

Fact Sheet for International Students

Merz Akademie
University of Applied Arts,
Design and Media • Stuttgart
nationally accredited

Welcome!

We're excited that you're considering joining us. As an international student, your journey to Merz Akademie involves several important steps, from applying to settling into life in Germany. This fact sheet provides key information about the application process, visa requirements, accommodation options, health insurance, and financial planning.

Application

You must follow specific guidelines depending on whether you are applying for a Bachelor, Master or Exchange program. The official website has all the relevant information, including admission requirements.

Our Programs

Application Process and Deadlines	Course Catalogue	General Course Catalogue
➔ Bachelor Application	➔ BA Study Plan	➔ Catalogue
➔ Master Application	➔ MA Study Plan	



Exchange Students Application ([here](#)).

After being nominated by your home institution, you should submit the application form along with the required documents via the International Office email (international.office@merz-akademie.de).

Important Dates

Lecture Period

Semester Start	Term Date
Winter	October to February
Summer	March to July

Academic Calendar

Semester Start	Term Date
Winter	Sept. 1st - Feb. 28th
Summer	Mar. 1st - Aug. 31st

Deadline for nominated Exchange Students

Semester	Term Date
Winter	May 1st
Summer	November 1st

Essential Preparations After Acceptance

Visa (for Non-EU students)

Visa requirements depend on your nationality. If a visa is required, you can book a visa appointment even before receiving your admission letter, although you'll need the letter for the actual appointment. We strongly recommend checking official websites for the most up-to-date information on required documents, financial proof, and available funding options.

These documents may be required:

- Completed **application form**.
- Valid **passport**.
- **Acceptance letter** from Merz Akademie.
- **Proof of financial resources** for the duration of your study period in Stuttgart (please check the embassy websites for the amount or use the blocked account services).
- **Health insurance** valid in Germany.
- **Proof of language** proficiency in the language of instruction (minimum B2 level).
- **Academic records**.



Important Notes

- **Merz Akademie is not involved in the visa application process** and, unfortunately, cannot influence or expedite it.
- **The visa process can take several months**, so we recommend that you start your application as early as possible.
- **Do not enter Germany on a tourist visa**—it cannot be converted into a student visa, and you won't be able to enroll.

For more detailed information

[Federal Foreign Office](#)
[Student Visa Germany](#)

Financing

To obtain a visa or residence permit, you must demonstrate that you have adequate financial resources to support your stay in Germany.

You can fulfill this requirement in various ways, such as:

- A security payment can be deposited into a **blocked account (Sperrkonto)**.
- You can present a **scholarship award** notification from a recognised scholarship provider (e.g., Erasmus+, BW-Stipendium, DAAD).

The German government sets a standard amount, called "**Regelbedarf**," which represents the estimated living expenses a student needs to cover for one year. This amount may change annually. Currently, the required amount is **11.904 EUR** for the entire year, which corresponds to approximately **992 EUR** per month.

Proof of Financial Resources

[Blocked Account \(Sperrkonto\)](#)
[Scholarships](#)

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Bank Account

We recommend opening a local bank account during your stay in Stuttgart, as certain monthly payments (e.g., rent, insurance, or subscriptions) often require direct bank transfers.

You can open an account at any major bank in Stuttgart, such as BW Bank, Deutsche Bank, Commerzbank, among others.

You'll typically need the following documents to open a bank account:

- A valid passport and a current visa.
- Student ID from the Merz Akademie.
- Proof of financial resources.
- Registration certificate from the city of Stuttgart (*Meldebescheinigung*).

Insurance

Health Insurance

Health insurance is mandatory in Germany for student visas, university enrollment, and residence permits.

First, check if your home country's insurance is valid in Germany.

- **EU/EEA Students:** Can use the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC).
- **Non-EU Students:** Must obtain German health insurance.

Costs range from **130 EUR** to **150 EUR** per month, depending on the provider and type of coverage.

Private Liability Insurance (optional)

Private liability insurance (*Haftpflichtversicherung*) covers accidental damage or injury to third parties.

Costs are approximately **20 EUR** to **25 EUR** for six months.

For more detailed information

[Opening a Bank Account in Germany](#)

For more detailed information

[Health Insurance for International Students in Germany](#)

For more detailed information

[Liability Insurance Providers](#)

Housing

Students have various housing options in Stuttgart's central districts: Mitte, Nord, Ost, Süd, and West. Below you will find some useful opportunities.

Studierendenwerk Stuttgart (student union membership)

Merz Akademie cooperates with **Studierendenwerk Stuttgart**. The membership fee is currently **96,50 EUR**.

It owns and maintains several student dormitories in Stuttgart. Rent for single rooms ranges between **350 EUR** and **475 EUR**.

Online application via Studierendenwerk Stuttgart website
[Apply here](#)



For Exchange Students

As an exchange student, you have a good chance of securing a dorm room. These furnished rooms include internet, bed linen, and final cleaning.

IMPORTANT: Apply before the deadline—late applications will not be accepted.

Deadline for Housing (Exchange Students)

Semester	Term Date
Winter	June 15th
Summer	December 15th

Shared /single apartment providers

Consider renting a private flat or shared apartment in Stuttgart.

<https://www.wg-gesucht.de>
<https://housinganywhere.com/de/>
<https://www.habyt.com>
<https://www.immobilienscout24.de>
<https://rentola.de/>
<https://www.wg-liste.de/>

Merz Akademie "on-campus" accommodations

Consider renting a private flat or shared apartment in Merz Akademie.

<https://www.merz-akademie.de/campus-wgs/>

Costs of Living

Keep in mind that monthly living expenses typically range from **800 EUR** to **1000 EUR**. This estimate includes accommodation, health insurance, transportation, food, and other living

For more detailed information

[Costs of living in Germany as a student](#)