

# GERMANY

A scenic view of a canal in Hamburg, Germany, at dusk. The water reflects the warm lights of the buildings and the cool tones of the twilight sky. The architecture is a mix of historic and modern styles.

- GERMANY not only gave us some of the best automobile, helicopter and motorcycle brands, it has also given us the chip card, scanner and MP3.
- The German higher education system consists of research-intensive universities and practical-oriented universities of applied sciences to accommodate different types of learners.
- German university degrees are recognised worldwide and enjoy an outstanding international reputation.
- Out of over 400 universities and 20,000 degree programmes, you are certain to find the degree programme that which is right for you!
- Islam is the religious denomination with the second highest number of members in Germany. You will easily find many shops for halal food products, rooms for prayer and mosques in every city.



We speak to Omar Abdullah Al-Harhi, a self-sponsored student who completed a language course at the Goethe institute in Berlin. He shares his experience of learning German and how it has helped him achieve a new confidence.

"There were many factors I took into account when applying for the language course in Berlin. The biggest factor was being away from my family for the first time and moving abroad to Germany, a country I hadn't been to before with zero knowledge of the German language."

"Another factor was learning German as quickly as possible so as to start my foundation year. Studying daily, completing assignments and speaking German with the locals were all very important. Speaking German outside in the streets of Berlin was necessary since most of the locals didn't speak English or Arabic. Doing this helped me get used to speaking the language outside of a classroom environment that I was familiar with and understanding the way the locals spoke.

**"My advice to students that wish to study a new language, is that shouldn't be worried about their future employability, because learning a new language is a skill set that makes a person more creative, a better critical thinker and negotiator. These are all qualities and traits that employers look for when hiring a person."**

"Learning a foreign language will only boost your chances of getting employed. Speaking a new language will also help you land a job in a foreign country where that particular language is spoken."



## INFORMATION ON THE PROGRAMME AND COURSES



During the first phase of your stay in Germany, you will be attending an intensive German language course at a language institute in Germany for a period of two semesters (ten months). The language phase begins as soon as you arrive in Germany. You will learn to speak and understand German so that you can get well-adjusted to life in Germany.

### Why do you need to learn German?

1. Proficiency in German will help you get acclimated to German life faster and make German friends easier.
2. You will need German for your studies. Most bachelor's degree and medical programmes are taught in German, and most examinations are conducted in German as well.
3. When travelling through Europe, knowing German can be a plus. German is spoken in Austria, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and parts of Belgium, Switzerland, Italy and France.
4. Fluency in German is an additional qualification which can prove beneficial for finding employment on the labour market. In fact, with some 90 million native speakers, German is the most widely spoken language in the EU.

At the end of these ten months of language learning, you must have achieved at least a B1 proficiency level in German in order to proceed to the second step – the foundation course.

You will be attending a University Foundation Course Institution (Studienkolleg) to acquire your university entrance diploma for studying at a German university. This course will take 12 months and best prepares you for your special course of study at university. The Studienkolleg will help you improve your specific German vocabulary as well as your knowledge in the required subjects needed for your university studies.

### Why do you need the foundation course?

As the school-leaving certificate that you received in your home country is not recognised as university entrance qualification in the EU, you are required to attend a

foundation course. At the end of the foundation course, you will take the so-called "Feststellungsprüfung" or FSP, a university entrance qualification examination. If you pass the exam, you will be permitted to study at any university or university of applied sciences in Germany. The instruction provided in the foundation course ensures that all beginning students, whether German or foreign, begin their studies with the same basic knowledge.

### How long does the degree programme take?

Usually it takes around 6-7 semesters to conclude your bachelor degree, but most students need a bit longer.

### A university or a university of applied sciences – which is better?

Generally speaking, you can study most natural scientific and economic subjects at both a university (Universität) and a university of applied sciences (Fachhochschule). At a normal university, the programmes strongly focus on theory and methodology which is also reflected in the final thesis. At universities, you are also free to choose which subject you wish to study and when. At a university of applied sciences, instruction is practice-oriented and there is often closer contact to the business world, in other words, potential future employers. In most cases, the final thesis at a university of applied sciences is practically oriented. The courses are smaller and the study regulations specify which subjects you must take and when.

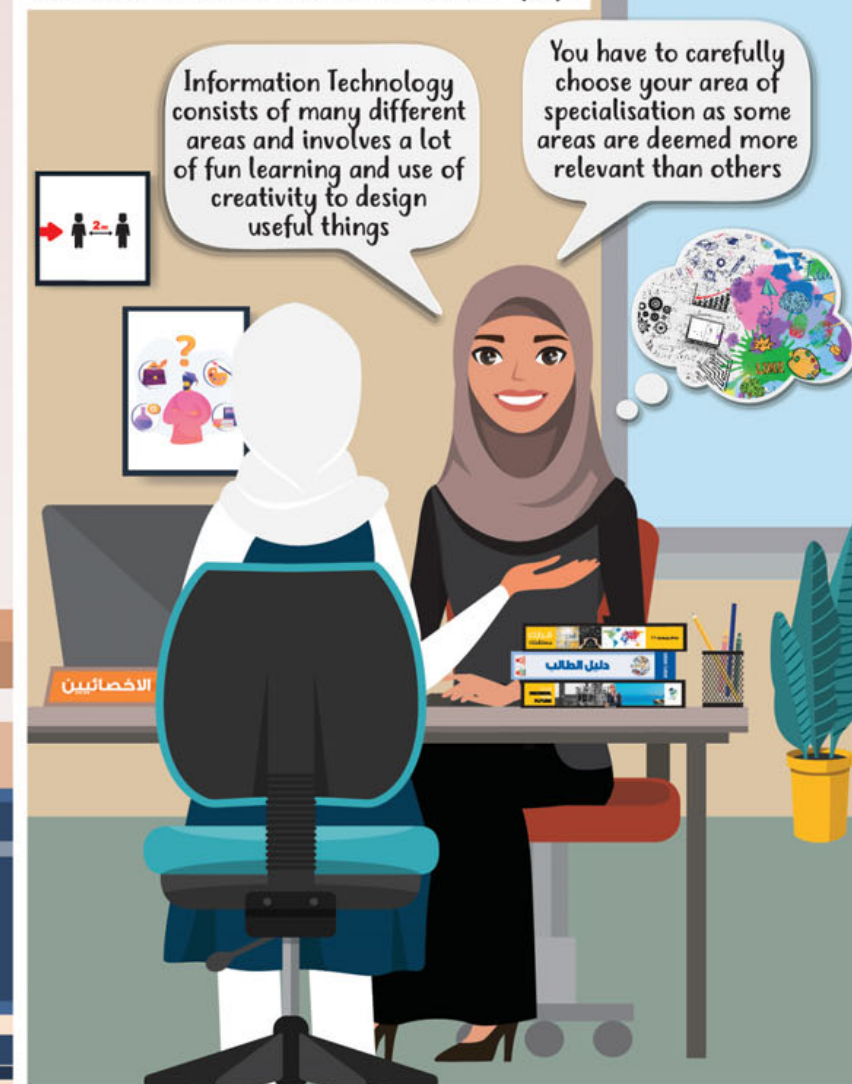
You can choose between a variety of courses within the fields of Engineering, Architecture and Logistics. Germany is especially famous for its reputable courses in the field of Engineering. A German university degree in Mechanical, Electrical or (Bio)medical Engineering is valued by employers worldwide. Also, there are some highly specialised courses within the programme like Railway or Marine Engineering, Water and Waste Resource Management or Automotive Engineering that prepare you for the upcoming innovations within the job market.

[www.daad.de/ar](http://www.daad.de/ar)

## WHAT I USED TO THINK ABOUT STUDYING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT):



## WHAT I KNOW NOW ABOUT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT):



## WHAT I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO WORK IN THE TOURISM SECTOR:



## WHAT IT IS REALLY LIKE TO WORK IN THE TOURISM SECTOR:

