

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

Do you intend to study in Hamburg?

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

Info sheet
online:



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 keep in mind that you will be asked regularly (biweekly) 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, 2nd floor · 20146 Hamburg · Tel. 040 - 41 902 - 268 · bewo@stwhh.de · www.stwhh.de

Finance

Study start-up aid

First year students under the age of 25, who are in receipt of social benefits (e.g. Bürgergeld, Wohngeld, Grundsicherung) during the month before the start of their studies, can apply for a so-called „Studienstarthilfe“ pf € 1.000. You can find detailed information under at www.stwhh.de/en/ ~ [International affairs](#) ~ [Students from abroad](#).

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

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 and § 61 BAföG, see our information sheet „[Information Sheet BAföG in English](#)“ at www.stwhh.de/en/ ~ [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.stwhh.de/en/ ~ [International affairs](#) ~ [Students from abroad](#).

Scholarships

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.stwhh.de/en/ ~ [International affairs](#) ~ [Students from abroad](#).

The German Academic Exchange Service DAAD awards scholarships for international students who wish to study in Germany. We recommend that you inform yourself in good time, i.e. approx. 1.5 years before the start of your studies, via the scholarship database at www.daad.de/en

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. Maybe you can get funding through an education fund. For more information, visit our website at www.stwhh.de/en/ ~ [International affairs](#) ~ [Students from abroad](#).

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

Counselling Centre for Study Financing – BeSt · Studierendenwerk Hamburg · Grindelallee 9, ground floor · 20146 Hamburg
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Good to know

Working

Roughly 75 % of students in Hamburg work in addition to their studies. For international students, the share 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 (§ 16b AufenthG), international students can work up to 140 full days or 280 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.). Alternatively, you can do any working student job (Werkstudierendentätigkeit), i.e. a maximum of 20 hours per week during the lecture period, with no restrictions during the semester break. Self-employment is generally not permitted, but permission can be applied for separately at the foreigners office. Apart from work permit regulations, there are other aspects to consider when working in addition to studying. **Our recommendation is to seek advice from our Counselling Centre for Social & International Affairs – BeSI before you start working.**

Social benefits

As a general 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. Eligibility for 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, Bucerius Law School and Berufliche Hochschule Hamburg, who find themselves in an unforeseen, acute, and temporary financial emergency, can apply for an emergency loan, an aid or food vouchers for the cafeteria (Mensa) respectively from the emergency fund of Studierendenwerk Hamburg.

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

Residence law

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.welcome.hamburg.com ↪ Entry and residence ↪ Residence permit ↪ Residence Permit for Students and in the brochure 'Information for international students' (to be found via the aforementioned path).

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 information sheet „Health Insurance during studies“, we have compiled detailed information: it can be found at www.stwhh.de ↪ [Our counselling services](#) ↪ [Counselling Centre for Social & International Affairs – BeSI](#) ↪ [Insurances](#).

Due to the importance of health insurance coverage (e.g. for the residence permit) and because of the different options, **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 you in clarifying your social, personal and economic questions. We're looking forward to meeting you!

Counselling Centre for Social & International Affairs – BeSI · Studierendenwerk Hamburg

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If you have or are expecting a child, use studierenmitkind@stwhh.de · Tel. 040 - 41902 - 183

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