



Date: October 27, 2020

If you are travelling to Germany to begin your doctoral studies

Before you travel

Please read through our website "[Regulations for entering and living in Germany](#)" for detailed information about immigration regulations, visas, and residence permits for Germany.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Germany closed its borders to all travel that was not absolutely necessary. Since July, these restrictions have eased somewhat and currently the following travelers are allowed to enter Germany:

- Citizens of the **EU, the UK, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Norway and Iceland and their core family members (spouse, minor children and parents of minor children)** are allowed to travel to Germany with no restrictions. This also applies to citizens of third countries with a valid, long-term residence permit from an EU or Schengen country or the UK and their core family members.
- People whose permanent residence or habitual place of residence is **Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Thailand or Uruguay** can now enter Germany without restrictions. This list can undergo changes at any time as the COVID-19 pandemic develops in these and other countries. The current list can be found in English on the [Corona FAQ website](#) of the Federal Ministry of the Interior. Please check this website for any changes when planning your trip and before travelling.
- People from all other countries are allowed to travel to Germany **for the purpose of university studies, including doctoral studies, if their studies cannot be carried out fully from outside of Germany**. It is necessary to present a certificate confirming the necessity of your presence in Germany for your studies both when you apply for a visa and at the border when you enter Germany. If you cannot present such a certificate, your visa application and/or your entry to Germany may be denied.

The Graduate Academy cannot make any recommendations at this time about travelling to Germany. We also cannot exert any influence on your behalf during the visa application process or with border officials when entering Germany.

Please inquire at the appropriate German foreign mission (embassy or consulate) about applying for an entry visa as early as possible. Many German foreign missions have restricted opening hours and are offering only limited appointments to issue visas. Additionally, in some countries, the requirements for obtaining a visa have changed since the beginning of the pandemic. Therefore, the wait times to receive your visa can, in many cases, be longer than normal.

The Graduate Academy cannot issue certificates confirming the necessity of your presence in Germany for your doctoral studies. You can ask your doctoral supervisor or the coordinator of your doctoral program about obtaining such a certificate. If you are applying for a letter of admission to the university (*Zulassungsbescheid*) in order to apply for a study visa to enter Germany, please request

with your application the certificate confirming the necessity of your presence in Germany. This will then be issued and sent to you with the letter of admission.

When you enter Germany

Travelers to Germany are currently being divided into two groups: 1) travelers from non-risk areas and 2) travelers from international risk areas. The list of international risk areas as determined by the Robert Koch Institute can be found [here](#).

Travelers from non-risk areas

do not have to self-quarantine and do not have to be tested for COVID-19 after entering Germany.

Travelers from international risk areas

must be tested for COVID-19 upon entering Germany and must self-quarantine until they receive a negative test result. Testing is being done at the airports, at some train stations, in special corona testing centers and also by general practitioners. There is an interactive map of places to get tested [here](#). Please search according to where you will be living, e.g. "Heidelberg Stadt", "Mannheim Stadt" or "Rhein-Neckar-Kreis". You can also call the centralized medical care number – Ärztlicher Bereitschaftsdienst – at 116 117 regardless of where you live. Many cities also have a specific hotline number for COVID-19 testing, such as

Heidelberg: 06221 - 522-1881

Mannheim: 0621 - 293-2253

Independent of the COVID-19 test, you must also register immediately after your arrival with the local authorities (generally with the "Ordnungsamt"). If you arrive by airplane, this can be taken care of by filling out and handing in the so-called "Aussteigerkarte" (passenger locator card) at your entry point into Germany. If your airline does not provide this service or if you arrive by other means of transportation, you are responsible for actively registering yourself. You can register as follows:

In Heidelberg: contact the Ordnungsamt by telephone 06221 58-17777 or email

corona.ordnungsamt@heidelberg.de)

In Mannheim: send an email to 31corona@mannheim.de

In the small towns outside of Heidelberg: go to the "Rathaus" or "Bürgeramt" of your town.

A failure to register with the appropriate authority and/or to get tested for COVID-19 are treated as misdemeanors and can be penalized with a monetary fine of up to 25.000 Euro.

If you received a negative COVID-19 test result before travelling to Germany, you are not subject to mandatory testing and quarantine after you arrive. However, the test must fulfill the requirements set down by the government of Baden-Württemberg and the test must have been carried out within 48 hours of your trip to Germany. There is information about the test requirements [here](#).

If you are experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19 or think you might be infected

If for any reason you think you might be infected by the COVID-19 virus, you should call the telephone hotline for the Rhein-Neckar metropolitan region, which is also responsible for Heidelberg. The hotline number is 06221 522-1881 and it is available Monday–Friday from 8 am to 4 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 2 pm. On the weekends you can also call the off-hours medical care service (Ärztlicher Bereitschaftsdienst) at 116 117. If you have a medical emergency, you can call the medical emergency number 112. Please make sure to indicate that you suspect a COVID-19 infection so that the medical specialists can react accordingly.

The following websites provide up-to-date information about travel and entry regulations, quarantine and COVID-19 testing:

[Einreisebeschränkungen der Bundespolizei](#) (in German)

[Corona FAQs – Federal Ministry of the Interior](#)

[Corona Ordinance of the state of Baden-Württemberg](#) scroll down for link to English version

[City of Heidelberg Corona Infosheet](#)

[City of Heidelberg Infosheet for returning from high risk areas](#)

[Corona Information from the Federal Office of Integration](#)

[FAQs zur Corona Verordnung](#) (in German)

[Informationen zu Corona Tests](#) (in German)

[Requirements for international corona tests](#)

[Information about international risk areas](#)

Rules surrounding social distancing and mask wearing in Baden-Württemberg

A distance of 1.5 meters from other people must be maintained in public spaces and generally, it is strongly recommended always to maintain this distance in any situation in which there is little or no protection against infection. The number of people who are permitted to gather indoors and outdoors, in private and in public spaces is also limited.

A mask covering the mouth and nose must be worn in public transportation and at bus stops and train stations, in hair salons, in shops and shopping centers, in doctor's and dentist's offices, and outside in areas where large numbers of people gather, such as in the city center (Hauptstraße and some side streets) in Heidelberg, among other places. Children below the age of 6 years and people with a medical reason for not wearing a mask are exempted from this regulation.

Because the regulations regarding mask wearing and social gatherings changes regularly as the pandemic develops, you must take responsibility for staying informed and up-to-date. Detailed information can be found on the city websites of Heidelberg and Mannheim:

[City of Heidelberg – Corona Information](#)

[City of Mannheim – Corona Information](#)

Formalities after arriving in Heidelberg

Registering your place of residence

Within a week after moving in to your long-term place of residence you are required to register your place of residence at the local *Bürgeramt* (local municipal office). There is more information about this procedure on our website "[Regulations for entering and living in Germany](#)". You can currently visit the *Bürgerämter* in Heidelberg without an advance appointment. In other cities (e.g. Mannheim and Dossenheim), an appointment is necessary or your registration must be done by mail (e.g. Eppelheim). Because this can change quickly as the pandemic develops, we recommend that you check on the website of your city. If you need to search for this information in German, you can search for "*Bürgeramt*" or "*Bürgerservice*" or "*Einwohnermeldeamt*".

Applying for your residence permit

You must apply for your long-term residence permit in the first three months of your stay in Germany before your entry visa expires. There is more information about this procedure on our website

[“Regulations for entering and living in Germany”](#). Because the processing of such applications is currently taking longer than normal, we recommend that you submit the necessary application documents as early as possible. It will also be necessary to make an appointment at the appropriate *Ausländerbehörde* (Foreigners’ Office) in order to receive your residence permit. Please make sure to apply for an appointment in plenty of time. If you live in Heidelberg, it is now possible to apply for an appointment at the *Ausländerbehörde* Heidelberg online. Information about this is available [here](#).

Admission and enrollment at the University

Both the application for admission to the university and the final enrollment at the university are now being carried out by postal mail. You can find detailed information about both of these procedures on our [website](#) under „Step 5: Admission to the University“ and „Enrollment“. If you have any questions, please contact us in the Service Center:

Email: graduertenakademie@uni-heidelberg.de

Tel: +49 (0)6221 54-19765, 54-19763 oder 54-19768

Information from the Heidelberg University pertaining to COVID-19

Heidelberg University provides information about courses, research and COVID-19-related regulations on the following website:

[Coronavirus: FAQs about student affairs and teaching](#)

[Information about the corona virus](#)