

GERMANY

Higher Education

Students should be self-disciplined and budget study time throughout the semester. Talk to other students or professors if you have troubles knowing what the learning outcomes of a course are. Students attend courses based on their progression in their field of study. Individual arrangements with professors must be made to ensure proper accreditation. Assessment is based on oral and written reports in seminars for which the student receives a Schein, or certificate. (A grade can be requested.)

In Germany, bachelor's degree programs typically last 3 years, while second degree programs (1 to 2 years) lead to master's degrees. Unified, undivided long-term master's programs (5-6 years) are offered in some fields of study, and ECTS credits allow diplomas and grades to be easily convertible.

Transcripts are not automatically issued. Students will have to follow the steps outlined in their Acceptance Package and Country Handbook to obtain a transcript from the international office. Please note that ISEP cannot intervene on behalf of students who have not completed the process outlined by their host institution. Like many European institutions, German institutions do not differentiate between 100, 200, and 300+ level courses.

Academic Calendar

Full Year: Mid-October - Mid-July

Semester 1: Mid-October - February

Semester 2: March - Mid-July

Number of classes a typical student takes per term: 4-6

Number of hours per week a typical student spends in class: 10-30

Number of weeks per term: 14-21

Grading

Grade	Description	U.S. Grade Recommendation
1 -1.5 = Sehr Gut	Excellent: outstanding performance	A
1.6-2.5 = Gut	Good: above the average standard but with some errors	A-/B+
2.6-3.5 = Befriedigend	Satisfactory: generally sound work with a few notable errors	B-
3.6-4.9 = Ausreichend	Sufficient: performance meets the minimum criteria	C
5.0-6.0 = (Nicht ausreichend/Nicht bestanden)	Unsatisfactory: substantial improvement necessary; requirement of further work	F

Unbenotet = not graded

Bestanden = Passed

Teilgenommen = Regularly attended

For certain fields of study, it is typical for students to receive average to mediocre grades. Depending on the field, these grades may be considered good by German standards. Students receiving a 3.0 or above are generally regarded as having an A or B average in the U.S. equivalent. Any grade between 4.1-4.9 is still considered good academic standing.

Credit Equivalent

A full workload for an international student is an average of 6 courses in a semester of 15 weeks, with 12 hours of lecture per week. Registrars are encouraged to look at contact hours to evaluate credit.

The system of credits in use (ECTS) is a cumulative calculation of credit points based on the workload of a student. It is a student-centered credit system to measure the workload required to achieve the objectives of a curriculum. One credit point corresponds to 26 hours of study performed by a student (including lectures, seminars, practice, homework, independent work, and assessment of learning outcomes). ECTS credits are allocated to course units and are awarded to students who successfully complete the course. Please see the section "European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)" at the beginning of this guide for more information.

Courses for the upcoming academic year may not be available until shortly before the year starts, so students and advisors are encouraged to use previous years' catalogues as a basis for choosing courses. Students are also encouraged to be flexible in their requirements.