

FAQ's

Sustainable Mobilities

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About the student life

Degree Program - Sustainable Mobilities M.Sc.

May 2021

1 General information about the student life

1.1 Do I have to pay semester and tuition fees?

- Everybody has to pay the semester contribution of about 190 Euros per semester for:
 - administration fee
 - fee for the Greater Stuttgart Transport Association or DING (Ulm area). Please see 1.4 for more information.
 - a contribution to the [Studentenwerk](#) (Student Services)
 - a contribution to the Students Association

<https://www.hfwu.de/en/studium/financial-issues/>
<https://www.hfwu.de/en/hfwu-scout/anlaufstellen/student-administration-office/>
(StudiCard / Public transport networks)
- Persons who are citizens of a country outside the European Union (EU) or the European Economic Area (EEA) and want to study in Baden-Württemberg must pay € 1,500.00 each semester.
Exceptions are listed in the *Application for tuition fee exemption for int. students*:
<https://www.hfwu.de/en/studium/financial-issues/>
<https://www.hfwu.de/en/hfwu-scout/anlaufstellen/student-administration-office/enrolment/>
- In case you don't get the visa in time and decide not to start your studies, you can **apply for reimbursement in case of exmatriculation within one month of start of the lectures!** Afterwards, you don't get the fees back!
<https://www.hfwu.de/en/studium/financial-issues/> (Refund of fees/contributions paid)

1.2 Which costs can I expect when studying in Germany in general?

- Detailed information about financial matters can be found on the website of the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service)
<https://www.daad.de/deutschland/nach-deutschland/voraussetzungen/en/9198-financing/>

1.3 Do I need a visa? And how do I get one?

- Information about the documents international students need to study in Germany can be found on the website of the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service)
<https://www.daad.de/deutschland/nach-deutschland/bewerbung/en/9199-visas/>

1.4 Is public transportation offered?

- With your StudiCard in conjunction with a valid ID or passport, you are able to ride buses and trains for free in your chosen area:

For students in Geislingen:

- 2nd class
- Monday to Friday from 06.00 PM
- on weekend and public holidays the entire day

Either within:

- Public transport services of **Verkehrs- und Tarifverbund Stuttgart** ([Verkehrsverbund Stuttgart region](#))

OR

- Public transport services of Donau-Iller-Nahverkehrsverbund (DING) (<https://www.ding.eu/>).

You need to decide for ONE of the 2 public transport services with you application for the StudiCard (most students take VSS)

<https://www.hfwu.de/en/hfwu-scout/anlaufstellen/student-administration-office/> (StudiCard / Public transport networks)

- In addition, you can buy a **semester ticket**. With the semester ticket you are allowed to use public transportation at any time without additional costs for the whole semester (within a given area). For more information please visit the homepages of DING and VVS: <https://www.ding.eu/de/fahrscheine-und-preise/schueler-azubis-studierende/semesterticket/> , <https://www.vvs.de/studiticketonlinekaufen/>

1.5 How does the university in Geislingen look like?

- HfWU Nürtingen-Geislingen University is located at 2 campuses – Nürtingen and Geislingen.

The degree program M.Sc. Sustainable Mobilities is located at the Geislingen campus!

In Geislingen, there are 4 buildings very close to the train station.

Geislingen itself is a small city located between Ulm and Stuttgart and offers diverse job and leisure possibilities.

HfWU especially emphasizes preservation of nature as well as a sustainable development and has received several awards for its sustainable behavior.

<https://www.hfwu.com/about-us/location/>

<https://www.hfwu.com/about-us/campus-geislingen/>

1.6 Where to live in Geislingen?

- Dormitories:
There are dormitories close to the campus offered by the Studentenwerk Tübingen–Hohenheim. You need to apply online and in time (high demand) <https://en.my-stuwe.de/housing/halls-of-residence-geislingen/>
- But there is of course also the possibility to look for a private accommodation in the area of Geislingen. For more information please visit the homepage of the university: <https://www.hfwu.com/future-students/accommodation/>
- You can also find a flat through:
 - WG gesucht <https://www.wg-gesucht.de/> (furnished and unfurnished)
 - Stuzi (StuZi is a student organisation what collects notices of offered rooms and apartments) <http://www.fh-stuzi.de/start.asp> (furnished and unfurnished)
 - GSW (municipal housing company) <https://www.gsw-geislingen.de/> (cheap, unfurnished)
 - Air BnB <https://www.airbnb.de/>

1.7 What about health insurance?

- If you want to study in Germany, you need a health insurance. <https://www.hfwu.de/en/hfwu-scout/anlaufstellen/student-administration-office/enrolment/#c43793-2>
- Admitted applicants who **have reached the age of 30 on the day** of the semester begin of the semester to be enrolled **are automatically exempted** from this obligation and do not have to enclose a health insurance certificate with their enrolment documents. But you will need health insurance for living in Germany!
- **You have the choice between a statutory and a private health insurance.**
- The student tariff comes to around 110 EUR a month and is available until you are 30 years old or have completed your 14th subject-related semester.
- 'Mawista' is a cheap alternative for private health insurance.

When having private health insurance, you have to pay for the treatment upfront and get the money back from the insurance afterwards (however, there can be discussions when it comes to claiming the refunds)

When having private health insurance, you need to hand in an "exemption from the statutory health insurance" with your enrolment documents.

You get this exemption from a statutory health insurance. Just go to the AOK office in Geislingen, present your private health insurance confirmation and ask for the exemption.

- A change from a private to a statutory health insurance and vice-versa is only possible within the first 3 months of your studies or after graduation but not during your studies.

- NEW: As long as you are not in Germany and study online, you don't need a German health insurance. BUT the moment you enter Germany, you need it.

<https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/plan-your-studies/health-insurance/>

<https://en.zuwanderer.aok.de/home/staying-healthy-in-germany/who-has-statutory-insurance/students/>

<https://www.mawista.com/en/health-insurance-for-foreign-nationals-in-germany/health-insurance-for-students/>

<https://www.germany-visa.org/travel-health-insurance/>

<https://www.studying-in-germany.org/health-insurance-germany-guide/>

1.8 Can I get a scholarship?

- Students can apply to numerous organisations for a scholarship. For more information please go to the website of DAAD:
- HfWU offers the "Deutschlandstipendium" (from 2nd semester on, application once a year by mid September)

<https://www.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/en/>

<https://www.hfwu.de/en/studium/finanzielles/voransicht-deutschlandstipendium/default-1ae77d020e/>

1.9 How to open a German bank account?

- To open a bank account, you need your ID, a residence permit and a tax number. You'll get the tax number automatically by regular mail after registration at the town hall. International students forward their tax number to the bank as soon as they get it.
- In general, non-EU students need a 'blocked account' to get the visa. From 2020 on, students are expected to demonstrate funds of 10.236 Euros. During your 2nd year of studies, you need to pay in 10.236 Euros again to cover your living expenses.

As of November 1, 2021 students will have to prove an amount of € 861.00/month or

€ 10,332.00/year for their visa application. The date of the visa appointment will be the determining factor for the necessity of an increased amount.

- You get access to your money piecewise every month
- When you have a (blocked) bank account with 'Deutsche Bank' it is recommended to stay there.

<https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/plan-your-studies/costs-of-education-and-living/>

[Fintiba](#)

Local bank in Geislingen (many branches in Baden-Württemberg): Kreissparkasse

1.10 How to register at the city for non-EU citizen

- You need to register your place of residence at the local administration (**Bürgeramt**) in the town hall (Rathaus)
- You need to bring:
 - o Your passport (with the visa if necessary)
 - o “Wohnungsgeberbestätigung” (a confirmation from your landlord, that you are living there)
- You need to go to the office (Bürgeramt) in “Schlossgasse 3” in Geislingen
In COVID times and restrictions it is necessary to make an appointment. It's best to write an email to: buergerservice@GEISLINGEN.de
- Non-EU students need to go to the Alien's Department (Ausländerbehörde) in “Schlossgasse 3” as well to apply for a residence permit
- You need to bring:
 - o Confirmation of the registration at the town hall (Meldebestätigung)
 - o Passport
 - o “Wohnungsgeberbestätigung”
 - o One passport photograph (biometric)
 - o Proof of health insurance
 - o Letter of Enrolment
 - o Proof you have enough financials to pay the stay in Germany
 - o Processing fees of about 100 Euros

1.11 How can I make my mobile phone work in Germany?

- You need a suitable sim card (here explained at the example of 'LIDL connect')
- Buy a sim card from a supermarket/shop
- Insert the sim card into the phone and use the pin number, which can be found in the package as well
- Register on the website of the sim operator and open an account using the phone number and a password
- Go to a post office in order to verify your identity with your ID
- The sim card will then be activated within 30 to 60 minutes
- You can have a look at your balance online when you log into your account

1.12 Lectures and Student Portals

- An introduction to the student portals is given during the orientation week (1st week of the semester) by a student.
- At the beginning of the semester or after students are enrolled, they get their user identification, email address, password etc.
- Overview of student portals: <https://www.hfwu.de/en/studium/service/>
- HfWU-neo: <https://neo.hfwu.de/>
Timetable, download of hand outs, emails with lecturers
- FlexNow: <https://fn2.hfwu.de/FN2AUTH/login.jsp>
Registration for exams, marks overview etc.
- QIS-SOS: <https://sos2.hfwu.de/qisserver/rds?state=user&type=0>
Change your address in case you move, print you Immatrikulationsbescheinigung (confirmation of studies)
- Academic calendar: <https://www.hfwu.com/future-students/semester-hfwu/>

1.13 Side Job

Students from the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland enjoy **unrestricted access** to the German labour market and have practically the same rights as German students. However, if they work more than 20 hours per week they must pay certain insurance contributions (just like German students).

For students from other countries, special legal regulations apply:

1. International students from other countries are allowed to work 120 full days or 240 half days per year. They are not allowed to be self-employed or work as freelancers.
2. Students who want to work more need permission from the “Agentur für Arbeit” (Federal Employment Agency) and the “Ausländerbehörde” (foreigners' office). Whether they are given permission depends on the situation on the labour market.
3. You can also work as an academic assistant. At HfWU, you are allowed to work up to 37 h/month (450 EUR).
If you hold a minijob and earn up to 450EUR per month you don't have to pay taxes.

<https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/first-steps-germany/side-jobs/>

1.14 Work Placements

The same legal regulations as for student side jobs also apply to work placements. Work placements are considered regular work, even if they are unpaid. If you are not from the European Union or the European Economic Area, you are permitted to work for up to 120 days a year. If you work more than this, you will need a permit from the Ausländerbehörde (foreigners' office) and the Agentur für Arbeit (Federal Employment Agency) taxes.

<https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/first-steps-germany/work-placements/>