

# GERMANY-

## STUDY EXPENSES & LIVING EXPENSES

Compared to some other European countries, Germany is not very expensive. On average, students in Germany spend around 850 euros per month on living costs. The largest expense is rent.

You should expect to pay the following costs during your stay in Germany:

- **Semester contribution**
- **Living expenses (rent, food, clothing, books, telephone, ...)**
- **Health insurance**
- **Possible tuition fees**

Prices differ significantly between the large cities in Germany. You would need more money for living and studying in Munich than you would in Leipzig.

## **SEMESTER CONTRIBUTION**

All students at a higher education institution are required to pay the semester contribution. The semester contribution is not the same as tuition fees. The amount varies depending on the higher education institution, partly because different services are included in the contribution. On average, the contribution is around 250 euros per semester.

Part of the semester contribution is for student welfare contributions and fees. For example, this helps to fund the student cafeterias, housing and sports facilities, and also covers administrative costs. The portion of the semester contribution that is the student welfare contribution may be up to 100 euros.

In some federal states, there is also an administrative fee, which can be between 50 and 75 euros per semester depending on the higher education institution.

At many higher education institutions, the semester contribution also includes the cost of a “semester ticket” i.e. a public transport pass. With your semester ticket, you can travel on public transport in the area around your higher education institution for six months free of charge. Depending on where you live and how far you are allowed to travel, the ticket can cost between 25 and 200 euros and is then already included in the semester contribution.

## **TUITION FEES**

As a rule, state higher education institutions do not charge tuition fees for Bachelor's or many Master's degree courses.

There is one exception: since the 2017/18 winter semester, the federal state of Baden-Württemberg has charged non-EU citizens tuition fees of 1,500 euros per semester for their academic studies (Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, German “Diploma” degree, state examination). These fees do not apply to doctoral students.

## **HEALTH INSURANCE**

If your health insurance cover at home is not valid in Germany, you will have to take out an insurance policy here. Public health insurance costs around 80 euros per month if you are not older than 30 years old or have not yet finished the 14th subject-related semester. After that, the contribution increases to at least 160 euros per month.

### AVERAGE MONTHLY LIVING EXPENSES FOR STUDENTS

Type of Expenses	Average
Rent and utilities	€ 323
Food and drink	€ 168
Clothing	€ 42
Working/learning materials	€ 20
Travel costs (car and public transport)	€ 94
Health insurance, medical costs, medicine	€ 80
Phone, internet, TV	€ 31

Leisure, culture, sports	€ 61
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 819</b>

## Details regarding Part-time jobs

As an international student, you are allowed to take up part-time employment along with your studies while in Germany.

Here are a few things you need to keep in mind though.

- You can work for a total of 120 full or 240 half days in a year as a student. This, however, might vary from high employment regions to low employment regions.
- Usually, as per university norms, a student would not be allowed to work for more than **20 hours in a week during term**. Students, however, can take up full-time employment during vacations.
- A work permit from the "Agentur für Arbeit" (Federal Employment Agency) and the foreigners' authority is required. The permit would have details of the maximum limit of work a student can take up.
- If you are enrolled in a preparatory course or a language course, the regulations are tighter. As such, you are allowed only to work during the lecture-free periods and only with explicit permission to do so from the foreign authority.

- Taxation is another concern. A student earning less than 450 euros a month need not pay any taxes/ social security contribution. Also, if you work for less than 50 continuous days over a period of one year, you are exempt as well.
- Compliance with the Federal Laws is extremely important. If you are found to be flouting them, you can find yourself being expelled from the country. So, keep the checks in place, conform to the rules and have your permit in place.
- When it comes to working within the University, though, the working hours and wages are completed differently. In fact, they are far better and you can work for long hours as well. Getting a job in the University, however, might not be as easy.

## Time Period of Post Study Work Permit

While the EU nationals do not require any specific permission, students with Indian Passport would require applying for a Residence Permit after completion of their education from a German University. The Immigration Laws permit the students to apply for and get a **Residence Permit** of **18 months** to look for a job as per their qualification.