# The Ultimate Guide to the German Student Visa for Indian Students (2025/2026 Edition)

## Introduction: Your Gateway to Studying in Germany

Germany stands as a premier global destination for higher education, attracting a growing number of ambitious students from India. Its appeal lies in a unique combination of world-class universities, many of which offer tuition-free programs, a strong focus on research and innovation, and robust post-study work opportunities that can pave the way for a global career.1 For Indian students, Germany represents not just an academic pursuit but a gateway to Europe and a transformative life experience.

Navigating the path to this opportunity, however, requires clearing a significant administrative hurdle: the German student visa process. This process is renowned for its meticulousness, adherence to strict rules, and demand for precision. While it may seem daunting, it is an entirely manageable system for those who are well-prepared. This guide is designed to be the definitive, all-encompassing roadmap for Indian students embarking on this journey. It demystifies the complexities, provides a clear step-by-step methodology, and equips applicants with the knowledge needed to present a flawless application. By understanding the logic behind each requirement and preparing methodically, securing a German student visa becomes a structured and achievable goal.

## Part 1: The Foundation – Pre-Application Essentials (The 6-Month Head Start)

Before an Indian student can even begin to fill out the visa application form, two foundational, time-intensive prerequisites must be completed. These steps—securing an APS certificate and opening a Blocked Account—are non-negotiable and form the bedrock of a successful application. They require significant lead time and careful planning.

### Chapter 1.1: Decoding Your Visa: National (Type D) vs. Schengen (Type C)

The very first step in the visa journey is identifying the correct visa category. An error at this stage can lead to an automatic rejection, wasting valuable time and resources.

For academic pursuits in Germany, there are two primary types of visas 2:

* **National Visa (Type D):** This is the mandatory visa for any course of study lasting **more than 90 days**. If an applicant has been accepted into a Bachelor's, Master's, PhD, preparatory course (Studienkolleg), or a long-term language course, the National Visa is the only correct choice. It is issued for an initial period, typically three to six months, and must be converted into a student residence permit after arrival in Germany.2
* **Schengen Visa (Type C):** This is a short-stay visa valid for up to **90 days within a 180-day period**. It is suitable only for short-term language courses, summer schools, or academic conferences. It does not grant the right to long-term residency or work and cannot be converted into a student residence permit.2

For virtually all Indian students planning to pursue a full degree in Germany, the **National (Type D) Student Visa** is the required document.

The German visa process is not a quick task to be completed a few weeks before departure; it is a marathon that requires strategic planning months in advance. The total timeline, from starting the prerequisites to receiving the visa, can easily span four to six months. Visa processing alone can take up to three months during peak seasons.3 This is preceded by the APS certification, which takes four to six weeks 4, and the process of opening and funding a blocked account. Consequently, applicants must work backward from their university's semester start date. A failure to appreciate this extended timeline is a primary cause of stress and can lead to students missing their enrollment deadlines. This guide frames the application not as a last-minute task but as a long-term project that begins at least six months before the intended travel date.

### Chapter 1.2: The First Hurdle: Securing Your APS Certificate

The Academic Evaluation Centre, or *Akademische Prüfstelle* (APS), certificate is a mandatory document for the vast majority of Indian students applying for a German student visa. It was introduced by the German government as a measure to verify the authenticity and validity of academic credentials submitted by applicants from India, thereby streamlining the verification process for visa officers and universities.6

The APS certificate serves as a pre-screening of an applicant's academic legitimacy. By offloading this detailed verification to a specialized body, the German authorities have created a system where the academic portion of the visa application is effectively pre-approved. Securing this certificate is not merely a procedural step; it is the first official validation of an applicant's profile by the German system and a non-negotiable prerequisite for the visa application.5

#### Step-by-Step APS India Application Process

The application is managed entirely through the official APS India portal and requires careful attention to detail.5

1. **Online Registration:** The process begins by creating an account on the official APS India website: aps-india.de.5
2. **Form Completion and Document Upload:** Applicants must fill out the online application form with their personal and academic details and upload digital copies of the required documents.5
3. **Fee Payment:** A non-refundable fee of INR 18,000 must be paid online. The payment confirmation receipt is a required document for the next step.7
4. **Document Submission by Courier:** After online submission, applicants must send a physical package containing the printed and signed application form and legible, A4-sized color photocopies of all required academic documents to the APS India office in New Delhi. It is critical to note that personal drop-offs are not permitted.6
5. **Verification and Certificate Issuance:** The APS office verifies the documents, a process that typically takes four to six weeks.4 Upon successful verification, a digital APS certificate is sent to the applicant via email. This certificate is valid indefinitely.5

#### Exemptions from the APS Requirement

While the APS certificate is mandatory for most, certain categories of applicants are exempt. It is crucial to verify eligibility for an exemption before starting the application 9:

* Students intending to pursue a PhD or Post-Doctoral studies in Germany.
* Students who have received a scholarship or stipend from German or EU public funds (e.g., DAAD, Erasmus).
* Students who hold a foreign degree that is not from India (e.g., a Bachelor's degree from the UK or USA).
* Students who have an international school-leaving certificate (e.g., International Baccalaureate - IB Diploma).

### Chapter 1.3: Proving Financial Stability: The Blocked Account (Sperrkonto)

The cornerstone of the German student visa's financial requirement is the *Sperrkonto*, or Blocked Account. This is a special type of bank account where the applicant deposits a sum sufficient to cover their living expenses for one year. The German government mandates this to ensure that international students can support themselves financially without becoming a burden on the state's social welfare system.12

For visa applications in **2025**, the official required amount to be deposited into the Blocked Account is **€11,904**. This amount is calculated based on the maximum rate of financial aid available to German students (BAföG) and is subject to periodic review by the government.10 Once the student arrives in Germany, they can withdraw a maximum of

**€992** per month from this account.11

#### Choosing a Provider

Indian students are free to choose from several providers that offer Blocked Account services, but the chosen provider must be officially recognized by the German Federal Foreign Office.13 The most popular and trusted providers for the Indian market include digital platforms like Expatrio, Fintiba, and Coracle, as well as traditional banks like ICICI Bank Germany.19 The choice of provider often depends on factors like setup fees, processing speed, and whether they offer bundled packages with health insurance.

| Provider Name | Setup Fee (Approx.) | Monthly Fee (Approx.) | Total Annual Cost (Approx.) | Key Features |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Expatrio** | €69 | €5 | €129 | Often includes free travel health insurance in a value package; fast confirmation time.12 |
| **Fintiba** | €89 | €4.90 | €147.80 | User-friendly mobile app; offers bundled insurance packages.12 |
| **Coracle** | €99 | None | €99 | Fixed one-time fee with no monthly charges.12 |
| **ICICI Bank** | Varies | Varies | Varies | Indian bank, which can simplify the fund transfer process for some applicants.20 |

#### The Complete Blocked Account Process

1. **Select and Register:** Choose a recognized provider and complete the online registration process. This typically requires a valid passport and the university admission letter.18
2. **Transfer Funds:** Transfer the total required amount—€11,904 plus any provider setup fees and a recommended buffer of €100 to cover international transfer charges and currency fluctuations.16
3. **Receive Blocking Confirmation:** Once the funds are received and credited, the provider will issue a "Blocking Confirmation" document. This PDF document is the official proof of financial resources that must be submitted with the visa application.18
4. **Post-Arrival Activation:** The funds remain "blocked" until the student arrives in Germany. To activate the account for monthly payouts, the student must first complete their city registration (*Anmeldung*), open a local German current account (*Girokonto*), and then submit these details to the Blocked Account provider.14

#### Alternatives to the Blocked Account

While the Blocked Account is the most common method, German authorities accept a few alternatives as proof of financial means 10:

* **Formal Letter of Obligation (*Verpflichtungserklärung*):** A formal declaration from a sponsor residing in Germany who commits to covering all the student's expenses.
* **Scholarship Award Letter:** An official letter confirming a scholarship from a recognized German or European Union institution that covers the required living expenses.

## Part 2: The Application Dossier – Crafting Your Paperwork

With the foundational prerequisites of the APS certificate and Blocked Account confirmation in hand, the next phase involves meticulously assembling the complete application dossier. The German visa process places immense importance on correct, complete, and properly formatted documentation. Each document serves a specific purpose in building a comprehensive profile of the applicant.

### Chapter 2.1: The Core Application Documents

These documents form the administrative core of the visa application.

* **National Visa Application Form (VIDEX):** The application must be completed online using the official VIDEX portal. It is crucial to fill out all sections accurately and truthfully. Once completed, the form, along with its barcode page, must be printed, signed, and submitted in two complete sets.25 The online portal is solely for form generation; the application itself must be submitted in person.27
* **Valid Passport:** The applicant's passport must have been issued within the last ten years, be valid for at least one year from the intended date of travel to Germany, and contain a minimum of two blank pages for the visa sticker.10 Two A4-sized photocopies of the passport's data page are also required.11
* **Biometric Photographs:** Three recent passport-sized photographs are required. These must adhere to strict biometric standards: a size of 35mm x 45mm, a bright white background, a neutral facial expression with eyes open and mouth closed, and the face covering 70-80% of the photograph.11
* **Signed Declarations:** Applicants must print and sign specific declarations as required by the German missions in India. A key one is the "Declaration on True and Complete Information," confirming the accuracy of all submitted details.26

### Chapter 2.2: Academic and Language Documentation

This set of documents validates the applicant's academic purpose and capability.

* **University Admission Letter (*Zulassungsbescheid*):** This must be the official, unconditional letter of admission from a recognized German university. A conditional offer is generally not sufficient for a visa application.11
* **Proof of Language Proficiency:** The required proof depends on the language of instruction for the chosen course.
  + **For English-taught programs:** A valid score report from IELTS (typically a minimum score of 6.5) or TOEFL (typically a minimum of 80) is required.1
  + **For German-taught programs:** A certificate from a recognized institution like the Goethe-Institut or TestDaF, demonstrating proficiency at a minimum of the B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), is necessary.10
  + It is critical to note that letters from Indian universities stating that the medium of instruction was English are explicitly **not accepted** as a substitute for a standardized test score.10
* **Academic Transcripts and Certificates:** The applicant must provide all original academic documents, including mark sheets and degree certificates from Class 10, Class 12, and any subsequent Bachelor's or Master's degrees. Two complete sets of A4-sized photocopies must accompany the originals.10

### Chapter 2.3: Crafting a Winning Motivation Letter (SOP)

The Statement of Purpose (SOP), or Motivation Letter, is a mandatory and pivotal document in the German student visa application. It is the applicant's opportunity to communicate directly with the visa officer and provide a rational justification for their academic and career plans.28

The German expectation for an SOP differs significantly from the narrative-driven essays often prepared for American universities. The visa officer is not looking for a creative story but for a clear, logical, and fact-based argument. The letter serves as a test of the applicant's seriousness, research, and pragmatism. A successful SOP draws direct, demonstrable lines connecting the applicant's past education, the specific curriculum of the chosen German university program, and their future career aspirations back in India.

A well-structured Motivation Letter should include:

* **Introduction:** A concise opening that states the applicant's name, the specific degree program and university they have been admitted to, and the purpose of the letter (to apply for a student visa).
* **Academic and Professional Background:** A summary of academic achievements and any relevant work experience, highlighting skills and knowledge that are prerequisites for the chosen Master's or Bachelor's program.
* **Rationale for Choosing Germany and the University:** This is the core of the letter. The applicant must demonstrate thorough research by mentioning specific course modules, research facilities, or professors at the chosen university that align with their interests. They should explain why Germany's educational system is superior for their field compared to India or other countries.31
* **Career Goals and Intent to Return:** Clearly articulate short-term and long-term career goals. Crucially, the applicant must express a strong intention to return to India after completing their studies to apply the advanced skills and knowledge gained in Germany to a specific industry or sector.31 This directly addresses the visa officer's primary concern regarding potential immigration intent.
* **Conclusion:** A brief closing that reiterates the applicant's suitability for the program and expresses gratitude for the consideration of their application.

### Chapter 2.4: Formatting Your German-Style Curriculum Vitae (CV)

The Curriculum Vitae, or *Lebenslauf*, required for a German visa application has a specific format that reflects German professional standards. Adherence to this format is not merely a suggestion but an expectation.32

The German CV format is characterized by the following key features:

* **Tabular Format:** The CV should be structured like a table, not a narrative. Dates are typically aligned to the left, with descriptions of the experience or qualification to the right.33
* **Reverse Chronological Order:** All sections (Education, Work Experience) must list the most recent entry first.32
* **Concise Length:** The CV should ideally be one page, and no more than two pages long.33
* **Professional Photograph:** A professional, passport-style photograph should be placed in the top right-hand corner of the document.34
* **Signature and Date:** The CV should be signed and dated at the end.34

A unique and critical expectation is that the CV must be "gapless" (*lückenlos*).33 This requirement reflects a cultural value for a clear and explainable life trajectory. Any unexplained gaps of more than a few months between educational stages or employment can be viewed negatively. Indian applicants must proactively account for any such periods. For example, a six-month gap after graduation should be explained, such as: "June 2024 - December 2024: Self-study for German language (Goethe-Zertifikat B1) and preparation for university entrance examinations." This demonstrates foresight and aligns the application with German cultural norms.

### Chapter 2.5: Securing Compliant Travel Health Insurance

Applicants are required to submit proof of travel health insurance for their visa application. This policy serves as temporary coverage from the date of arrival in Germany until the student can officially enroll in their university and register for the mandatory German health insurance system.10

The key requirements for this insurance are:

* **Minimum Coverage:** The policy must provide a minimum coverage of €30,000 for medical emergencies.1
* **Validity:** It must be valid for all Schengen states.
* **Duration:** The coverage must start from the intended date of travel and last for at least the first three months of the stay in Germany.10

It is essential to purchase a policy from an insurer that is approved by the German consular missions in India. Submitting a non-compliant policy is a common reason for application delays or rejection.

| Approved Indian Travel Insurance Providers for German Visa (Illustrative List) |
| --- |
| Acko General Insurance Ltd. |
| Aditya Birla Health Insurance Company |
| Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company |
| Care Health Insurance Limited (formerly Religare) |
| HDFC ERGO General Insurance Co. Ltd. |
| ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company |
| The New India Assurance Co. Ltd. |
| Reliance General Insurance Co. Ltd. |
| SBI General Insurance Co. Ltd. |
| Star Health & Allied Insurance Co. Ltd |
| Tata-AIG General Insurance Co. Ltd. |
| United India Insurance Co. Ltd. |

*Note: This list is based on information effective from July 2022. Applicants should always verify the latest approved list on the website of the relevant German mission in India*.37

### Chapter 2.6: The Definitive Document Checklist

To ensure no document is overlooked, the following master checklist consolidates all requirements. Applicants must prepare two identical sets of these documents in A4 size, organized in the order listed.

| Master Checklist for German National Student Visa (India) |
| --- |
| **Document Name** |
| **Application Forms** |
| 1. National Visa Application Form |
| 2. Declaration on True Information |
| 3. Additional Contact Information Declaration |
| **Personal Documents** |
| 4. Valid Passport |
| 5. Biometric Passport Photos |
| **Academic & Admission Documents** |
| 6. APS Certificate |
| 7. University Admission Letter |
| 8. Proof of Language Proficiency |
| 9. All Academic Certificates & Mark Sheets |
| **Supporting Documents** |
| 10. Curriculum Vitae (CV) |
| 11. Motivation Letter (SOP) |
| **Financial Documents** |
| 12. Blocked Account Confirmation |
| **Insurance** |
| 13. Travel Health Insurance |

## Part 3: The Official Process – Booking, Submission, and Jurisdiction

Once the comprehensive document dossier is prepared, the applicant must navigate the official submission process. This involves identifying the correct diplomatic mission, securing an appointment through the designated service provider, and attending the submission appointment.

### Chapter 3.1: Identifying Your Correct German Mission by Jurisdiction

Germany maintains one embassy and four consulates general in India, each with a specific consular jurisdiction based on the applicant's state of permanent residence. Submitting an application to the wrong mission is a critical procedural error that will result in its immediate return. It is therefore imperative to identify the correct application center before proceeding.39

| German Consular Jurisdiction in India |
| --- |
| **German Mission** |
| **German Embassy New Delhi** |
| **German Consulate General Mumbai** |
| **German Consulate General Chennai** |
| **German Consulate General Kolkata** |
| **German Consulate General Bengaluru** |

### Chapter 3.2: A Step-by-Step Guide to Booking Your VFS Global Appointment

The German missions in India have outsourced the administrative aspects of the visa application process, including appointment scheduling and document collection, to their official partner, VFS Global.41 All appointments for a National Student Visa must be booked through the VFS Global portal.

A significant challenge, particularly during the peak application seasons (June-August and November-January), is the scarcity of available appointment slots.3 This is not a simple administrative step but a competitive one that requires persistence and strategy. Applicants should begin checking the VFS portal for appointments as soon as they receive their university admission letter. Slots are released periodically and are often filled within minutes. The recommended approach is to check the portal frequently, including at different times of the day, be flexible with dates, and book an available slot immediately without hesitation.

The booking process is as follows:

1. Visit the official VFS Global website for Germany in India: visa.vfsglobal.com/ind/en/deu/.42
2. Navigate to the "Book an appointment" section.43
3. Create an account or log in.
4. Select the appropriate Visa Application Centre based on the consular jurisdiction.
5. Choose the correct visa category: **National Visa**, and the sub-category **Student Visa**. Selecting the wrong category (e.g., Schengen Visa) is a common mistake that can lead to the appointment being canceled.44
6. Select an available date and time and confirm the appointment.
7. Print the appointment confirmation letter, which must be presented at the VFS center.

### Chapter 3.3: The Appointment Day at VFS Global

On the day of the scheduled appointment, the applicant must visit the designated VFS Global center in person.

The process at the center involves:

* **Arrival:** Arrive at the center approximately 15 minutes before the scheduled time.
* **Document Submission:** Submit the two complete and organized sets of application documents as per the master checklist. VFS staff will verify the completeness of the application.41
* **Biometrics Collection:** The applicant's biometric data, consisting of digital fingerprints and a digital photograph, will be captured.29
* **Fee Payment:** The visa application fee must be paid at the center. The current fee for a National Visa is **€75**, which must be paid in Indian Rupees (INR) at the prevailing exchange rate. In addition, applicants must pay the VFS Global service charge.10

Once these steps are completed, VFS Global forwards the application dossier and biometric data to the respective German Embassy or Consulate for processing and decision-making.

## Part 4: The Final Hurdles – The Interview and Decision

After the application is submitted at VFS Global, it enters the final stages of adjudication by the German consular authorities. This phase may include a visa interview and is followed by a waiting period for the final decision.

### Chapter 4.1: Mastering the German Visa Interview

While not all student visa applicants are called for an interview, many are, particularly those applying directly at an embassy or consulate rather than a VFS center. The interview is a brief but critical component of the process, typically lasting 10 to 15 minutes.39 Its primary purpose is for the consular officer to conduct a "genuineness check"—to verify the applicant's identity, confirm the details in the application, and, most importantly, assess whether the applicant is a bona fide student with a clear intention to return to India after completing their studies.45

#### Common Interview Questions for Indian Students

The questions generally fall into three categories:

1. **Academic and University-Related Questions:** These questions test the applicant's research and commitment to their chosen academic path.
   * *"Why did you choose Germany for your higher education and not another country like the US or UK?"* 45
   * *"Why did you select this specific university and this particular course?"* 48
   * *"Can you name some of the modules or subjects you will be studying?"* 47
   * *"How does this Master's/Bachelor's program align with your previous studies?"* 45
2. **Financial Status Questions:** These are to confirm that the applicant has a stable and legitimate source of funding.
   * *"How do you plan to finance your entire education and living expenses in Germany?"* 45
   * *"Who is sponsoring you? What is their profession?"* 49
   * *"Can you explain what a Blocked Account is and how much money you have deposited?"* 45
3. **Future Plans and Intentions:** This is the most critical part of the interview, designed to gauge immigration intent.
   * *"What are your plans after you graduate?"* 45
   * *"Do you intend to return to India after completing your studies?"* 48
   * *"How will this German degree benefit your career in India?"* 45

#### Best Practices for Answering

* **Be Honest and Consistent:** Answers must be truthful and align perfectly with the information provided in the Motivation Letter and CV. Any inconsistencies can raise red flags.45
* **Be Concise and Confident:** Provide clear, direct answers. Avoid vague or overly long explanations. Maintain a professional and confident demeanor.45
* **Demonstrate Research:** Show that the decision to study in Germany was well-researched. Mention specific aspects of the university's curriculum or research focus that are not available in India.48
* **Emphasize Your "Return to India" Plan:** This is paramount. The applicant should have a clear and credible plan for their post-graduation career in India. For example: *"After completing my Master's in Automotive Engineering from TU Munich, I plan to return to India to work in the growing electric vehicle sector in Pune. The specialized knowledge in battery technology from my course will be highly valuable to companies like Tata Motors or Mahindra Electric."* This type of specific, well-thought-out answer strongly indicates genuine student intent.

### Chapter 4.2: The Waiting Game and the Final Decision

After the submission and interview, the application undergoes processing by the German mission.

* **Processing Time:** The official processing time can vary. While many applications are decided within six to eight weeks, it can extend up to three months, especially during the peak application periods before the winter and summer semester intakes.3 Applicants are strongly advised not to book flights until the visa has been granted and is in their possession.41
* **Tracking Your Application:** The status of the application can be monitored through the VFS Global online tracking portal. This requires the reference number provided on the receipt issued at the time of submission.50
* **Receiving Your Passport:** Once a decision has been made, the German mission returns the passport to VFS Global. VFS will then dispatch the passport to the applicant via a mandatory courier service.51
* **Understanding the Visa Sticker:** If the application is approved, a National (D) Visa sticker will be affixed to one of the passport's blank pages. Applicants should carefully check the details on the sticker, including their name, passport number, the visa's validity dates (*Von/From* and *Bis/To*), and the remarks section, which will indicate its purpose ("STUDIUM" for studies).

## Part 5: Post-Approval and Contingency Planning

The final phase of the journey involves preparing for departure and understanding the steps to take upon arrival in Germany. It also includes being aware of common pitfalls that can lead to rejection and how to address them.

### Chapter 5.1: Common Mistakes That Lead to Visa Rejection

An analysis of visa rejections reveals that they are overwhelmingly due to procedural errors and incomplete applications rather than the applicant's academic profile. This means that success is largely within the applicant's control through meticulous preparation and adherence to the rules. The most common mistakes made by Indian students include:

1. **Incomplete or Inaccurate Documentation:** This is the most frequent reason for rejection. Common errors include submitting only one set of documents instead of two, missing signatures on forms, providing documents that are not in the required A4 format, or having mismatched names across different documents (e.g., a variation between the passport and academic transcripts).36
2. **Insufficient Proof of Financial Resources:** Failing to meet the exact €11,904 requirement in the Blocked Account, or providing financial documents with unclear origins for the funds, can lead to rejection. The source of funds must be legitimate and verifiable.36
3. **Unconvincing Motivation or Intent:** A poorly written Motivation Letter that fails to logically connect the student's background to their chosen course, or an interview performance that raises doubts about the applicant's primary intention to study, is a major red flag. The visa officer must be convinced that the applicant will return to India after their studies.36
4. **Critical Procedural Errors:** Applying too late and being unable to secure an appointment before the semester starts, booking the wrong appointment category on the VFS portal (e.g., Schengen instead of National), or applying at a consulate outside of one's jurisdiction are fundamental errors that can derail the entire process.44
5. **Non-Compliant Health Insurance:** Submitting a travel health insurance policy that does not meet the minimum €30,000 coverage or is not valid from the intended date of travel will result in the application being considered incomplete.36

### Chapter 5.2: Your First Steps in Germany (Post-Arrival Checklist)

Receiving the German National Visa is the key to entering the country, but it is not the final step. Upon arrival, students must complete several bureaucratic procedures to formalize their status and get settled.

1. **City Registration (*Anmeldung*):** Within two weeks of moving into a permanent address, every resident in Germany must register at the local citizens' office (*Bürgeramt* or *Einwohnermeldeamt*). This is a mandatory step and the registration certificate (*Meldebescheinigung*) is required for almost all other procedures.23
2. **Open a German Current Account (*Girokonto*):** To receive the monthly payouts from the Blocked Account, a student must open a regular current account with a local German bank.
3. **Activate the Blocked Account:** Once the city registration is complete and a current account is open, the student must submit these documents to their Blocked Account provider to "unblock" the account and start receiving the monthly €992 stipend.14
4. **University Enrollment (*Immatrikulation*):** The student must complete the final enrollment formalities at their university. This often requires showing the visa, proof of German health insurance, and proof of semester fee payment.
5. **Apply for the Residence Permit (*Aufenthaltstitel*):** The National Visa is an entry permit, typically valid for three to six months. Before it expires, the student must apply for a student residence permit at the local Foreigners' Office (*Ausländerbehörde*). This permit will be valid for a longer duration, usually one or two years, and can be renewed.23

### Chapter 5.3: Official Resources and Helplines

For the most accurate and up-to-date information, applicants should always refer to official sources. Relying on unofficial agents or outdated online forums can lead to costly mistakes.

* **German Missions in India:** The official website for the German Embassy in New Delhi and the Consulates General. This is the primary source for visa checklists and jurisdiction information.
  + Website: india.diplo.de 55
* **VFS Global Germany in India:** The official partner for visa application submission and appointment booking.
  + Website: visa.vfsglobal.com/ind/en/deu/ 42
* **APS India:** The official body for academic document verification.
  + Website: aps-india.de 8
* **Make it in Germany:** The official German government portal for qualified professionals, with extensive information on visas, work, and life in Germany.
  + Website: make-it-in-germany.com 62
* **Study in Germany:** An official campaign website funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, providing comprehensive information for prospective international students.
  + Website: study-in-germany.de 63
* **VIDEX - National Visa Application Form:** The official portal for filling out the visa application form online.
  + Website: videx.diplo.de 27

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