

Guide to Bureaucracy for International Students

Welcome to Freiburg! To make your first few weeks in Freiburg easier, we have created a checklist of the necessary administrative steps for you.

Important! Students from outside the EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, or Switzerland need a "residence permit" for their stay in Germany. In this case, you either enter with a visa or, if you're from certain countries, you can enter Germany without a visa and stay for 90 days. If the duration of your visa or the 90 days is not enough for your study time in Germany, **you must make an appointment with the foreigner's office after your arrival in Germany to apply for a residence permit (see step 5).**

1. Step: Since the waiting time for the appointment can be very long, contact the foreigner's office as soon as you arrive in Freiburg.

2. Step: Citizens' Service Center (German: *BürgerServicezentrum*)

According to the German registration law, everyone living in Germany permanently or temporarily must register their residence at the municipal office. To register, you must first make an appointment.

The **following documents** must be submitted:

- ❖ Identity card or passport
- ❖ Proof of residence
- ❖ Possibly, IDs of family members: for children without a children's passport, you must submit their birth certificate
- ❖ Possibly, original certificate with translation for marriage abroad or birth of children abroad
- ❖ Possibly, questionnaire for the registration of minor children

Citizens' Service Center

Appointment required!

Address:

Fehrenbachallee 12, 79106 Freiburg

Service Hotline: Mo-Fr 8am – 6pm

+49 (0)761 201-0

Appointment:

[>Hier online<](#)

Opening hours:

Monday	8:00 am – 1:00 pm
Tuesday	8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Wednesday	8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Thursday	8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Friday	8:00 am - 12:30 pm

You will receive a **registration confirmation** from the registration office. **Keep this document safe**, as you will need it for many other matters. More information about residence registration can be found here:

[Service A-Z - www.freiburg.de](http://www.freiburg.de) - [Service/Service A-Z Wohnsitz anmelden](#)

3. Step: German bank account

If you stay in Germany for more than a few weeks, you should open a bank account here. For students, it's often free, and it has many advantages:

- ❖ Withdraw money for free from many ATMs in Germany
- ❖ Make cashless payments
- ❖ Set up "standing orders" for regular payments - like rent, health insurance, or phone. The amount will then be automatically deducted from your account every month.

Some banks offer a low-cost or free student account:

- ❖ Postbank
Adress: Basler Str. 2 oder Eisenbahnstr. 58
- ❖ Deutsche Bank
Adress: Rotteckring 3
- ❖ Commerzbank
Adress: Kaiser-Joseph-Str. 251

If you want to take up a part-time job in Germany, you'll likely need a German account.

To set up an account, you usually need:

- ❖ A passport or ID card
- ❖ A student ID, enrollment or study certificate, or the university's admission notice
- ❖ Confirmation of registration ([see step 2](#))
- ❖ Possibly, the visa for Germany or the residence permit from the foreigner's office ([see steps 1 and 5](#)).

More information about bank accounts in Germany can be found here:

[Bank account | Study in Germany \(study-in-germany.de\)](#)

4. Step: Health insurance

All students in Germany must have health insurance. We recommend signing up with a statutory health insurance company. They offer a favorable student rate up to the age of 30.

Except for a small amount, this health insurance covers the costs of medical treatments and prescription medications. Note: dental prostheses are usually not fully covered!

For university enrollment, you need health insurance or a confirmation of exemption from the insurance obligation (e.g., for students with an EHIC - "European Health Insurance Card").

Social Counselling SWFR

Adress:

Basler Str. 2, 79100 Freiburg

Phone:

+49 (0)761 2101-233

E-Mail:

sozialberatung@swfr.de

Public consulting hours:

Tuesday 9 am – 12 pm

Thursday 13:30 pm – 4 pm

More information about health insurance and exemptions can be found [here](#). Or feel free to contact our social counseling for more information and questions.

Contact details for statutory health insurance companies in Freiburg:

Contacts:			
<u>AOK</u>	<u>TK</u>	<u>DAK</u>	<u>BARMER GEK</u>
Adress: Fahnenbergplatz 6	Adress: Bertoldstr. 48	Adress: Basler Str. 61	Adress: Heinrich-von-Stephan-Str. 5

5. Step: Foreigners' Office (German: *Ausländerbehörde*)

Students from outside the EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, or Switzerland need a "residence permit" for their stay in Germany. In this case, you either enter with a visa or, if you're from certain countries, you can enter Germany without a visa and stay for 90 days. If the duration of your visa or the 90 days is not enough for your study time in Germany, **you must make an appointment with the foreigner's office after your arrival in Germany to apply for a residence permit.**

You can find more information about the residence permit here: [Service A-Z Residence Permit](#)

Required are:

- ❖ Valid passport
- ❖ Proof of funding confirming that the costs of your studies are covered
- ❖ Registration confirmation (see step 2)
- ❖ Admission notice or enrollment certificate from the university
- ❖ Proof of health insurance (see step 4)
- ❖ A current biometric passport photo
- ❖ First-time issuance: EUR 100.00
- ❖ For those receiving a scholarship from public funds for their stay in Germany: no fee.

6. Step: Enrollment

Enrollment takes place at the student registration offices of the respective universities.

Required are typically:

- ❖ Admission notice
- ❖ Passport (possibly with a student visa) or ID card (for students from EU member states, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland)
- ❖ Application for enrollment
- ❖ Proof of health insurance or confirmation of exemption from insurance in Germany (see step 4)
- ❖ A current biometric passport photo
- ❖ Semester fee (possibly with tuition fees for international students*)
- ❖ If you have previously studied at another German university, you will also need the de-registration certificate from this university.

* Please note: Since the winter semester 2017/18, international students arriving from outside the EU for the purpose of studying must pay an own contribution of 1,500 euros per semester.

7. Step (optional): Semester ticket or other tickets

To get around Freiburg and the surrounding area flexibly, you can purchase a semester ticket. With the semester ticket, students can travel for an entire semester throughout the Regio-Verkehrsverbund Freiburg (RVF) network. Students can use it not only for commuting to university but also for leisure.

More information and other ticket options [here!](#)

Foreigners' Office Freiburg City

Appointment required by service hotline or mail!

Address:

Berliner Allee 1, 79114 Freiburg

Service Hotline: +49 761 201-8080

(available during the opening hours)

Opening hours:

Monday	7:30 am – 4:00 pm
Tuesday	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Wednesday	7:30 am – 5:30 pm
Thursday	7:30 am – 12:30 pm
Friday	7:30 am – 12:30 pm

E-Mail:

auslaenderbehoerde@freiburg.de

With the SemesterTicket you are always mobile. It is available for students of the following universities:

- Albert-Ludwigs-Universität
- Evangelische Hochschule
- Hochschule Macromedia Freiburg
- Hochschule für Musik
- Internationale Studien- und Berufsakademie ISBA
- Katholische Hochschule
- Pädagogische Hochschule

8. Step: You've made it 😊 If you have any questions about studying, contact SWFR!