

BAföG for International Students

Federal funding for university students is granted according to the German Education and Training Funding Act (BAföG).

Provided that certain criteria are met, the law entitles students to a monthly payment that is usually half grant, half loan. In accordance with the law's name, this form of funding is often simply called *BAföG*.

Whether or not a student is entitled to draw *BAföG* depends, among other factors, on the nationality of the student. In general, all students with German citizenship are entitled to the funding. However, in many cases students with other nationalities also have a possibility to draw benefits.

General Requirements:

Among other requirements, students are entitled to draw *BAföG* benefits if they are enrolled in a first degree. If it is a bachelor's degree, they have to be under the age of 30. If they are enrolled in a master's degree for the first time, they have to be under the age of 35.

However, there are exceptions to this rule. Therefore, if you are not doing your first degree or if you are older than 30/35, please contact our study financing division ("Abteilung Studienfinanzierung"). We will gladly assess whether you might still be eligible for *BAföG* funding.

The funding is based on your needs. It is granted if your income and the income of your parents or spouse are not sufficient to finance your studies.

As mentioned before, *BAföG* is usually half grant, half loan. However, the total loan may not exceed the amount of 10 000 €.

Students from EU Countries If, amongst others, the following requirements are met, <i>BAföG</i> benefits can be drawn by citizens from EU Countries. Citizens from Switzerland, Iceland, Norway or Lichtenstein have the same status as EU citizens.	Students from non-EU Countries If, amongst others, the following requirements are met, students from non-EU Countries can draw <i>BAföG</i> benefits.
If all other requirements stipulated in the <i>BAföG</i> are fulfilled, these citizens are eligible for <i>BAföG</i> funding: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EU citizens with a permanent residence permit according to § 5 Par..5 <i>EU Freizüg/EU</i>. 2. EU citizens with an unlimited residence permit. 3. EU citizens that are employed or self-employed and permitted free movement under EU law. Here the following requirements have to be fulfilled: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - employed or self-employed at least 10 weeks before applying for <i>BAföG</i>. - extent of employment has to be at least 12 hours a week. - the requirements are met during the whole period of university enrollment. - full-time enrollment at the university is possible with the employment. 4. Spouse of an EU citizen, if the EU citizen is employed or self-employed and permitted free movement under EU law. 5. Children of an EU citizen, if the EU citizen is employed or self-employed and permitted free movement under EU law or children to whom the rules do not apply, because they are older than 21 and are not entitled to maintenance due to their age. 6. EU citizens who have been working before enrolling as a student, if the content of their profession and their academic studies is related. 7. EU citizens who have continuously and legally been residing and working in Germany for the last 5 years before taking up their studies. 8. Foreigners, if one of their parents has been residing in Germany for the last 6 years and has been employed or self-employed for at least 3 of those 6 years. 9. Spouses or children of EU citizens who have a derived entitlement to residence. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Foreigners with a right to permanent residence. 2. Foreigners who hold a residence permit in accordance with one of the following regulations, if their place of permanent residence lies in Germany: <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><i>§§ 22, 23 paragraph 1, 2 or 4, §§ 23a, 25 paragraph 1 or 2, §§ 25a, 25b, 28, 37, 38 paragraph 1 number 2, § 104a Aufenthaltsgesetz.</i></p> 3. Foreigners hold a residence permit in accordance with one of the following regulations, if they have continuously and legally been residing in Germany for the last 15 months and their place of permanent residence lies in Germany: <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><i>§ 25 paragraph 3, paragraph 4 sentence 2 or paragraph 5, § 31 Aufenthaltsgesetz.</i></p> 4. Spouses, civil partners or children of foreigners with a right to settlement, if their place of permanent residence lies in Germany and they hold a residence permit according to § 30 or §§ 32 to 34 <i>Aufenthaltsgesetz</i>. 5. Spouses, civil partners or children of foreigners with permission to reside, if they hold a residence permit according to § 30 or §§ 32 to 34 <i>Aufenthaltsgesetz</i> and if they have continuously and legally been residing in Germany for the last 15 months and their place of permanent residence lies in Germany. 6. Tolerated foreigners according to § 60 <i>Aufenthaltsgesetz</i>, if they have continuously and legally been residing in Germany for the last 15 months. 7. Foreigners who have continuously and legally been residing and working in Germany for the last 5 years before taking up their studies. 8. Foreigners, if one of their parents has been residing in Germany for the last 6 years and has been employed or self-employed for at least 3 of those 6 years

Students with a residence permit according to § 16 *Aufenthaltsgesetz* are generally not entitled to *BAföG* unless one of the requirements for EU citizens or for non-EU citizens mentioned above applies to them.