

# Studying in Baden-Württemberg

## About Baden-Württemberg:

- Located in Germany's Southwest; borders with Switzerland and France
- 3<sup>rd</sup> largest (in size and residents) of Germany's 16 federal states. Capital: Stuttgart
- One of lowest unemployment rate within Germany (Sep 2014: 4.0%, compared to 6.5% overall in GER)
- Home to German global power house companies such as Daimler (Mercedes-Benz), Porsche, SAP, Bosch, Trumpf; the state's economic backbone consists of SMEs (small and midsize enterprises), many highly specialized and world renowned in the fields of automotive/general engineering and tool making.

## About the Higher Education Landscape in Baden-Württemberg:

- 9 Research Universities (*Universitäten*), home to Germany's oldest university: Heidelberg (founded 1386)
- 23 Universities of Applied Sciences (*Hochschulen für angewandte Wissenschaften*, "*Fachhochschulen*")
- Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University (*Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg*, "*Berufsakademie*")
- 6 Universities of Education (Teacher Training Colleges, *Pädagogische Hochschulen*,)
- 11 Universities of Arts, Music and Performing Arts (*Kunst- und Musikhochschulen*)
- 28 Private Universities
- Baden-Württemberg is most successful federal state with 3 universities awarded the „excellence“ status by the federal government in 2012: Heidelberg, Tübingen, Konstanz ([www.exzellenz-initiative.de](http://www.exzellenz-initiative.de))
- 12% of the 347.000 students enrolled at state universities are international students (data from 2013/2014)
- 2-step international recognized bachelor and master degree system is now fully implemented and replaces former "*Diplom*" & "*Magister*" degrees; state exams ("*Staatsexamen*") still apply for law and medical schools.

## General Admission Requirements for International Student Applicants from the United States:

- Proof of German Language Proficiency **plus** qualification equivalent to a German university entrance qualification of *Abitur*
- Qualification equivalent can be achieved through a variety of combinations of a High School Diploma **plus one** of the following: 1-2 years in an accredited university; *or* CumGPA of 3.0 plus SAT score of at least 1300; *or* CumGPA of 3.0 plus ACT score of at least 28; *or* CumGPA of 3.0 plus 4 AP *or* 5 AP placement exams
- Many details to be considered in above combinations; best to seek guidance in online resources or directly at the international student application offices at the universities
- Accepted German language proficiency certifications: Deutsches Sprachdiplom Level II (DSD II), DSH (*Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang*), Test DaF (*Test Deutsch als Fremdsprache*), Upper Secondary Level Test Certificate by the Goethe-Institut, AP German (grade 3 or higher). Exempted from proof of German if language of instruction is mostly in English (i.e. international degree courses)
- Applicants with dual citizenship (one of them German) and intent to study in Baden-Württemberg are required to have their education certificates reviewed and validated at the state's government offices in Stuttgart (*Zeugnisanerkennungsstelle im Regierungspräsidium*)
- The same rules and regulations that apply for German nationals also apply for international applicants who have acquired the German university-entrance qualification ("*Abitur*") at a German school abroad (so-called "*Bildungsinländer*").

## Online resources:

- **Baden-Württemberg Studyguide** (in English): [www.bw-studyguide.de](http://www.bw-studyguide.de) und [www.was-studiere-ich.de](http://www.was-studiere-ich.de)
- **Informationsportal zur Anerkennung ausländischer Bildungsabschlüsse "anabin"**: <http://anabin.kmk.org/>
- **University Application Service for International Students**: [www.uni-assist.de](http://www.uni-assist.de)
- **Information on restricted admission degrees (i.e. medical/dental schools)**: [www.hochschulstart.de](http://www.hochschulstart.de)
- **Language Proficiency Options**: [www.sprachnachweis.de](http://www.sprachnachweis.de)

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This information has been compiled to the best of my knowledge. It cannot not replace consultation and verification with a qualified professional directly at a German university or state office.

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