

Overseas Travel Risk Assessment: Student Mobility - Germany

The purpose of this Risk Assessment is to ensure that members of the University community are unlikely to be exposed to unacceptable risks which could affect their health, safety or security when travelling abroad on behalf of the University.

This form should be completed by the individual wishing to travel prior to making any firm arrangements to travel, and must be completed in discussion with the relevant line manager or supervisor, allowing sufficient time in advance of travelling for any issues to be addressed.

Before completing this form you should ensure that you (and your manager/supervisor) are familiar with the contents of the Health and Safety and Insurance webpages on travelling abroad.

When completed and approved this risk assessment and its associated itinerary should be carried by the traveller(s) and a copy retained by the Department. Queries on the completion of this assessment should be directed to HealthandSafetyAdmin@warwick.ac.uk

Please consider when completing this form how the country you intend to visit is managing the Covid-19 outbreak. In particular, it may be helpful to consider access to local medical facilities, how local transport is being managed and any local guidelines and social behaviours you may need to adopt

Department:	Student Mobility, Student Opportunity
Location(s) to be visited:	Germany
Purpose of journey:	Student Mobility
Name and role of traveller(s):	List held with Student Mobility
Name of line manager or supervisor:	Jonathan French/Maria Fox (Head of Student Mobility)
Dates of proposed travel:	Academic Year 2026 – 2027
Information taken from:	https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/ (FCDO)
Living In Country Guidance	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-germany Before you travel No travel can be guaranteed safe. Read all the advice in this guide and any specific travel advice that applies to you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • women travellers • disabled travellers • LGBT+ travellers

- [solo and independent travel](#)
- [volunteering and adventure travel](#)

Travel insurance

If you choose to travel, research your destinations and [get appropriate travel insurance](#). Insurance should cover your itinerary, planned activities and expenses in an emergency.

About FCDO travel advice

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) provides advice about risks of travel to help British nationals make informed decisions. Find out [more about FCDO travel advice](#).

[Sign-up for FCDO travel advice email alerts](#) and follow FCDO travel advice on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

Hazard/Consideration	Risk (High / Medium / Low)	Mitigating Actions (please add to or amend as appropriate)	Comments / Actions
Coronavirus			
Money			<p>The currency in Germany is the Euro.</p> <p>Research and make yourself fully aware of the cost of living for Germany. Some countries have a significantly higher cost of living than the UK, and this can seriously impact your placement. We have received feedback from previous students that being aware of this and having fully prepared for the increased cost is essential.</p>
Visa Applications/Entry			<p>This information is for people travelling on a full ‘British citizen’ passport from the UK. It is based on the UK government’s understanding of the current rules for the most common types of travel. The authorities in Germany set and enforce entry rules. If you’re not sure how these requirements apply to you, contact the German Embassy in the UK.</p> <p>Passport validity requirements Germany follows Schengen area rules. Your passport must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have a ‘date of issue’ less than 10 years before the date you arrive – if you renewed your passport before 1 October 2018, it may have a date of issue that is more than 10 years ago • have an ‘expiry date’ at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave the Schengen area (the expiry date does not need to be within 10 years of the date of issue) <p>Check with your travel provider that your passport and other travel documents meet requirements. Renew your passport if you need to.</p> <p>You will be denied entry if you do not have a valid travel document or try to use a passport that has been reported lost or stolen.</p>

If you have a residence permit, you must have a valid passport for the duration of your stay. Renew it before the expiry date.

Dual nationals

When returning to the UK, British citizens must carry a valid [British passport](#) or [certificate of entitlement](#). See [Dual citizenship](#).

Visa requirements

You can [travel without a visa to the Schengen area](#), which includes Germany, for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. This applies if you travel:

- as a tourist
- to visit family or friends
- to attend business meetings, cultural or sports events
- for short-term studies or training

The [requirements for working in Germany](#) are different.

If you're travelling to other Schengen countries as well, make sure your whole visit is within the 90-day limit. Visits to Schengen countries in the 180 days before you travel count towards your 90 days. If you overstay the 90-day visa-free limit, you may be banned from entering Schengen countries for up to 3 years.

Until the Entry-Exit System (EES) is fully rolled out, make sure you get your passport stamped on entry and exit (read 'New Schengen entry requirements').

If you're a visitor, border guards will look at your entry and exit stamps to check you have not overstayed the 90-day visa-free limit for the Schengen area.

If your passport is missing a stamp, show evidence of when and where you entered or left the Schengen area (for example, boarding passes or tickets) and ask the border guards to add the date and location in your passport.

At German border control, you may need to:

- show a return or onward ticket
- prove that you have enough money for your stay

Staying longer than 90 days in a 180-day period

To stay longer, you must meet the German government's entry requirements. Check which type of visa or permit you need with the [German Embassy in the UK](#).

If you're in Germany with a residence permit or long-stay visa, this does not count towards your 90-day visa-free limit.

Read about [entry processes if you live in Germany](#).

New Schengen entry requirements

From 12 October 2025, the European Union's (EU) new Entry/Exit System (EES) will begin roll out.

This means that when you travel into the Schengen area for short stays, you may need to register your biometric details, such as fingerprints and a photo. You do not need to take any action before you arrive at the border, and there is no cost for EES registration.

On your first visit into a Schengen country from 12 October onwards, you may be asked to register your details at a special booth before proceeding to the immigration desk. Follow directions from your travel operator or the staff at your port of entry. You may also need to provide either your fingerprint or photo when you leave the Schengen area. Children aged 11 or younger will not have their fingerprints scanned but can be required to have their photo taken.

EES may take each passenger a few extra minutes to complete so be prepared to wait longer than usual at the border.

EES will not be rolled out to all ports of entry at once, the numbers of passengers being registered at each port of entry will vary, and some destinations may take up to 6 months to fully roll out the new process.

Until EES is fully rolled out your passport will continue to be stamped, even if you've already been registered for EES. Once EES is fully rolled out, it will replace the current system of manually stamping passports when visitors arrive in the Schengen area for short stays and you will input biometric details every time you enter or exit.

If you enter the Schengen area through the Port of Dover, Eurotunnel at Folkestone or Eurostar at St Pancras International and you are asked to register for EES, the information will be taken at the border before you leave the UK.

Read more [information on the EU Entry/Exit System and to understand which countries are in the Schengen area](#).

Border controls at Germany's land borders

A temporary reintroduction of border controls is currently in place at Germany's land borders. See information from [The Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community](#).

Checkpoints on the Germany/Poland border

Poland has introduced border checks on the Germany/Poland border. Vehicles may be stopped and documentation checked. For further information see [Poland Travel Advice](#).

Vaccine requirements

For details about medical entry requirements and recommended vaccinations, see [TravelHealthPro's Germany guide](#).

			<p>Customs rules There are strict rules about goods you can take into and out of Germany. You must declare anything that may be prohibited or subject to tax or duty.</p> <p>Taking food into Germany You cannot take meat, milk or products containing them into EU countries. There are some exceptions such as powdered baby milk, baby food and special foods or pet feed required for medical reasons.</p> <p>Taking money into Germany You must declare any amount above 10,000 euros in cash or other payment types. You can find more information on the German Federal Foreign Office website.</p>
<p>Local knowledge, understanding of customs and conditions</p> <p>Cultural differences</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of travel to, or working in, the region before • Obtain guidance and information from the host organisation • Research via relevant web-sites • Consider dress, behaviours and sensitivities • Local laws, fees or levies. • Awareness of attitudes towards protected characteristics, e.g. disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment etc. • Dress in accordance with local laws/customs • Avoid behaviour that may fall foul of local customs/laws/cultures. • Report and support at Warwick: https://warwick.ac.uk/students/welcome/spring/livingatuniversity/reportandsupport 	<p>Laws and cultural differences</p> <p>Personal ID It's not a legal requirement to carry ID. However, if you cannot show ID when asked, police can escort you to get your passport. They will ask for a passport and, if you are a resident, for your residence card as well.</p> <p>Illegal drugs Illegal drugs, including cannabis, carry severe penalties. You should expect a long jail sentence and heavy fines for possessing, using or smuggling illegal drugs, including when transiting through the airport. Airports in Germany have excellent technology and security for detecting illegal items. This is also used to scan the baggage of transiting passengers.</p>
<p>Equality and Diversity LGBTQ information</p>			<p>No advice specifically for Germany but please see general LGBTQ travel advice at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender-foreign-travel-advice</p>
<p>Social/Political Unrest or Terrorism:</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the FCDO website for up-to-date advice. 	<p>Terrorism</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the FCDO advises against travel to destination(s) on safety/security grounds then seek approval from HoD/Line Manager • Consider not just the country in question but also any territories as identified in FCDO pages • Reschedule visit or modify itinerary if at all feasible. 	<p>There is a high threat of terrorist attack globally affecting UK interests and British nationals, including from groups and individuals who view the UK and British nationals as targets. Stay aware of your surroundings at all times.</p> <p>UK Counter Terrorism Policing has information and advice on staying safe abroad and what to do in the event of a terrorist attack. Find out how to reduce your risk from terrorism while abroad.</p> <p>Terrorism in Germany</p> <p>Terrorists are very likely to try to carry out attacks in Germany.</p> <p>Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in public places visited by foreign nationals such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • restaurants • markets • shopping centres • places of worship and religious sites, including synagogues • sporting and cultural events • crowded places and public gatherings <p>Examples of recent attacks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in 2024, 3 people were killed and several injured following a knife attack in Solingen • in 2021, 5 people were stabbed and injured on a train in Neumarkt, Bavaria • in 2020, one person was killed and another seriously injured in a knife attack in Dresden • in 2020, 8 people were killed and 5 injured in 2 mass shootings in shisha bars in Hanau • in 2019, 2 people were shot and killed after a failed attempt to enter a synagogue in the eastern German city of Halle <p>German authorities regularly report that they have disrupted planned attacks and made arrests.</p>
<p>Crime:</p> <p>Personal attack / kidnap: Dangers associated with travelling alone; arriving at night, etc.:</p> <p>Theft or loss of ID documents and other belongings: passport, driving license, bank cards, travel tickets, laptop</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of risk of theft or pickpockets • Awareness of local scams or hotspots • Cash and card security/awareness • Be aware of specific local risks • Precautionary measures should be taken to protect personal safety. • Inform hosts of itinerary. • Be aware of specific local risks. • Travel during daylight hours if possible. • Keep items secure. 	<p>Protecting yourself and your belongings</p> <p>Crime levels are similar to the UK. Take sensible precautions to avoid mugging, bag-snatching and pickpocketing. Be particularly vigilant at airports, railway stations and in crowded public places or gatherings. Do not leave bags unattended.</p> <p>Counterfeit currency</p> <p>Only change money at banks, ATMs or official money exchanges. Check your change when paying in cash. British nationals have been arrested for trying to pay with counterfeit currency.</p> <p>Warwick Business Travel Insurance Details</p> <p>Only emergency medical treatment is covered under this policy. Please note that there is no emergency medical cover if you are a national in the country you need medical attention in. For emergency medical assistance or security assistance (if there is risk to your personal safety) please call the number on the following page: https://warwick.ac.uk/services/legalandcomplianceservices/insurance/keypolicies/traveloverseas</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record details of numbers, issue dates, etc. and store separately both with you and at home. • Have emergency contact numbers • Report to police if theft suspected • Minimise amount of cash carried 	<p>Report and Support: https://reportandsupport.warwick.ac.uk/</p> <p>Wellbeing Services: https://warwick.ac.uk/services/wss/</p>
<p>Travel Preparation</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to date EHIC/GHIC if eligible (transit) • Valid vehicle insurance (you cannot use the Business Travel Insurance policy). 	<p>Before you travel, check that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your destination can provide the healthcare you may need • you have appropriate travel insurance for local treatment or unexpected medical evacuation <p>This is particularly important if you have a health condition or are pregnant.</p> <p>Health insurance cards</p> <p>To get medically necessary state healthcare in Germany, you need a Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC).</p> <p>The NHS's getting healthcare abroad webpage has details about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to apply for a GHIC • how to get temporary cover if you lose your card or it does not arrive in time • who qualifies for a new EHIC instead of a GHIC • what treatment counts as medically necessary <p>A GHIC or EHIC is not an alternative to travel insurance. You may have costs your GHIC or EHIC does not cover, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changes to travel and accommodation bookings • additional standard costs for treatment • medical repatriation to the UK • treatment that is ruled non-urgent • private healthcare • private clinics <p>Warwick Business Travel Insurance Details</p> <p>Only emergency medical treatment is covered under this policy. Please note that there is no emergency medical cover if you are a national in the country you need medical attention in. For emergency medical assistance or security assistance (if there is risk to your personal safety) please call the number on the following page: https://warwick.ac.uk/services/legalandcomplianceservices/insurance/keypolicies/traveloverseas</p> <p>Report and Support: https://reportandsupport.warwick.ac.uk/</p>

			Wellbeing Services: https://warwick.ac.uk/services/wss/
Exposure to infection: Known endemic illnesses in destination(s)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take medical advice and arrange vaccination/inoculation/prophylaxis as appropriate • Consider the following conditions in particular: Cholera, Diphtheria, Hepatitis B, Japanese Encephalitis, Malaria, Meningitis, Poliomyelitis, Tetanus, Tick-borne Encephalitis, Tuberculosis, Typhoid and Yellow Fever. 	<p>Vaccine recommendations and health risks</p> <p>At least 8 weeks before your trip:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • check the latest vaccine recommendations for Germany • see where to get vaccines and whether you have to pay on the NHS travel vaccinations page <p>See what health risks you'll face in Germany, including Mpox.</p>
Pre-existing medical conditions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take medical advice. • Carry written details of medical condition, adequate supplies of prescribed medication, details of blood group, etc. • Consider translation of information into local language. • Share with colleagues where appropriate 	<p>If you're on prescription medication, make sure you bring enough with you or have access to a supply in Germany. Certain medicines may not be available and you <u>may be prohibited</u> from bringing others into the country. For more information and advice, check with your GP and the Embassy of Germany before travelling.</p> <p>If you have a health condition, or you are pregnant, you may need specialist healthcare abroad. Check whether your destination country can provide the healthcare you may need and ensure you have appropriate travel insurance for unexpected medical evacuation or local treatment.</p> <p>Medication</p> <p>The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or bought in the UK can be different in other countries.</p> <p>Check to see whether you need approval to bring in medication from the UK.</p> <p>Not all medicines from the UK are available in Germany. Make sure you have a prescription from your GP and check with a doctor in Germany who may be able to issue a prescription for a local equivalent.</p> <p>Read best practice when travelling with medicines on TravelHealthPro.</p>
Health and Local medical facilities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital proximity and standards. • Access to doctors/dentists. • Payment methods for medical treatment. 	<p>Emergency medical number</p> <p>Dial 112 and ask for an ambulance.</p> <p>Contact your insurance or medical assistance company quickly if you're referred to a medical facility for treatment.</p> <p>Healthcare in Germany</p>

FCDO has a list of [medical providers in Germany](#), where some staff will speak English.

There is also [guidance on healthcare if you're living in Germany](#).

Travel and mental health

Read [FCDO guidance on travel and mental health](#). There is also [mental health guidance on TravelHealthPro](#).

Contact your travel provider and insurer

Contact your travel provider and your insurer if you are involved in a serious incident or emergency abroad. They will tell you if they can help and what you need to do.

Refunds and changes to travel

For refunds or changes to travel, contact your travel provider. You may also be able to make a claim through insurance. However, insurers usually require you to talk to your travel provider first.

Find out more about [changing or cancelling travel plans](#), including:

- where to get advice if you are in a dispute with a provider
- how to access previous versions of travel advice to support a claim

Support from FCDO

FCDO has guidance on staying safe and what to do if you need help or support abroad, including:

- finding [lawyers](#), [funeral directors](#) and [translators and interpreters](#) in Germany
- dealing with a [death in Germany](#)
- being [arrested or imprisoned in Germany](#)
- getting help if you're a [victim of crime](#)
- what to do if you're [in hospital](#)
- if you're [affected by a crisis](#), such as a terrorist attack

Contacting FCDO

Follow and contact FCDO travel on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). You can also sign up to [get email notifications](#) when this travel advice is updated.

You can also [contact FCDO online](#).

Help abroad in an emergency

If you're in Germany and you need emergency help from the UK government, contact the [British Embassy Berlin](#).

FCDO in London

You can call FCDO in London if you need urgent help because something has happened to a friend or relative abroad.

Telephone: 020 7008 5000 (24 hours)

[Find out about call charges](#)

			<p>Medical treatment As stated above, make sure you have adequate travel health insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment abroad and repatriation. The cost of medical treatment in Germany can be high.</p> <p>If you have a medical emergency contact the University Insurance company immediately: https://warwick.ac.uk/services/legalandcomplianceservices/insurance/keypolicies/traveloverseas</p> <p>Please note that there is no emergency medical cover if you are a national in the country you need medical attention in.</p> <p>Note: The University Business Travel Insurance is not private health cover. The insurance is for emergency health treatment only. You may also wish to take out private health insurance for the duration of your stay.</p> <p>Wellbeing Services: https://warwick.ac.uk/services/wss/</p>
Accommodation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-book accommodation • Stay in recognised accommodation • Familiarise yourself with emergency exits • Security staff and arrangements • Secure storage/safes 	<p>Student mobility students hosted at a partner University will be supported with finding accommodation by the partner.</p> <p>Language Assistants are supported by the School(s) that they are allocated to by the British Council</p> <p>Work placements students are required to find their own accommodation with local support.</p> <p>Suitable accommodation can be difficult to identify and secure, it is recommended that you don't leave it too late to find this. We have had students whose placements have been impacted by being unable to secure suitable accommodation.</p> <p>Please be aware that some partner Universities have compulsory 'meal plans' these can prove to be expensive if you have special dietary requirements.</p>
Transport		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use only registered taxis • Arrange airport collection where possible • Check safety and road worthiness of any hire vehicle • Avoid driving at night • If possible, share long distance driving 	<p>Transport risks Road travel If you are planning to drive in Germany, see information on driving abroad and check the rules of the road in the RAC's Germany guide. The guide lists driving regulations and other legal requirements you need to be aware of.</p> <p>You can drive in Germany for up to 6 months with your UK photocard driving licence. If you stay longer, you'll need to have both the 1968 version of the international driving permit (IDP) and your UK driving licence with you in the car. You cannot buy an IDP outside the UK, so get one before you travel.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all internal transfers are booked in advance of travel (where possible). 	<p>The German Federal Transport Ministry has more information on the validity of non-German driving licences.</p> <p>If you're driving a vehicle that does not belong to you, you may need to show written permission from the registered owner.</p> <p>Check if you need a UK sticker to drive your car outside the UK.</p> <p>If you are visiting Germany, you may be able to use your Blue Badge in some circumstances. Check local parking rules.</p> <p>If you live in Germany, check the driving requirements for residents.</p> <p>Low emission zones</p> <p>Some inner-city areas have an environmental zone ('Umweltzone'). Only vehicles that meet specific exhaust emission standards can enter. See Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection for more information.</p>
Communications		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider access to landlines or alternative handsets if mobile phone is lost or stolen. • Back-up chargers or batteries for phones or electronic devices • Access to network or wi-fi 	Loss of mobile phones or laptops are not covered on the University Insurance policy
Utilities/Cyber Issues		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatibility of equipment • Voltages and safety equipment • Power cuts or interruptions 	Check whether plug adapters will be required
Insect and animal bites		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider likely insect/animal issues in particular area • Avoid by prevention – repellents, clothing, etc. • Consider use of nets in accommodation • Carry appropriate treatment 	See what health risks you'll face in Germany , including Mpox.
Contaminated water/food		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid food or water which could be contaminated. • Carry water sterilising tablets. 	Check whether bottled water is recommended
Minor injuries and ailments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry basic First Aid kit. 	
Sunburn		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid by prevention – hat, sunglasses, and sunblock. • Carry appropriate treatment. 	
Leisure activities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure you are adequately insured (the University insurance 	<p>Outdoor activities and adventure tourism</p> <p>If you're taking part in organised outdoor activities, check that the company is reputable and has documented safety procedures.</p>

	<p>does <u>not</u> provide cover for non-business related activity)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skiing, white water, bungee jumping, diving. Etc. 	<p>For sports activities like skiing, potholing and mountaineering, and for sports classed as particularly dangerous (for example off-piste skiing, mountain biking, climbing or paragliding), your insurance should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mountain rescue services • helicopter costs • repatriation to your country of residence or possible transfer to neighbouring countries for treatment <p>Hiking Check weather forecasts and conditions and make sure you're properly equipped for the worst-case scenario with items such as a map, compass, GPS and telecommunication equipment. Risks are greater if you undertake any activity alone. You may want to hire a guide for expert advice. Always leave copies of your itinerary with someone.</p> <p>Winter sports Read about preparing for winter sports abroad. Take advice on weather and avalanche conditions before you travel. Follow local skiing laws and regulations. Off-piste skiing is very dangerous and can invalidate your travel insurance. Avalanches are a risk in some areas. Follow safety instructions carefully and go with a qualified guide. Check ahead on the European Avalanche Warning Service website.</p> <p>Altitude sickness is a risk in parts of Germany, including mountainous regions. Read more about altitude sickness on TravelHealthPro.</p> <p>The Warwick Business Travel Insurance will not provide cover for non-business (study) related activity. Ensure you take out personal insurance. Also having the correct license if you are hiring a vehicle is essential.</p>
Natural disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of the risk of typhoons, earthquake, tsunami, avalanche, etc 	
Research or work activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of safe systems of work • Awareness of local safety measures • Remoteness of work sites 	Will be covered by the Host Institution
Completed by Department:		Student Mobility, STUDENT OPPORTUNITY
Date:		Thursday 8th January 2026

Frequently Asked Questions (warwick.ac.uk)
