

Pre-Arrival Information

Winter Semester 2026/27

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WELCOME

What we'll cover today



Visa & finances

Visa status, proof of financial means, arrival timing



Health insurance

Statutory vs. private cover, what you need before enrolment



Enrolment & after

Admission documents, campus card, key accounts



Housing

Student halls, the private market, registration



Learning German

Courses, tandems — and the Brandenburg Connect programme



Q&A session

Your questions, our answers



BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

Visa and financing your studies



Have you already applied for your visa?

Start the process early — appointment slots at German missions fill up quickly.



Proof of financial means

992 EUR per month, about 12,000 EUR for the year, must be shown (e.g. blocked account).



Duration

It takes anywhere from months to a year. Plan accordingly
[German Student Visa, Permit, and Requirements \(Updated for 2026\)](#)



992

EUR per month
minimum proof of funds

≈ 12,000

EUR for the full year



BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

Health insurance



Statutory health insurance is obligatory

All students under 30 must take out statutory cover before enrolment.



Over 30 years old?

Private health insurance applies instead. We also recommend third-party liability insurance.

Further information: daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/plan-your-studies/health-insurance





GETTING STARTED

Enrolment



Admission email

You receive an admission email from the Admissions Office



Submit documents

Semester fee transfer, certified copies of highest degree, enrolment form, passport copy, inform health insurance (imp. for matriculation)



Enrolment certificate

Campus card, travel ticket, Wifi (eduroam) access



Studies begin

Start of studies with Faculty Welcome Day on **21.09** & beginning of lectures on **28.09**

Communication tip: if you email the International Office, please cc everyone relevant in one message rather than separate emails — and allow us a few days to respond.



After enrolment — your checklist

- ✓ Study plan: 3 vs. 4 semesters
- ✓ University email account
- ✓ Campus card
- ✓ Travel ticket for Germany
- ✓ Campus Management System
- ✓ Student hall of residence
- ✓ Financing your studies
- ✓ Wifi via eduroam, internet in the dorm
- ✓ Learning platform Moodle

Student Service Desk

Your first point of contact for all questions about studying at THB.

Student Service Desk:

[th-brandenburg.de/studium/
service-fuer-studierende/
studienstart/](https://www.th-brandenburg.de/studium/service-fuer-studierende/studienstart/)

Information & advice:

<https://www.th-brandenburg.de/studium/information-und-beratung/allgemeine-studienberatung/>



SETTLING IN

Finding a flat & organisational matters



Finding a flat

Already have an accommodation? If not: Please start your search ASAP!!!



Broadcasting fee

rundfunkbeitrag.de/welcome/englisch/index_ger.html



Bank account & registration

City registration at the Citizen Service Brandenburg, then open a bank account (tax number) — schedule both early.



Important

Please do not come to THB without arranging a place to stay before you arrive. THB cannot provide or guarantee your housing.

Residence permit appointments should also be scheduled as early as possible after arrival.

Citizen Service Brandenburg: stadt-brandenburg.de/struktur/buergerservice



SETTLING IN

Apartment hunting & general difficulties

Why it's harder here than you might expect



Furnished rooms are scarce

Brandenburg an der Havel has very few furnished rooms on the open market, unlike bigger cities.



You're applying from abroad

Most applicants are still in their home country when admitted — and unfamiliar with how German house-hunting works.



Deposits & paperwork

Expect to pay a deposit, and to show proof of income or a guarantor — ask early what a landlord requires.



Dorm spots are limited

Not everyone gets a place in the student hall, and the dorm has no spots for applicants already over 30.



What helps most

- Start searching as early as possible — ideally before you fly
- Use the student dormitory application if you're eligible
- Ask the ZIS for the Guide to Finding Accommodation
- Be ready to view and decide quickly — good rooms go fast



Our Guide to Finding Accommodation

We can walk you through it — just ask the International Office.

Watch this: search [“Living & Residing in Brandenburg an der Havel | Student Accommodation Guide | TH Brandenburg”](#) on **YouTube** for a quick walkthrough before you start.



SETTLING IN

Student hall of residence

Offered by Student Services West:Brandenburg



310–320

EUR / month

Shared flat (own room)

370

EUR / month

Single apartment

Apply online

stwwwb.de/en/housing/online-application-residences

With your admission letter and payment confirmation of the semester fee.

Project Brandenburg Connect

Internationale Talente regional binden — keeping international talent connected to Brandenburg

A new support structure for international students studying in English — helping you settle into life in Brandenburg an der Havel and the surrounding region.

- Social integration in and around Brandenburg an der Havel
- Building a genuine bonding culture
- A stepping stone toward skill development





LANGUAGE

Learning German



Why learn German?

It opens doors — in daily life, at university, and later in the job market.



Find your level

We assess your German level so you start in the right course.



Our course offer

Structured courses with speaking, reading, writing & hearing exercises



Converse Coaching

Practise German with advanced speakers and improve your speaking skills

Aim high — B1/B2 is achievable

You can do it. Start with little steps, and use German words especially in greetings and courtesy expressions — people here like that.

Don't fear mistakes — we all make them. They make the learning experience even better.

FREE VIDEO RESOURCES

- [Deutsche Welle](#)
- [Easy German](#)
- [Your German Teacher](#)



What's in it for you?



Help with German

- Pre-Sem Online German Courses
 - 10th of August to 19th of August
 - A1 refresher, Conversation-course

Time: 13:00 – 15:00 CET

- Semester Accompanying German Courses
 - A1 with Roxana Jorge Müller & Dagmar Ringel

- Language Cafes and other exciting programs



Academic orientation

- Workshop on Academic Writing
- Workshop on Academic Presentations
- Familiarity with Exam Formats



Regional & social integration

- Support in Apartment Hunting
- Buddy support
- Cultural events, sport & intercultural encounters with study buddies

*More information will follow soon through **e-mail**.*



SETTLING IN

Daily challenges & integration: a two-way process

Living in Germany can be challenging

- ➔ Navigating bureaucracy often takes the top spot
- ➔ Followed by finding a place to live
- ➔ And of course the big one: Deutsch, Deutsch, Deutsch — the language

So how do we overcome these challenges?

- The IO is always there to assist — but taking the first step matters even more
- Use every possible resources to build your German skills
- Engage actively with your Study Buddies
- Keep an eye on bureaucracy: Residency, City registration

Cultural differences to expect



Responsibility
&
Reliability



Direct
communication



Planning ahead



Flat hierarchies



Interactive learning



Punctuality

- You are expected to work **independently**
- **Counselling** like in the USA or **Placement** like in India is **not** a regular offering
- Be **Proactive** in your **approach**



GET INVOLVED

Offers for international students at THB



Beach volleyball



Canoe tours on the Havel



Group outings



International cooking events

International applicants: zis.th-brandenburg.de/en/international-applicants/

Special offers for international students: zis.th-brandenburg.de/en/internationalisierung/special-offers-for-international-students/



Q&A Session

We look forward to your questions now.

Thank you for your attention

Further information is available here:

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zis.th-brandenburg.de/en/international-applicants/

Room A.0.20 (available Mon–Thu)