



## **Academy of Visual Arts, Frankfurt**

### **Working as a student in Germany**

According to the Deutsches Studentenwerk, a student needs around 850 euros a month to cover living costs. This is in addition to tuition fees. If your parents' financial support, savings and state grants are not enough, Frankfurt am Main offers plenty of opportunities to earn extra money to make your studies more comfortable.

#### **Can I work while I study in Germany?**

Studying and working is perfectly possible in Germany. However, there are limits to how many hours you can work before you have to pay full social security contributions.

To avoid losing your status as a student, you are only allowed to work full-time outside the lecture period for 182 calendar days (26 weeks) within one year of starting employment.

International students have their own rules on how long they can work before their taxes and social security contributions increase.

For EU citizens, the limit is 20 hours per week during the semester. For non-EU students, the limit is 120 full days or 240 half days per year.

#### **What is the difference between full days and half days?**

A full day in Germany is defined as 8 hours per day and 40 hours per week. This means that students are only allowed to work 2.5 full days per week during the semester. This limit can be exceeded during the semester and summer holidays. However, international students should keep an eye on the annual quota and ensure that they do not exceed the 120 full days per year limit.

A part-time or half-time job is anything less than the definition of a full week. A part-time job in Germany is therefore usually a job that requires up to 20 hours or less per week.

### **How much can I work as a student in Germany?**

You are not allowed to work more than you study. Otherwise, your studies are no longer your main occupation. Therefore, as a student, you are not allowed to work more than 20 hours per week during term time. You may work more during the lecture-free period: During an employment year, students are allowed to work more than 20 hours per week for 26 weeks (this does not have to coincide with a calendar year). This will not affect your status as a student for social security purposes.

### **Can students in Germany work more than 20 hours a week?**

There are some exceptions to the 20-hour rule mentioned above. Academic jobs are usually categorised differently. If you are a student assistant at the CBS, this does not count towards the 120 days that apply to international students. In addition, mandatory internships that are part of your degree programme are also exempt from the 120-day rule.

### **How much can I earn as a student in Germany?**

The amount you earn matters in several ways. Firstly, it affects your status as a student: it is not the amount you earn that matters, but the time you work. (See question 1: How much can I work as a student in Germany?) Another aspect of your income is taxes: If you exceed certain limits, you will have to pay wage tax (e.g. as an employee) or income tax (e.g. as a working student or self-employed person). You must file a tax return for each year that you study and work in Germany. The income thresholds and tax-free amounts also depend on your age and marital status. Your income is also important for your health insurance. In order to remain on the family health insurance scheme and be exempt from paying your own health insurance contributions, you must not earn more than €5,400 per year in a part-time job. The minimum wage in Germany is €12 per hour. Higher-skilled student jobs may pay more, from €14 to €20 per hour. Part-time jobs such as babysitting, catering and working in a café or restaurant are usually close to the minimum wage.

## How much can I earn as a Bafög recipient?

First of all, you must inform the Bafög office of any change in your income, as certain income limits apply. If you earn more than these limits, the additional income will be deducted from your Bafög. Up to a gross income of 5,422 euros per year or 452 euros per month, it will not be deducted from your Bafög. Anything above this amount will be deducted from your Bafög. For more information on Bafög and additional income, [click here](#). Students who receive Bafög are definitely on the safe side with a €450 mini-job. It does not matter whether the job is related to your studies or not. The number of hours worked is also irrelevant for Bafög.

What types of employment/student jobs are there for students in Germany?

First of all, don't worry about working while you study. This is very common in Germany, especially among international students, and there are many options to consider.

As a student, you have even more options than "normal" employees. For example, you can work as a student trainee or intern. The sticking point is usually the obligation to pay social security. This depends on your marital status, income and type of employment.

Here are the most common types of student jobs in Germany:

**Working student:**

You work in a company in a field related to your studies. For example, a business student might work in marketing, human resources or sales. A working student job has many advantages: Firstly, you can put your knowledge into practice. Second, you get to see new areas of your field of study in action. Thirdly, you get your foot in the door of a company that can offer you a permanent position when you graduate. Fourthly, you will gain solid work experience and enhance your CV. Fifthly, you will probably have successfully completed a demanding application process. Sixth, you get to meet people and their experiences in an environment that is relevant to you. Seventh, the pay is usually a little better than part-time jobs such as babysitting or waitressing. Eighth: A working student is considered a regular part-time employee and is entitled to holiday.

**Minijob:**

The classic part-time job is the minijob. You can earn up to 450 euros a month. With a minimum wage of 9.50 euros per hour (from January 2021), you have to work a maximum of about 11 hours per week, or about 47 hours per month, to earn this amount. As a full-time student, you will not have to pay tax or social security contributions on this amount. This also makes mini-jobs attractive to employers. If you are under 25 and have family insurance as a student, you can work in a mini-job without having to pay additional contributions.

Midijob:

More than a mini-job, less than a full-time job - the midi-job is somewhere in between. The main difference is that you have to pay health and unemployment insurance contributions, of which the employer pays a higher share than in a full-time job. You can earn between 450 and 1,300 euros a month. As with normal part-time workers, you are entitled to holidays, sick pay and pension contributions. Students are only allowed to earn up to €850 per month to avoid losing their student health insurance.

Self-employed/freelancer:

You can work without an employer as a copywriter, tutor or web designer. Check with your tax office to see if you need a business licence.

### **How do I find a student job in Germany?**

One good way is to network: Ask your flatmates, fellow students and friends for job offers. In the best case, they can recommend you and you already know what to expect.

There are also job portals such as [stellenwerk.de](https://www.stellenwerk.de), [appjobs](https://www.appjobs.de) or [Young Capital](https://www.youngcapital.de), which filter jobs by city and offer current vacancies. The CBS offers its students the opportunity to work in a variety of areas, be it in the classroom as a student assistant or in various administrative departments.

In addition, the [CBS Career Service Center](https://www.cbs-career.de) has its own job portal with many current job offers for CBS students.