



## Exchange Student Visa (§ 16b AufenthG)

If you wish to study for an exchange semester at a university in Germany, you are required to obtain a residence permit. This residence permit must be issued before you enter the country.  
Please note that you cannot convert a “tourist visa” into a “student visa”.

### General Information

- The application can be submitted at the earliest 6 months before the planned entry.
- The standard processing time can take up to 4 weeks, in individual cases even longer.
- Documents that are not issued in German or English must be submitted together with a translation.
- The Consulate General reserves the right to request further documentation.

### Checklist

**Please submit the documents listed below in according order in original and one copy each.**

Originals will be returned after examination.  
Copies will not be made by Consulate General staff. Please do not staple the documents.

- Fully completed and signed [visa application form](#) (no copy required)
- [Declaration of genuineness of submitted documents](#) (no copy required)
- Passport, which is valid for at least six months, which was issued in the last ten years and with at least two free pages (copy of photo page and pages with visas, stamps, etc. required)
- Proof of residency in Hong Kong
  - Hong Kong stay permit and Hong Kong Identity Card or
  - Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card (only applicable for non Hong Kong passport holders)
- Two passport photos according to [biometric specifications](#) (not older than 3 months)
- Admission letter/invitation letter from a university in Germany
- Letter from your home university in Hong Kong confirming that you are taking part in an exchange program also stating the name of the university in Germany and the exact period
- Financial proof with a minimum of 992 EUR per month (11,904 EUR/year) by one of the following:
  - A blocked account (“Sperrkonto”) at a German bank showing a minimum amount according to the duration of your intended stay (withdrawal limit of 992 EUR per month). You have to open the blocked account directly with the bank or
  - Proof of scholarship or
  - Financial obligation (“Verpflichtungserklärung”) issued by the local aliens authorities in Germany signed by a person supporting you financially
- Proof of travel health insurance stating
  - name of the applicant
  - coverage of at least 30.000 EUR for medical expenses and repatriation
  - valid for the entire Schengen area
  - valid for the entire duration of stay in the Schengen area
- Visa application fee  
75 EUR, in cash in HKD. The exact amount in HKD depends on the exchange rate.