

Your Guide to Studienkolleg

The path to Studienkolleg can be pretty confusing at first; so here you'll find a clear guide on how to navigate this process.

Step 1: Check eligibility

The first thing to do is make sure you actually need Studienkolleg before going to university in Germany.

- Check whether your school-leaving certificate is equivalent to the German Abitur level at: <https://www.daad.de/en/studying-in-germany/requirements/admission-database/>.
 - If not, then you need to attend a Studienkolleg.
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Step 2: Research and select Studienkollegs

Pick where you want to apply and which course track (T, M, W, G, S) fits your future degree.

- Decide what you want to study later (e.g. engineering, medicine, business, humanities) and choose the matching Studienkolleg track.
 - Research which *specific* Studienkollegs offer that track and in which cities (e.g. Studienkolleg München, FU Berlin Studienkolleg, etc.).
 - **Personal recommendation:** Select **at least 4–5 different Studienkollegs** to increase your chances, because seats are limited and admission is competitive.
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Step 3: Understand application channels and deadlines

Spoiler: every Studienkolleg has their own.

- Each Studienkolleg has its **own application process, documents and exact deadlines**, described in detail on its official website — always follow the instructions there
- Typical deadlines for *public* Studienkollegs are around **December** (for summer semester) and **June** (for winter semester), but this can vary by state and institution.

Tips

- If the website is unclear, email the Studienkolleg office and keep their written replies as reference.
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Step 4: Prepare and legalise your documents

Get all documents into the correct format.

- Collect the standard documents: passport, German language certificate, CV, biometric photos, plus any extra documents requested by each institution.

Step 5: Submit your applications

Actually send your applications for all shortlisted options.

- Submit complete applications through the correct channel: uni-assist, university online portal, mail, etc. — depending on what each one requires.
- After submission there is usually a waiting period (often weeks) while they check your documents and eligibility.

Tips

- Double-check that every uploaded document matches the *format* and *certification* requirements; missing a certified copy can mean your application is treated as “incomplete”.
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Step 6: Receive invitation to the Aufnahmetest

If the document check is positive, you'll get invited to the entrance exam.

- The invitation letter usually contains the exam date and location (or online details)
- Remember to bring this letter on the day of your exam.

Tips

- Save the invitation PDF and print at least one paper copy; you will have to use it also on your visa application process
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Step 7: Plan your visa, finances and embassy appointment

In order to go to Germany and take the Aufnahmetest, you need the right visa and financial proof.

- For a visa for Studienkolleg, you usually need: invitation letter, blocked account (around €12,000), health insurance, and other documents defined by your embassy.
 - Appointment waiting times at embassies can be long (often several weeks or months), so you must check your embassy's website and book as early as possible.
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Step 8: Prepare for and take the Aufnahmetest

This exam decides whether you actually get a place at the Studienkolleg.

- The Aufnahmetest usually has at least two parts: German (often at B2 level) and subject-specific content such as mathematics for T/W courses or other subjects depending on the track.
- It takes place once per semester, and in many cases you can only repeat it a limited number of times.
- It's a highly competitive exam; prepare yourself very well! ;)

Tips

- Study with **sample Aufnahmetests** from the websites of your target Studienkollegs and general preparation guides — this helps you get used to the format and difficulty.
- Plan to arrive in the city at least one day before the exam to avoid stress from travel delays; and on the day of your exam arrive at least 1-2 hours early.
- I have a complete guide video on YouTube for the Aufnahmetest! You can check it out here:



<https://youtu.be/GmE4nMI-OfY>

Step 9: Receive your result, accept your place

If you pass, you still need to actively confirm your place.

- After the exam, candidates are ranked based on their results; offers are made according to this ranking and the number of available seats.
- If you pass with a high enough score, you receive a formal **admission letter** to the Studienkolleg with a deadline to accept the place.

Tips

- Read the admission letter carefully: some Studienkollegs require you to confirm by email, pay a semester contribution, or submit additional documents before a fixed date.
- If you do not pass, note whether you are allowed to repeat the exam (some allow up to three attempts; others are stricter) and plan a new strategy.

Step 10: Travel to Germany, enroll and finalize formalities

Turn your admission into actual enrollment and get ready to start.

- Complete enrollment at the Studienkolleg by presenting your admission letter and remaining documents.
- Only after enrollment are you officially a Studienkolleg student and will receive your timetable and access to classes.

Tips

- Keep both digital and paper copies of all important documents (passport, visa, admission letter, enrollment certificate, health insurance confirmation).
- Attend any orientation sessions; they are very helpful for understanding rules, grading, Feststellungsprüfung and next steps toward university.

That was it! Now that you have the process clear in your mind, it's time to get things going! And if you need help, you know where to find me.



www.guidetostudienkolleg.com

— Felipe from *Guide to Studienkolleg*