

Visa Information for MIPLC Students

Please note that the information provided here is indicative only. The MIPLC is not in a position to provide legally binding advice on visa matters. Such matters may change on short notice. Therefore, please refer to the information provided by the German consulate(s) in your country for current details and information.

Admitted students from most countries outside of the EU must apply for a German national **visa for study purposes** via the German diplomatic representation in their home country. Without this visa, you will not be allowed to enter Germany.

A country overview telling you whether or not you need a visa is available at <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/-/231148>

If You Need a Visa

It cannot be stressed often enough: **Please apply for your visa as soon as possible!**

Visas easily take three to six months or even more to be processed and issued. If the MIPLC program starts in early October, applying for your visa in mid-August is probably too late. We recommend that you commence the visa application process as soon as it is clear that you will definitely join our program. If applicable, this might mean paying your tuition fee several weeks before MIPLC's deadline.

Please read the information provided by the German embassy or consulate in your home country and follow the instructions meticulously. Make sure you submit all required documents with your application, because the embassy will not make any exceptions for you. You will have to follow all the rules, and meet all the deadlines. The MIPLC or the Max Planck Society are unfortunately not in a position to speed up this application process.

You **must not under any circumstances travel to Germany on a tourist visa**. It is not possible to convert a tourist visa and trying to do so will give you a lot of trouble and may lead to expulsion.

Please note: all visa applications usually take several weeks (months, in case of the English test!) to be finalized. In your own interest, please make timely arrangements.

In most cases, you will have to present the following documents:



Document	Why?	How to get it?	Waived if
Proof of a blocked bank account (“Sperrkonto”) with a minimum deposit	To show that you can financially support yourself during your studies	Refer to the following websites: https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/sperrkonto/388600 https://www.studying-in-germany.org/germany-blocked-account-foreign-students/	You have won a monthly stipend scholarship (e.g. from DAAD)
Proof of payment of the tuition fee/ first installment	MIPLC charges tuition and requires that 50% will be paid by August 1	Pay your first installment and ask us to send you a payment confirmation	You have a tuition waiver letter from MIPLC
Health insurance (<i>please refer to our separate information documents as well</i>)	To secure that your medical bills are covered if you fall ill after arrival in Germany	<i>Usually</i> , it is enough to take out travel insurance to cover the period between your arrival in Germany and the start of the program. However, please confirm this with the Embassy or Consulate.	Cannot be waived. However, you can use insurance from your home country if coverage meets legal requirements
Indian applicants: English test Might also apply to applicants from other countries who are exempt by MIPLC from submitting an English test score certificate, but whose native language is not necessarily English	Required for visa application	Arrange for a test date well in advance. http://www.toefl.org http://www.ielts.org	Check with the German Embassy/Consulate already by the time you apply to MIPLC
Chinese and Indian applicants: APS certification	Required for visa – NO exceptions will be made	Contact APS for further information as soon as possible (www.aps.org.cn/ / https://aps-india.de/)	Needs to be done, NO exceptions possible