



GERMANY

as a Language Study Destination



2025 Review

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Why Study German in Germany?

Germany is one of the safest and most welcoming destinations for international students. With its **excellent infrastructure, low crime rates and a welcoming social environment**, international students feel at ease while immersing themselves in the German language and culture. Germany offers a unique combination of exciting major cities, as well as charming smaller university towns, rich in culture, history, and culinary diversity. Its central location in Europe allows students to travel easily to neighbouring countries, enhancing their international experience.

Beyond language learning, Germany provides **exceptional educational and career opportunities**. Students can enrol in top-tier universities with minimal tuition fees, earning globally recognized degrees. Many **pathway programmes** help international learners prepare for university studies or careers in Germany. Additionally, new regulations allow students to work up to 140 full days or 280 half-days per year without an additional permit, with a **minimum wage starting at €12 per hour**. This policy provides students with valuable work experience while also helping to address Germany's growing demand for skilled professionals.

Studying in Germany goes beyond language learning, offering a gateway to academic success, career growth, and rich cultural experiences in one of Europe's most student-friendly destinations.

IALC member schools in Germany hold **FDSV accreditation**, demonstrating their commitment to excellence and quality assurance in language education. **Julia Richter, Managing Director of the FDSV**, highlights that Germany remains one of the safest and most attractive destinations for language students, offering top-quality education, a welcoming multicultural environment, and excellent career opportunities:

“*The FDSV sets rigorous quality standards for language travel, ensuring that students receive high-quality education and cultural immersion at accredited schools. Studying in Germany means gaining access to world-class universities, a high quality of life, and rich cultural opportunities—all in one of the most well-connected countries in Europe.*”

Julia Richter

Key Statistics

Safety & Stability

Germany ranks among the safest countries globally, with low crime rates, strong public security measures, and social support systems.

Top Choice for International Students

Germany is the second most popular destination for international students, with over **350,000 international students** enrolled annually.

Growing Demand for German Skills

- **56% of German companies** cite the skilled labour shortage as their biggest business risk, increasing the demand for professionals with German language skills ([Statista](#)).
- German is the second most commonly learned foreign language in Europe after English, with **15 million learners worldwide**.
- Around **7% of EU job vacancies** (approximately 140,000 positions) require German language skills.

Economic Influence & Career Benefits

- Leading German companies such as Volkswagen, BMW, and Mercedes-Benz employ over 800,000 people worldwide.
- Professionals with German language skills earn **10–15% more** in multinational companies, highlighting the value of language proficiency in global careers.
- Germany's **unemployment rate** is among the lowest in Europe, ensuring strong job prospects for graduates.

Tourism & Global Impact

German-speaking tourists contribute to **11% of global international tourism expenditures**, creating career opportunities for professionals with German language skills in hospitality, tourism, and international business.



Practical Information

Cost of Living

Students in Germany typically spend around **€992 per month** on living expenses, including accommodation, food, transport, and leisure.

Work Opportunities for International Students

International students in Germany can work up to 140 full days or 280 half-days per year without requiring a separate work permit.

The minimum wage is €12 per hour, with higher salaries available for skilled positions.

Work & Study programmes provide paid internships across various industries, helping students gain valuable experience while studying.

Visa Process for Studying in Germany

Germany receives over 1.4 million Schengen visa applications annually, with an approval rate of approximately 86%.

Approximately 88.5% of national visa applications are approved, with smooth processing times, making studying in Germany more accessible than ever.

Short-Term Language Courses (Under 90 Days)

- Students attending a language course lasting up to 90 days may require a Schengen visa to enter Germany.

- Instead of a tourist visa, you should apply for a short-term language course visa, which allows you to attend classes for a limited period.

Long-Term Studies (More than 90 Days)

- For courses exceeding 90 days, including intensive language programmes (18+ hours per week), university courses, or preparatory programmes, students must obtain a national (D) visa before arriving in Germany.

- A tourist visa cannot be converted into a student visa while in Germany. If you enter on a tourist visa, you must return to your home country to apply for a proper study visa.

Note: Students from the EU and certain other countries — such as Japan, the United States, Canada, and Australia — may enter Germany without a visa. However, they must still meet all standard entry requirements and must apply for a residence permit at the local Foreigners' Office within 90 days of arrival.

Financial & Legal Requirements for a Student Visa

- You must show that you have **€11,904 per year** in a blocked account to cover living expenses.
- Proof of health insurance and confirmed accommodation are mandatory for visa approval.





Berlin

- A diverse and dynamic metropolis, home to approximately 3.7 million people.
- One of Europe's most cost-effective cities for students.
- A hub for creativity, the arts, and cutting-edge innovation.
- Renowned for its exciting nightlife and entertainment scene.

Berlin seamlessly blends past and present, with its historic landmarks, such as the Brandenburg Gate and the Berlin Wall, standing alongside modern architectural marvels. The city's multicultural atmosphere makes it a truly global destination, attracting students from all over the world.

Its thriving international job market, particularly the booming startup sector, provides students with numerous employment opportunities both during and after their studies. With affordable living costs, a strong academic reputation, and a lively social scene, Berlin remains an ideal destination for students from around the world.

Bamberg

- A UNESCO World Heritage Site, celebrated for its well-preserved medieval architecture.
- Home to approximately 80,000 residents.
- Renowned for its historic breweries, rich musical traditions, and vibrant festivals.
- Surrounded by stunning natural landscapes, offering excellent outdoor recreation.

With its charming Old Town, deep-rooted traditions, and thriving cultural scene, Bamberg provides an exceptional environment for learning. Students can immerse themselves in centuries-old brewing culture, lively festivals, and a welcoming academic community while exploring one of Germany's most picturesque university cities.



Cologne

- One of Germany's oldest cities, founded over 2,000 years ago by the Romans.
- Home to approximately 1.1 million residents, making it the fourth-largest city in Germany.
- Famous for Cologne Cathedral (Kölner Dom), a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Europe's most iconic Gothic landmarks.
- Known for its Kölsch beer culture, Carnival celebrations, and lively arts scene.

Cologne is a city of contrasts, where ancient history meets a dynamic and youthful spirit. It offers students a rich cultural landscape, a flourishing creative industry, and a strong sense of community. Known for its festive traditions, diverse arts scene, and deep-rooted Kölsch beer culture, Cologne provides an atmosphere that is both enriching and energetic. With its affordable living, friendly locals, and open-minded character, the city is an ideal destination for students looking to immerse themselves in German culture while enjoying a modern, inclusive, and inspiring environment.





Düsseldorf

- A hub of business and fashion with around 620,000 residents
- Little Tokyo: Diverse and multicultural
- Ideal for international students and offers great career opportunities.
- A city blending rich traditions with dynamic modern subcultures

Düsseldorf combines the energy of a global metropolis with a welcoming and accessible atmosphere. It is renowned for its business innovation, high-end fashion scene, and cultural diversity, making it an ideal destination for students and professionals alike.

With a strong economy, international outlook, and high quality of life, Düsseldorf offers exceptional opportunities for career growth, networking, and personal development. Whether exploring its art districts, exciting nightlife, or scenic riverside promenades, students will find a thriving and inspiring place to study and live.

Hamburg

- Germany's second-largest city, home to 1.9 million people.
- A historic trade and harbor city
- A city with no strong dialect - ideal for learning Standard German
- A cultural and entertainment hub, featuring world-class museums, theaters, and festivals.

Hamburg's maritime charm, economic significance, and cosmopolitan atmosphere create an exceptional environment for students looking to learn German while experiencing one of Germany's most dynamic cities. As a major international trade and business centre, Hamburg offers strong career prospects and a diverse cultural landscape.

With no dominant regional dialect, students benefit from full immersion in Hochdeutsch (Standard German), ensuring a clear and effective language-learning experience. Whether exploring its waterfront, lush green spaces, or thriving arts scene, students in Hamburg enjoy an engaging, well-rounded, and inspiring study experience.



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Lindau

- A charming and relaxed town, home to approximately 25,000 residents.
- Study where others vacation – a stunning lakeside location on Lake Constance
- Affordable and accessible, with a lower cost of living compared to larger German cities.
- A centre for academic excellence

Lindau, nestled in beautiful Bavaria, provides a secure and welcoming environment with friendly locals, low crime rates, and excellent infrastructure. Students have the opportunity to experience authentic local traditions, from lively carnival parades to regional cooking classes, all while exploring the historic Old Town or hiking in the nearby Alps.

As one student put it, "Learning German in such a warm and friendly place made all the difference."

With language learning, cultural immersion, and unforgettable experiences, studying in Lindau is more than education – it's an adventure.

Munich



- The capital of Bavaria and one of Germany's most prosperous cities, blending tradition with modern advancements.
- Home to approximately 1.5 million residents, making it Germany's third-largest city.
- Famous for its historical architecture, including Nymphenburg Palace, the Frauenkirche, and Marienplatz.
- Known for its Bavarian brewing tradition, Oktoberfest celebrations, and expansive green spaces like the English Garden.

Munich is a thriving metropolis that seamlessly combines historic charm with cutting-edge innovation. With high quality of life and excellent living standards, the city attracts students looking for both academic excellence and career opportunities. Its rich cultural landscape includes world-class museums, historic landmarks, and festivals, with Oktoberfest being the most famous celebration of Bavarian tradition. Beyond its cultural appeal, Munich is a leading economic powerhouse, home to global corporations in technology, finance, and engineering, offering students internship opportunities and career prospects in some of Germany's most influential industries. Whether pursuing higher education, vocational training, or cultural enrichment, Munich provides an exceptional environment for international students to learn, grow, and succeed.

Münster

- Home to 320,000 residents, including a student population of 60,000.
- Known as the "Bicycle Capital of Germany".
- A safe and highly liveable city, offering an excellent quality of life.
- Features a scenic 4.5-kilometre tree-lined promenade.

Münster is a city where history, education, and modern student life converge. As one of Germany's most renowned university cities, it fosters an inspiring academic environment with a strong sense of community. The city's compact size and cycle-friendly infrastructure make it easy for students to get around, while its lively cultural scene, including theatres, museums, and festivals, brings people together.

With its reputation for safety and high living standards, Münster is an ideal destination for international students seeking both academic excellence and a high quality of life.



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Stuttgart

- With more than 600,000 inhabitants, Stuttgart remains a green city with stunning outdoor spaces.
- A dynamic hub for innovation and education, seamlessly blending tradition with modernity.
- Home to global brands like Mercedes, Porsche, and Bosch.
- Consistently ranked among Germany's safest cities.

Stuttgart is one of the safest cities in Germany, with a strong commitment to maintaining high security standards. Nestled among picturesque vineyards and rolling hills, the city offers breathtaking views and a rich cultural scene.

It is also an academic hub, home to three technical universities specializing in natural sciences and engineering, as well as internationally acclaimed institutions like the State University of Music and Performing Arts.

Whether for study, work, or leisure, Stuttgart provides an outstanding quality of life in a welcoming and inspiring environment.



- A UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to 160,000 residents.
- A university city with a perfect balance of history and modern student life.
- Lively, safe, and green, making it an ideal place to live and study.
- No need for public transport – the city is compact and easily walkable.

Home to a thriving academic community, Regensburg attracts students from around the world with its vibrant atmosphere. The University of Regensburg has gained an excellent reputation in research and teaching and benefits from the city's strong industrial base, thriving job market, and dynamic business environment, which offer excellent career opportunities for graduates.

With its well-preserved medieval center, cobblestone streets, and scenic Danube location, Regensburg is both historic and dynamic. Beyond academics, the city offers a rich cultural life, from museums and theaters to music events and traditional festivals. Whether it is cycling along the Danube, enjoying a coffee in one of the city's many squares, or exploring nearby cities such as Munich and Nuremberg, students will find both adventure and inspiration in Regensburg.

Our Member Schools





anglo-german institute (agi) - Stuttgart

Founded: 1972

Specialties: Intensive German courses, exam preparation (TestDaF, telc, Cambridge)

Key Features: Historic location, experienced teachers, full immersion approach, strong host family network

For over 50 years, the anglo-german institute (agi) has welcomed language students from around the world to its central Stuttgart location. The headquarters are housed in a historic building just minutes from lively shopping streets, diverse restaurants, and cultural landmarks, including Palace Square, the Stuttgart State Theatre, the Staatsgalerie, and the world-renowned Stuttgart Ballet.

The school offers a diverse range of **German courses** tailored to different needs, including intensive programmes, evening classes, and specialised exam preparation for university entry.

All courses, from A1 to C2, are taught exclusively in German, ensuring full immersion from the first day. This approach helps students develop strong communication skills and effective learning habits right from the start. Lessons are led by highly qualified, experienced teachers in a historic, listed building equipped with modern learning technology.

Beyond the classroom, agi fosters a welcoming and supportive environment. The school offers a



At agi, I found not just a school but a community. I even met my best friend here!”

Matthew (Australia)

structured leisure programme and an extensive network of approximately 40 carefully selected host families in Stuttgart, allowing students to practise German in real-life situations while experiencing authentic local culture.

With a relaxed yet engaging atmosphere, agi provides a comprehensive language learning experience. The dedicated staff is available five days a week to offer personalized support—all conveniently under the same roof as the classrooms.



BWS Germanlingua - Berlin, Cologne, Munich

Over 40 years of experience in teaching German.

Key Features: Real-world communication skills, personalised learning experiences, and individualised attention.

Specialties: **General German, Business German, and exam preparation for Goethe, TestDaF, and telc.**

Opportunities: **Pathway** and **vocational programmes** designed to help students integrate into German universities and companies.



With three incredible locations, expert instruction, and immersive cultural experience, BWS Germanlingua provides the ideal environment for mastering German while embracing life in Germany's most exciting cities. Interactive and engaging lessons help students improve their language skills while immersing themselves in German culture and lifestyle.

Beyond the classroom, BWS Germanlingua offers a rich cultural and social programme, allowing students to explore historic landmarks, attend social events, and participate in weekend excursions to other parts of Germany. This hands-on experience deepens cultural understanding and enhances language learning.

For students looking to gain practical experience, BWS Germanlingua connects learners with vocational training opportunities, helping them navigate the local job market and



“ At BWS Germanlingua I got the confidence to speak German. The teachers were fantastic, and the atmosphere was warm and supportive.”

Sebastian (Honduras)

gain valuable professional insights. To ensure a comfortable and enjoyable stay, the school offers various accommodation options, including student apartments, shared apartments, and host families, catering to different preferences and lifestyles.

With a strong focus on academic excellence, cultural integration, and personal development, BWS Germanlingua is the perfect place to learn German while experiencing the best of what Germany has to offer.



Colón Language Center

- Hamburg

Founded: 1952

Key Features: The largest language school in Hamburg

Specialties: Professional language courses, official telc Examination Centre



Colón Language Center is a renowned language school housed in historic European-style buildings in the city's pedestrian area. With over 70 classrooms, 40 highly qualified teachers, and a steady cohort of 400–500 students, Colón provides a dynamic and immersive learning experience. Its multilingual environment, where 18 languages are taught, fosters international exchange and allows students to connect with both local and foreign peers.

Specialising in adult education, Colón offers a flexible course structure throughout the year, catering to learners with different schedules and goals. The school is also an official telc test centre, providing students with recognized German language certifications.

Beyond the classroom, students benefit from an enriching cultural and social programme, including guided city tours, excursions, and



I am grateful for the opportunity to study in the beautiful city of Hamburg, at a wonderful school, with amazing teachers who are very kind and teach with great care."

Risako (Japan)



weekend trips, allowing them to explore Hamburg and beyond. With carefully selected **accommodation options**, students have the flexibility to find the perfect living arrangement for their needs.

Dialoge Bodensee Sprachschule

- Lindau

Specialties: Work & Study, Demi Pair, Cultural Immersion, telc Exams (A1-C2), ERASMUS+ teacher training and study groups (closed and mixed).

Key Features: Hands-on learning, cultural integration, and practical language use

Scenic Location: Stunning lakefront setting with access to Germany, Austria, and Switzerland

Opportunities: Internships and work placements in Bavaria, Austria, and Switzerland



At Dialoge Bodensee Sprachschule, students experience German in a welcoming, immersive environment where language learning goes beyond the classroom. With experienced teachers, small class sizes, and interactive lessons, Dialoge fosters open communication, cultural exchange, and practical language application.

Thanks to strong partnerships with host families, local businesses, and cultural organisations, students become part of the community from day one. The **Demi Pair programme** provides a unique opportunity to practice German naturally while living with a family and caring for children.

For those looking to gain professional experience, internships in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland offer insights into the German-speaking work culture. Through the **Work & study programme**, students can earn money while applying their language skills in scenic holiday destinations.



I love the lessons and the teachers: you learn an incredible amount and still have fun. Great leisure activities in the Alps and around Lake Constance round off the language study trip beautifully.”

Oier (Spain)



Student safety and well-being are a top priority at Dialoge. The school provides detailed guidance on local transport, emergency contacts, and cultural norms, helping ensure a secure and supportive environment. Host families and work placements are carefully vetted to create a safe and enriching experience.

Beyond academics and work, Dialoge’s cultural programme brings the German language to life. Afternoon and weekend activities include city tours, museum visits, hikes, local festivals, and boat trips on Lake Constance. Every conversation, shared meal, and new experience helps strengthen students’ language skills—helping them not just learn German, but live it.



GLS Berlin

- Berlin

World-class education: GLS Berlin offers a unique on-campus learning experience on its 16,000m² campus in trendy Prenzlauer Berg.

Comprehensive programmes including **University Pathway** and **internships**.

24/7 reception and security measures ensure a worry-free experience.



GLS offers a unique setting with 5* facilities, on-site accommodation (50 apartments and 72 hotel rooms), 66 classrooms, a canteen, a historic swimming pool and plenty of space for socialising – making it easy for students to connect and build friendships.

Beyond **language courses**, GLS fosters cultural immersion through engaging seminars on German culture and history, **cultural activities**, **weekend trips across Germany**, and interactive events that provide real-life insights into German society and Berlin’s dynamic lifestyle.

GLS is an official test centre for TestDaF and telc, offering offering **exam preparation courses for telc, TestDaF, and the Goethe exams**.

The University Pathway Programme supports students applying for BA and MA programmes at nearly 800 German universities, while German courses at GLS can be accredited toward university studies.



I definitely recommend GLS, especially if you are studying from scratch - I would say the intensive programme is the best for you!"

Coralie (France)



For those seeking professional experience, the internship programme provides students with direct access to Berlin’s thriving job market, allowing them to gain practical work experience and integrate into Germany’s professional landscape.



GoAcademy! Düsseldorf

- Düsseldorf

Specialties: Medical and Pathway Programmes with Placements, Exam Preparation (telc, TestDaF).

Key Features: Career-oriented learning, strong student support, prime city location.

Opportunities: Students can work while studying, easing their integration into German society.



At **GoAcademy! Düsseldorf**, students find more than just a language school—they join a supportive, multicultural learning community that reflects the diversity of Düsseldorf itself. With experienced teachers and a dynamic classroom environment, GoAcademy! fosters collaboration, cultural exchange, and a results-driven approach to language learning.

The school's specialized **Medical German programme** is designed to help international students integrate seamlessly into Germany's healthcare system while the **University Pathway Programm**, helps students study in Germany.

Through strong partnerships with hospitals and universities, GoAcademy! provides tailored language training for medical professionals and students, equipping them with the linguistic and cultural knowledge needed to thrive in their careers.

This programme has successfully placed thousands of students in Universities and meaningful healthcare roles, addressing Germany's growing demand for **skilled professionals**.



I highly recommend this school to anyone planning to pursue a master's degree or professional career in the future."

Daniel (Colombia)



GoAcademy! is committed to structured, **goal-orientated learning**. Students follow clear learning paths with defined milestones, thorough **exam preparation**, and access to pre-exams for the **telc** and **TestDaF** certifications. Beyond academics, the school creates a lively and engaging student experience with **social events** such as barbecues on the sunny terrace, pub tours, and weekend trips that help students immerse themselves in local culture.

GoAcademy! offers **school-owned accommodation**, providing a safe and supportive living environment. With most housing located near the school, students have easy access to assistance whenever needed—whether academic, personal, or health-related. The dedicated staff ensures that every student feels welcomed, supported, and ready to make the most of their German learning journey in Düsseldorf.

Horizonte - Regensburg

Key Features: Small, student-focused German language school with a welcoming and supportive atmosphere.

Interactive Teaching: **Small international groups and a communication-based approach ensure effective learning.**

Accredited Exam Centre: Official telc Examination Centre offering certifications from B1 to C1 Hochschule.



Horizonte is a boutique German language school in the heart of Regensburg, offering a personalised and immersive learning experience. With small class sizes and a focus on communication, students receive high-quality education in a supportive environment.

Horizonte's most popular accommodation option is its on-site residence, located in the city centre in the same building as the school. It allows students to live alongside fellow learners while enjoying privacy and independence. The central location ensures easy access to Regensburg's cultural life, and weekly Stammtisch meetups provide fun, real-world practice in a relaxed setting.



My experience at Horizonte was exceptional! I was impressed with the quality of education and the high standards of the staff. The facility and accommodation were very good. Regensburg is a beautiful city to study in and the school is in a great location!"

Sarah (Switzerland)



With its telc Examination Centre, Horizonte helps students earn official German certifications, enhancing their educational and career prospects.

From interactive lessons to cultural activities, Horizonte offers the perfect setting to master German while experiencing one of Germany's most beautiful cities.



Sprachschule KAPITO

- Münster

Key Features: Small class sizes and strong community integration.

Student-centered learning: A welcoming and diverse atmosphere with over 40 nationalities represented.

Specialties: University preparation and career-oriented training.



With small class sizes (typically 8-10 students, maximum 12), Kapito ensures personalised attention and an interactive approach that accelerates learning. The communicative teaching style emphasizes active participation, helping students build fluency and confidence in speaking German.

Beyond **academics**, the school enhances the learning experience through creative workshops (such as macramé workshops) and social activities, including international dinners and cultural outings.

Kapito is particularly popular among students preparing for German university admission. The school offers specialized university preparation courses, supporting students in meeting language requirements for higher education.

To further assist students, Kapito provides afternoon **homework support and visa**



Münster is a great city for doing German language courses and the school offers an effective way to prepare for university studies in Germany”

Elias (Russia)



consultation services, helping with administrative paperwork and processes for long-term stays.

The school also connects students with local businesses and institutions, offering professional networking opportunities that help them integrate into the professional landscape in Germany.

With a focus on academic excellence, career preparation, and cultural immersion, Kapito offers an enriching German language learning experience in **one of Germany’s most student-friendly cities**.



Sprachinstitut TREFFPUNKT

- Bamberg

Key Features: Small class sizes and a strong teacher-student connection.

Real-Life Language Application: Practical learning, including the “Emergency Calls in German” workshop for student safety.

Specialties: Support for university admission, professional certification, and career advancement.



Since its founding in 1995, TREFFPUNKT has welcomed thousands of students, each with unique language goals and ambitions. The institute’s small class sizes, **interactive lessons**, and strong teacher-student connections ensure a personalised and engaging learning experience.

TREFFPUNKT is committed to practical language application, equipping students not only with strong German proficiency but also with essential life skills. The “Emergency Calls in German” workshop helps students feel more secure in their daily lives by preparing them to handle urgent situations confidently. This dedication to student well-being and safety makes TREFFPUNKT stand out.

“*Safety was my biggest concern. At TREFFPUNKT, I always felt secure, and I knew my daughter was well taken care of. The staff truly go above and beyond—there’s a warmth and personal attention that makes this school feel like family*”

Elisabeth (Mexico)



A personalised support system is at the heart of the school’s success. Whether students are preparing for university, pursuing professional certifications, or progressing in their careers, TREFFPUNKT provides tailored guidance to help them achieve their objectives.

With a focus on interactive learning, cultural immersion, and practical language use, TREFFPUNKT remains a top choice for students looking for an effective and enriching German language experience in the beautiful UNESCO-listed city of Bamberg.