

Checklist: Before Departure

Information on what you need to do before coming to Germany for your MBA Studies

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1. Before departure

You applied to an MBA program at Darmstadt Business School and got your admission letter? **Congratulations!**

We have collected information of procedures and processes that you need to keep in mind and do before departing your country. We hope that this information will help to make your transition to Germany as smooth as possible. However, if you need any help, don't hesitate to contact us!

2. Timing

Studying in Germany will require a bit of planning and some tasks on forehand. Some of them, like applying for a visa, take a lot of time. Therefore, please make sure to start collecting information as soon as possible. Then you can start planning everything you need to do to come to Germany as soon as you get your acceptance letter.

3. Visa

As an international student, you may need an entry visa to study in Germany – depending on where you come from. For detailed information about visa requirements, please contact the German embassy or nearest consulate in your home country. Keep in mind that it might take at least 6-10 weeks to receive a visa, or even more time in some cases. Therefore, it is important to start searching for information regarding the visa process once you applied to the h_da. For more detailed information about visa, the application process and how to get a resident permit, please consult our [FAQ](#).

4. Search and book accommodation

Looking for an accommodation while you are abroad can be very difficult, so we are here to help. Please check our [FAQ section accommodation information](#) for detailed information and contact our [Buddy Service](#) if you have any questions.

Darmstadt, like most college towns, offers several opportunities for student housing, including public dorms as well as private rooms or apartments. Unfortunately, the German law does not allow the h_da to own any students' dorms. However, the Studierendenwerk and HEAG Bauverein AG provide public student accommodation for all students in Darmstadt. [Here](#) you can find a list of student residences in Darmstadt including further information and contact details.

If you want to come to Germany a few days in advance but your accommodation contract starts only at the same time as your studies, please check our information about short-term accommodation in Darmstadt. You will find all information in our [FAQ](#).

5. Health insurance

By law, all students MUST have health insurance cover for their studies in Germany. Non-European students should carefully consider the different health insurance options. Please read all the information about health insurances in Germany in our [FAQ section](#) Health Insurance Information carefully.

Please note: a travel insurance is not sufficient for your enrolment! You have the opportunity to register for a public insurance during your enrolment. If you prefer to register for another insurance or with another insurance company, please make sure to meet all requirements.

6. Proof of financial resources

It is required by the visa process that you have to prove a certain amount of money per month to ensure coverage of your expenses during your studies. Since January 2021 it is needed to show proof of at least **861 EUR** for 12 months ($861 \times 12 = 10,332$ EUR). We suggest verifying the specific amount with your embassy or consulate.

The immigration office in Darmstadt accepts one of the following proofs:

- Formal obligation (Verpflichtungserklärung)
- Blocked bank account

For more detailed information we recommend you to read our [information regarding a blocked bank account](#) carefully.

7. Plan your travel

Once you have received the CONFIRMATION of your visa, it is time to start planning your trip to Germany. Keep in mind the starting semester dates and the orientation days (usually at the beginning of September) which you can find in your application documents.

Depending on from how far you are travelling, we advise you to come a couple of days before to overcome the jetlag and get used to your new city.

8. Register for a german course

Even though the classes and exams during your MBA program will be held entirely in English, learning German is important for daily life in Germany. It will increase your chances on the job market since German is the main language of communication. In addition, it will help you to settle in quicker and make friends easier.

It is possible to participate in language courses at the h_da language centre free of an additional cost during your studies. You need to enrol for these courses in advance, before the beginning

of the courses. Please check the [information on German Language Courses](#) for additional information and registration procedure. There are also other options German courses in various private institutions in and around Darmstadt.

9. Welcome to Germany!

Once you arrived in Germany, there are some additional tasks. Please read the [FAQ section "Getting Started"](#), where you will find information regarding your first days in Germany and what needs to be done as your first steps and procedures here.

The orientation days will help you make a smooth transition into life in Darmstadt. There is only one condition: You have to show up. During these introductory days you will get to know your new study place, get connected, and get help.

10. Further Information

You can visit the following websites for more detailed information:

- [Study in Germany - visa information](#)
- [Federal Foreign Office Germany](#)
- [Federal Foreign Office Germany - visa regulations](#)
- [Pathway to Germany - visa and entry procedure](#)

11. Contact

If you have any further questions, please contact us via e-mail to buddy.mba@h-da.de. We are looking forward to hearing from you!

12. Checklist



Before Departure Checklist

| | | When? |
|--------------------------|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Acceptance letter _____ | ..... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Visa requirements & appointment _____ | ..... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Register for accommodation with the Studierendenwerk _____ | ..... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Health insurance & financial proof _____ | ..... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to your visa appointment & wait for the confirmation _____ | ..... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Start planning your travel _____ | ..... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Register for German course _____ | ..... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Welcome to Germany! _____ | ..... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | First steps in Germany _____ | ..... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Orientation days _____ | ..... |