

Study and research in Germany



Tuition Fees in Germany

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Studies mostly tuition free

In most cases, studies at public (state-maintained) universities are tuition free.

Information update:

Currently studies für a first degree at public, state-maintained universities in Germany are tuition free, but this will **change in the near future**: After the Federal Constitutional Court in Germany **waived the ban on tuition fees** in January 2005 some of the 16 federal states in Germany **announced the introduction of tuition fees**, partly as soon as 2006. Under discussion are about 500 euro per semester.

Further Information can be found here:

- www.studis-online.de
- www.studentenwerke.de (german site)
- www.spiegel.de (german site)

This is still the current situation: Normally, you pay **no tuition fees** when you

1. study for a **first degree** (e.g. Diplom, Magister, Bachelor's) or
2. intend to gain a further degree (e.g. a Master's).

A **Master's programme is tuition free** if you gained a Bachelor's degree and **wish to build on this, generally by continuing your studies in the same or a related subject**.

However, you may have to pay tuition fees if you

- already hold a degree other than a Bachelor's, when you begin the Master's programme,
- already hold more than one Bachelor's degrees, or
- aim to gain a second Master's degree.

In such cases, your Master's programme is not exempted from tuition fees.

PhD and doctoral programmes are currently **tuition free** throughout Germany.

By contrast, private universities do levy fees of various levels from their students. These fees can amount to several thousand euros per semester.

Fees for long-term students, second degree courses, occasional students

In addition, many of the 16 federal states in Germany charge tuition fees under certain conditions. This is the case if

- your **studies** take significantly **longer** than the standard period defined in the respective study regulations. At present, fees for **long-term students** amount to between 500.- and 900.- euros per semester. Most federal states have set the fees at around 500.- euros.
- you are enrolled in a **postgraduate degree programme**, a **second degree course** or a **continuing**

training programme.

In this context, **second degree course** means that after graduating, you take a new degree course that does not follow on directly to your previously acquired degree, such as a Diplom, Magister or Bachelor's. Some federal states generally charge tuition fees for such second degree courses, while in others any credit remaining in the study account from the student's first degree course can be transferred to this second degree course.

Continuing training programmes differ from Master's programmes in that they require applicants to have gained at least one year of career experience after graduating from their first degree course as an entry qualification for the continuing training programme.

Depending on the federal state in question and the chosen degree course or programme, tuition fees for non-exempted programmes (see definitions above) can amount to between 300.- and 1,500.- euros per semester.

- if you are enrolled as an **occasional student**.

In most cases, tuition fees for enrolled occasional students are much lower and depend on the number of courses which the student attends. Fees of between 15.- and 150.- euros are charged, although there are tuition fee tables that go up to 500.- euros.

English-instructed Master's programmes

In recent years, Germany's universities have established many English-instructed Master's programmes. A large number of these are tuition free. However, some universities, including public ones, do **levy tuition fees for these Master's programmes**, and especially for these English-instructed programmes. This can apply when you aim for a **postgraduate degree programme** or a **continuing training programme** as described above. When you search through our databases on [International Degree Programmes in Germany](#) or the [University Guide](#) on all study opportunities in Germany, please make sure that you read the detailed description for the programme in question to see whether any tuition fees are charged.

Administrative fees

In addition, some federal states require you to pay administrative fees for enrolment, re-registration and other services (such fees can be called "Verwaltungsgebühren", "Verwaltungskostenbeitrag" or "Rückmeldegebühren"). These fees presently amount to around 50.- euros.

Some federal states have passed responsibility for deciding whether to introduce fees and how much to charge to the individual universities. If in doubt, please contact the university at which you would like to study and ask the [International Office](#) at your university of choice for advice.