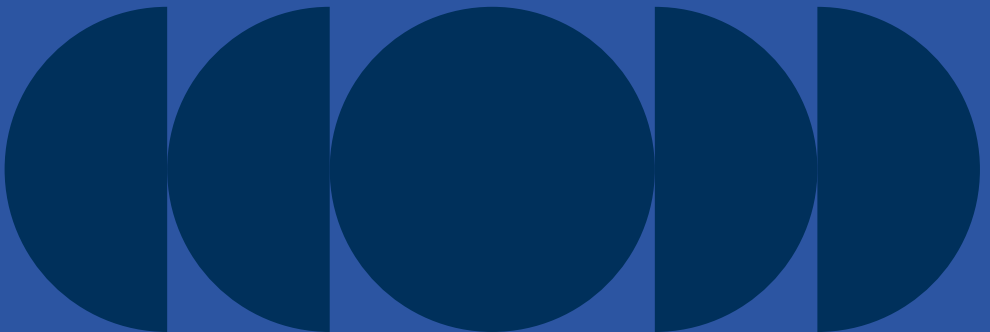


International Office



Marburg  
University

# Career Orientation for International Students in Germany



How can I find a job during my studies?  
Which legal regulations do I have to consider as an international student?  
And what can I actually do with my degree after graduation?

It is important to discover your individual skills and strengths, create an individual profile, get to know occupational fields and gain practical experience already during your studies.

The International Office and Career Service assist you along the way!



### **First Step: Orientation**

Ways to evaluate your strengths and career wishes and discover possible occupational fields:

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**Workshops** – Use the workshops offered at your university to improve and gain important study skills, foster your self-confidence and prepare yourself for the German job market.

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**Relevant Study Modules** – Broaden your horizon and explore different interests through elective modules in your study program and the MarSkills section.

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**Career Paths Database** – Find out which fields of work align with your study program and which skills might be helpful and could be improved during your study.

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## Working During Your Studies

For many international students, having a part-time job is a **necessity** in order to finance themselves.

In fact, working during your studies also helps you to improve your **German skills**, to get social insights and to learn more about the people, to understand **workplace culture** and to gain **soft skills** such as teamwork and communication.

Through **exploring different jobs and industries** you can find the right fit for you and develop important professional skills. By networking effectively, you can connect with professionals, learn about



potential career opportunities and take your first steps on your **individual career path**.

So, you can see, working during your studies does not only help you financially, but it is also a crucial part for your career orientation and for integrating into a new culture – it therefore counts as important practical experience that you should definitely try to gain during your studies, if time permits.

## Volunteering

Although volunteer work is not a paid job, it can just as much help you for your career orientation.

Apart from doing good and giving back to community, working as a volunteer also gives you valuable insights and practical experience in a wide range of possible fields. As a plus, volunteer work looks great on your resume for future employers and could heighten the chances of obtaining a scholarship!

If you consider volunteering, a first step might be to check out **student initiatives** at university and get advice about possible fields at the **Freiwilligen-agentur Marburg**.

## Types of Jobs for Students in Germany

### Working Student Positions (Werkstudierenden-Jobs)

- Part-time job usually related to your field of study.
- Up to 20 hours per week.
- Provides valuable experience and career opportunities.

### Minijob

- Limited to a certain amount of salary per month (556 € in 2025 – please check online for the current regulation, e.g. on [www.minijob-zentrale.de](http://www.minijob-zentrale.de)).
- No income tax or social security contributions to be paid.
- Common in retail, hospitality, or office assistance.

### Student Assistant

- On-campus job at the university and associated institutions (research, teaching, administrative work).
- Flexible working hours.

## Internships

In many study programs, an internship is a **mandatory** part of the curriculum. If that applies to your degree program, you should check with your faculty what requirements are effective for the internship, e.g., the duration of time and the relevance to your field of study.



If an internship is mandatory for your study program, the employer does not have to pay you for this internship. In case you do a **voluntary internship**, the employer only has to pay you a salary if the internship runs for more than 3 months. If you choose to do an internship after graduation, you will have to be paid from the first day on – however, there are not many internships open for graduates.

An internship is usually **full time** and takes up **3 to 6 months**. It is a great opportunity to gain a deeper **insight** into a company, the workplace, working methods and industry.

## Work Regulations for International Students in Germany

### Working Hour Limits

#### During the Semester:

- **EU/EEA students:** Same rules as German students (working for max. 20 hours per week is allowed).
- **Non-EU/EEA students:** Up to 140 full days or 280 half days per year (max. 20 hours per week). Working days with more than 4 hours count as full days, less as half days.

### Working Hour Limits

#### During Semester Breaks:

- **German and EU/EEA students** can work full-time (up to 40 hours per week).
- **Non-EU/EEA students** also are eligible to work for more than 20 hours per week, but they still have to consider the total maximum day count per year as mentioned above.

**Internships:** A mandatory internship does not count into the working hour limit above. A voluntary internship however is included in the day count.

**Student Assistant Positions** do not count into the day count either and may be taken up on top, as long as the study progress remains steady.

**Please note:** Last updated in 2025. Please check the current rules here: <https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/study-vocational-training/studies-in-germany/work>

### Minimum Wage & Salaries

- Minimum wage in Germany (from 2026): €13.90 per hour – changes may occur, please look up the current minimum wage online, e.g. on <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Labour/Minimum-Wage/minimum-wage.html>
- Salaries vary based on job type and employer, but may not amount to less than the minimum wage.
- Up to a certain amount of salary per year, no income tax must be paid ("Steuerfreibetrag"). Please check the current limit online, e.g. on [www.mystipendium.de/studienfinanzierung/steuerfreibetrag-student](http://www.mystipendium.de/studienfinanzierung/steuerfreibetrag-student).

## How to Find a Student Job

The most common way to search for a job are **online job portals**. You can go for large job portals and meta databanks but also look for industry- or subject-specific websites. On the **website of the Career Service**, you can find jobs and internships in and near Marburg.

In case you are interested in working as a **student assistant**, have a look on the university's own job listings on the website and also look for offerings on the notice boards at your faculty. If you are interested in certain **companies**, check their websites for open positions or send them an unsolicited application.

Many jobs also can be found through connections – meaning your personal **network**, friends and fellow students. Maybe one of them is already working at a company who is looking to hire another working student? Make your job search and the skills you bring known to your network!

## Career Fairs

Career fairs are networking events where companies, recruiters, and job seekers meet.

They are great for discovering job opportunities and potential employers, expanding your network and practicing your self-presentation.

Look at the offers of the International Office and the Career Service: We offer workshops on preparation for a job fair as well as fairs at the university and sometimes accompanied fair visits.



## You found an interesting job offer? – Here's what to do next:

Note the **application deadline**: Unless you are submitting an unsolicited application, there is usually a deadline in a job advertisement by which applications may be submitted. This date is fixed, i.e. your application must reach the person or department by this date.

Pay attention to whether you should send your application documents by post, by e-mail (with a PDF attachment) or upload them via an online application platform. Many applications get rejected due to **formal errors**, e.g. incorrect or incomplete submission of documents. Therefore, pay very close attention to what the application should contain and how you should submit it.

## Application Documents

Usually, a formal application needs the following **documents**:

- Cover Letter
- Curriculum vitae
- Relevant Certificates (such as diplomas, current transcript of records, certificates from former employers, internships or voluntary work)

Take part in the **workshops** offered by the International Office and Career Service in order to gain more insight into the typical German way to write an application or to prepare for a job interview!

We also offer an **individual application portfolio assessment**.

## Job Interview & Work Contract

During a **job interview**, you will usually meet several people from the company who will ask you questions about your previous work experience, your skills and the company. You will typically be asked to briefly introduce yourself and your professional profile. You can also clarify your own questions with the company.

When you are offered a job, you will often have to submit some **documents** (e.g., a police clearance certificate, social security details, etc.). The documents must be complete before the **work contract** can be signed. Your contract must be signed by all persons (the company and yourself) before the first working day begins.

## Balancing Work and Study

Finding a job is great, but don't let it interfere with your education!

### Tips for Balance:

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Prioritize mandatory courses early, so you have more flexibility later.

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Don't overwork – remember, your goal is to graduate and build a career.

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Keep a long-term plan for your studies (for the next 2–3 years) so you don't get lost.

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Keep in mind: Due to your residence purpose of study, the Immigration Office also reviews your **study progress** and may ask for a qualified statement of the university, if a delay or a low amount of credit points occurs. Therefore, a balance between your study and your job experiences is important. The International Office gives advice and assists you with issuing those statements, if needed. Please feel free to contact us!





### **Personal Consultation**

You can also schedule an appointment for an individual consultation with the International Office or Career Service. Together, we can discuss topics such as your interests and strengths, possible occupational fields, job search strategies, application documents, legal regulations for international students (e.g. on residency, work and study) and other questions you might have.

### **Contact**

#### **International Office & Career Service**

#### **E-Mail**

[careerservice@uni-marburg.de](mailto:careerservice@uni-marburg.de)

#### **Website**

[www.uni-marburg.de/careerservice](http://www.uni-marburg.de/careerservice)

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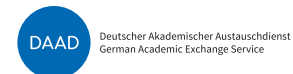
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