



As an international student in Germany, you may encounter various challenges. Whether it's trouble with your study, language difficulties, financial worries, or bureaucratic obstacles – don't worry, you are not alone. Various contact points within and outside your university can assist you.

Who can help me? I...

...have doubts with my study programm...

...am having problems with my studies/exams...

...would like to explore my career options...

...have difficulty navigating daily life...

...have issues with my accommodation...

...cannot afford my studies and need assistance/advice on...

...am dealing with personal challenges...

- ...due to study organization
- ...because I don't see the practical relevance
- ...because I thought the study course would have different content
- ...because I'm missing motivation
- ...because I'm missing structure

- ...lack of self-organization
- ...exam anxiety
- ...failed the final exam or afraid of it
- ...difficulties doing scientific work or scientific writing

- ...questions about visa and residence permit
- ...leisure activities
- ...language barriers
- ...searching for a doctor, health insurance
- ...I can't afford the rent
- ...I can't find any accommodation
- ...I experience discrimination

### EMPLOYMENT AGENCY (AGENTUR FÜR ARBEIT)

- counselling and support for job and apprenticeship search
- ...

### CAREER SERVICE OF YOUR UNIVERSITY

- consultations, coaching, workshops on job search and applications process
- preparation for the job market
- job search, internship search
- Career fairs
- ...

### WELCOME CENTER

Welcome Centers are available in Dresden, the Erzgebirge region, Zwickau, Leipzig and Mittelsachsen.

- accomodation search
- finding a doctor
- leisure activities
- job search
- residence permit questions
- ...

### IMMIGRATION INFORMATION CENTER (FACHINFORMATIONSZENTRUM ZUWANDERUNG, FIZU)

The FiZu is located in Chemnitz, Dresden, and Leipzig.

- residence permit questions
- language acquisition
- recognition of certificates
- questions regarding work permits
- ...

### INTERNATIONAL OFFICE OF YOUR UNIVERSITY

- language courses
- study organization
- support with accomodation search
- assistance with issues and crises in studies and daily life (e.g., finding a doctor, financing, health insurance, residence permit questions...)
- help finding the right contact
- ...

### UNIVERSITY

- student advisory service
- study program counselling
- student union and student council representatives
- equality office
- University health management
- ...

### STUDENTENWERK

- social counselling
- psychosocial counselling
- legal counselling
- graduation coaching
- ...

You don't want to continue your studies? In Germany, you have more options to explore your career path. You can find out more on the back.



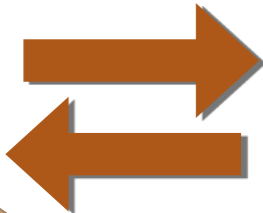
Find the right contact point in your region within the Quickstart Sachsen+ network.  
[https://t1p.de/our\\_network](https://t1p.de/our_network)

# In Doubt?

You have doubt about your studies and you are thinking about reorienting yourself? You don't yet know how your path should continue?

Get an overview of your options here.

## Continue your studies?



### Change University or study program?

Your **residence permit is related to a specific study program**. Changing your course or place of study constitutes a change in the purpose of your stay and **must be approved by the immigration authority**. Changing your course of study is typically only allowed within the first 18 months (3 semesters), and afterwards, only in exceptional cases.

Contact a counselling center early, preferably at the first sign of difficulties in your studies.

The **student advisory service** at your university or the university you plan to transfer to can assist you if you are seeking advice on academic subjects. Make sure to inquire about deadlines and required documents in advance.

Your residence permit is tied to your studies. If you want to switch to an apprenticeship or a job without completing your studies, you should **only exmatriculate after receiving a positive decision from the immigration authority**.

You submit an application to your local immigration authority to change to an apprenticeship or to change your course of study. In order to apply for a residence permit for the purpose of apprenticeship, you have to be able to provide proof of an apprenticeship contract or a confirmation of placement in an apprenticeship program. The decision regarding whether a change of the purpose of residence is possible lies with the immigration authority.

## What about an apprenticeship in Germany?

Germany has a very good dual apprenticeship system. In a dual apprenticeship program, you work directly in a company while also attending vocational school to learn everything you need for your future profession. Compared to university studies, you can apply your knowledge directly in a practical setting at your training company. Typically, an apprenticeship lasts for two to three years, during which you receive an apprenticeship salary for your work in the company.

You can learn more about the dual apprenticeship system here:



<https://tlp.de/apprenticeship>

The **Immigration Information Center (German: Fachinformationszentrum Zuwanderung, FiZu)** provides support and advice on various topics, including residence permit, qualification recognition, and language courses. FiZu is located in Dresden, Chemnitz, and Leipzig.



<https://tlp.de/immigration-information>

## Drop out of study?

### Start an apprenticeship in Germany?

If you do not yet have a degree from Germany or your home country, you may be able to start an apprenticeship in Germany. For this, you will need a specific job or apprenticeship offer, and then you can apply for a change of purpose at your local immigration authority.

Information and advice on apprenticeship positions can be found, for example, at the **Federal Employment Agency, the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, or the Chamber of Crafts**. Additionally, you can attend job fairs or search for apprenticeship positions online on job boards or company websites.

## Work as a skilled professional in Germany?

If you already have a degree from your home country, you may be able to start a job straight away.

Depending on the profession, you may need to go through a **recognition process** for this. During this process, it will be assessed whether your foreign qualification is equivalent to the qualification required to work in this profession in Germany. For guidance on whether you need to have your qualifications recognized, you can turn to **IBAS**.

The **Information and Counselling Center for the Job Market in Saxony (German: Informations- und Beratungstelle Arbeitsmarkt Sachsen, IBAS)** is responsible for the recognition of foreign qualifications.



<https://tlp.de/recognition>

## You don't know where you want to go?

Ask yourself:

### What are your interests?

- Think about: What activities/topics do you enjoy?
- What fascinates you about it?
- In which professions/sectors can you find these activities/topics?
- You can also consider the opposite: What doesn't interest you?

### What skills and qualities do I possess? Which ones would I like to further develop?

- In which situations have you had to take responsibility?
- What tasks have you solved?
- What knowledge have you acquired?
- What goals have you pursued?
- What does this say about you?

Here you will find websites that can help you reflect on yourself and find new perspectives for yourself:



<https://tlp.de/helptools>

## German language courses

To live and work in Germany, it is important that you can communicate effectively. For an apprenticeship, you must demonstrate that your language skills are minimum at level B1 (B2 is recommended). This can be done by providing language certificates (e.g., Goethe-Institut, telc). The company where you will work can also certify that your language skills are sufficient. If you don't have adequate language skills, you can also participate in a language course before or during your apprenticeship.