Never send any original certificates via post!

Please note that higher education institutions would only process applications once all the required papers have been submitted. The application deadline generally ends several months before the semester starts.

Therefore, you should contact the **International Office (Akademisches Auslandsamt, AAA)** as soon as possible so that you can obtain any documents that you may need in good time.

At German universities you can only apply for the upcoming semester, deferment is not possible. Hence, male Singaporean students will typically need to serve their NS before applying to Germany universities.

### Deadlines

Application deadlines for the winter and summer semester are as follows:

Winter semester start: **Mid-October**  
Application deadline: **July 15**

Summer semesters start: **Early or Mid April**  
Application deadline: **January 15**

### NOTE on deadlines

*Some universities may have earlier deadlines; do enquire with the university of your choice about the details. At Universities of Applied Sciences the semester usually starts slightly earlier than at universities.*

### uni-assist

Around 178 German higher education institutions only process international applications once they have been formally screened by “uni-assist” (a certification service for international applicants). uni-assist checks whether your application is complete and contacts you if documents are missing. Once all necessary documents have been submitted, the application will be forwarded to the universities of your choice. The advantage of uni-assist is that you can apply to several universities at once with just one application.

The evaluation of international certificates and the preliminary examination of application documents for the first university have a handling fee of 75 Euros. The fees for

each additional application to a further university within the same semester would be 15 Euros.

Member universities of uni-assist:

<http://www.uni-assist.de/uni-assist-members.html>

For more information, please go to

<http://www.uni-assist.de/>

## Rules and Regulations

### Student Visa

The DAAD has no authority to advise on visa matters, which are exclusively handled by the German Embassy in Singapore.

Please visit the website of the German Embassy in Singapore at [www.sing.diplo.de](http://www.sing.diplo.de) or [www.auswaertiges-amt.de](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de) for further information.

To apply for a visa you will need to have an appointment at the German embassy (made through online booking) and the visa application process typically takes up to a few weeks.

You can find more information under [www.daad.de/entry](http://www.daad.de/entry)

### Proof of Financial Resources

If you wish to apply for a visa to study in Germany, you will need to provide proof that you are able to pay the costs incurred. This typically can be done via a deposit on a so-called blocked account. A scholarship

can also be a proof of funding. Currently, the amount required is around 8,700 Euros a year. The amount only has to be proven for one year and not each year of your studies.

### Jacob Lee, studies for M.Sc. In Material Science at the TU Darmstadt

*The bureaucracy in Germany to get documents and to do things was surprisingly challenging. It was quite a shock to me how difficult they were. My German wasn't very good when I first came here, and the staff there would not always speak German slower so I could understand it. After my first time, I usually prepared a short speech of what I needed to say in German, practice it mentally before I went into the room, and tried to make myself understood. It wasn't perfect, but with some help from my friends, I usually managed to make myself understood.*

### Working in Germany as a student

Singaporean students with a residence permit are allowed to work for a maximum of **120 full days** or **240 half days** per year in Germany.

After graduating successfully in Germany, you will have easy access to the German employment market. All graduates from German universities are entitled to search for a suitable job in Germany for a period of **18 months after graduation**. Graduates who find a job that suits their education are welcome to stay and gain valuable practical work experience.

For more information go to  
[www.daad.de/job](http://www.daad.de/job)  
[www.arbeitsagentur.de](http://www.arbeitsagentur.de)

### Health Insurance

In order to matriculate in a German university you need to provide proof of a valid local health insurance plan. Student health insurance plans (up to the age of 30) are very affordable at around 60-70 Euros a month and provide sufficient coverage.

**Ryanne Leong,**  
**studies Maschinenbau (Mechanical Engineering) at TU Hamburg and works part time as Werksstudentin**



*The Werkstudent experience is something fairly special about Germany - it's a part-time job specifically tailored*

*for students to work in their chosen field while still undergoing their studies. Werkstudent job postings will specify the desired university course(s) applicants should be taking, and they are often very well-paid, especially for those in STEM fields.*

*It's an experience I would definitely recommend to all those studying in Germany, especially if they wish to stay and work here after graduation. The highly field-specific nature of the job means it will directly complement and enhance the knowledge and skills you pick up in university, and graduating with relevant working experience will definitely help in the job search.*

## Costs

### Tuition Fees – Non-existent or Low

Studying in Germany is an inexpensive option as compared to most other popular study destinations, public higher education institutions in Germany receive substantial state funding. As a result, most programmes at the close to 400 public German higher education institutions do not charge any tuition fees. Furthermore, international students are subjected to the same fees (if required) as Germans.

There are some small administration or registration fees called Semester Contribution which may differ from university to university. They typically range from **150-300** Euros per semester and include social fees, student union contribution and often a semester tickets which gives you free public transport within the city, sometimes even the region of your university.

### Living Costs

Compared to many other European countries, living in Germany is relatively inexpensive. On average, you will need about 700 to 800 Euros per month to cover your cost of living. Students are also eligible for numerous price concessions. Visit the following link for more information:

<https://www.study-in.de/en/plan-your-stay/money-and-costs/>

Ultimately, Germany provides an exceptionally good value for students while delivering education of the highest quality.

A large part of your cost will be housing, which can differ substantially, depending on which housing option you prefer and which city you live in.

Students' monthly expenses (not including tuition fees)	
	<b>average</b>
Rent and utilities	€298.00
Food and drink	€165.00
Clothing	€52.00
Learning materials	€30.00
Car and public transport	€82.00
Health insurance, medical costs, medicine	€66.00
Telephone, Internet, TV	€33.00
Recreation, culture, sports	€68.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>€794.00</b>
<b>Example: Rent and utilities</b>	
	<b>average</b>
Room in a student hall of residence	€240.00
Room in a shared flat	€280.00
Flat	€357.00
Source: Deutsches Studentenwerk, 20th Social Survey	

## Student Life in Germany

Studying in a foreign country can be intimidating at the beginning, but it will prove to be highly rewarding for students in German universities.

Students are encouraged to seek out information on their own, and ask questions both in class and regarding administrative matters. In most universities, there is a wide degree of

flexibility in planning your timetables and when to sit for your examinations. There are also plenty of activities you can participate in such as sports groups and societies. Germans typically enjoy meeting for a drink, cooking together or going out of the city for day trips. If you don't find a suitable university sports group, joining a local sports club ("Verein") is another good opportunity to make friends.

### Singaporean Students in Germany (SSAG)

The Singapore Students' Association of Germany (SSAG) regularly organises activities that gather Singaporean students in Germany. They are also a great source of first hand advice regarding any issues they may have faced or for tips about the city or university where they have studied.

Get in touch with students that have returned from Germany, currently study at a German university or are planning their studies in Germany via

[www.ssag.eu](http://www.ssag.eu) and <https://www.facebook.com/ssag.de>

## DAAD Scholarship Programmes available in Singapore

The DAAD runs a number of funding programmes in Singapore. Interested candidates are encouraged to contact staff at the DAAD Information Centre in Singapore for detailed information

on application requirements and procedures.

There are study scholarship programmes for foreign students in various fields, research grants, and scholarship programmes offered to Singaporean undergraduates and graduates doing university summer courses offered in Germany.

For more information on scholarship programmes available, please visit <http://ic.daad.de/singapore/> and click on “Scholarships”.

For a wider database of the various DAAD funding available, visit <http://www.funding-guide.de>

Further scholarships by other organisations can be found under <https://www.stipendienlotse.de/>

#### Watch

The [Study-in.de](http://www.study-in.de) YouTube channel contains videos about student life, experiences from other international students, webinars on how to apply via uni-assist as well as the steps to realize your plan of studying in Germany.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/DAADBonn>

**Kai Qing Tan,**

**Co-Editor SSAG 2014-2016, graduated with Master in English Literature and Literary Theory from the Albert Ludwigs University of Freiburg**

*My contact with the SSAG began when I was preparing for my studies in Germany. Even though after conducting my own research on the different types of student insurance in Germany, I sought advice from the SSAG Facebook group. The members were able to give me and other prospective students with similar questions much useful advice and allay our concerns about the insurance coverage. Being part of the SSAG is a rewarding experience, because it gives me the opportunity to give back to the community and to support prospective students when they are in need of advice,*

*like I once was. We are always faced with uncertainties when we embark on something new. My advice to Singaporeans who are interested in studying in Germany is to always ask questions when you need more information. Apart from the SSAG, you should also contact the international offices of the universities and their affiliated institutions to seek clarification. While the SSAG members would be happy to share their personal experiences with you, the official offices are able to provide you with practical information that would be very useful for you before and during your stay in Germany.*

## Research in Germany

### German Research Landscape

Science and research in Germany are characterised by an excellent infrastructure, a wide variety of disciplines, well-equipped research facilities and competent staff. Germany offers various forms of research locations: universities, non-university institutes, companies and institutions run by federal or state (Länder) authorities.

Germany is one of the world's most attractive research and higher education nations. Currently, almost 26,000 international doctoral students are enrolled and over 38,000 international academics work in **German higher education institutions**.

**German companies** are among the most innovative in Europe. Industry-based and -financed investments account for more than two thirds of all R&D funding in Germany. Industry and research cooperate in many areas. For example, there are numerous joint programmes and research projects involving companies as well as research and research-funding organisations.

**The German states (Länder)** and municipalities act as research funding bodies and operate several research institutes that support state research activities. There are approximately 160 institutes covering a broad range of research areas.

To learn more about the research landscape and your options, visit <http://www.research-in-germany.org/en/research-landscape/research-organisations.html>

### German Research Funding/ Performing Organisations

There are various organisations in Germany that fund research projects and individual researchers. These include but are not limited to the ones listed below.

#### Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung / Foundation

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation promotes academic cooperation between excellent scientists and scholars from Germany and abroad. Every year, the foundation grants more than 800 research fellowships and awards. The alumni network is the foundation's greatest asset, comprising of over 27,000 Humboldtians in more than 140 countries, including 54 Nobel laureates. [www.humboldt-foundation.de](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de)

#### Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft / German Research Foundation (DFG)

The German Research Foundation (DFG) is the self-governing organisation in Germany that serves all branches of science and humanities by funding research projects at the universities and other research institutions. The DFG is largely funded by the Federal States and Federal Government, which are represented in all Grants Committees. [www.dfg.de](http://www.dfg.de)

**Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft**

With an annual research budget of 2.1 billion Euros and more than 24,000 employees, the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft is one of the world's leading organisations for applied research. Their R&D portfolio covers a wide range of fields, including health, security, communications, and energy.

[www.fraunhofer.de](http://www.fraunhofer.de)

**Helmholtz Gemeinschaft / Association**

The Helmholtz Association contributes to solving major challenges facing society, science and industry with top scientific achievements in six research areas: energy, earth and environment, health key technologies, structure of matter and aeronautics, space and transport. With an annual budget of about 4 billion Euros, the Helmholtz Association is Germany's largest scientific organisation.

[www.helmholtz.de](http://www.helmholtz.de)

**Leibniz Gemeinschaft / Association**

The Leibniz Association is an umbrella organisation of 88 research institutes. The annual budget amounts to 1.7 billion Euros. Some 9,300 researchers, with more than 2,000 of them from abroad, work on a diverse range of subjects in the humanities and social sciences, spatial and life sciences, mathematics, natural and engineering sciences and environmental research.

[www.leibniz-association.eu](http://www.leibniz-association.eu)

**Max Planck Gesellschaft / Society (MPG)**

The Max Planck Society for the Advancement of science is one of Germany's largest independent, non-profit research organisations. There are more than 13,000 researchers at 83 Max Planck Institutes conducting basic research in the natural sciences, life sciences, social sciences and humanities. More than one third of the researchers come from abroad.

[www.mpg.de](http://www.mpg.de)

**Dr. Amylia Ghani,  
PhD from TU München**



***How would you describe the quality of doctoral studies in Germany?***

*I would say it is very research focused and very "hands on". You're not just reading about the research in theory but you're actually doing it with your own hands and observing first hand.*

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

**Q: I have just completed my GCE O-levels. Do I qualify for admission to a German university?**

**A:** No. You will first need to obtain sit for the GCE A-Levels, the International Baccalaureate or obtain a polytechnic diploma before you can apply for admission to a German university. There are no bridging or foundation courses for O-level holders.

**Q: Will my Singaporean degree be recognised in Germany?**

**A:** We recommend that you visit <http://anabin.kmk.org/> (in German) to find out whether your degree is recognised in Germany. Also, on page 9 we have listed the typical requirements for degrees awarded in Singapore. Note that the DAAD cannot influence the decision by uni-assist or the universities.

**Q: Which is the best university in Germany?**

**A:** All German universities offer outstanding quality of education. The differences in terms of quality among German universities are less pronounced than in other countries. Differences result mainly from specialisation, research collaborations and contact, which are less linked to a university but rather to individual faculties. Thus, within one university,

some faculties may have top international standing, while others are less prominent. The quality of all courses is evaluated and controlled by an independent academic body, the Rektorenkonferenz and some other associations. Standards are clearly defined in the laws of the universities and guarantee high standards. However, several German news magazines regularly conduct surveys among students, professors and employers and many universities are mentioned in international rankings.

The CHE ranking from ZEIT magazine lets you find suitable universities by your own criteria: <http://ranking.zeit.de/che2016/en/>

German universities have started making their way up in international rankings like the TIMES Higher Education Ranking.

In 2016, the TIMES ranking shows 37 German universities among the top universities in the world:

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/best-universities-germany>

Further you can check the QS ranking <http://www.topuniversities.com/where-to-study/europe/germany/top-universities-germany-201516>

or the Shanghai Ranking: <http://www.shanghairanking.com/ARWU2016.html>

**Q: Do I have to send my application to uni-assist?**

**A:** uni-assist does the pre-check of applications only by instruction of its member universities. It is up to each university to determine which applicant groups that uni-assist would be responsible for. If it is not possible for you to apply via uni-assist, please enquire directly at the university of your choice for each of your applications.

**Q: Can the DAAD process my application?**

**A:** No. The DAAD does not act as an agency for applications. However, applying through uni-assist or to the university directly is pretty straight forward and you should have no problems doing this on your own.

**Q: What is the academic calendar like?**

**A:** The academic calendar in most German universities comprises of two semesters during the following periods:  
**Winter:** Mid-October to Mid-February  
**Summer:** Early or Mid-April to Mid or End-July

**Q: I have browsed through your brochure and FAQs, but I still have problems finding the information I need. What should I do?**

**A:** Please contact the DAAD Information Centre by phone (62234226) or email [info@daad-singapore.org](mailto:info@daad-singapore.org). You are also welcome to make an appointment for a free personal one-to-one consultation.

Follow us on Facebook to hear about events and updates:

[www.facebook.com/daad.singapore](http://www.facebook.com/daad.singapore)

**Q: Can my A-Levels General Paper replace a required language as "English".**

**A:** By default: no. However, by providing uni-assist or the university with the GP Syllabus and explaining the level of English it requires, it often may be accepted.



**Q: I have been exempted from studying a second language (mother tongue) for my O/A-Levels – can I still study in Germany?**

**A:** International students are required to meet similar standards as German students in their Abitur. This means, the second language is mandatory. You can retake your A-Level exams in another language to fulfil the application requirements. Other language courses or proof of language are not accepted.

**Q: Do I need to speak German to study in Germany?**

**A:** That depends what course you take. Over 1,800 international courses offer choices to study completely in English and you may not be required to speak any German (however, your stay will be a lot more rewarding if you speak a little). If you plan on studying in German, you must learn German to level C1 and pass a language test (TestDaF or DSH for example).

**Q: I would like to get in touch with fellow Singaporeans studying in Germany. Who should I contact?**

**A:** You can contact the Singapore Students' Association of Germany <http://www.ssag.eu/> and write to them via email at [ssag.exco@gmail.com](mailto:ssag.exco@gmail.com)  
You can also join them on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/ssag.de>

**Eunice Chia,  
B. Eng in Mechanical Engineering  
at the FH Aachen**



**What did you miss most during your time in Germany?**

*I definitely missed the food from Singapore!!!! In Singapore, I could get any food I want at any time of the day. It is really a different society in Germany as there are not many Asian foods available, most shops close after 6 or 8pm and on Sundays. But thanks to globalisation, I could get some authentic Asian pastes online in Germany. Whenever I get the opportunity, I will get snacks and pastes from Singapore over. I also experimented with different type of homemade food. Living in Germany really upgraded my cooking skills!*

## Important Weblinks & Information

### Weblinks

#### Contact and information in Singapore

<http://ic.daad.de/singapore/>  
[www.facebook.com/daad.singapore](http://www.facebook.com/daad.singapore)  
[www.goethe.de/singapur](http://www.goethe.de/singapur)  
 (Goethe Institut)  
[www.sing.diplo.de](http://www.sing.diplo.de)  
 (German Embassy)

#### Information about studying in Germany

[www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de)  
[www.study-in.de](http://www.study-in.de)  
[www.youtube.com/user/DAADBonn](http://www.youtube.com/user/DAADBonn)

#### Degree programmes

[www.daad.de/international-programmes](http://www.daad.de/international-programmes)  
[www.hochschulkompass.de/en/](http://www.hochschulkompass.de/en/)

#### Research

[www.research-in-germany.de](http://www.research-in-germany.de)

#### Rankings

<http://ranking.zeit.de/che2016/en/>  
[www.timeshighereducation.com/student/best-universities-germany](http://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/best-universities-germany)  
<http://www.topuniversities.com/where-to-study/europe/germany/top-universities-germany-201516>

#### Admission & applying to German universities

[www.uni-assist.de](http://www.uni-assist.de)  
[www.anabin.kmk.org](http://www.anabin.kmk.org)  
[www.daad.de/admission](http://www.daad.de/admission)

#### Scholarships and funding programmes

[www.funding-guide.de](http://www.funding-guide.de)  
[www.stipendienlotse.de](http://www.stipendienlotse.de)

#### Learning German

[www.summerschools.de](http://www.summerschools.de)  
[www.uni-german.de/en/](http://www.uni-german.de/en/)  
[www.goethe.de](http://www.goethe.de)

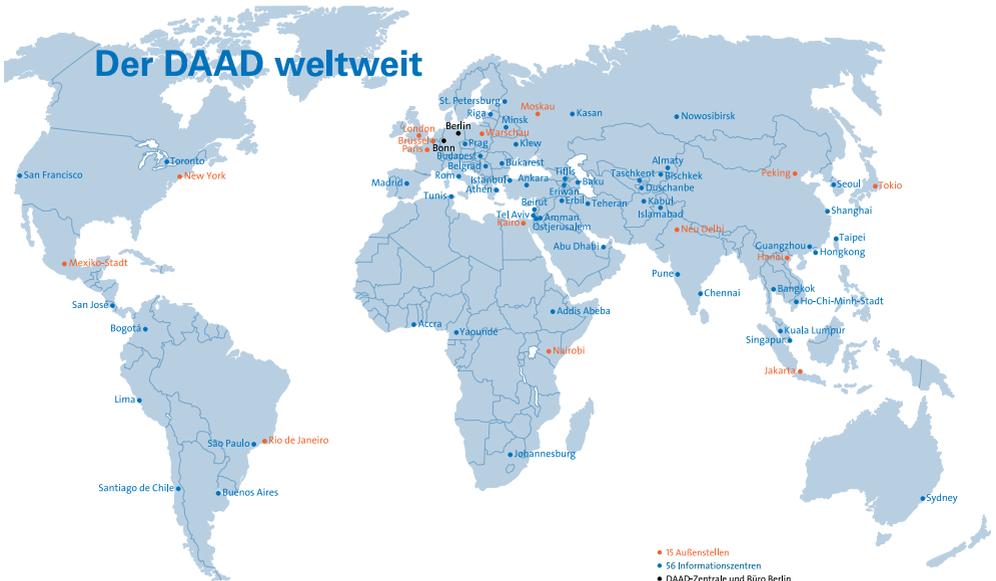
#### German Organisations in Singapore

[www.germancentre.com.sg/](http://www.germancentre.com.sg/)  
[www.gess.sg/](http://www.gess.sg/)  
 (German European School Singapore)  
[www.sgc.org.sg/](http://www.sgc.org.sg/)  
 (Singapore German Chamber of Commerce)  
<http://www.kas.de/wf/en/>  
 (Konrad Adenauer Stiftung)  
<https://www.fes.de/en/>  
 (Friedrich Ebert Stiftung)

## DAAD Office in Singapore

The DAAD Information Centre in Singapore provides information on all issues related to studying or doing research in Germany. It is a must-visit for all students considering Germany as their study destination!

Located centrally on Neil Road (entrance on Bukit Pasoh road through the Goethe Institut library). Opening times are Monday to Thursday from 2pm to 6pm. For a personal consultation, please book an appointment via email.



## DAAD Addresses

### Singapore

Information Centre Singapore  
 c/o Goethe Institut  
 136 Neil Road  
 (entrance on Bukit Pasoh Road)  
 Singapore 088865  
 Tel. (65) 62234226  
[www.ic.daad.de/singapore/](http://www.ic.daad.de/singapore/)  
[www.facebook.com/daad.singapore](https://www.facebook.com/daad.singapore)

### People's Republic of China

DAAD Branch Office Beijing  
 Email: [postmaster@daad.org.cn](mailto:postmaster@daad.org.cn)  
 Website: [www.daad.org.cn](http://www.daad.org.cn)

DAAD Information Centre Guangzhou  
 Email: [info@daad-guangzhou.cn](mailto:info@daad-guangzhou.cn)

DAAD Information Centre Shanghai  
 Email: [shanghai@daad.org.cn](mailto:shanghai@daad.org.cn)

### Hong Kong

DAAD Information Centre Hong Kong  
 Email: [daadhk@hkbu.edu.hk](mailto:daadhk@hkbu.edu.hk)  
 Website: <http://ic.daad.de/hongkong>

### Taiwan

DAAD Information Centre Taipei  
 Email: [info@daad.org.tw](mailto:info@daad.org.tw)  
 Website: [www.daad.org.tw](http://www.daad.org.tw)

### Malaysia

DAAD Information Centre Kuala Lumpur  
 Email: [info@daadkl.org](mailto:info@daadkl.org)  
 Website: <http://ic.daad.de/kualalumpur>

### India

DAAD Branch Office New Delhi  
 Email: [info@daaddelhi.org](mailto:info@daaddelhi.org)  
 Website: [www.daaddelhi.org](http://www.daaddelhi.org)

DAAD Information Centre Chennai  
 Email: [chennai@daadindia.org](mailto:chennai@daadindia.org)

DAAD Information Centre Pune  
 Email: [pune@daadindia.org](mailto:pune@daadindia.org)

### Indonesia

DAAD Branch Office Jakarta  
 Email: [info@daadjkt.org](mailto:info@daadjkt.org)  
 Website: [www.daadjkt.org](http://www.daadjkt.org)

### Republic of Korea

DAAD Information Centre Seoul  
 Email: [info@daad.or.kr](mailto:info@daad.or.kr)  
 WWW: [www.daad.or.kr](http://www.daad.or.kr)

### Thailand

DAAD Information Centre Bangkok  
 Email: [info@daad.or.th](mailto:info@daad.or.th)  
 Website: [www.daad.or.th](http://www.daad.or.th)

### Vietnam

DAAD Branch Office Hanoi  
 Email: [daad@daadvn.org](mailto:daad@daadvn.org)  
 Website: [www.daadvn.org](http://www.daadvn.org)

DAAD Information Centre Ho Chi Minh  
 City  
 Email: [hcmc@daadvn.org](mailto:hcmc@daadvn.org)  
 Website: [www.daadvn.org/hcmc](http://www.daadvn.org/hcmc)

