

## GERMANY ADMISSIONS CLASS

**Date:** Monday October 1st, 2018

**Time:** 10pm Nigerian time

**Venue:** Scholarship enthusiasts (Telegram) <https://t.me/joinchat/EtikNEFTMhao7q5erji4Rg>

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*(Class aims to provide information on how to secure post graduate admission and German student visa).*

The session is mainly about studying in Germany. A lot of us have little or no idea about education in Germany so I hope this session will throw more light towards it

Firstly, I'll start by encouraging us all to keep up the spirit of Hardwork, persistence and hunger to achieve our Goals because without the zeal, we might give up at some point due to the presence of challenges which is a constant factor.

Knowing about scholarships is one thing, knowing how to apply and bag one is another. This group exposed me to a lot about how to make applications for scholarships and I am forever grateful to the Admins and all that has contributed in one way or the other.

I'll also encourage those that have applied several times over the years without getting anything positive not to give up; there is always light at the end of the tunnel. I applied to a whole number of scholarships but did not get any. It was heart breaking because I always had this near success syndrome (either I get to interview stage for some or I am on waiting list for another). However, I never gave up. Like my elder bro will always tell me; "If you give up now then all your previous effort will be in vain". So I urge you guys to always keep up the Hardwork no matter the setback you face.

The last and important advice I will give is to be diverse. As much as you look into scholarships, there are some countries that can give you what you want with little or no cost. An example is Germany. I never knew about education in Germany till I met someone on this group. Till today I remain thankful to him for giving me insight about studying in Germany. On this note, let us proceed.

The session will be divided into 3 main sessions with sub-sessions;

### 1. Securing Admission

- Application period
- Selection school

- Application documents
- Application procedure
- Boosting your chances

## 2. Finance

- Sponsorship letter
- Blocked account

## 3. Interview

# 1. Securing Admissions

## a. Application Period

Admission intake in Germany for all schools is either in summer (March/April) or winter (September/October). For summer intake, the application period is usually between Augusts – November while for winter intake, the application is between Januarys to March. However, this period is not static, it varies for all schools but they all usually fall within this period so the best way to find out a school's application period is to visit the school's web page. This brings us to the second sub-section; selecting schools. Most times as well, winter intake is highly preferred because some major courses are not taken in summer as compared to winter

## b. Selection of schools

The most popular site where you can see a list of schools and courses of your choice is [www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de) from there you can see a brief info about the course content, requirements, application deadline etc. Further info can then be found by visiting the school's webpage once you decide on which school you want to make applications to. Mind you, although there are elite schools in Germany like Technical University of Munich (TUM), RWTH Aachen and the likes, there is nothing like one school being superior over another in Germany. The standard of education and level of difficulty is same everywhere. People even find it difficult to graduate from schools here so what should drive you to apply to a school is the content of course and not the school's ranking. All German institutions are top notch, highly equipped and of high standard. Also bear in mind that there are three types of institutions in Germany;

- Technical Universities (The TU's), like Technical University of Munich (TUM), my school Technical University Ilmenau (TUI) etc.
- Universities of Applied Sciences which are also called Fachhochschule (The FH's) like FH Kile, FH Koln etc.
- University like University of Berlin, University of Erfurt etc.

The 1st (The TUs) are usually the most difficult. A lot of them are research oriented so they are advisable for those going into the academic line like PhD and Professor level. There are also practical modules in the TUs that can give u edge if you want to go into the industrial line but it is more in this regard for the 2nd which are the FHs

The FHs are more practically oriented. They are like the polytechnics we are familiar with. It is also very difficult there because of the series of projects carried out constantly. But then you get a feel of practical exercises especially from companies

I am not so familiar with the last set of institutions but from the little I know, they have more courses geared towards arts, economics, social sciences etc. although all other above discussed schools still have a mix of everything.

So basically, know what you want from a school before you make an application

But generally, I will always pick a TU ahead of the other two because a TU will give you everything the other two has to offer and even more but the reverse is not the case.

### **c. Application Documents and requirements**

The 1st requirement is CGPA. German CGPA system is the reverse of that of Nigeria i.e. 5 points in Nigeria is equivalent to 1 point in Germany. For you to apply to any school, your CGPA on German scale must be 2.5 and below i.e. from 2.5 to 1.0 or on Nigerian scale, from 3.0 to 5.0. The documents needed for each school also vary but on a general base, you should have your

- Degree Certificate,
- Transcript,
- CV,
- IELTS,
- SOP And
- Reference Letter.

Some schools wave IELTS, they might just require letter of proficiency from your undergraduate university stating that your degree was taught in English but it is always best to have it with a minimum of 6.5.

The format for German CV is tabular format.

<https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/documents/curriculum-vitae> can help you put your CV in tabular format for admission application. It can also be done on MS word because some schools might want you to use euro pass while some might not want. To do

tabular format in MS word, just open a new word document, insert a table, write the CV inside the rows & columns then hide the table once you are done. YouTube can help you further on how to do it. The essence of tabular format is to ensure easy access & scrolling while viewing your CV...Germans like things in a swift & decent way

SOP is also very important as we all know already. German MSc programs are consecutive so in a case where you want to apply for something slightly different from your previous field of study, the structure and content of your SOP is very vital. We have held series of lectures on SOP so please permit me not to go into much details about it

#### **d. Application Procedure**

Some schools require only online application (very few), some require online + submission of certified hardcopy documents (usually the case) while some application is done via a body called UNIASSIST.

The 1st (online) is self-explanatory. For the second, after applying online, you will have to send certified copies of your application documents to the school via courier service. The 3rd (UNIASSIST), requires application fee of 75 Euros for first application and 15 Euros for subsequent applications (i.e. if you are making more than one application). You apply to them online, pay the app fee and still post your hardcopy documents to them.

After reviewing your documents, they will give a feedback to the school if you can be admitted or not.

Once again, generally, it is from the school's web page you will find out about the applications procedure and details. So once you find your school from daad.de, proceed to the schools web page immediately & find all you need

#### **e. Boosting Yours Chances**

The 1st and sure way is to apply to many schools as possible. It is difficult to secure admission in Germany so it is always advisable to apply to as many schools as you can.

Another way is to make sure you apply for what is directly related to your BSc. Regardless of your high CGPA and other qualifications, you can be turned down easily if they are not related because a lot of German programs are consecutive. Let me give you a clear example. I did an application last year with one of my friend. I graduated with a CGPA of 4.25 from Electronic Engineering while the guy graduated with 3.8 from Computer Science. We both applied to same school, same course but he was admitted and I was turned down. I had all documents and requirements but I was told that my transcript didn't have enough computer science modules which will be needed for the MSc.

So most times it is not just about high grades and having all documents, that's why I also talked about making numerous applications because you never can tell which school will admit you or not. Although there is a way to situations like this

which is SOP and work experience. If you want to apply to something slightly different to what you studied in BSc, or if your transcript don't have enough prerequisite modules needed, then you will have to be able to convince them in your SOP and the quality work experience in the new line you want to go.

After you make your application, you will have to wait for some weeks after the application deadline is over for you to know the outcome. Just very few schools give admission on rolling basis i.e you apply today, they review your application and get back to you almost immediately but majority of the schools wait until after the deadline.

The problem with this is that if you get a negative feedback, you will have to wait till next year or next admission intake because all schools have the almost same timeline for application window so if you just apply to one school and get turned down, it will be too late to make any other application because all other schools would have closed theirs which is why I initially said it is advisable to apply to many schools as possible once the app window opens

## **2. Finance**

Once you gain admission, the next thing to consider is finance. Studying in Germany is tuition free but you need to show a means of sustenance for your period of study. There are 2 methods accepted by the German embassy;

- Sponsorship Letter (SL) letter and
- Blocked Account.

For SL, you will need someone who lives and works in Germany to write a letter for you stating that he/she can look after your finances during your entire study period.

For blocked account, embassy requires you to open an account in Germany and fund it with 8800 Euros. The two German accounts supported for this are Fintiba and Deutsch Bank. More details can be found on the German consulate web page <https://nigeria.diplo.de/ng-en>. It is called blocked account because you will have access to only a certain amount per month (720 Euros which will be used to pay your rent, health insurance and personal expenses). Although this blocked account of 8800 Euros can last just for 1 year ( $720 \times 12 = 8640$ ) and MSc is usually between 1 year and half – 2 years, there is the availability of student jobs that can provide funds to lead you on your second year (students are allowed to work a maximum of 20 hours per week). So you see why studying in Germany is at no cost ; no tuition fees and the blocked account is still your personal money when you get here.

## **3. Interview**

Admission + Finance, visa is already on 60% level. The next is interview. You will use your admission letter and confirmation of bank account opening to apply for interview. The beauty about this German system is that you don't even need to fund the 8800 in your account before you apply for interview.

Once you get admission and you open your account, you can use both documents + your international passport to apply for interview. You can even go for interview without funding.

However, before your visa will be released, you will have to show the funds. There have also been cases of people that got their visa released without showing funds. Trust me, German student visa is the most easiest I have seen.

There are some other details about the interview which I can't go into now because they are not necessary at the moment until you get to that point so whoever is willing to try Germany can always contact me once he/she gets to this stage. I'll tell you everything you need to know about the interview.

Weeks after interview (could take like 3 – 6 weeks), visa drops sharply.

### **Bonus Points**

There are also pros and cons of studying in Germany. One major problem is the language.

Although there are many English speaking taught courses, the language is needed for your day to day activities and it can also provide you with limitless opportunities. So I will advise, if you want to come to Germany and you still have time, enroll for language course and get at least B1 level.

The advantages of studying in Germany are numerous; free education, numerous job opportunities for everyone (especially if you are a good speaker of the language), good immigration and after school stay policy (after graduation, the government allows you to stay 18 months in the country to look for a job).

Although language gives you more opportunities, there are also many opportunities for English speakers. At least if you can't speak, have quality experience and skills needed in the area of job application.

Jobs are numerous in Germany so even if you still don't have much previous experience, there is still something for you and one way to also enhance your experience is by applying for internships.

There are numerous internship positions for students in Germany and the beauty of the education system is that you are permitted to take study leave anytime you want. Some people take the study leave so they can do internships. You can also do internships during summer holidays if you don't really want a study leave at the moment.

Without my ability to speak German and not much previous work experience I was still able to get an internship position this summer (from August to October). So you see, Germany can provide you with all you need both academically and professionally regardless of what you have at the moment

Lastly, everywhere is good in Germany but there are places with more opportunities for students than other places. So when looking for schools, consider the following places in mind;

- North Rhine-Westphalia (Köln, Dortmund, Essen, Aachen Bonn, etc.),
- Bavaria (Munich precisely),
- Hamburg, Darmstadt, Frankfurt, Bremen, Berlin, Stuttgart and some others I can't remember now.