Study and work

Many students work part-time during their studies to earn some extra money. Find out how to juggle studying and working here.

On this page

- Working during academic studies: regulations for international students
- Internships and self-employment during academic studies
- Switching to employment as a skilled worker before completing your academic degree
- Switching from academic studies to vocational training

Working during academic studies: regulations for international students

Many students in Germany have jobs in their spare time. Some may work as research assistants in universities, research institutes, or libraries, while others may work as waiters or babysitters. International students also have the opportunity to work in addition to studying.

Students from third countries are permitted to work up to 140 full days or 280 half-days per year without requiring the approval of the **Federal Employment Agency (BA)**. A working day of up to four hours counts as half a working day. Alternatively, both third-country students and students from EU/**EEA** countries and Switzerland may work up to 20 hours per week during the lecture period, just like German students. During the semester break, they can work without any restrictions.

These restrictions do not apply to student auxiliary tasks (e.g., academic work at higher education institutions).

Proof of funding through a student job

As an international student, you must prove that you have sufficient resources to support yourself in order to renew your residence title in Germany. If you work as a student assistant in a company in Germany during your studies, you can generally act as your own guarantor. To do this, you must prove that you have at least **€992** per month (applicable in 2026) at your disposal from your secondary income. Your secondary employment need not be for an indefinite period. To find out whether this type of proof of financing is possible in your case, you should first contact your competent foreigners authority.

Internships and self-employment during academic studies

International students may also complete **internships** or engage in self-employed activities while at **university**. However, any self-employed activity requires the approval of the competent **foreigners authority**. The authority will consider, among other things, whether the work is likely to hinder or delay the student in the pursuit of their academic goals.

You will find more information on the **Deutsches Studentenwerk (German National Association for Student Affairs)** website and at **Study in Germany**.

Switching to employment as a skilled worker before completing your academic degree

Under certain circumstances, it is possible to accept an offer of employment as a **skilled worker** during a stay for study purposes. This involves a change to a **residence permit** for the purpose of taking up **qualified employment** without having to complete a study programme first (**Section 16b (4) of the Residence Act [AufenthG]**). It is important that your employment is not of a temporary nature. For further details, please contact your local foreigners authority.

Switching from academic studies to vocational training

International students in Germany have the opportunity to switch to **vocational training** if they feel like their study programme is not suitable for them and that they would prefer **a more practical approach** to their education. Your residence permit will need to be amended to allow you to start vocational education and training **(Section 16b (4) of the Residence Act [AufenthG]**). A residence permit for vocational education and training requires an assessment by the Federal Employment Agency (BA) and other special requirements. For more information on the requirements for this residence permit, see the "**Visa for vocational training**" section.

Before submitting your application, contact your foreigners authority to find out which documents you need to present.

Submit your application on time

Before your residence permit for study purposes expires, you must apply for a change of residence permit.

Information on the web

Study in Germany

Earning money during your studies

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