



Alice Salomon Hochschule Berlin
University of Applied Sciences

Master of Arts
**Intercultural
Conflict
Management**
(MA-ICM)

Master of Arts
**Social Work as
a Human Rights
Profession**
(MA-SWHR)

Visa Information 2026

ash-berlin.eu/icm
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Visa Information 2026

As international programs, Master of Arts “Intercultural Conflict Management” (MA-ICM) and Master of Arts “Social Work as a Human Rights Profession” (MA-SWHR) welcome students from all over the world. We are proud including a huge variety of personal backgrounds in our academic program and pursue to continue assuring students’ diversity not only in terms of their gender, sexual identity, etc. but also their national origin.

Unfortunately, applicants who need a visa to study in Germany have to engage with further steps within their application process. Each year, we have seen visa applicants fail to reach the deadlines on time as the visa process usually is a long and complex procedure. But feel reassured – if you start early and prepare well, it usually works out fine! This is why we have prepared this document to remind you of some important steps. We recommend reading it carefully.

At a glance

Submit application early! Visa processing can take several months and you will not be able to enter the country without a valid visa.

Apply for the correct visa! Tourist and language course visas cannot be converted into a student visa. With the wrong visa, you will be forced to leave the country at some point and apply for the correct visa back home.

Be aware of financial proof! In order to get a visa, you must be able to prove that you can finance your stay in Germany. This is unrelated with the tuition fees of the Master program (more info below).

Make sure your passport is valid for your entire stay! If your passport expires while you are in Germany, you will have to return to your home country and extend the validity of your passport there.

Important steps

Contact the German embassy or a consulate in your home country regarding the current entry and residence requirements **as soon as possible!**

Most international students require a **student visa** for the Federal Republic of Germany.

Exceptions are citizens from EU countries, the EEC countries Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, from Switzerland, the UK, the USA, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Israel, Australia, and New Zealand. They do not require a visa to enter Germany, but they must apply for a student residence permit from the Foreigner Registration Office after arriving in Berlin.

The visa must allow you to study in the Federal Republic of Germany. Other visas (a tourist visa, for example) cannot be used to obtain a student residence permit in Germany. As a result, the applicant would be unable to get enrolled and would be required to return to his or her home country.

- Make an appointment with the Embassy. Sometimes it takes months to get an appointment. This should be done even before preparing the documents.
- Prepare all documents for the appointment. Some documents also take time to prepare and come to some applicants as a surprise, so start right away.

Proof of financing

When applying for a visa for Germany, you must present a proof of financing to the German embassy.

Following options are possible:

- a) Confirmation of a blocked German bank account bearing an amount of about EUR 11.904,- at least. It is called a blocked account because the money you transfer to it is blocked until the day you have arrived in Germany. Once you have arrived in Germany, you can withdraw a certain amount each month (about 992 EUR) to finance your stay in Germany. The complete process of opening a blocked account can take up to 4 weeks. You can find more information on the blocked account here: www.auswaertiges-amt.de.
- b) Official German declaration of sponsorship (“Verpflichtungserklärung”, formal obligation) given before the competent German authority (Please note: Financing is only secured and acknowledged if the declarant resides in Germany and can financially prove the ability of support). If you have a sponsor residing in Germany, please inform yourself directly at the German embassy about the bureaucratic steps to receive this formal obligation.
- c) Proof of scholarship of a German/ European organization covering the arising costs.

You can find more information about the visa process on the [website of the Germany Embassy in your country](#).

We are very much looking forward to seeing you soon!

Kind regards,
SWHR Team & ICM Team