

Information sheet on applying for a national visa for stays of 91 days or more for

Searching for a university program/ Applying to a university

You will need the following documents to apply for a visa:

1. Application form (original)

Fully completed and personally signed application form for long term stays. The application form for a minor must be signed by the parents/legal guardians. Please complete the application form electronically via Videx.

2. Information leaflet/instruction form (original)

Information leaflet signed by hand. The instruction form for a minor must be signed by the parents/legal guardians.

3. 2 passport photos

2 current biometric passport photos with a white background, not older than 6 months. See also FAQ on short-term stays, question 19, on the Embassy's website.

4. Passport (original)

Passport (signed by hand if the applicant is 12 years old or older), valid for at least 3 months beyond the validity of the visa, with at least 2 blank pages and no damage.

5. a) Proof of contact with universities in Germany e.g., email conversations

b) Proof that an application to a university has already been handed in

c) Invitation to an entrance exam

6. Proof of language skills

- Information on the language skills required for the specific study program (e.g. screen shot of the university information website)

AND

- language certificate, e.g. DSH, DSD, certificate by ALTE (Association of Language Testers of Europe)-certified test centre proving necessary German skills to attend the planned language course or IELTS, TOEFL

AND, if applicable,

- registration confirmation for a preparatory German language course in Germany, including proof that course fees have been paid

7. Proof of funding

- Blocked account with a monthly blocked amount of at least 1091 EUR for the entire duration of the stay or for 12 months for stays of more than one year.

OR

- Formal affidavit of support

OR

- German scholarship

8. Proof of education so far (original, with translation into English or German)

(High) School graduation diploma, school-leaving certificate and/or university degree; including, if necessary, proof that your diploma entitles you to study at a university in Germany or at a university in the country in which you graduated.

9. CV in English or German

10. Cover letter detailing your motivation to study in Germany and your study plan, in English or German

11. Health insurance (original)

Proof of travel health insurance for the entire Schengen area and for the duration of stay applied for or for 12 months in the case of stays of more than one year or until enrolment at the university if the applicant will be insured by statutory health insurance. The amount of cover for medical expenses, hospital treatment and repatriation costs in the event of illness or death must be at least €30,000 and must be clearly stated on the insurance certificate.

Please note that some insurance providers for travel health insurance exclude cover if a long-term stay is intended. Such insurance cannot be accepted.

Students over the age of 30 years are usually not covered by statutory health insurance and must provide proof of adequate insurance for the whole duration of the stay.

If the applicant is under the age of 18, the following documents must also be included:

12. Birth certificate (original)

with legalization or apostille*) and German translation

13. a) Marriage certificate of the parents with legalization/apostille*), original with a German translation

OR (if parents are no longer married)

b) **Proof of divorce** of the parents (divorce certificate, court judgment or divorce agreement) with legalization/apostille*), original with, if available, a copy of the old marriage certificate or alternatively a copy of the family's Hukou extract, each with a German translation

14. Consent form for temporary transfer of guardianship (original)

The form must be filled in by all legal guardians/parents of the applicant and cover the whole stay for as long as the applicant is not yet 18 years old. It must include the name and address of the school as well as information on the person(s) living in Germany who will be responsible for the applicant.

15. Confirmation letter by the temporary guardian and their passport copy

Written and personally signed letter by the temporary guardian living in Germany that confirms the temporary transfer of guardianship.

If the guardian is not a German citizen, a copy of the residence permit must be included in addition to the passport.

If the applicant has a nationality other than Chinese: proof of habitual residence through valid residence permit for China

*All copies/application documents must be printed **on one side only** (not both sides) and must **not** be stapled, glued or otherwise joined together.*

Last updated: February 2025

*) Since 7 November 2023, the Hague Apostille Convention has come into force for Chinese documents, i.e. from this date onwards, Chinese documents can be provided with an apostille and no longer need to be legalized for Germany. Documents that were already legalized before 7 November 2023 will continue to be accepted and do not need to be additionally apostilled.

Note:

When applying for a national visa, biometric data in the form of fingerprints and a passport photo are recorded. The visa application can be handed in 6 months before the planned trip.

The submission of the documents listed above does not constitute a claim to a visa. In individual cases, the submission of further documents may be required. All documents submitted must be genuine and correct in content. Falsified or untrue information, e.g. certificates of convenience, will result in the visa application being rejected.

Processing fees are only charged as part of the visa fee and the service fee of the service provider VFS.GLOBAL. Application forms and information sheets are issued free of charge. The assistance of an intermediary or visa agency is not required.

All information in this leaflet is based on the knowledge and estimates at the time of writing. No guarantee can be given for the completeness and accuracy of the information.

Further information on the visa procedure can be found at the Embassy official website in the FAQ for national visas.