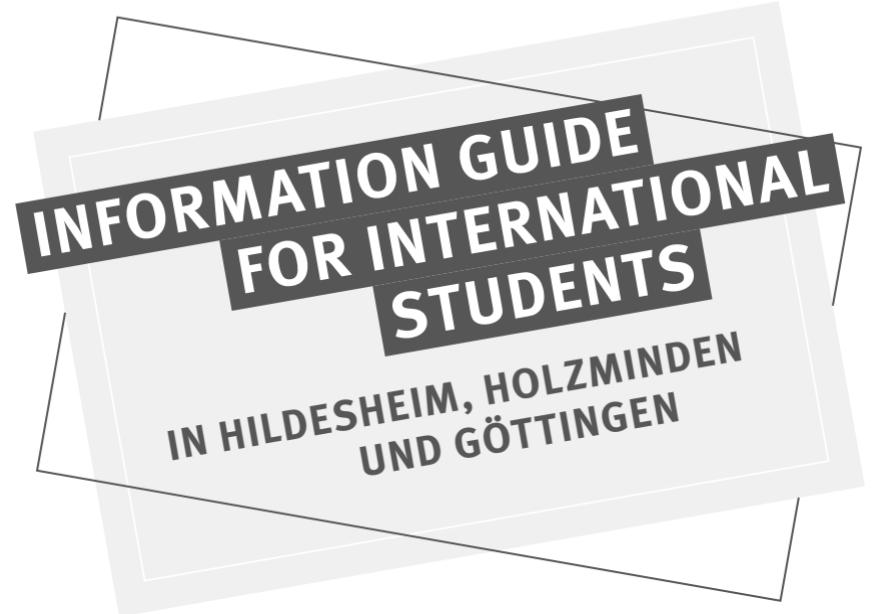




HAWK

INFORMATION GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

**IN HILDESHEIM, HOLZMINDEN
UND GÖTTINGEN**



**INFORMATION GUIDE
FOR INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS**

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UND GÖTTINGEN**



Imprint

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GERMANY AND LOWER SAXONY

Welcome to Germany! You are cordially invited to join our 83 million inhabitants, sandy beaches in the north and the Alps in the south – with lots of forests, rivers, fields and cities in between. The Federal Republic of Germany is a parliamentary democracy with Berlin as its capital. There are 16 federal states in Germany, which can pass laws independently in some areas.

HAWK, with its three campuses in Hildesheim, Holzminden and Göttingen, is located in the northern state of Lower Saxony. The state capital is Hannover, very close to Hildesheim. Other well-known cities in Lower Saxony are Wolfsburg and Braunschweig. Since Lower Saxony is very large, the nature here is very varied. In the north, there is the flat land and the sea with the cozy Frisian

Islands and further south the moors or the Harz Mountains, where you can go hiking. If you want to visit historical and cultural places, Lower Saxony is also the right place for you. Please come closer!

HAWK location Hildesheim

Hildesheim has a rich history, cultural attractions, economic diversity and a beautiful landscape. About 102,000 people live here, about 10 % of them students. The city was founded as early as 815 and is characterised by historic buildings such as the cathedral and St. Michael's Church. There are also other churches such as St. Andrew's Church with the highest church tower in Lower Saxony. Many of these buildings

were destroyed during World War II – some of them have been rebuilt, others restored. Cultural offerings in Hildesheim include museums and venues such as the Kulturfabrik Löseke. In the city centre, there is a variety of cafes and restaurants as well as shopping stores. The city scenically lies on the River Innerste in a valley. Nearby, the Vorharz and the Leinebergland offer great nature experiences. Hildesheim is home to companies such as Bosch/Blaupunkt and the KSM Castings Group. Small and medium-sized businesses create jobs in a variety of economic sectors such as wood, printing products and state-of-the-art measuring equipment.

HAWK location Holzminden

Holzminden is first mentioned in the first half of the 9th century and today has about 20,000 inhabitants. The city lies on the River Weser and the Solling Nature Park. It is a great starting point for outdoor sporting activities – e.g. hiking in the surrounding hilly landscape or cycling on the Weser cycle path. Excursion destinations nearby are the city of Hameln or Corvey Castle. A special feature of the town is the city tour on the subject of scents and the "Sensoria" house of scents and flavours. Holzminden is regarded as an international centre of the fragrance and flavouring industry. The company Symrise is a world market leader in this and the largest company in the region. Holzminden offers students short distances and a familiar atmosphere at the university.

HAWK location Göttingen

The over 1000-year-old student city Göttingen with a population of 120,000 is a large city characterized by internationality on the one hand and a cozy atmosphere on the other. Göttingen offers a wide range of leisure activities with theaters, cinemas, museums, cafés and galleries. Furthermore, the nightlife and city's pub scene are particularly interesting for students. Restaurants, pubs and clubs make the choice difficult and those who lack fresh air after a long night the next morning: Numerous large forest and green spaces in the city and the surrounding area invite you to go jogging, cycling or for a walk. Göttingen's city center offers impressive half-timbered houses from the Middle Ages as well as several impressive churches. With companies such as Sartorius and Ottobock, Göttingen and the surrounding area are also home to important (future) employers.



STUDYING AT HAWK

The HAWK University of Applied Sciences and Arts Hildesheim/Holzminden/Göttingen consists of seven faculties spread over three locations.

In Hildesheim, students can study at the three faculties Building and Conservation, Design and Social Work and Health. In Holzminden, the two faculties of Management, Construction, Real Estate and Social Work offers a wide range of courses, and in Göttingen, students can study at the two faculties of Engineering and Health as well as Resource Management. The health campus is also located there.

HAWK is a state university in Lower Saxony with more than 6,000 students, most of whom are enrolled at the Hildesheim site.

The university is regionally anchored and has excellent national and international networks. You can find an overview of the range of courses offered at www.hawk.de/en/studies/courses-of-study.

Why study at HAWK?

HAWK offers comprehensive support and assistance for international students, starting with the application process and ending with the successful completion of their studies. The various programmes and measures help to ensure that international students feel welcome and well looked after at HAWK and are optimally prepared for their further careers.

Support by the International Office

The International Office warmly welcomes you and we look forward to supporting you in your studies. Our services include:

- Counselling during the application process
- Introductory weeks for exchange students and for degree seeking students: Information about living and studying in Germany and at HAWK, contacts to other students and to all important contact persons
- Intensive support with formalities and all questions concerning arriving in Germany

- Excursion programme to get to know other students, the study location and the surrounding area
- Say-HI Buddy Programme for degree-seeking and exchange students: HAWK-student mentors help with initial orientation and answer questions

International Office: Contact, staff and office hours

HAWK
International Office
Goschentor 1 (HIA_201) | 31134 Hildesheim | Germany
E-Mail: international@hawk.de

The current office hours at all three locations as well as the addresses of the advisors can be found on our website:
www.hawk.de/en/international-office-contact

You can also find us online here:

- www.hawk.de/en/international
- www.hawk.de/en/international-office
- Instagram: [hawk.internationals](https://www.instagram.com/hawk.internationals)

Support programmes for international students

Studying and looking for a job in a different culture and language can sometimes be more difficult than expected. For this reason, HAWK offers some supportive programmes for international students and refugees.

HAWK open

The HAWK open project helps refugee students with questions about starting or continuing their studies, credit transfer, financing and integration into the university.

■ www.hawk.de/en/hawk-open

Studienstart plus

More time and support during the first two semesters as well as additional courses especially designed to meet the needs of international students.

■ www.hawk.de/en/studienstart-plus

HeadStart

Workshops, training and individual counseling support international students in successfully starting and building their careers.

■ www.hawk.de/headstart (in German)

Language

Most courses at HAWK are held in German. Therefore, a recognised German language certificate is very important for degree-seeking students. There are also a few courses in English at the individual faculties. In addition, HAWK plus (see “HAWK

plus”) offers an interdisciplinary range of courses, some of which are held in English.

The HAWK Language Center also offers a variety of German language courses for international students in order to prepare them for their studies and to accompany them during their studies, as well as individual coaching and writing advice. A variety of courses during the semester help students to learn, for example, how to take good notes in lectures, which German technical terms are important in their studies, or what a good presentation looks like. For exchange students intensive German language courses before and during the semester are offered. The current course offer can be found at: www.hawk.de/en/language-center

For exchange students the following study programmes offer courses in English: BA Architecture, BA Design, MA Design, MSc Real Estate Management, BA Social Work and BA Childhood Education. More are to come. You can get detailed information from the International Office.

Semester fee and semester ticket

In general, there are no tuition fees in Germany. However, for one semester at HAWK you have to pay semester fees of 300–400 euros, depending on the study location. This includes the semester ticket for free use of regional trains and buses throughout Germany. You will find out the exact amount of the semester fee after your



application and a few months before the start of each new semester. Exchange students pay a slightly lower semester fee, since they do not have to pay the administration fee.

Student ID card

After enrolling at HAWK, you will receive your student ID card. It has many functions: it identifies you as a HAWK student, it is valid as semester ticket, as library card and can be used to pay in the cafeterias and at the printers at HAWK.

To use the student ID card to pay in the Mensa or for printing/copying, you have to top it up with money at a terminal. Please note that there are two separate credit balances: one for the Mensa and one for printing/copying. Both credit balances must be topped up individually if you want to use the card for these functions. You can find terminals for topping up your credit for the Mensa in the entrance area of the

Mensa. The recharge of the print account is done by bank transfer. Information on this can be found on the IT Service web pages (see “IT Service”).

The student ID card must be extended at the end of each semester, otherwise neither the student ID card nor the semester ticket will be valid in the new semester. The extension is also possible at a terminal. You can find terminals for the extension of the student ID at the following locations:

- Hildesheim:
 - Goschentor 1 (main entrance)
- Holzminden:
 - Billerbeck 2 (entrance by the parking lot)
- Göttingen:
 - Faculty of Engineering and Health: Von-Ossietzky-Str. 99, Haus A (main entrance)
 - Faculty of Resource Management: Büsgenweg 1A (entrance at the base floor)
 - Göttingen Health Campus: Annastr. 25 (main entrance)



Study structure, ECTS and exams

Studies in the Bachelor and Master programmes at HAWK are divided into modules for which credits (ECTS) are awarded. These modules can consist of different courses. Usually, there is an exam for each module. Exchange students can choose their courses quite freely and record them in a so-called Learning Agreement.

There are different exam types, which can vary depending on the course: Written exams, presentations, term papers or oral exams. If students have any questions, they should contact the dean of studies of their programme.

At HAWK, credits are awarded according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). This serves to simplify the international recognition of academic achievements.

In Germany, the following grading system applies:

- 1 = very good
- 2 = good
- 3 = satisfactory
- 4 = sufficient
- 5 = poor

An exam is passed if it has been graded at least 4.0. It is quite common for grades to be awarded with intermediate grades (e.g. 1.3 or 3.7).

Online platforms for HAWK students

HISInOne (<https://hisinone.hawk.de>)

HISInOne is the platform you use for the application at HAWK. After admission, you can also generate and download your study confirmation or change your contact details there.

Stud.IP (<https://studip.hawk.de>)

Stud.IP is the teaching and learning management system for all courses at HAWK. Students can search for their courses and

register for them. In Stud.IP all necessary information and documents for the courses are provided. After course registration, an individual timetable is automatically created. In addition, Stud.IP offers tools for communication and networking among members of the university, as well as a notice board. Student jobs or internships, for example, are offered there.

Moodle (<https://moodle.hawk.de>)

Moodle is a learning environment used to conduct e-learning, blended learning events and e-exams. Teachers can offer events with different activities in this virtual space and thus complement the course that takes place in presence. Not all faculties at HAWK use Moodle.

Student e-mail address

After enrollment, a student e-mail address will be generated for you. Outlook is used as Email service at HAWK. You can reach it at <https://mail.hawk.de>. You can log in with your personal login data, which you receive with your student ID card. It is very important that you read your Emails on this address regularly, because the university and many lecturers will use this address to communicate with you. Therefore, you may miss very important information if you do not read the emails regularly. Please also use this address when communicating with other members of the university so that you are directly recognisable as HAWK student.

Introductory events for first-year students

Each faculty offers introductory events for first-year students. During the faculties' introductory weeks, you will get to know the campus, make contacts with fellow students, and plan the first few weeks of your degree program together. Information on dates can be found here: www.hawk.de/informationen-fuer-erstis

In addition, the International Office offers an online introductory event for international students at the beginning of each semester. All students are automatically invited to this event by email.

We recommend that all new students attend these events.

Information on further support courses for starting your studies can be found at the following link:
www.hawk.de/studieneinstieg



CAMPUS LIFE AND FURTHER OFFERS AT HAWK

Libraries

The academic libraries of HAWK provide students and teachers with specialised literature, offer access to various databases and partly to computer workstations. There are four sub-libraries at the various locations. In order to borrow literature from the HAWK libraries, you must register at the library. The student ID serves as a user card. The addresses and opening hours of the libraries as well as the online catalogue can be found at: www.hawk.de/bibliothek (in German). Please contact the respective libraries about loan periods and other regulations, as these may vary from library to library.

In Hildesheim and Göttingen, you can also use the libraries of the universities after registration, some of which offer a very large selection of literature as well as individual and group study rooms.

- Hildesheim:
www.uni-hildesheim.de/bibliothek
(in German)
- Göttingen:
www.sub.uni-goettingen.de/en

IT-Service

There is an IT-Service at all HAWK locations. It offers computer centres with PC pools that students can use. Upon enrolment, all HAWK students receive a user name and password for using the computers at the PC pools. The student ID card also allows students to use printers, scanners, copiers and plotters at HAWK. Students also have access to the IT-Service's extensive software kiosk. The IT-Service also provides assistance with individual problems such as accessing the campus WLAN.

For more information, visit:
www.hawk.de/it-service (in German)

HAWK plus

HAWK plus offers a wide range of interdisciplinary courses, e.g. on computer skills, business management, law or presentation techniques. Here, key competences and additional qualifications are to be acquired. Some of the courses are taught in English. The offer also includes language courses and intercultural trainings. The HAWK plus offer is open to students of all faculties and is suitable for both degree-seeking and exchange students.

For more information, visit:
www.hawk.de/en/plus

After logging in, you can also find the HAWK plus courses in StudIP under the tab "Courses – HAWK plus".

Student Advisory Service

The Student Advisory Service supports you with a confidential and faculty-independent offer on all aspects of studying successfully. There are advisors at all HAWK locations. You can contact them with questions, doubts and worries of all kind – whether it is about your studies or your private life. In one or more appointments with the advisors, solutions are developed or you will receive information about other contact points for your needs. The Student Advisory Service also offers regular group appointments and workshops, e.g. on topics such as exam anxiety.

Student Representations – AStA and Student Councils

The AStA (Allgemeiner Studierenden-Ausschuss) is the administrative body of the student body and represents student interests inside and outside of the university. The AStA is divided into different departments, e.g. the social department or the financial department. The AStA is responsible for the semester ticket and issues the international student card (www.isic.de/en). In addition, the AStA offers advice on financial and legal issues.

The Student Councils consist of students from one faculty and represent the students' interests at that faculty. At the beginning of the semester, the Student Councils at many faculties help new students find their way around the university. The

Student Councils also organise social events during the semester and can be contacted confidentially if problems arise.

You can find information on the AStA and the Student Councils at www.studhawk.de (in German)

Studying with a disability or chronic illness

At each HAWK faculty there are representatives for students with disabilities and chronic illnesses whom you can contact at any time. In addition, you can receive advice on compensation for disadvantages and local accessibility. As a general point of contact, the current senate representative for the concerns of students with disabilities can also be contacted.

The faculties in Göttingen are new buildings and have achieved a high standard of accessibility for students with walking disabilities and wheelchair users. At the Holzminden and Hildesheim campuses, access has been improved by the installation of elevators and a lifting platform. At each faculty, there are representatives for students with impairments who advise on accessibility on site or on compensation for disadvantages in examinations.

You can find the respective contact person and further information at www.hawk.de/beeintraechtigung (in German)

Equal Opportunities and Family Service

HAWK has an Equal Opportunities Office that works to promote gender equality at the university. There is a full-time Equal Opportunities Officer and several part-time Equal Opportunities Officers at each faculty.

The Equal Opportunities Office at HAWK offers a Family Service. This advises on the compatibility of studies and family responsibilities and offers support services for students with children or other care responsibilities. Mobile childcare, kids boxes and family rooms, among other services, are available at all campuses.

For more information, visit www.hawk.de/gleichstellung (in German) and www.hawk.de/familie (in German)

Anti-discrimination committee

At HAWK there is a contact point for anti-discrimination. If you experience discrimination at the university because of your origin, your religion, your sexual orientation or because of other characteristics, you can get confidential support here.

The contact persons can be found at www.hawk.de/agg-gremium (in German)



Mensas and cafeterias

The student services run Mensas and Cafeterias at all three campuses, where HAWK students can eat at reasonable prices. You can pay there with your student ID card if you have topped it up with money beforehand. This works at terminals in the Mensas. In the Mensa, you can usually choose from several dishes including at least one vegetarian. In the Cafeterias, you can get snacks and hot and cold drinks.

Hildesheim

- HAWK Mensa und Cafeteria:
Hohnsen 1
Uni Mensa und Cafeteria:
Universitätsplatz 1
www.stw-on.de/en/hildesheim/dining
- Café Brühlchen:
Faculty of Social Work, Brühl 20
- Cafete at the Faculty of Design:
Renatastr. 11, Haus B
- Café of the Faculty of Building and Conservation:
Hohnsen 2

Holzminden

- HAWK Mensa:
Haarmannplatz 3
www.stw-on.de/en/holzminden/dining

Göttingen

- Cafeteria HAWK:
Faculty of Resource Management,
Büsgenweg 1a
- Bistro HAWK:
Faculty of Engineering and Health,
Von-Ossietzky-Str. 99
- Mensas and Cafeterias of the Studierendenwerk Göttingen:
the closest Mensa for the Faculty of Resource Management is the Nordmensa (Grisebachstr. 10) and for the Health Campus Göttingen the Zentralmensa (Platz der Göttinger Sieben 4) and the Turmmensa (Goßlerstr. 12 b)
www.studierendenwerk-goettingen.de/en/campus catering



ENTRY AND RESIDENCE IN GERMANY

Useful information on topics such as visas, residence permits, and working can be found online e.g. on the website of the German Foreign Office (www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/visa-service) or the Federal Ministry for Migration and Refugees (www.bamf.de/EN).

Also recommended are the website “Make it in Germany” (www.make-it-in-germany.com) and the information pages for international students of the German Student Union (www.internationale-studierende.de/en).

Visas

Those who come from abroad and want to study in Germany usually first need a study visa to enter the country. This visa must be converted into a residence permit for study purposes if the visa is not valid for the entire duration of the planned stay. The conversion is possible at the local Immigration Office. There you will also find out which documents you need for obtaining a residence permit. A residence permit is initially valid for a maximum of two years and can be extended. With a residence permit for Germany, you can travel in the Schengen area without a visa.

Certain requirements must be met when applying for a visa, such as proof of financing. This shows that you can finance your living expenses in Germany. Proof of financing can be provided, for example, by a blocked account, proof of income or scholarship, a bank guarantee, or a letter of commitment. You can find out what other requirements must be met for the visa and residence permit at the German embassy in your home country. Students from the Schengen area do not need a visa. The International Office will be happy to assist you with questions regarding visas or residence permits.

Passport/Personal ID Card

In order to enter Germany, a passport is required. For EU citizens, a personal ID card is sufficient.

Official registration

Within two weeks after your arrival in Germany you have to register at the Registration office of the city you live in. For the registration you need your passport or personal ID card and a so-called “Wohnungsgeberbestätigung”. A template can be found on the websites of the Registration offices. The renting party fills in this form.

If you move, you must register again with the new address at the Registration Office. Please also change your address in HisIn-One.

When you have finished your studies and leave Hildesheim, Göttingen or Holzminden, you have to deregister again.





STUDENT HOUSING

Students can live in student dormitories, private shared apartments (WG) or in their own apartment.

Dormitories

There are several student dormitories in Hildesheim and Göttingen. These are operated by the student services. In a dormitory, you live in an apartment together with other students and share the bathroom and kitchen. Sometimes there are also small single apartments where you have the kitchen and bathroom to yourself. The rooms in the dormitory are usually equipped with furniture. There are also private dormitories, which are operated by other institutions. Living in a dormitory is often

the cheapest way of housing. However, demand is very high, so there are long waiting lists for a room. It is therefore important to apply for a room early.

Private shared apartment

In a private shared apartment (WG), you rent an apartment together with others. You rent it directly from a landlord/landlady or a company. You also share bathroom and kitchen, sometimes there is also a living room. In private shared flats, it is often desired that people get along well and spend time together. Rooms in shared flats are often only partly or not furnished at all.

Student dormitories in Hildesheim, Holzminden and Göttingen

Hildesheim

- Dormitories operated by Studierendenwerk OstNiedersachsen:
Blauer Kamp and Hansering
www.stw-on.de/en/hildesheim/housing
- Catholic dormitory Braunsberger Straße: www.khg-esg-hildesheim.de/wohnheim
- Private dormitory Ortelsburger Straße: www.wohnheim-hildesheim.de
- Private dormitory Annenstraße: www.studentenwohnheim-hildesheim.de
- Private dormitory „Auf der Höhe“:
www.gbg-hildesheim.de/mieten-kaufen-wohnen/fuer-studenten
- Private dormitory Bude Zwölf – Campus living: www.budezwolf.de
- Private dormitory Apart Me: www.apartme.de/en/apartme-hildesheim-en

Holzminden

- There are no student dormitories in Holzminden.
Students in Holzminden live in shared apartments, the best way to find a shared room is via www.wg-gesucht.de and www.kleinanzeigen.de.

Göttingen

- Dormitories operated by Studierendenwerk Göttingen:
www.studierendenwerk-goettingen.de/en/studentenwerk-goettingen-student-accommodation
- Catholic dormitory Edith Stein House/Alfred Delp House:
www.khg-goettingen.de/khg-wohnheim
- Private dormitory Mahatma Gandhi House of the African-Asian Studies Foundation:
www.aasf.de/mahatma-gandhi-haus
- Private dormitory Forum:
www.studentenwohnheim-forum.de
- Private dormitory Martin Luther Student Dormitory of the Martin Luther Parish:
www.martin-luther-wohnheim.de/index.php/en
- Private dormitory Basecamp:
www.basecampstudent.com/student/gottingen

Your own apartment

Of course, you can also live alone in your own apartment. Please note that apartments in Germany are usually rented out without furniture.

Attention for private apartments and shared apartments: Never sign a rental contract before you have seen the room or apartment!

The rental contract specifies exactly how much rent must be paid and what is included in the costs. In Germany, we often speak of “Kaltmiete” (cold rent) – the amount that has to be paid for rent only – and “Warmmiete” (warm rent). Warmmiete includes other costs, such as for water and heating. However, it depends on the apartment which costs are included exactly. Other costs, such as electricity and Internet, often have to be paid separately. In these cases, the tenant must also independently conclude contracts for services such as Internet or electricity with the appropriate provider.

The lease also states whether the rental period is fixed and what security deposit is required. The deposit is a larger sum (often several months' rent), which is given to the landlord/landlady at the beginning. The landlord/landlady keeps it until the tenant moves out and only returns it in full if the apartment or room is in the previously agreed condition when it is returned. If there is any damage, part of the deposit will be used to pay for repairs and the money will not be returned completely.

Important information on how to treat a rented apartment and what rules apply in a rented house can also be found in the house rules of the house. Ask your landlord/landlady about them.



Accommodation service

For exchange students coming to HAWK, the International Office offers an accommodation service. This means that you will be offered a room in a dormitory or a private shared apartment. If this first offer is not accepted, you will have to look for accommodation yourself. The International Office is also happy to assist all other international students and guests as much as possible in finding a room.

Broadcasting fee

Public television and radio in Germany are financed through the so-called broadcasting fee by the citizens. A certain monthly amount must therefore be paid per apartment, regardless of how many people live there and regardless of whether the service is used or not. As of September 2025, the contribution is € 18.36 per month. It has to be paid every three months for three months each. If several people live in one apartment, they can share the amount. Students who receive BAföG can be exempted from the obligation to pay.

For more information, visit:
www.rundfunkbeitrag.de (in German)





MONEY AND FINANCING

Cost of living

As a student in Germany, you can expect monthly costs of up to € 1,000. Depending on your lifestyle, this amount can of course be higher. Especially in the first months of studies, students have to pay additional costs: the first semester fee, a deposit for the apartment or room, costs for books and other purchases. You should keep this in mind.

Working in Germany as a student

In general, students may not work more than 20 hours per week during the lecture period. Students from the European Union are treated the same as German students

and can work part-time alongside their studies without a work permit.

Students from non-EU countries and Croatia are allowed to work up to 140 full days or 280 half days per year. A full day is equal to eight hours, a half day anything up to four hours. Those who want to work more need a work permit from the Immigration Office.

Attention: It is forbidden to work more than 140 full days without a work permit! One must monitor for themselves whether the 140 days have already been used up.

Student part-time jobs

Students are additionally allowed to work part-time at universities and other scientific institutions without a time limit. This also applies to activities which do not take place at universities, but which are related to the subject area of the studies and serve the purpose of the education; e.g.: supplementary subject-related internships recommended by the university as well as university-related activities in organisations close to the university.

BAföG

In Germany, there is government support for students under the Federal Training Assistance Act (BAföG). Depending on the type of residence permit, some international students in Germany may also receive BAföG. Information on this can be obtained from the Student Services.

- Hildesheim und Holzminden:
Studierendenwerk OstNiedersachsen:
www.stw-on.de/hildesheim/bafög
(in German)
- Göttingen:
Studierendenwerk Göttingen:
www.studierendenwerk-goettingen.de/en/studienfinanzierung

Scholarships

In addition to a part-time job, a scholarship can be a financial aid during studies. Some foundations in Germany offer scholarships to various target groups. Find out more at the International Office or on the DAAD website www2.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/datenbank/en/21148-scholarship-database or at www.mystipendium.de (in German). HAWK also awards the Deutschlandstipendium: www.hawk.de/deutschlandstipendium (in German). The International Office will be happy to assist you with an application for a scholarship. HAWK also awards scholars-



hips directly, such as the Germany Scholarship www.hawk.de/deutschlandstipendium or the STIBET Scholarship www.hawk.de/internationale-studierende. The International Office will be happy to assist you with your scholarship application.

Bank account in Germany

It is recommended to open a German bank account. Some important payments can only be made with a German bank account. There are several large banks with their own branches as well as smaller online banks without their own branches to choose from. The International Office will be happy to advise you on the choice of bank and assist you in opening the account. Many student accounts come with an EC card and a credit card for free. If you use the EC card, the money will be deducted directly from your account; if you use a credit card, the money will be collected later.

In Germany, you can usually pay by card, although EC cards are more common than credit cards. Nevertheless, it is important to always have some cash with you, as card payment is not always possible. Cash can be withdrawn from ATMs. ATMs that do not belong to the bank of your own account often charge fees for the withdrawal. The currency in Germany is the Euro.

Financial emergencies

Please do not hesitate to ask for help in a financial emergency. Anyone can find himself or herself in such a situation! We are happy to help. As an international student, you can find quick support here:

Hildesheim und Holzminden

- Social Counseling of the Studierendenwerk OstNiedersachsen:
www.stw-on.de/en/hildesheim/counselling/social-counselling
(in German)
- Emergency fund for international students Hildesheim:
www.khg-esg-hildesheim.de/beratung-und-seelsorge
(in German)

Göttingen

- Social Services of the Studierendenwerk Göttingen:
www.studierendenwerk-goettingen.de/en/social-and-psychosocial-counselling/studentenwerk-goettingen-social-service
- Emergency fund of the Catholic University Community Göttingen for international students:
www.khg-goettingen.de/rat-tat
(in German)



Health insurance, doctor's visit and medication

Anyone living in Germany must have health insurance. There are public and private health insurances in Germany. Although private health insurance may be cheaper, it is not recommended because it does not cover all circumstances and often becomes much more expensive as you get older. Public health insurance is the better option in most cases, for students under 30 years it is even compulsory.

Students must provide proof of suitable health insurance in order to be enrolled. Students from the EU are insured in Germany with their EHIC (European Health Insurance Card). Students from Turkey can

be exempted from compulsory insurance by filling out a form. All other students must insure themselves independently in Germany. Student health insurance with public health insurance companies usually costs €140–150 per month. Basically all public health insurances offer the same benefits, but there are small differences in special benefits. The International Office will be happy to assist you in choosing a health insurance company.

With public health insurance, all important health services in Germany are free of charge. You can therefore simply go to the doctor with your health insurance card and receive treatment. For some services, you have to pay a co-payment. You should discuss the co-payment with the doctor

before treatment so that you know what to expect.

It makes sense to find a family doctor after arriving in Germany. These general practitioners will examine you first and refer you to a specialist if necessary.

A lot of medication in Germany needs to be prescribed by a doctor. You can get such medication only in the pharmacy, where it costs 5–10 € fee each. Medication that does not need to be prescribed, you can simply buy yourself in the pharmacy or drug-store.

Psychological problems

There are phases in life that can be mentally challenging – including studying. As a student at HAWK, you can make use of the psychological counselling services of the Student Service free of charge and confidentially.

Hildesheim

Psychotherapeutic counselling of the Studierendenwerk OstNiedersachsen in Hildesheim:
www.stw-on.de/en/hildesheim/counselling/psychotherapeutic-counselling

Holzminden

Psychotherapeutic counselling of the Studierendenwerk OstNiedersachsen in Holzminden:
www.stw-on.de/en/holzminden/beratung

Göttingen

Psychosocial counselling of the Studierendenwerk Göttingen:
www.studierendenwerk-goettingen.de/en/social-and-psychosocial-counselling/psb

Medical emergencies

In medical emergencies, you can call the ambulance at any time. To do so, call the telephone number 112. In cases that are less urgent but cannot wait until the family doctor opens (e.g. at the weekend), you can call the medical emergency service: 116 117.



Leisure activities

There is a variety of leisure opportunities at all HAWK locations. Students can often buy discounted tickets with their student ID. In Göttingen students can even get free tickets for some cultural events, such as theatre productions or the “Göttinger Literaturherbst” by presenting their student ID. In addition to cinemas, theaters, museums and student parties, there are some special offers for international students.

International evenings

At least twice a semester, the International Office organises international evenings. This is where you come in! The organisation of the evenings is up to the students, who get the opportunity to present their home country. They can cook something typical for their country, play music, give a presentation, etc. If you are interested, please contact the International Office.

Café International

Café International is a free leisure activity organized by students for students. People from all countries can get to know each other, exchange ideas, and network in a relaxed atmosphere during game nights, mini golf, or even while eating ice cream. This activity is usually available at all HAWK

locations. Everyone is welcome to drop by! Dates and further information can be found at: www.hawk.de/cafe-international

STUBE

STUBE is the study support programme for international students at universities in Lower Saxony. STUBE offers very interesting and inexpensive weekend seminars and workshops and primarily aims at bachelor students from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. The main concern of STUBE is to sensitize and motivate students for social and development policy commitment during their studies and afterwards. Accompanying study programmes are designed to create the conditions for a successful return to the home country. For more information, visit: www.stube-info.de/en.

Sports

In Hildesheim and Göttingen, HAWK students can participate in University sports programme. University sports offers many different sports at reasonable prices for students.

- Hildesheim:
www.uni-hildesheim.de/fb1/institute/institut-fuer-sportwissenschaft/hochschulsport (in German)
- Göttingen:
www.my.sport.uni-goettingen.de (in German)

Unfortunately, there is no university sports programme in Holzminden.

Many sports clubs in Germany offer different types of sports. The fees are often not very high and there are discounts for students.

Travelling in Germany

The semester ticket allows you to take regional trains and buses throughout Germany free of charge.

However, please note, that you are not allowed to travel on ICE or IC trains with this ticket!

If you have any questions about setting up and using the semester ticket, please contact the AStA at HAWK:
<https://studhawk.de>

Attention: The city buses often only run until a certain time in the evening. Check the timetable in advance if you are travelling late in the evening or at night.

The train is a popular means of transport in Germany and trains can reach many places. You can find information on timetables and connections at <https://int.bahn.de/en>. You can also buy tickets there. Deutsche Bahn, the most important transport company in Germany, also has an app that is available in every app store.

The Flix company also operates intercity buses and trains between larger cities in Germany, often offering cheap tickets. Connections for FlixBus can be found on <https://global.flixbus.com>, connections for FlixTrain on www.flixtain.com.

It is also common in Germany to use so-called carpooling. This means that you ride in the car with a person who is planning to go to the place where you want to travel. For carpooling in the respective cities, there are often messenger groups (e.g. WhatsApp and Telegram) where rides are offered and searched for. You can also search for and offer rides on www.blablacar.de (in German). Carpooling is more suitable for spontaneous trips, because you cannot always plan them well in advance.





FURTHER INFORMATION

Useful insurances

In addition to health insurance, which is compulsory in Germany, some insurances can also be very useful.

Private liability insurance

If you cause a damage in Germany – e.g. injure a person in an accident or accidentally break an object that belongs to someone else – you have to pay for this damage. Especially in the case of accidents in which people are injured, the amount to be paid can be very high. A private liability insurance insures such damages, so that you do not have to pay yourself in case of damage. The cost of a private liability insurance policy varies depending on how much the insurance covers. The cheapest insurances

cost about 25 € per year. The International Office will be happy to assist you in choosing a suitable insurance policy.

Household insurance

A household insurance covers damages to your property at home – for example, if items are damaged or destroyed in a water damage or fire. A household insurance policy is also available from around € 25 a year. The exact cost depends on how much you want to insure.

Affordable shopping opportunities at the HAWK locations

When you are new to a place, there are often many things to buy: Furniture, dishes, maybe a bicycle. At the HAWK locations, there are stores where you can buy such things cheaply second hand.

- Hildesheim:
Labora Möbelshop
Osterstraße 30, 31134 Hildesheim
- Holzminden:
FAIRKAUF
Obere Str. 27, 37603 Holzminden
- Göttingen:
Möbelino
Gröner Landstraße 50, 37081 Göttingen
Brockensammlung
Levinstraße 1, 37079 Göttingen
- Furniture is also often available cheaply or even as a gift via the “Kleinanzeigen”app.

Tap water in Germany

The tap water in Germany is of very high quality everywhere and can be drunk without any concerns. Unlike in other countries, you do not usually get tap water for free in restaurants in Germany.

Opening hours in Germany

Large supermarkets in German cities are usually open from about 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. or 8 p.m. Smaller stores open later (around 9–10 a.m.), close earlier (around 3–6 p.m.) and sometimes have a lunch break (around 12–3 p.m.). On Sundays and public holidays, all stores are closed, including supermarkets!

Waste separation

In Germany, anyone who throws away waste must put it in the appropriate garbage can. There is the yellow bag for plastic or metal packaging, the residual waste for textiles or hygiene products, the waste paper for paper, and finally the bio waste container for organic waste, i.e. food leftovers.

The “Zweckverband Abfallwirtschaft” provides a detailed overview of what belongs where at www.zah-hildesheim.de/waste_guide.

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