Study in Germany
Information for Students in Canada

DAAD
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service
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Words of Welcome

Thank you for your interest in study in Germany. In recent years, the DAAD Information Centre Toronto has seen a considerable rise in interest in this topic. We have developed this brochure to provide information in two main areas. First, it provides graduates of Canadian high schools and universities with clear information on how they might pursue degree studies in Germany. Second, the brochure also gives details on DAAD’s scholarship and grant programs which support students at Canadian universities who want to make a study or research stay in Germany part of their Canadian degree.

Dr. Alexandra Gerstner
Director
DAAD Information Centre Toronto

John Paul Kleiner
Senior Manager, University Relations
DAAD Information Centre Toronto

About DAAD

The DAAD – German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) is Germany’s national agency for the support of international academic cooperation. Through a suite of scholarship and grant programs, DAAD works worldwide to promote academic collaboration through the exchange of students, researchers and senior scholars between Germany and the world.

Each year more than 120,000 scholars are moved through DAAD administered programs, and our organization is the world’s largest grantor of international academic mobility support. DAAD funds students and faculty in every field of study and from all corners of the world. Our support programs help exceptional graduates of Canadian universities pursue Master’s or Doctoral degrees in Germany and students currently enrolled at Canadian universities who want to carry out a study stay, research trip or internship as part of their degree.

Wherever your interests lie, we hope you find this brochure informative and useful. If you have questions about its contents, please feel free to contact us (details on pg. 26) and we will do our best to help you.
Degree Studies in Germany
Why Study in Germany?

If you’re holding this brochure, you probably have several reasons why studying in Germany is of interest to you. Allow us to take a moment to add a few points to your list.

High Academic Standards
Germany’s universities enjoy a well-earned reputation around the world as places where students receive exceptional training. Degrees from these institutions are recognized worldwide and provide an excellent foundation for any career.

Excellent Study Programs
Regardless of the field or the level of study, Germany’s more than 400 universities and universities of applied science offer study programs for every interest and discipline.

Study in English
Currently German universities offer more than 1,200 degree programs in English, with the trend heading upwards. Particularly attractive are the International Degree Programs designed with foreign students in mind (www.daad.de/idp).

International Atmosphere
German universities are home to more than 340,000 international students and have staff and systems in place to ensure that the transition into their studies is a smooth one.

A Good Value
Many programs of study at Germany’s public universities are offered tuition free, even to international students. Semester fees average EUR 250 and often include a free regional transit ticket and access to subsidized student cafeterias.

Cost of Living
While this will vary depending on location, it is not difficult to find university towns and cities where the cost of living is lower than found in Canada. On average EUR 850/month is enough to support a student lifestyle in Germany.

Broaden Your Horizons
Germany is a country of distinct regions and landscapes which are easily explored given its relatively small size. Situated at the heart of Europe, Germany puts some of the world’s most intriguing cultures within easy reach.

Learn German
Using the opportunity of a study stay to learn the German language sets students apart on the international job market and allows them to access the rich, vibrant culture on offer through Europe’s most spoken language.
... and I am a senior at the University of Alberta, majoring in international business. I spent the last two semesters on an exchange at the Otto Beisheim School of Management in Germany. What a year it was! Academically, I was impressed with the quality and scope of instruction I received. Germany is at the heart of Europe and the European Union, and the great convergence of people, ideas, as well as cutting edge research and technology, contributed to an ideal university experience. Outside of school I had a terrific time exploring Europe, making lasting friends and immersing myself in the rich local culture. Studying in Germany turned out to the best year of my life! If you want to be challenged, grow as an individual, and just have a ton of fun, then you should consider what Germany has to offer you.

Hear what other Germany alumni have to say about their experiences studying there:
www.daad-canada.ca/young-ambassadors
Universities and Universities of Applied Sciences in Germany
Studying in Germany is a great experience. There are more than 400 universities in the country and many of the country’s public universities offer a wide range of tuition free study programs, even for international students. This page will provide you with some information on Germany’s different types of post-secondary institutions.

Universities
The majority of Germany’s universities are public institutions which put a strong emphasis on combining teaching with research. They offer courses in virtually every subject area and are often long-established institutions with significant library holdings and excellent research facilities. Some of these public universities specialize in specific fields such as technology (Technische Universität), medicine (Medizinische Hochschule) or pedagogy (Pädagogische Hochschule).

Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS, Fachhochschulen)
The other main kind of university found in Germany are the Universities of Applied Sciences. The practice-oriented study programs on offer here are typically designed to prepare graduates for careers in a specific role or branch of the economy. Examples of programs of study found at UAS include Technology, Business, Technical or Graphic Design and Social Work.

Please note: doctoral studies are typically not possible at these institutions.

Universities of Fine and Performing Arts
Germany’s rich traditions in the fields of the fine arts and performing arts is reflected in its higher education landscape with a number of universities specializing in these fields. Applicants to schools of visual arts must pass an aptitude test and submit a portfolio of their work to gain entry, while music students audition as part of their application process.

Private Universities
Germany is home to a number of private universities which offer a wide range of study programs. Tuition fees at these schools are typically higher than those demanded by public universities.
Bachelor Degrees
Bachelor degree programs at German universities or universities of applied sciences are typically three years in length. While there are a number of English-language Bachelor programs on offer at German universities, undergraduate education there is typically taught in German. DAAD does not have any scholarships available to Canadians pursuing a full Bachelor degree in Germany.

Master’s Degrees
Study programs at the Master’s level in Germany are usually two years long. Currently there are more than 1,000 English-language Master’s programs on offer. DAAD’s Study Scholarship supports exceptional graduates of Canadian Bachelor programs by covering their cost of living while completing a two-year Master’s degree in Germany.

For details, see: www.daad-canada.ca/study-scholarship

PhD Degrees
German doctoral degrees generally require three years of study. To gain entry, applicants must usually hold a Master’s degree from an accredited university. In exceptional cases, Bachelor degree holders may receive direct entry to a Doctoral program. Typically, an applicant will need above average grades in order to be admitted to Doctoral studies. There are two paths to the PhD in Germany:
1. Individual Doctoral Program
The traditional German approach to doctoral studies has been for a student to pursue a customized course of study created in consultation with a single academic, the so-called Doktorvater or Doktormutter. This approach demands strong organizational skills and self-discipline, but gives candidates the freedom to explore their specific research interest in considerable depth.

2. Structured Doctoral Program
In recent times, German universities have introduced structured PhD programs similar to those we have here in Canada. In this model, students work in so-called Research Training Groups (Graduiertenkollegs) or Graduate Schools, and integrate their dissertation into a comprehensive and collaborative research program with a fixed structure and some course work.

DAAD’s Research Grant – Doctoral Programmes offers exceptional PhD students a grant to cover their costs of living while in Germany pursuing their doctoral studies. Details at: www.daad-canada.ca/research-grant

For more information on pursuing PhD studies in Germany, including details on how to find and fund an appropriate study program, visit: www.research-in-germany.org
Finding the Right Program of Study

With more than 17,000 degree programs on offer at German universities, it is safe to say that there is a study program for virtually every interest. And with more than 1,200 of these offered in English, university studies in Germany are surprisingly accessible.

Bachelor and Master’s Programs
The best place to orient yourself on Bachelor and Master’s level study programs on offer is the Study in Germany web portal found at www.study-in.de. This site includes a searchable database with entries on all study programs currently on offer at accredited universities in Germany. Searchable by field, keyword, language of study, location and more, this database will help you identify where you can study in the fields and topics of interest to you. Matches generated by any search are linked directly to the university program pages where you will find detailed information on admissions standards and procedures along with a contact email to which you can send a direct inquiry. In addition, you’ll find that the Study in Germany website offers answers to many questions related to the practical side of doing degree studies in the country.

PhD Studies
Students considering pursuing doctoral studies in Germany are best advised to consult with the PhD student section on the Research in Germany website at www.research-in-germany.org. There you will find detailed information on how to find an appropriate Graduate School or supervisor open to overseeing an Individual Doctor Program. In addition, the site contains a wealth of information on the logistical aspects of pursuing PhD studies in Germany.
Eligibility for Degree Studies

Bachelor Studies

Eligibility for Direct Entry
While it is entirely possible for graduates of a Canadian high school or CEGEP to pursue Bachelor studies at a German university, in most cases, a standard Canadian high school or CEGEP diploma is not sufficient to gain direct entry to a student’s program of choice. However, graduates of some International Baccalaureate or Advance Placement programs may be eligible to start Bachelor studies immediately. The best way to determine whether one is eligible for a specific program of study is to inquire directly with the program office for that degree or the university’s International Office. This letter should indicate your interest in the program of study, include copies of your high school/CEGEP transcripts and ask whether the university would be able to consider your application. Some universities will be willing to assess your records independent of a formal application, others will ask that you apply through regular channels to await a decision.

Qualifying Programs
Many international students do not qualify for direct entry to German Bachelor programs. There are two primary ways students can address this situation.

The first is through a Studienkolleg, a program of study designed to help fill the course gaps in international students’ high school records, but which also include German language courses and orientation to German university culture. Studienkollegs are tuition-free, but require attendees to have German language skills at the low-intermediate level (B1) or above. Graduates of such programs are typically eligible to apply for entry to German Bachelor programs.

More information on this option can be found at: www.studienkollegs.de

For students without German language skills at the low-intermediate level, there is the option of English-language Prep Courses. These courses also prepare attendees for Bachelor studies at German universities, however, here the emphasis is on readying students for study in an English-language Bachelor program. Typically, Prep Courses are offered on a “for fee” basis.

More information on these programs, search the “Prep Courses” entries found in the database at: www.daad.de/idp
Master’s Studies
Holders of Bachelor degrees issued by Canadian universities are usually qualified for to apply to Master’s or Doctoral programs in related fields offered by German universities. Unlike in Canada, Master’s students in Germany do not receive a funding package or graduate assistantship position from their university to help defray the costs associated with their studies. However, since the vast majority of degree programs on offer at German universities are tuition free, higher education in Germany remains an affordable option for many international students. Thanks to the large number of English-language degree programs on offer, a knowledge of German is often not a prerequisite for university studies in Germany. At the Master’s level, there are more than 1,000 degree programs currently taught in English at German universities. These programs typically run two years in length and they include offerings in virtually every field of study.

PhD Studies
Similarly, holders of Master’s degrees from Canadian universities will typically find that they are eligible to apply to PhD programs in related fields. English language doctoral programs are quite common at German universities. At present there are more than 240 PhD programs taught exclusively in English with a further 88 offering instruction in a combination of English and German. Students interested in pursuing a PhD in the context of an Individual Doctoral Program should check with their supervisor and department whether such an arrangement can be accommodated.
How to Apply

There are different ways to apply for admission to a German university. The application procedure depends on which subject you would like to study and where you come from. Requirements and application deadlines can vary from university to university, and even from degree program to degree program. The first term in Germany begins in mid-October and runs through to the mid-February, while the second term goes from the beginning of April to July.

The Application Process
The best way to determine how to apply to the study programs of interest to you is by contacting the program office at the relevant German university directly. Staff there will then instruct you to either submit your application directly to the university or to uni-assist, a service provider used by many German universities to support them in the application process. uni-assist assesses applicants’ academic and, if necessary, language qualifications.

For more details on applying to German universities, visit: www.study-in.de/en/plan-your-studies

Application Timeline
Use the months between January and March to assess your options and contact those programs of interest to you for detailed information on your eligibility and how to apply. The window for applying to most study programs at German universities is open between March and June. As these processes can be involved, it is advisable to begin pulling your application together as early as possible. You can expect to receive a decision on your application during the summer months. If successful, you can begin planning the logistics of your relocation including contacting the German Consulate in Toronto to begin the application for your student visa. During August and September gather the important documentation you’ll need.

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Language Requirements

While there are many English-language study programs on offer at German universities, the language of most degree programs remains German. The level of German language skills required to enter such programs varies, but typically a Common European Framework for Reference of Languages level of at least B2 and often C1 is necessary.

In such cases, applicants are required to submit a certificate of German language proficiency in order to be considered for admission. Students can demonstrate their German language level with different language exams, e.g., the “DSH” (German Language University Entrance Examination for Foreign Applicants), the “TestDaF” (Test of German as a Foreign Language), tests from the telc GmbH or certificates from the Goethe-Institut.

In Canada, the “TestDaF” is offered by the Goethe-Institut. For details on where and when this exam is offered, please visit: www.goethe.de/ins/ca/en. Students do not need to take one of these tests if they have:

- Earned an “Abitur” from a German-language secondary school
- Received the German Language Diploma (stage II) from the German Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (Deutsches Sprachdiplom, DSD II)

Most German universities offer German language courses to international students on their campuses, sometimes free-of-charge, a great opportunity for students to increase their access to the German culture going on around them.
Making Germany Part of Your Canadian Degree
Study Abroad Semester or Year

Most Canadian universities have a number of German partner universities where students can carry out their studies with course work completed there often counting towards their Canadian degree. Studying abroad for a semester or year is not only an unforgettable experience, it helps students develop intercultural competence and sets them apart from their peers in a competitive employment market.

If you are a full-time Bachelor student at a Canadian university who is interested in making a study abroad semester or year at a German university part of your degree, make sure to apply for the DAAD’s Undergraduate Scholarship. This award is designed to cover students’ costs of living while participating in a study abroad semester or year.

Full details are online at: www.daad-canada.ca/undergraduate-scholarship

Study Abroad Checklist

If a study abroad stay is on your agenda, there are a few things to keep in mind to ensure that you get the most of the experience.

1. Start your planning well in advance. Study abroad stays most commonly take place during a student’s third year, but it is a good idea to look into the opportunities open to you during your first year or in the first semester of your second year.

2. Look into what courses you’ll be able to take for credit while in Germany by speaking with your degree’s program office or the study abroad office. Staff should be able to advise which of your university’s German partners is most suitable for your interests and needs.

3. Inform yourself about scholarship and grant opportunities that can help defray the costs of participating in a study abroad semester. In addition to DAAD (see above), Canadian universities often have travel bursaries or scholarships for their students who head overseas for study stays.

4. Speak to students on your campus who have recently returned from Germany. They’ll have useful advice that may help you in planning your stay.
Research Stays

DAAD has several programs designed to support students from any field of study who wish to conduct research in Germany.

Research Grants
DAAD’s Research Grant is designed to support PhD students from all fields of study who wish to travel to Germany to conduct research related to their dissertation. Recent post-docs may also apply to this program and in exceptional circumstances, grants may be awarded to Master’s level students.

Research stays may run anywhere between 1 and 10 months in length and applicants are required to submit a letter of invitation from a German university department, research institution or scholar.

For more information on this program, please visit: www.daad-canada.ca/research-grant

German Studies Research Grant
This program is intended to encourage research into cultural, political, historical, economic and social aspects of modern and contemporary German affairs from an inter- and multidisciplinary perspective.

German Studies Research Grants are open to:

- Bachelor level students majoring or minoring in German Studies;
- Master’s level students in fields in the Humanities or Social Sciences;
- Doctoral students working in a field in the Humanities or Social Sciences.

This grant provides a living allowance for up to two months of field study in Germany and requires students have completed a minimum of two years of university level German language instruction and three courses with significant German Studies content.

For more information on this grant, please visit: www.daad-canada.ca/german-studies-research-grant
Internship Opportunities

Doing an internship in Germany helps prepare students for working life, enhances their employability by providing them with skills and experiences that set them apart on the job market. Interns not only gain work related experience, but time spent immersed in the German culture, both at work and elsewhere, builds the sort of cultural literacy that is highly valued by many employers.

Planning an Internship in Germany: A few things to keep in mind

1. Internships have become increasingly important in Germany and it is quite common for university graduates to complete one or more such positions during or after their studies.

2. Internships in Germany may be offered on an unpaid basis if they are no longer than three months in length. Unpaid internships may run longer than three months only if they are a compulsory part of a program of study. Internships running for longer than three months and not part of a study program must be paid at the national minimum wage for their entire length.

3. While some workplaces will operate in English, German is the standard working language in Germany. Having German language skills, even at a low-intermediate level, will certainly increase the number of opportunities open to you.

For more information on learning German in Canada, visit: www.daad-canada.ca/german-in-canada

4. Depending on the exact nature of the internship, the intern may need a work visa for his/her time in Germany. For Canadian passport holders, one way of securing such a visa is through the Youth Mobility Agreement (YMA) that is in place between Canada and Germany. The YMA allows Canadian citizens between the ages of 18 and 35 to apply for a one-year work visa without having any concrete job (or internship) offer in place. When granted, the YMA work visa renders its holder immediately employable in Germany for up to one year.

For more information on the YMA program, please visit: www.kanada.diplo.de

Finding an Internship

There are a number of ways of finding internship opportunities in Germany. Students at Canadian universities should consider approaching their institution’s International or Study Abroad offices to see whether any internships might be available through them. Another option worth looking into are internship placements that are available-
le directly from German universities. One example of such a program is the Study and Internship Program offered by UAS7, an alliance of seven of Germany’s leading universities of applied sciences. Details are online at: www.uas7.org

There are several organizations that can assist Canadian students interested in pursuing internship opportunities in Germany. IAESTE Canada (www.iaestecanada.org/students) helps place students in Science, Engineering or the Applied Arts find paid internship positions directly related to their studies, while AIESEC Canada (www.aiesec.ca) offers Canadian students specializing in IT, Business Administration or Marketing the chance to complete internships in a German workplace.

Naturally students can organize an internship independently. A good place to identify internship positions currently on offer in Germany are the job postings of the German federal government’s Employment Office, the Arbeitsagentur.

These listings (in German only!) can be found online at: www.jobboerse.arbeitsagentur.de

Financing Your Internship
DAAD internship funding

DAAD North America offers several programs which can support internship activities. The DAAD Undergraduate Scholarship (www.daad-canada.ca/undergraduate-scholarship) can be used by Bachelor level students to facilitate participation in two types of internship: those lasting 3 months or less that take place as part of a semester of study abroad or internships of up to 10 months that are a mandatory and integral part of the student’s course of studies.

In addition, DAAD’s RISE Program offers internship opportunities to students in Natural Sciences or Engineering. At the undergraduate level, RISE Germany gives Bachelor students in these fields the chance to complete a summer research internship of 10 to 12 weeks in length in the lab of a German PhD student where the working language is English. Students selected receive a scholarship to cover their living expenses while in Germany and the host helps arrange housing. RISE Professional provides students at the Master’s or Doctoral level with the opportunity to complete three-month workplace internships in companies or non-university research institutions.

Full details on the RISE programs can be found online at: www.daad.de/prise/en/
DAAD’s mandate includes supporting the continued study of the German language around the world. As part of our efforts in this area, we offer two programs to students at Canadian universities who are learning the German language. While the requirements for our language course grants vary, DAAD is only able to support students who have already begun to learn German. We do not offer any grants to students at the beginner level.

**University Summer Course Grant**
This grant helps defray the costs of participating in a 3–4 week long summer courses at German universities. These courses include German language instruction and typically incorporate seminars on other aspects of contemporary and modern German cultural, political and economic life. In addition to this classroom work, participants can also participate in a full slate of extra-curricular activities. Applicants should be able to demonstrate German skills to at least the low-intermediate level (B1).

For more information on this grant, including a link to a summer course database, please visit: [www.daad-canada.ca/summer-course](http://www.daad-canada.ca/summer-course)

**Intensive Language Course Grant**
This program provides recipients with a grant to cover the costs of an eight-week intensive German language course at one of Germany’s leading language schools.

Students at the Master’s and PhD level along with Bachelor students in their last year and planning to pursue graduate level study are eligible to apply. This grant is intended to support students with a demonstrable academic need for German language skills. Applicants must be able to demonstrate German language skills at or between the levels of A1 and B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

For more details on this program, visit: [www.daad-canada.ca/intensive-language](http://www.daad-canada.ca/intensive-language)

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**German Language Courses**
Living in Germany
Costs Associated with Studying in Germany

Studying in Germany is less expensive than in many other countries. Most study programs offered at Germany’s public universities are tuition free, even to international students. Exceptions to this include many Master’s and International Degree Programs taught in English. While German universities typically levy so-called “semester fees”, these tend to be relatively modest averaging about EUR 250 per semester. These fees are used to help pay for student services such as subsidized dining halls, residences and other facilities, but often include a ticket for unlimited public transit in your region. At Germany’s private universities, one can also expect to pay tuition fees.

Working in Germany

It is common for students at German universities to hold down part-time jobs while also pursuing their studies. As in Canada, students can often be found working in the hospitality and retail sectors. Canadians in Germany on a valid study permit are able to work off campus for a maximum of 90 full days or 180 half days per year. While it is possible for students to work part-time during their studies, it is not reasonable to expect that one can work enough to cover all one’s living costs.

Visa Requirements

Canadian citizens are able to visit Germany for up to 90 days without requiring a visa. For study stays longer than this, a study permit will be necessary.

Cost of Living

Living expenses for students in Germany can be quite reasonable as well. While some of the major university centres are more expensive (e.g. Munich, Hamburg, Stuttgart), many others offer excellent living conditions at very reasonable cost. The average student requires approximately EUR 850/month to cover living expenses. Naturally this figure will vary depending on one’s chosen lifestyle and the location of the university, but the average student is able to live comfortably on this amount.

For information on all matters related to visas, study permits and working while studying in Germany, please contact the German Consulate in Toronto: www.toronto.diplo.de
German students typically live in a student residence, share an apartment with other students or rent a place of their own. In all cases, the responsibility for finding suitable housing falls to the individual student. However, universities have many resources to assist students in finding a place to live. Good points of contact for help are the universities’ International or Student Services (Studentenwerk) Offices.

Residence Halls
German universities often have a number of residences open to their students. These are typically managed by the Student Services Office (Studentenwerk) and offer furnished, bachelor-style suites at very reasonable prices. In some cases, students are able to purchase a meal plan and health insurance as part of their rental package.

For contact information for all the Student Service Offices in Germany, visit: www.studentenwerke.de/en

Shared Apartment (Wohngemeinschaft/WG)
Many German students live in shared housing arrangements which see multiple students rent an apartment with each resident having their own room and sharing the other facilities (kitchen, living room, bathroom).

For information on available spaces in shared apartments, visit: www.wg-gesucht.de/en

Private Rentals
Naturally it is possible to live on one’s own, however, this is most certainly the most expensive option. Rents vary widely depending on the location, however, one can easily spend upwards of EUR 400/month for a one-bedroom apartment in most university towns or cities.

Health Insurance
In order to enroll at German universities international students need to provide proof of valid health insurance. In many cases, international students can join a reasonably-priced group coverage plan offered on their German campus. The International Office at the German university will be able to advise you about the requirements and opportunities open to you on their campus. If you need to arrange your own insurance, you can expect to pay a standard monthly premium of approximately EUR 80/month for students under the age of 30. Those above this threshold typically pay at least EUR 160/month.
Contact

DAAD Information Centre Toronto
c/o Munk School of Global Affairs
1 Devonshire Place, N207
Toronto ON M5S 3K7

Phone:
+1 416 946 8116

Email:
daadca@daad.org

Website:
www.daad-canada.ca