

CHECKLIST FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL MASTER'S STUDENTS - THINGS YOU NEED TO GET DONE BEFORE YOUR PROGRAM STARTS

Dear prospective students,

There are a lot of things to do before your Master's program at TUHH starts in October 2026. This guide will inform you about the important things you need to get done before the start of your program. Please read carefully.

1. ADMISSION LETTER

You can download your certificate of admission from the application portal. TUHH doesn't send hardcopies of the certificate of admission by mail.

2. CLARIFY MONEY-RELATED QUESTIONS (AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!)

Proof of Financial Resources

For your visa application (and also later on for your residence permit) you will need a proof of your financial resources, showing that you can finance your studies and living expenses in Germany. Students must prove that they have at least €11.904 per year at their disposal (as of 2025). To get further information and the exact amount for the financial proof please contact the [German embassy](#).

Costs of Living and Semester Contribution

The costs of living in Hamburg are rather high. Students should count a minimum of approx. €1000 per month! You can find a confirmation concerning study and living expenses on page 2 of the admission letter. Each semester students have to pay a semester contribution of approx. €390. Payment details will be provided in September after the online-enrolment has been completed.

Especially at the beginning, students might need to spend more than €1000 in a month (e.g. to pay a deposit when renting a room, for the semester contribution and the fees for your residence permit).

3. APPLY FOR A STUDENT VISA (AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!)

International students need a student visa to enter Germany! Students from the European Union (and some other countries) are exempted from this requirement. To check if you need a student visa and to get further information, please check the website of the [German embassy](#) in charge or use the [visa-navigator](#).

Visa processing can take several months' time, for this reason you should apply for the student visa immediately! TUHH cannot accelerate the visa procedure. The enrolment deadline at TUHH cannot be extended due to a missing student visa! TUHH doesn't issue late arrival letters or extension letters. A deferment of admission is also not possible. If you cannot start the program in time you have to re-apply

Do not enter Germany with a tourist visa or a national residence permit issued by a Schengen country! If you do so, you have to leave Germany after 90 days and after that you cannot re-enter the country!

4. FINDING ACCOMMODATION

Please note that German public universities do not provide accommodation to students. That means that even when accepted by the university, you have to find accommodation by yourselves!

Especially in urban centres like Hamburg, cheap accommodation is hard to find. It is therefore very important to start searching for accommodation as soon as possible. Finding accommodation after your arrival will be nearly impossible. Please note that finding accommodation takes time.

To apply for student accommodation please contact the [Studierendenwerk Hamburg](#) but please be aware that demand always exceeds supply.

6. ARRANGING A GERMAN HEALTH INSURANCE

Students in Germany are obliged to be insured at a German statutory health insurance company (costs: approx. €160 per month). Students with a DAAD scholarship also need a German statutory health insurance! Students older than 30 years of age cannot sign up for a statutory health insurance, they have to apply for a private German health insurance.

Students with a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), a valid Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or an AT11 from Turkey don't have to arrange an additional German health insurance. However, these students cannot take up a student job or a paid internship in Germany. Students who are planning to do so should arrange a German statutory health insurance.

Some statutory health insurances that you may find in Hamburg are [AOK](#), [BARMER](#), [DAK](#) or [TK](#).

You can at least start to arrange your health insurance from abroad. To do so please contact the German health insurance of your choice directly! Before you sign your health insurance contract, please make sure that it is a German statutory health insurance, not an international or private insurance or a travel health insurance!

The statutory health insurance company will send an electronic health insurance confirmation to TUHH. To do so they will need the TUHH-sender-number "Absendenummer" H0002497. A copy of your health insurance contract is not sufficient for enrolment.

A few weeks after arranging statutory health insurance and submitting all the required documents (German address, bank details, photo etc.) to the health insurance company you will get a health insurance card which you need to take with you when you visit a doctor. If you have a statutory health insurance medical treatment is free of charge, however, some special treatments e.g. tooth replacement must generally be paid for in full. When in doubt please contact your health insurance beforehand.

6. WELCOME WEEKS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The [Welcome Weeks Program](#) organized by the Department International Affairs is focused on the special situation of being new at TUHH. The welcome team will be able to assist you on your arrival in Hamburg and to help you get off to a good start on your study courses.

7. FIRST CONTACT TO TUHH SENIOR STUDENTS

For first contact with TUHH senior students please feel free to contact the General Students' Committee ([AStA](#)) or one of the International Students Associations at TUHH.

- AStA: internationales@asta.tuhh.de
- African Student Association: african-ag@tuhh.de
- Indian Student Association: isatuhh@tuhh.de
- Latino AG (Latin American students): hola@tuhh.de
- Pakistan Student Association: psa@tu-harburg.de
- Student Association Bangladesh: sab@tuhh.de

8. ENROLMENT AT TUHH (BY OCTOBER 1, 2026)

On September 1, 2026 we will activate the enrolment-tool in the [application portal](#).

You should do the online-enrolment with a computer, doing it with a smart phone might cause problems!

Deadline of enrolment is October 1, 2026!

Before you can start the online-enrolment you have to submit the declaration of acceptance in the application portal.

Required documents for the online enrolment

As part of the online application, you have to upload copies of the documents listed below (PDF documents, maximum size 6,5 MB). If the documents are not issued in German or English, German or English translations by a sworn translator are also required. The translations alone are not sufficient! Authentications/certifications are not required, but the TUHH reserves the right to request the originals. If this applies to you, you will be notified in a timely manner and will have until the end of the winter semester to submit the originals

- Passport
- Name and health insurance number of your statutory German health insurance or a proof of your private German health insurance and an exemption letter from the statutory German health insurance. (You will get the exemption letter from any German health insurance.)
- Secondary school leaving certificate (i.e. Abitur, Higher Secondary School Certificate, High School Diploma)
- Transcripts of records (or provisional transcript of records) for all previous degree programs and periods of study, regardless of whether you have completed these programs.
- European Diploma Supplement, for graduates from European universities (if available)
- University degree certificates or provisional degree certificates of all your previous degrees
- Proof of English (same document as for the application)
- Proof of German (optional)
- Certificate of deregistration (if you were previously enrolled at a German university)
- APS certificate (only for applicants with a school or university degree from China, India or Vietnam, regardless of their nationality)

If you have uploaded incomplete documents, you will be notified of this in the portal so that you can submit the missing documents by October 1, 2026 at the very latest. Please check the portal on a regular basis.

9. RECEIVING THE CONFIRMATION OF ENROLMENT AND TRANSFERRING THE SEMESTER CONTRIBUTION

A few days after you have submitted your complete application for enrolment in September you can download the confirmation of enrolment and the payment demand for the semester contribution in the application portal. The semester contribution for the winter semester 2026/27 is payable within 14 days after the enrolment deadline (October 1, 2026).

**Please do not transfer any money before you have received the confirmation of enrolment!
Only transfer the semester contribution if you are sure that you want to start your studies at TUHH,
because a refund of the semester contribution at a later date is not possible!**

When transferring the semester contribution, do not forget to indicate the exact purpose of use (“Verwendungszweck”), which you will find on your payment demand! Without this purpose we cannot assign the payment!

We strongly recommend to transfer the semester contribution from a German bank account, because international money transfer is more expensive and more prone to error.

10. RECEIVING YOUR TU-ACCOUNT AND YOUR STUDENT ID, APPLYING FOR THE SEMESTER TICKET (DEUTSCHLANDSEMESTERTICKET)

The students' section of the TUNE-portal will be activated as soon as TUHH has received your semester contribution. By that date you will also receive your login and password for the student section in the TUNE-portal.

You can download your student ID and confirmations of enrolment in the [TUNE portal](#). To get further information please check the [TUNE-manual “Reports”](#).

To get your semester ticket (“Deutschlandsemesterticket”) please follow the instructions on this website: <https://www.tuhh.de/tuhh/en/education/students/organisational-details-about-your-studies/translate-to-english-deutschlandsemesterticket>.

11. REGISTRATION IN HAMBURG

Within two weeks after your arrival, you need to register as a resident in Hamburg. You can do that in one of the Customer Service Centers (“Kundenzentrum”). To do so you have to arrange an [appointment online](#).

You should arrange the appointment well in advance! Booking the appointment is sufficient to meet the two-weeks deadline.

After the registration you will get a confirmation of registration (“Meldebestätigung”). Keep this document safe. You will need it for opening a bank account, for your health insurance and for your residence permit.

12. OPENING AN ACCOUNT AT A GERMAN BANK

While studying in Hamburg you should open a German bank account. A German bank account makes it easier to handle regular payments. You can open a bank account at any bank in Hamburg or with an online bank. Some banks offer free bank accounts for students. To open a bank account you may need your passport, the confirmation of registration (“Meldebestätigung”) and your student ID.

If you have a blocked bank account you have to activate it after your arrival in Hamburg in order to access your money. To do so you have to contact the bank where you have opened the blocked account.

13. APPLICATION FOR THE RESIDENCE PERMIT (BEFORE YOUR STUDENT VISA EXPIRES)

Students from non-EU countries need a residence permit for their stay in Hamburg. It can take a long time until you get your residence permit, for that reason you have to apply for the residence permit as soon as possible. You can apply for the residence permit as soon as you have completed your registration in Hamburg.

If you are living in Hamburg you can use the [“Residence permit Hamburg online service”](#) to apply for the residence permit and upload all required documents. You can get more detailed information on the website of the [Hamburg Welcome Center](#) and in the booklet [“Information for International Students”](#).

MORE USEFUL WEBSITES

[Campus map](#)

[Examination office](#)

Information about examinations, examination regulations, study plans, modul manuals etc.)

[General Student Counseling and Psychological Counseling](#)

The Student Counseling Service provides general student counseling and psychological counseling (also in English language) for TUHH students throughout their studies:

[German Language Courses for Master Students](#)

[Semester and lecture periods and other deadlines](#)

Information for new students: [New@TUHH](#)

[Organizational details about your studies:](#)

Deregistration, financing your studies, renewal of registration, replacement of certificates, sabbatical semester, self service functions, semester documents etc..

Service portal for studying in Hamburg /Studierendenwerk Hamburg:

<https://www.stwhh.de/en/>

Services provided by the TUHH Computer Center:

<https://www.tuhh.de/rzt/beratung/usc>

Student Jobs:

International students from non-EU-countries (with exception of students from Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland) are only allowed to take up a limited amount of paid employment (a maximum of 140 days per year, alternatively 280 days part-time up to four hours per day). For any work that exceeds your 120-days account and that is not a compulsory part of your studies you need a work permit. Jobs as a "Studentische/Wissenschaftliche Hilfskraft" (teaching or research assistant) within the university can be exempted from the work permit requirement if the majority of performed tasks has a scientific character. Further information is given here: <https://www.daad.de/deutschland/in-deutschland/arbeit/en/9148-side-jobs/>

STUDIS-Studierendenservice / Admission and Registration:

Advice and processing in admission, enrolment and student administration.

TUNE:

In the [TUNE-Portal](#) you will find all applications related to student and examination management. There you can change your address or phone number, download certificates of enrolment and academic records, register for and withdrawal from examinations and check the admission to examinations.

Instructions on how to use TUNE: <https://www.tuhh.de/tune/en/manuals/students>

University library (TUB)

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