

## Salary

The statutory minimum wage also applies to all students. It does not apply to compulsory internship placements and internship placements lasting up to three months.

**IMPORTANT** Employees receive a monthly pay slip from their employer. Hours worked, social security contributions, holidays and sick days are listed here. The pay slip holds important information: Please keep it as proof of your monthly employment details and check whether the information given there is correct.

## Additional financing options

**Scholarships** ... are hardly ever awarded by higher education institutions in Germany, unlike in other countries. Important scholarship providers are the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) ([www.funding-guide.de](http://www.funding-guide.de)), Begabtenförderungswerke (scholarships for talented individuals) ([www.stipendiumplus.de](http://www.stipendiumplus.de)) and foundations ([www.stiftungssuche.de/stipendien](http://www.stiftungssuche.de/stipendien)).

**German federal financial aid (BAföG)** ... is available to international students only in very rare exceptions. Information is available at [www.bafög.de](http://www.bafög.de) and from the social welfare advisory services of your local Studierendenwerk and from the BAföG financial support agencies.

**Student loans** ... are often awarded according to the same access requirements as BAföG and are thus rarely accessible to international students. However, some loan associations and education funds are also available to international students. Caution: Rising interest rates on student loans can harbour a debt risk.

**Emergency and hardship grants** ... in different forms are available in the event of financial hardship through no fault of the student:

- Financial support for students in emergency situations by means of emergency or hardship grants of your local Studierendenwerk
- Emergency grants of the local Protestant or Catholic religious communities and centres on your campus

**IMPORTANT** If you consider applying for public social welfare benefits (e.g. housing benefit, citizen's income, etc.), please seek advice beforehand, as this may seriously affect your residence title.



Deutsches Studierendenwerk

## Further advice and information for international students

Studierendenwerke (social welfare advisory service, student finance advisory service, international affairs)  
<https://www.studierendenwerke.de/deutsches-studentenwerk/studentenwerke/studierendenwerke-a-z/landkarte>

DSW website on student jobs  
[www.studierendenwerke.de/themen/finanzierungsmoeglichkeiten/uebersicht-jobben](http://www.studierendenwerke.de/themen/finanzierungsmoeglichkeiten/uebersicht-jobben)

International Offices of the universities  
<https://www.daad.de/deutschland/in-deutschland/hochschule/en/9147-the-first-port-of-call/>

[www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de) | [www.study-in.de](http://www.study-in.de)  
[www.internationale-studierende.de](http://www.internationale-studierende.de)

## STWs – Student Service Organisations

Germany's 57 Studierendenwerke (Student Service Organisations, STWs) are responsible for the economic, social, health and cultural life of students:

- Dining halls and cafeterias
- Student residence halls
- Student financial aid
- Day care centres
- Psychological and social counselling
- Counselling for students with disabilities or chronic diseases
- Cultural activities

Deutsches Studierendenwerk  
(German National Association for Student Affairs)  
Service Point for Intercultural Competence  
[www.studierendenwerke.de](http://www.studierendenwerke.de)

As of August 2024

Deutsches Studierendenwerk



Information for students

English version

# Job regulations for international students in Germany

GEFÖRDERT VOM



Bundesministerium  
für Bildung  
und Forschung

## Working in Germany

A part-time job provides you with the opportunity to gain experience, get to know Germany, make contacts and supplement the financing of your studies. It is very difficult to finance your studies and life in Germany with a part-time job alone, and if you have a part-time job that takes up a lot of time, your academic performance will suffer. This may prolong your studies and, in the worst case, jeopardise your residence title.

**IMPORTANT** For many student jobs, knowledge of German is necessary.

## Students from the EU/EEA/Switzerland

If you are a student with citizenship in a member state of the European Union (EU), the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland you may take up any type of work in Germany under the same conditions as German students.

**IMPORTANT** If you are a student with citizenship in the EU/EEA countries/Switzerland and have a part-time student job or a paid internship in Germany, you must take out health insurance in Germany. Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) is then no longer valid. There are rare exceptions to this – more information is available from the health insurance company.

## Students from third countries

with residence according to § 16b Residence Act

International students from third countries and those who are taking a preparatory language course/internship placement or a preparatory college course are allowed to work in Germany for 140 full or 280 half working days per year. This is noted in the (supplementary sheet to your) residence title. Additional approval from the foreigners' registration office is not necessary in these cases.

There are two ways to calculate the permitted working day quota:

- 1 Only the working days that are actually worked are counted. This means holidays, public holidays and sick days are not counted.
  - Half working days are working days with up to 4 working hours.
  - Full days are working days with more than 4 working hours.
  - This quota of 140 full working days is available for each calendar year. For example: When starting work for the first time on

July 1 of a year, the complete 140 full/280 half working days may be worked until the end of that calendar year on 31 December.

- 2 Alternatively, the permitted working time can also be calculated as per week:

- Up to 20 hours per week are always calculated as 2 ½ days during the lecture period.
- During the lecture-free period, all non-self-employed work – including full-time jobs – is calculated as 2 ½ days, regardless of the actual hours worked.

The calculation method can change on a weekly basis during the year. Students do not have to decide on a calculation method in advance. The foreigners' registration office applies the most favorable calculation method for students.

Days on which a **voluntary internship** is undertaken (no matter if it is paid or unpaid) also count as working days. However, **compulsory internships** as part of a degree programme do not count.

International students from third countries (§ 16b Residence Act) are only allowed to work as **fee-based workers** or **self-employed persons** with the permission of the foreigners' registration office. Expense allowances (= trainer allowances) are not subject to approval by the foreigners' registration office.

**IMPORTANT** In addition to the 140 full or 280 half working days, the following jobs are permitted: academic or student assistant at the university, in the Studierendenwerk (Student Service Organisation, STW) or in the students' union (AStA/STURA), or jobs with a very close connection to your studies, e. g. at a research institute. As long as this does not affect academic performance, this activity can be carried out for an unlimited period of time. Permission from the foreigners' registration office is required for fee-based work. Information can be obtained from the responsible foreigners' registration office.

## Taxes and social security contributions

- Anyone working in Germany needs a tax identification number ("Steuer-ID"). You will automatically receive this by post a few weeks after registering your residence. Please keep this important information for further reference.
- You only have to pay income tax in Germany if the tax exemption limit (also called the tax-free allowance) is exceeded.

- An income tax return must be filed by anyone who is self-employed or who exceeds the tax exemption limit. The "Elster" internet portal is available for this purpose: [www.elster.de](http://www.elster.de).
- For individual advice, you should contact a tax advisor (subject to a fee).

**IMPORTANT** Different types of jobs are also subject to different social security contributions. Further information can be found in the flyer "Jobbing" ("Working in Germany") from Deutsches Studierendenwerk (German National Association for Student Affairs).



## Social insurance

If you take up a job, your employer needs to register you with the social security system. You will then automatically receive a social security certificate via post, which also contains your pension insurance number (Important: keep this document for further reference). If you do not receive this certificate, you need to contact the German Pension Insurance (Deutsche Rentenversicherung). Mini-jobbers can ask their employer to exempt them from the pension insurance obligation, which slightly increases their net income each month. However, the contributions can be factored in when applying for a permanent residence permit.

## Health insurance

Any student who works more than 20 hours per week is covered by health insurance through work and is no longer covered by student health insurance or family health insurance. Private health insurance can be terminated by the student. Please note: This does not apply to temporary jobs of up to three months. (Students covered by EHIC, ➡ please refer to the info box under section "Students from the EU/EEA/Switzerland".) Further information can be found in the flyer "Jobbing" ("Working in Germany") from Deutsches Studierendenwerk, see QR code above.

**IMPORTANT** Those with family insurance should seek advice from their health insurance company before starting work in order to clarify their insurance cover.