

Pre-departure and Post-travel Guide

For PSP, ICPF-TECH, ICPF MED Students

All students must begin their visa processing immediately after receiving the **admission confirmation Email** as most of the Consulate/Embassy does take 3 to 8 weeks for Visa processing.

Steps to follow once the Admission is confirmed

Call the consulate/embassy immediately and book an appointment for visa interview. All students must apply for German long term visa for studies. You cannot study in Germany with a tourist visa (Schengen Visa). So do apply for only student visa.

Bank Account: All student must open a Blocked account and deposit a sum of 8040€ in his or her (student's) name. This is for the living costs in Germany. In case of ICPF courses, students must open a Blocked account and deposit the 8040 amount once the visa has been approved. If applying for PSP, then most of the living costs except Food, Clothes and Leisure activity not included, which amounts to around 250€ per month. So a deposit of 3000€ is required.

To open a **Blocked account** all students must fill the application form (Only Deutsche bank offers blocked account) and get it notarized by the German consulate/embassy representing your region of the country. **Note:** Again to get an appointment to do this takes a long time so do open an account minimum 2-3 months prior to the actual visa interview date. Sometimes the Deutsche Bank, in your home country can also open the blocked account which in turn saves lots of time.

Visa Interview: Inform our Student office about your Visa Interview date. On the appointed day, you need to attend your interview. (**Our student office will send you a separate document on Visa interview**).

Visa Approval: Once the German consulate/embassy has approved your visa, you will mostly be intimated via email or telephone and you need to then deposit the blocked account amount and also bring along a valid **travel medical insurance** (most of the students do get a insurance prior to the visa interview itself) & a flight ticket (atleast tentative dates blocked). Once done, a visa will be stamped in your passport. This visa in general will be valid for only 90 days as it is an entry visa to Germany.

Travel Preparation: Depending upon the airlines, the students must plan their baggage allowances. Following table contains some general tips on what to carry.

1. Medicine - If you are in need of certain prescribed medicines do carry it (along with the Doctor's Prescription). Generally, we recommend packing a small kit with Band-Aid, Cold, Cough, Headache medicines & other necessary medicines.

2. Clothes – T-Shirts (5-6), Jeans Trousers (3-4) will do. Might carry one or two shirts for some special occasions. Cotton pants are worn rarely due to climatic conditions. Bed Covers, Pillows are included in the accommodation so no need to carry. Laundry facilities are mostly available in the hostel building if not there are some paid laundry services in the city. A common Iron box will also be provided for the students.

3. Any special Utensils (a Non-Stick Pan, A vessel, Small kitchen knife). Most of the Kitchens in Germany are well equipped. Dinner plate, lunch boxes, Spoons, Forks etc just a set would be enough. No need for Pressure Rice Cookers- Many Hostels are equipped with Fire Alarm system for Smoke. Electric Rice cookers are available in Germany.
4. Blazers or Suits - We personally recommend not to carry them. Students dont use them until they attend job Interviews.
5. Winter Jackets and Woolen Inners - PSP & ICPF Students (WS/SS) doesnt have to carry. Just PULLOVERS (Sweaters) are enough. Especially for students from India we recommend not to carry as they can buy in German Local market itself. May be Leather or Woolen gloves and head covers you can bring along. We recommend also rain coats. Winter Months: November till March. Weather is mostly cold but with proper clothing you can keep yourself warm enough. All rooms having heating facility.
6. Do carry only Original DVDs, CDs or Softwares . Piracy is punishable in Germany upto 5 years in Prison.
7. Laptops & Computers - Mostly Laptops are all pre-installed with German OS & Keyboard in Germany. Students need to order specially to get OS in English.
8. Food & Cooking - All students must learn to cook. Lunch could be eaten outside near the university itself. Morning Breakfast & Dinner needs to be self-cooked. Eating everyday at Restaurants/Fast Foods is not an option. Almost all that is available in your home country is also available in Germany. For Chinese Students, there are many Asian and Chinese Shops in every city. Similarly Indian/Srilankan Shops are selling almost all food items in need for cooking. Rice, all sorts of Grams, Spices, and Vegetables are readily available. Also students can order via online grocery shops.
9. Books - Do carry only absolute necessary books. Scribbling pads, Pen, Pencil do carry two sets each.
10. Mobile Phones - Many Networks offer Mobile phones along with the contract. Students interested in NEW Smartphones can sign such contracts. Mobile companies charge around 20€ - 30€ per month.
11. Vegetarians - Many Vegetarian foods are available in Germany. If students eat outside, Eggitarians fair better.
12. Electronics - The voltage and plug system is same as in India. DO carry a USB, a Hard drive if necessary for Back ups.
13. Towels, Bathroom slippers, Hair oil, Soaps, shoes, socks (thick as well as thin), Tooth brush, Paste/powder, scissors, shaver, cream, nail cutter, glue stick, punching machine, a folder, stapler, stapler pins, rubber bands, batteries, umbrella, a pen torch.
There are lots of shops and supermarkets available in the city.

Arrival in Germany:

How to get to Schwerin: The nearest airports to Schwerin are Berlin and Hamburg. There are regular train connections to Schwerin (<http://www.reiseauskunft.bahn.de/bin/query2.exe/en>). We do not pick up students from the airport.

Do inform us in prior about your flight details, arrival in Germany so that your keys for the Hostel room and other basic amenities could be taken care of. Plan it in such a way that you reach Germany during the day time and during the office hours (Monday till Friday 09:00 – 18:00). If you reach Germany outside office hours or on a Saturday or Sunday or on a German

holiday, you need to look for an accommodation for that day (many hotels are available in Schwerin).

Bank Account: First thing you do is you go to the local Deutsche bank and get your account set. The bank will provide you the details of your account and with this you can sign the Hostel or apartment contract (You need to give in the authorization that the rent is automatically taken from your account every month).

Hostel/Apartment Contract: Most of the students do block a room prior to arrival and also do sign the contract & pay the deposit. Most rooms require an upfront payment of 2 or 3 months of rent as deposit. Once you reach Germany you should provide your bank details for the automatic rent transfer. In general, make sure that you cancel your contract 3 months prior to moving out otherwise you will be paying both this and the new one for 3 months.

Make sure that you keep your **Room, Kitchen** and the **Bathroom** always clean. A common Vacuum cleaner will be provided for the students. Take it very serious as dirty smelly rooms need to be refurbished and you may end up not getting your deposit and/or paying a hefty sum in the end.

City Registration: Once you have arrived in Germany, you must register yourself at the local city registration. To do this you need the copy of your admission letter and your stay address (Hostel address or shared apartments etc). Our international office will help you with this procedure.

Health Insurance: Is a must in Germany. All students must have a Health Insurance during the course of the studies. Also we recommend students to get liability insurance.

Visa Renewal: With the admission letter, blocked account details & city registration, the visa for the purpose of study must be renewed at the foreign office. Our international office will help you with this procedure.

Emergency Numbers: In case of a clear emergency outside the office hours you can call the following numbers

110 – Police

112 – Emergency Doctor / Fire Service

116 117 – Medical emergency