



High School Exchange Visa

General information:

All persons who wish to participate in a High School Exchange Program in Germany are required to obtain a residence permit. In order to enter Germany, a visa has to be issued.

Once all required documents have been submitted, the application and supporting documents will be forwarded to the appropriate Aliens Authority (*Ausländerbehörde*) at the applicant's intended place of residence during his/her stay in Germany. The processing can take up to 12 weeks. As soon as the application has been approved by the German authority, the Embassy/Consulate will issue a national visa for the first 3 months of the intended stay. A final residence permit for a longer period (usually the total duration of the intended stay) will be issued upon arrival by the Aliens' Authority.

Although the visa is called a "national visa", please note that it does also entitle its holder to enter other Schengen countries for a stay of up to 90 days for tourism purposes.

Required documents:

Please make sure to prepare **two complete sets of the following documents** collated in the order listed below and bring them to your appointment. Incomplete documentation may result in the rejection of your application.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Valid passport – issued within the past 10 years, providing a minimum of 2 blank pages.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form – duly and fully completed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Declaration of accuracy of information
<input type="checkbox"/>	Passport sized photos – no older than three months, must meet biometric standards
<input type="checkbox"/>	Copies of the passport's data page
<input type="checkbox"/>	Residence permit in the U.S. , e.g. Visa, Green Card, US passport
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof of address , e.g. valid driver's license, utility bill, lease
<input type="checkbox"/>	Letter of invitation from the host family including complete address of the accommodation and phone number
<input type="checkbox"/>	Passport copies of the host parents
<input type="checkbox"/>	If applicant is under the age of 18: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • birth certificate with parental information, original and official translation into German or English, if applicable (must be certified by a notary public if parent is not present at the interview) – plus one copy each • consent letter signed by both parents (signature must be certified by a notary public if parent is not present at the interview) • application form signed by at least one parent • passport copies of both parents • declaration of financial responsibility signed by both parents, supported by bank statements
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof of travel health insurance for the first 90 days of your stay with a minimum coverage of 30.000 EUR (see here for detailed requirements).



The German missions in the US reserve the right to ask for **additional documents** at any time during the processing of your application whenever deemed appropriate. Presenting the aforementioned documents does not guarantee that a visa will be granted.

Fees:

The visa fee amounts to 75 EUR (for applicants under the age of 18: 37.50 EUR) and is payable in USD in cash only. Conversion into USD is made based on the exchange rate at the time of application.

Additional information:

This information sheet has been prepared with utmost care. It is intended to provide a point of reference to our clients but may not be fully applicable to every individual case. If you have further, more specific questions which are not answered by the information contained here nor on our website www.germany.info/visa, please contact the German Embassy/Consulate General serving your U.S. home state

The German missions in the U.S. cannot accept any responsibility for inaccuracies contained in this information sheet.