

## Before Arrival

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## Next steps after admission

Once you have been admitted to Hochschule Offenburg, you can use this section as an information source for pre-arrival preparations. Learn more about required documents, study fees and living expenses, accommodation and transportation, and more.

Another great source of information is the DAAD's brochure "[Studying in Germany - A Practical Guide for International Students](#)".

## Visa

Students who come from a country that is not part of the European Union will need a visa to enter Germany and an additional residence permit to study in Germany. Students who are citizens of an EU country will have other entry and permit regulations. You can find out more information about visa requirements by contacting the German consulate in your country.

We recommend applying for your visa three months in advance, because some cases may take longer to process. Also be sure to apply for the correct visa, because you are not allowed to study with a tourist visa.

There is a comprehensive list of information on the German Federal Foreign Office's [visa regulations page](#).

If you need to give a German address for your visa application, and don't know yours yet, you can give the information for Offenburg University of Applied Sciences (Badstrasse 24, 77654 Offenburg).

## Important Documents

These documents will be required for your final enrollment at Offenburg University of Applied Sciences, for the residence permit and registration with the city in which you reside, for the extension of your visa and for some other formalities. For students from EU countries, other entry and permit regulations apply.

- Passport valid for the entirety of your studies
- Entrance visa
- Letter of Admission from the Offenburg University of Applied Sciences
- Proof of sufficient financial resources
- 2 biometrical passport photos
- Master Degree seeking Students need also:
- Original Bachelor's or equivalent degree in English
- Missing documents not available during the admission process (TOEFL score, letters of recommendation, DaF

<https://mv.hs-offenburg.de/en/nc/studium/master/energy-conversion-and-management-ecm/around-your-studies/before-arrival/>

certificates, etc.)

## Financial Information

In order to receive a student visa, foreign students must be able to prove to German authorities that they have enough financial support during their studies. This means, you must prove that you are able to cover at least your first year of studies. Currently, that amounts to € 735,00 per month, or a total of € 8820,00 for a year of study.

There are several forms of proof of financial support, which include a savings book, a confirmation from your bank on the credit balance available, a bank statement, proof of scholarship or a statement of support from your parents. Check with your local embassy to ensure you have the proper documents. In some cases you may be asked by your embassy to open a blocked account called a "Sperrkonto". This is available, for example, via [Deutsche Bank](#), [Fintiba](#), or [X-Patrio](#).

Please be aware, as it is only allowed to withdraw a certain amount of money per month from these blocked accounts, you will not be able to pay the tuition fees from the money on your blocked account.

Students will be responsible for their living expenses in Germany in addition to their tuition and fees. Before departure, it is a good idea to bring cash for your initial expenses., because a transfer from your home country could take 3-4 weeks. For more information about your first few days, please visit "[Upon Arrival](#)".

An estimation of students' living expenses in Offenburg/Gengenbach, including a breakdown of the various costs, can be found in the "[Costs and Expenses](#)" section.

## Health Insurance

Whoever wants to study in Germany is required to have health insurance. Without health insurance, a student is not allowed to enroll for studies. International students need health insurance upon arrival. Students are eligible for statutory health insurance at a low monthly rate of about € 80,00.

There are some countries within the EU that have agreements with Germany. If you are a student from one of these countries and you already have statutory health insurance from your home country, you may not be required to get additional German health insurance.

It is advisable to purchase traveler's insurance for your first few days in Germany. This way, you will be covered until you obtain your German health insurance.

Some companies, like [Fintiba](#) or [X-Patrio](#), also offer you to contract both types of insurances together online.

## Scholarships

The organization that gives the largest amount of scholarships to international students in Germany, is the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). They have an entire [database](#), which you can use to find the best scholarships for you.

## Buddy Program

We will arrange for a "buddy" to help you settle in during your first weeks in Offenburg. Your buddy will be a student from Offenburg University of Applied Sciences, who will be in contact with you before your arrival in

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order to ask and answer important questions in advance.

Your buddy will be responsible for picking you up upon arrival, taking you to your accommodation and assisting you in communicating with your landlady/landlord and understanding the lease. Additionally, your buddy will help you with registering at the town hall and the foreign residents office, opening a bank account and showing you where to go grocery shopping. Your buddy will also show you around the campus.

## Transportation

Offenburg University of Applied Sciences has two campuses, both of which are easily accessible by plane, train or car.

- Campus Offenburg  
Badstr. 24  
77652 Offenburg  
Germany
- Campus Gengenbach  
Klosterstr. 14  
77723 Gengenbach  
Germany
- [location map](#)

### Airports

[Frankfurt airport](#) is the largest international airport in Germany, with two railway stations: one for within the city, and one for long distances, the "Fernbahnhof". There is a "Fernbahnhof" train directly to Offenburg from Frankfurt airport, and from Offenburg you can take a local train to Gengenbach.

Other nearby airports include: Karlsruhe/Baden-Baden, Basel-Mulhouse (CH/F), Strasbourg (F), Stuttgart and Zurich (CH).

### Trains

Offenburg is a railway junction with regular connections to many major German cities, thus making it very accessible. From Offenburg, Gengenbach can be reached within 7 minutes by means of local train.

For information on train schedules and prices, please visit the German railway [website](#).

### By Car

Offenburg and Gengenbach are both conveniently located along motorway A5. A map of the Offenburg campus can be seen [here](#), and a map of the Gengenbach campus can be seen [here](#).