



Student Visa (Residence Permit)

If you intend to study at a university in Germany, you must obtain a *Residence Permit*. Please apply at the German diplomatic mission responsible for you, depending on your current place of residence:

- If you reside in the **Australian Capital Territory** or in the **Northern Territory**, please apply at the German **Embassy in Canberra** (www.canberra.diplo.de).
- If you reside in **Queensland** or **New South Wales**, please contact the German **Consulate-General in Sydney** (www.sydney.diplo.de).
- If you reside in **Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia** or **Western Australia**, please contact the German **Consulate-General in Melbourne** (www.melbourne.diplo.de).

Citizens of Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Korea (South) and the United States of America are entitled to apply for the *Residence Permit* as soon as possible **after** entering Germany. Your application has to be lodged at the local aliens' authority ("Ausländerbehörde") in Germany.

Citizens of all other countries have to apply for their *Residence Permits* **before** travelling to Germany.

Which documents must I submit with my visa application?

Please **bring the original plus two copies** of all the documents mentioned below. Please note that the Embassy has to charge \$ 0.50 per copy, if you do not bring copies of the originals.

- ◆ **two visa application forms** for a residence permit, duly filled in and signed (please include your postal address, phone number and email address)
- ◆ two recent colour **passport photos** (35 x 45 mm, front facial view)
- ◆ your **national passport** (valid at least three months longer than your intended stay)
- ◆ valid **re-entry permit to Australia**, if applicable
- ◆ a **letter of acceptance** from university or exchange organisation
- ◆ your **flight itinerary** with confirmed reservation OR a copy of your airline ticket
- ◆ proof of **medical insurance** for the duration of your stay
- ◆ proof of **sufficient funds** for your study in Germany (e.g. copy of scholarship grant, current bank statements, certified assurance of coverage by a third party/sponsor); minimum monthly amount required: Euro 634,00.
- ◆ the **visa fee** - unless waived for holders of certain scholarship programmes (see below)
- ◆ a self-addressed *Express Post Envelope* OR a *Prepaid Courier Satchel* (if you wish the passport to be returned to you by mail)



How much does a Residence Permit cost?

The *Residence Permit* costs **Euro 60,00** which is to be paid in AUD. Please contact the passport and visa section for the exact amount in AUD as it may vary according to the current exchange rate. The fee must be paid by **cash or money order** (payable to the "German Embassy Canberra"). Credit card facilities are NOT available.

What else do I need to know? (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY)

- Your application for a *Residence Permit* will be forwarded to the aliens' authority ("Ausländerbehörde") at your intended place of residence in Germany. It can take up to three months before a decision on your application has been made. Therefore, **please allow sufficient time for processing**. Please note that the German Embassy has no influence on the processing time and does not assume responsibility for applications handed in too close to the intended departure date.
- Once approved, the visa will usually be issued for an initial period of three months. After your arrival in Germany please contact the local aliens' authority ("Ausländerbehörde") to convert your visa into a residence permit that covers the entire duration of your stay. This again will attract a fee.
- Further information and additional documents may be requested.
- Upon your arrival in Germany border and immigration authorities may examine whether the prerequisites for your entry continue to apply. This examination is international practise. You might be refused entry even though you are in the possession of a valid visa, if prerequisites for entry no longer apply.
- In order to facilitate entry formalities and avoid unnecessary delays, we strongly recommend that you carry with you any documents providing evidence about the nature of your stay.
- If your spouse and/or children are accompanying you, you must submit two complete sets of applications for each person travelling. Please provide copies of the marriage certificate and children's birth certificates.
- There is no legal right to a visa.

Once you have obtained your visa please check carefully that all entries are correct and in accordance with your application. You should inform the visa section immediately of any mistakes.

*Opening hours of the Visa Section:
Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 12.00 noon.*

All statements in this leaflet are based on the knowledge and experiences of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany at the time the leaflet was written. As far as correctness and completeness are concerned this information is supplied without liability.