

bluehawks

MASTER'S IN GERMANY



Introduction

Are you aspiring to pursue your master's degree in Germany but feeling anxious due to your academic background? Fear not! Our comprehensive e-book is tailored for students like you who dream of advancing their studies in Germany.

In this e-book, you'll discover everything you need to kickstart your master's journey in Germany, even if you're facing challenges with your academic record. We understand that navigating the intricacies of the German education system can be daunting, especially for international students. That's why we've curated all the essential information and insider tips to streamline your admission process and alleviate any concerns.

From deciphering the admission criteria to selecting the ideal university and program for your goals, we've got you covered. You'll gain insights into alternative pathways, language proficiency requirements, visa application procedures, and available scholarship opportunities to support your journey.

Our e-book offers pragmatic advice on enhancing your chances of admission, crafting compelling personal statements, and excelling in interviews. We firmly believe that every student deserves the opportunity to pursue their academic aspirations, and with the right guidance, you can transform your dreams into tangible achievements.

Don't allow your academic setbacks to hinder your ambitions of studying in Germany. With our e-book as your trusted resource, you'll equip yourself with the confidence and knowledge needed to embark on your master's journey confidently. Prepare to unlock a world of unparalleled education and boundless opportunities in Germany!

Why Germany?

- **Tuition-Free Education:** Unlike many countries, Germany offers tuition-free education for international students.
- **Abundance of Jobs and High Earnings:** Germany boasts plenty of job opportunities and attractive earning potential for graduates.
- **Top Study Destination:** Known as a favorite study destination among students worldwide, Germany offers high-quality education.
- **Strong Economy:** Germany is the third-largest economy in the world, providing a stable environment for study and work.
- **Fast Permanent Residency:** With a streamlined process, permanent residency (PR) is possible in just 2 years after completing studies.
- **Pathway to Citizenship:** Eligibility for German nationality is achievable in 5 years, offering long-term settlement prospects.

Why Masters in Germany?

- **Easy Settlement Option:** Pursuing a master's degree in Germany provides a seamless pathway for settling into the country's society and culture from the outset.
- **Abundant Career Prospects:** Graduates holding German master's degrees enjoy access to a plethora of career opportunities globally, spanning various industries and sectors.
- **Global Recognition:** Master's degrees from German universities hold immense prestige and are widely acknowledged and respected across the globe.
- **European Exploration:** Situated at the heart of Europe, studying for a master's in Germany opens doors to exciting opportunities for exploring neighboring countries and experiencing diverse cultures.
- **Part-Time Work Opportunities:** Master's students in Germany have the option to work part-time during their studies, enabling them to gain valuable practical experience and supplement their finances.
- **Diverse English-Taught Programs:** With an extensive selection of over 200 English-taught master's programs across diverse fields, Germany caters to the academic interests and aspirations of students from around the world.

Masters Eligibility Criteria

Okay, now let's talk about who is eligible to study masters in Germany.

Minimum 16 Years of Education:

- To apply for a master's program in Germany, you must have completed a minimum of 16 years of education. This typically includes a bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification from a recognized institution.

Eligible Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree: If you hold a four-year bachelor's degree (such as a B.Tech, B.E., B.Sc., B.A., etc.), you meet the minimum educational requirement for applying to master's programs in Germany.
- Master's Degree: Alternatively, if you already possess a master's degree from a recognized institution, you are also eligible to apply for master's programs in Germany.
- In case you have a three-year Bachelor degree, do get in touch with course coordinator before applying.

These eligibility criteria ensure that applicants have acquired the necessary academic foundation and qualifications to succeed in a master's-level academic environment. Next, we'll delve into the specific requirements and documents needed for the application process.

General Requirements

Let's discuss the general basic requirements that you must fulfill to become eligible for a master's program in Germany:

Grade Requirements:

- You must have a minimum CGPA of 2.0 in your bachelor's degree. While this is the minimum requirement, it's advisable to aim for a higher CGPA to enhance your chances of admission.

Language Requirements:

- Proficiency in the language of instruction is essential for successful completion of a master's program in Germany. You must provide one of the following to prove your language proficiency:
 - Minimum 6.0 band score in IELTS for English-taught courses.
 - Sometimes, an English Proficiency Certificate may also be acceptable.
 - B2 level proficiency in German for German-taught courses.

Apart from grade and language requirements, some courses may also have ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) requirements. We'll discuss this further on the next page to provide you with a comprehensive understanding of the eligibility criteria for master's programs in Germany.

ECTS Requirements:

In Germany, most universities require applicants to have completed a specific number of ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) credits in their bachelor's degree to be eligible for admission to a master's degree program. While the exact requirement may vary between universities, it typically falls within the range of 180 to 210 ECTS credits.

What are ECTS Credits?

- ECTS credits serve as a standardized measure to quantify and compare academic achievements across European universities. They provide a transparent and coherent system for recognizing and transferring credits between different educational institutions.
- Unlike the credit hours system commonly used in Indian universities, where each course is assigned a specific number of hours, ECTS credits focus on the workload required to complete a course. This workload includes lectures, seminars, practical exercises, independent study, and examinations.

Understanding ECTS Credits:

- One ECTS credit corresponds to approximately 25-30 hours of total workload, including both contact hours (such as lectures and seminars) and self-study.
- Therefore, a typical bachelor's degree program in Germany, comprising three to four years of study, may accumulate around 180 to 240 ECTS credits in total.

Implications for Master's Admission:

- For admission to a master's program in Germany, universities typically require applicants to have completed a bachelor's degree with a specified number of ECTS credits, often 180 or 210.
- Meeting the ECTS credit requirement demonstrates that candidates have acquired the necessary academic foundation and have completed a comprehensive course of study equivalent to the standards expected for master's-level education in Germany.

By understanding and fulfilling the ECTS requirements, prospective students can ensure they meet the academic prerequisites for admission to master's programs in Germany, paving the way for a successful academic journey in the country.

When to Apply for Masters?

In Germany, there are two main intakes for master's programs: the winter semester and the summer semester. Understanding the differences between these intakes can help you determine the best time to apply for your master's studies.

Winter Semester Intake:

- The winter semester intake typically begins in September/October and is considered the primary intake period for master's programs in Germany.
- This intake offers a wider range of courses, with over 1200 master's courses available for enrollment.
- Due to the higher number of available courses, there are generally more opportunities for admission during the winter semester.

Summer Semester Intake:

- The summer semester intake starts in March/April and serves as a secondary intake period for master's programs.
- While fewer master's courses are offered during the summer semester compared to the winter semester, there are still around 500+ courses available for enrollment.
- Some courses may offer admissions in the summer semester as well, providing additional options for prospective students.

Choosing the Best Intake:

- In general, the winter semester intake is preferred by many students due to the larger selection of courses and higher chances of admission.
- However, if your desired program offers admissions in both winter and summer semesters or if you have specific reasons for preferring the summer semester (such as personal commitments or availability), applying for the summer semester may also be a viable option.

By considering factors such as the availability of courses, personal preferences, and academic goals, you can determine the best intake for applying to master's programs in Germany and maximize your chances of securing admission to your desired program.

9-Step Application Process

Step 1: Check Your Eligibility

Before diving into the application process, ensure you meet the eligibility criteria. Typically, you should have completed 16 years of education. Refer to the previous section for detailed eligibility requirements.

Step 2: Find and Shortlist Universities

Once you confirm your eligibility, begin searching for suitable universities and programs. Follow these steps:

1. Visit the DAAD.de website and browse available programs.
2. Utilize filters such as course type and language to narrow down your options.
3. Review the search results and select programs aligned with your interests and background.
4. Make note of the selected programs and their specific requirements.

Step 3: Complete Language Requirements

As you explore course requirements, you'll notice language proficiency criteria. Now is the opportune moment to fulfill the language requirements of your desired course:

- For English-taught courses, aim to achieve a minimum score of 6 bands in the IELTS exam.
- For German-taught courses, attain at least a B2-level proficiency by passing recognized language tests.

Note: While IELTS is widely accepted by German universities, some institutions may also accept PTE or other language exams.

Step 4: Prepare Documents

After shortlisting courses and meeting language requirements, it's time to prepare the necessary documents for university applications. We will provide a comprehensive list of required documents and their attestation in the following pages.

Step 5: Apply to Universities

Once you've gathered all the required documents, it's time to proceed with applying to the shortlisted universities. There are three main methods for applying to universities in Germany:

1. Apply Directly to University's Portal:

- Some universities have their own dedicated application portals where you can submit your application directly. For example, the University of Bonn operates its own application portal.

2. Apply through Uni Assist:

- Approximately 80% of universities in Germany do not have a direct application process. Instead, applicants need to apply through Uni Assist, a third-party platform that assists German universities in evaluating international applicants' profiles.
- With this method, you submit your application to Uni Assist, and after evaluation, they forward it to the respective university.

3. First Uni Assist (for VPD) then University Portal:

- Some universities require a VPD (VPD), which is a document issued by Uni Assist after evaluating your profile and application.
- In this scenario, you first apply for the VPD through Uni Assist and then apply to universities with the VPD and other required documents.

After submitting your application through any of these three methods, you'll need to await the admission decision. Typically, universities take 6 to 8 weeks to process applications and issue admission letters.

Tip: Increase your chances of admission by applying to a minimum of 8-10 universities to receive multiple admission offers.

Step 6: Accept Admission Offers

Upon receiving offer letters from universities, you may feel overwhelmed when it comes to choosing between them. Consider the following factors:

- Location
- Job Opportunities
- Course Interests
- University Ranking

After selecting the right university, accept the offer letter and complete the enrollment process, which may involve paying fees and submitting additional documents.

Step 7: Book an Embassy Appointment

With your admission process complete, it's time to schedule a visa appointment at the respective embassy.

Step 8: Complete Visa Requirements

While waiting for your visa interview date from the embassy, take the following steps:

- Open a blocked account and deposit the required funds at least 2-3 weeks before your interview.
- Obtain travel insurance.
- Ensure all required documents are completed before your appointment day.

During this period, it's crucial to stay organized and proactive to ensure a smooth visa application process.

Step 9: Prepare for Visa Interview

After receiving the appointment confirmation email, it's time to prepare for the visa interview.

Sample questions may include:

- Why Germany?
- Why this particular course?
- Why this university?
- Do you intend to return to India? If yes, why?

Be sure to articulate your reasons clearly and confidently, and demonstrate your genuine interest in studying in Germany. Additionally, familiarize yourself with the visa requirements and any additional documents needed for the interview. This preparation will help you present yourself effectively and increase your chances of a successful visa application.

Admission with Low Grades

If you have a low CGPA in your Bachelor's degree, there are several strategies you can employ to increase your chances of admission to public universities in Germany:

1. Focus on Medium and Small Cities:

- Big cities often have higher competition for admission. Consider applying to universities located in medium or small cities where competition may be less intense.

2. Apply to Non-Restricted Courses:

- Non-restricted courses, also known as NC-free courses, have unlimited seats and fewer admission restrictions. Everyone who meets the basic requirements has a chance of admission, regardless of their CGPA.

3. Apply to a Maximum Number of Universities:

- Increase your chances of admission by applying to a larger number of universities, ideally 10-15. This widens your options and increases the likelihood of receiving admission offers.

4. Apply Early:

- Submit your applications as soon as the application period opens. Early applications can enhance your chances, especially for non-restricted courses, as seats may fill up quickly.

5. Aim for a High Band Score in IELTS:

- Achieving a band score of 6.5 or higher in the IELTS exam can strengthen your application. A good IELTS score makes you eligible to apply to more universities and improves your overall profile.

6. Craft Personalized Letters of Motivation:

- Your Letter of Motivation (LOM) is crucial in demonstrating your passion and suitability for the program. Personalize each LOM for the universities you apply to and seek feedback from professors or teachers to enhance its effectiveness.

7. Highlight Professional Experience:

- If you have relevant job or internship experience, include it in your CV and Letter of Motivation. Professional experience can significantly impact your profile and demonstrate your practical skills and dedication.

8. Learn German:

- Learning German, especially up to B1/B2 level, can greatly enhance your profile. Proficiency in German opens up opportunities to apply for German-taught programs, which may have less competition and broader admission prospects.

By implementing these strategies and presenting a well-rounded application, you can improve your chances of securing admission to public universities in Germany despite having a low CGPA in your Bachelor's degree.

Scholarships

Germany offers various scholarship opportunities for international students to study at German universities, with one prominent program being the DAAD Scholarship. Here's an overview of the DAAD Scholarship program:

1. DAAD Scholarship:

- The DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) supports German higher education internationally by providing scholarships and funding opportunities for international students at the master's and Ph.D. levels.

Benefits of DAAD Scholarship:

- No requirement for a blocked account.
- Monthly stipend of €934.
- Health insurance coverage.
- Travel allowance.

Main Requirements for DAAD Scholarship:

- Language Requirement: B2 level proficiency.
- Nationality: Nationals of eligible countries.
- CGPA in Bachelor's: Typically above 3.3 or 3.4.
- Relevant Professional Experience: Generally, 2-3 years of relevant work experience.
- Related Bachelor's Degree: Not older than 6 years.
- Currently Employed: Working in a public or private organization.

How to Apply for DAAD Scholarship:

- There are specific portals for applying to DAAD scholarships.
- Interested candidates can apply directly to the respective university offering the desired course.
- The university will review all applications and select potential candidates.
- Selected candidates will be notified to complete their DAAD portal applications.
- Final selection and notification of chosen candidates will be completed by DAAD.

2. Erasmus Mundus Scholarship

The Erasmus Mundus Scholarship, funded by the European Union, offers scholarships for master's students to study abroad in participating European countries, including Germany. This scholarship provides an opportunity to study each semester in a different country within Europe.

Benefits:

- Monthly stipend of €1,000
- Health insurance coverage
- Travel Expenses
- No Tuition Fees

Who Can Apply for EMS:

- No CGPA Requirement (Low CGPA can also apply)
- Minimum 16 years of Education
- IELTS Requirement (for some courses)
- No Work Experience Requirement
- No Age Limit

Application Process:

- Visit the official website of the Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Catalogue.
- Search for the course you want to apply for.
- Find the link provided for every course.
- Click on that link.
- Check the requirements.
- Apply for the course.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. I have X years of Gap. Is it acceptable?

Yes, gap is acceptable. You can explain that during this gap you gained experience by doing a job, or you gave time to learn German, or you completed a course/ certificate, or you started a business, or prepared for competitive exams, etc.

2. Can we save money while studying?

A student is allowed to work 20 hours per week in Germany. Minimum wage is 12 euros and so a student can earn 900-1000 euros per month. And the living expenses are 700-750 euros so you can save 150-200 euros per month.

3. I have got a 5.5 band in IELTS. Can I apply?

Yes, you can apply to universities that have low IELTS band requirements.

4. I have a Bachelor's in X field. Can I apply for a master's in the Y field?

You may apply to slightly different fields but a complete change in the field is not possible in most cases.

5. If I don't meet the ECTS requirement? Will my application be rejected?

It depends on the university either they can reject your application or give you a conditional admission to study a subject/an extra semester to complete your ECTS requirement.

6. Can I apply for a second master's in Germany?

Yes, you can apply for a second master.

About bluehawks

At bluehawks, our mission is simple: to make study abroad opportunities accessible and flexible for students worldwide. We believe in the transformative power of education to change lives and unite cultures. Our commitment is to make international education more affordable and within reach for everyone.

We offer a range of online and offline courses and services tailored to meet the diverse needs of students. Whether you're seeking flexible online learning or hands-on support, we're here to help you succeed.

Our vision is to become the foremost provider of innovative study abroad solutions, empowering students to reach their goals. We envision a world where international education is accessible to all, fostering a global community of lifelong learners who are connected, engaged, and making a positive impact.

Through our courses and services, we aim to promote understanding, cooperation, and mutual respect among individuals from diverse backgrounds. Join us at bluehawks and embark on your journey to success in the global arena.

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