

Pre-Departure & First-Weeks Checklist

For students and Ausbildung trainees moving to Germany from Pakistan, India & Bangladesh.

You have your visa — now the practical part. Do things in the right order and the German bureaucracy is manageable. The single rule: register your address (Anmeldung) first, because almost everything else depends on it.

Before you fly — carry these in your hand luggage

Document	Why / detail
Passport + valid national (D) visa	Never pack in checked baggage. Check the visa dates and category.
Admission letter or Ausbildungsvertrag	Original + copies. Border officers and the Auslaenderbehoerde may ask.
Certificates + certified translations	School/degree certificates, transcripts, language certificate. Keep originals safe.
Blocked-account confirmation + login	Proof your Sperrkonto is funded (~€11,904). Note your provider login to request the monthly release.
Health insurance proof	Travel/incoming cover valid from arrival until your statutory insurance starts.
Accommodation confirmation	Rental contract or booking — you need a real address for the Anmeldung.
Biometric passport photos	For the residence permit and forms. Bring several.
Cash in euros	€200–300 for the first days before your German bank account is open.

Before you fly — arrange at home

- Book flights only AFTER your visa is approved — one-way is fine on a valid national visa.
- Confirm your first accommodation in writing (temporary is okay) so you have an address to register.
- Download your blocked-account app and tell your bank you are travelling.
- Save offline copies (phone + email) of every document, plus emergency and TFC/employer contacts.
- Note your nearest German mission's details and your embassy's emergency line.

Your first week — the order that matters

- 1 Register your address (Anmeldung) at the Buergeramt/Einwohnermeldeamt within 14 days of moving in. You receive a Meldebescheinigung — bank account, residence permit, tax ID and insurance all depend on it.
- 2 Open a German bank account (Girokonto) — most banks need your Anmeldung first. You will receive your stipend/salary and pay rent from it.
- 3 Get a German SIM (prepaid is easiest at first) so you have a number for appointments and banking.
- 4 Book your residence-permit appointment at the Auslaenderbehoerde EARLY — slots fill up weeks ahead.
- 5 Sort local transport — check whether your university semester ticket or the Deutschlandticket (~€58/month) is cheaper for you.

Germany's official portal [make-it-in-germany.com](https://www.make-it-in-germany.com) confirms this sequence: register first, then bank account, then residence permit. Do not leave the Auslaenderbehoerde booking until your visa is close to expiring.

Your first month — settle in

- Enrol at your university (matriculation) or start employer / Berufsschule onboarding — bring passport, visa, insurance and Anmeldung.
- Activate statutory health insurance (public student/trainee cover ~€120–130/month) and cancel travel insurance once it is active.
- Attend the Auslaenderbehoerde appointment to convert your visa into a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) — bring Anmeldung, biometric photos, insurance, proof of funds and your enrolment/Ausbildungsvertrag.
- Get your tax ID (Steuer-ID) — it arrives by post after the Anmeldung; you need it for a job or stipend.
- Set your monthly budget — the blocked account releases ~€992/month. Use the TFC Germany Budget Planner to track rent, food, insurance and transport.

Honest reminders

- Deadlines are real: the 14-day Anmeldung window and your visa's validity date both matter — miss them and you create problems.
- Rules, fees and appointment waits change and vary by city. Verify each step with the official source for your Stadt.

Free resource from The Future Consultants (tfcstudy.com). Rules and figures change — always confirm the current requirement with the official source (German embassy, uni-assist, DAAD, aps-india.de) for your case.