N.U.*in* Germany Visa Guide 2017

# *U.S. Citizens*

***Please check with the German consulate in your region for the most updated Germany visa requirements and processes. The information listed below is only a guide and does not constitute legal advice.***

# General Visa Information for Domestic Students

Participants who are citizens of the US or Canada do not require a visa or residence permit to enter Germany and begin participating in the program. However, other normal immigration controls apply. These may include the following:

* Possession of a valid passport
* Possession of a round-trip ticket
* Evidence of sufficient funds or support from a parent or guardian for the duration of stay (e.g. statement of earnings, bank statement, credit cards, ATM cards, traveler’s checks etc.)

Additionally, an immigration officer has the right to request any other information he/she deems necessary in connection with entry. The final decision on right of entry rests with the immigration officer at the port of entry.

# Residence Permits

If you are not a citizen of an EU-member country, then during your first week in Germany you will apply for a residence permit (known in German as *Antrag auf Erteilung eines Aufenthaltstitels*) to extend your stay beyond the customary 3-month limit placed on visitors. This permit is issued by the Berlin Registration Office for Foreigners (*Ausländerbehörde*) and will cover the length of your study program, plus two weeks. **Students must depart Germany within 14 days of the program’s end date.**

All students who stay for two or more blocks (over 12 weeks; NU will be required to do that) are also required by German law to register their residence address with the local district authority (*Bezirksamt*) within 2 weeks after move into the residence. CIEE staff in Berlin will assist you with this process. This first piece of documentation is the basis for all further bureaucratic activity, including applying for a residence permit.

 **Important Note:** Once students are in Berlin, the Berlin Registration Office for Foreigners requires that CIEE Berlin collect and submit students’ passports in bulk for final processing of the residence permit. *Passports must be in the possession of the local authorities for approximately two weeks, in order to have a residence permit affixed into each passport*. The passport collection date is determined by local immigration authorities and will be announced by CIEE during orientation in Berlin.

***As a result, students should not make travel plans for personal excursions outside of Berlin until the passport collection date is finalized and announced by CIEE during orientation in Berlin.***

The Berlin Registration Office for Foreigners has created an expedited process for issuing residence permits and visas if the proper documentation is submitted in bulk by representatives from CIEE Berlin’s Student Life Office. Nonetheless, the application process has several steps, which must be completed in a specific order and are regulated by German law. CIEE does not have the ability or legal authority to grant exceptions if deadlines or documents are not submitted in a timely manner.

Should a student not have their passport available by the collection date or submit the required forms, they will have to follow a different process and visit the Berlin Registration Office for Foreigners in person in order to request an individual permit. At a time of great need for those seeking refuge in Germany from war in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria and turmoil elsewhere, the office is overburdened with individual requests. Therefore students who do not adhere to the deadlines are likely to encounter significant delays and their passport will be in the possession of the local authorities for several weeks. *To avoid this, it is critical that students follow the recommended instructions of CIEE resident staff.*

Residence permits expire approximately two weeks after your study program ends, so be sure to book your return travel accordingly.

# Entry into Germany Requirements

1. Passport: valid for at least 6 months beyond the student’s proposed date of departure [from the Schengen area](https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/go/schengen-fact-sheet.html). Please check N.U.*in* [website](https://www.northeastern.edu/nuin/) for departure date.
2. Proof of Insurance letter provided by Northeastern University. If the letter is related to health insurance, it must prove full coverage for all medical needs, otherwise a student health insurance plan from a German provider has to be bought.
3. Declaration of Finances/proof of sufficient funds for the duration of the stay
4. Enrollment Confirmation Letter
5. Biometric passport picture

***Please note:* Students are responsible for obtaining a valid visa or entry documents if applicable prior to the program start date. If they cannot obtain a valid visa or entry documents if applicable in time, then please refer to the N.U.*in* Withdrawal Policy and contact the N.U.*in* office to discuss next steps.**