

Attending School in Germany

Age Group	14 – 18 years of age school year 8 to 11
Period	03 August 2020 – 01 August 2021
Duration	+ Academic Two Months (from 8 weeks) + Academic Trimester (from 12 weeks) + Academic Semester (from 20 weeks) + Academic Year (from 44 weeks)
Language	German (minimum CEFR Level: B1)
Course	Attending regular school in Germany (additional One-to-One tuition optional)
Accommodation	Homestay
Benefits	+ Attending school in Germany for 2 – 11 months + Complete immersion in the German language and German culture + Available in many regions throughout Germany + One-to-One German language course optional

ASTUR Regions	High School Destinations
Berlin	Berlin
Black Forest & Lake Constance	Freiburg, Überlingen
East Germany	Erfurt
Middle Rhine & Hesse	Fulda, Wiesbaden
North Germany	Hannover, Lüneburg
North Rhine & Ruhr	Bonn, Mönchengladbach, Bad Neuenahr
Northern Bavaria	Erlangen
Southern Bavaria	Bad Tölz, Freising, Chiemsee

ASTUR's High School programme offers students from all over the world the opportunity to go to school in Germany. Our programmes range from the 8-week Academic Two Months and the 12-week Academic Trimester to a 20-week Academic Semester and a whole school year, ranging between 44 and 49 weeks, depending on where exactly in Germany (Federal State) you want to spend your time.

During their stay, students have the unique opportunity to experience Germany intensively, to improve their language and of course make friends for life. ASTUR offers four variations of the High School programme, depending on how long you would like to stay.

In order to be optimally prepared for your High School stay, it is advisable to improve your language skills even before the school term begins. For such reasons, ASTUR has created their One-to-One courses, which can be booked additionally. For more information please contact us.

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Services

Arrival

- + Arrival and departure on the weekend before school starts / after school ends
- + Early or late arrival / departure on request (additional fee)
- + Self-arranged arrival at destination in Germany
- + Transfer from / to nearest local train station
- + Transfer from / to nearest airport optional (additional fee)

Accommodation

- + From 8 (Academic Two Months) or 12 (Academic Trimester) weeks to a minimum of 20 (Academic Semester) or 44 (Academic Year) weeks. Additional weeks may have to be booked, if school semester or year demands.
- + Private accommodation with a host family in a single room
- + Full board with breakfast, lunch/packed lunch, dinner

Attending School

- + Assessment of the requirements set by the student's school at home and coordination with the school in Germany
- + Placement in a school in Germany with regular classes
- + The appropriate grade is chosen based on the student's age, previous academic performance and German language skills

Free Time and Supervision

- + The student is invited to participate in extracurricular activities and sports teams according to his or her interests, depending on what the location has to offer
- + During holidays and over the weekends, recreational activities revolve around the activities of the host family.
- + 24/7 Emergency Hotline

Additional Services

- + Extensive information material before the beginning of the programme
- + Regular meeting with the local ASTUR staff on site
- + ASTUR student ID card with emergency contacts

Not included in the price

- + Costs for travelling to / from Germany
- + Tickets for local public transport
- + Costs for school material such as books for example
- + Costs for school trips
- + Lunch at school cafeteria
- + Allowance (approx. 200 EUR / month)
- + Costs for non-school activities (extracurricular activities, sports teams etc.)

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- + Costs for non-standard activities with the host family such as extensive travels during school holidays for example
- + Costs for visa application (documents offered by ASTUR for an additional fee)
- + Travel Insurance (Third Party, Medical, Accident, offered by ASTUR for an additional fee)

Prices

Academic Two Months		Academic Trimester	
8 weeks	Add. week	12 weeks	Add. week
2,035 EUR	195 EUR	2,835 EUR	195 EUR
Academic Semester		Academic Year	
20 weeks	Add. week	44 weeks	Add. week
4,395 EUR	195 EUR	9,425 EUR	195 EUR

Additional prices	Surcharge
Additional night	28 EUR
Additional night in Berlin	31 EUR
Early or late arrival / departure (before 10.00 AM, after 07.30 PM)	75 EUR
Berlin surcharge for host family accommodation in the capital city (per week)	20 EUR
Travel Insurance (Third Party, Medical, Accident) for EU** citizens (per day)	1.10 EUR
Travel Insurance (Third Party, Medical, Accident) for non-EU** citizens (per day)	2.00 EUR
Invitation / booking confirmation for visa (plus postage)	30 EUR

Airport Transfers (optional)

Transfers (one-way)	Airport	Surcharge
Lüneburg	Hamburg Airport (HAM)	90 EUR
Hannover	Hannover Airport (HAJ)	60 EUR
Bonn	Köln/Bonn Airport (CGN)	60 EUR
Erlangen	Nürnberg Airport (NUE)	50 EUR
Überlingen	Friedrichshafen Airport (FDH)	60 EUR
Erfurt	Erfurt Airport (ERF)	50 EUR
Freiburg	Euroairport Basel/Mullhouse/Freiburg (BSL/MLH/EAP)	90 EUR
Fulda	Frankfurt Airport (FRA)	110 EUR

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Mönchengladbach	Düsseldorf Airport (DUS)	60 EUR
Chiemsee	München Airport (MUC)	90 EUR
Freising	München Airport (MUC)	50 EUR
Bad Tölz	München Airport (MUC)	90 EUR
Berlin 9	Berlin Schönefeld Airport (SXF)	60 EUR
Berlin 3	Berlin Tegel Airport (TXL)	60 EUR
Bad Neuenahr	Köln/Bonn Airport (CGN)	90 EUR
UM-service fee (when booked with the airline)		40 EUR

** EU = European Union + Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland
 Procedures and programme itinerary may be subject to change!
 Prices valid for travel dates between 03 August 2020 – 01 August 2021.

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Changes to the previous year – not for publication!

- + The specific terms of the stay depend on the different school holiday regulations of the *Bundesländer* (German Federal States). An Academic Year must start directly after the summer holidays, an Academic Semester begins after the summer holidays or after mid-term break (end of January). An Academic Trimester or Academic Two Months may be booked more flexibly. However, it may still be sensible to start directly after the summer holidays or after the mid-term break as well.
- + The basis of calculation for an Academic Semester as well as an Academic Year has changed in comparison to the previous year. This is caused by the annual changes in term break regulations of each German Federal State, resulting in different school semesters and school years (see the document „High School Dates 2019-2020“).

Academic Semester	Minimum stay 2019-2020: 20 weeks Minimum stay 2020-2021: 21 weeks
Academic Year	Minimum stay 2019-2020: 44 weeks Minimum stay 2020-2021: 46 weeks

- + In cases of early or late arrivals / departures, ASTUR will charge an additional fee. It applies for arrivals / departures before 10.00 AM or after 07.30 PM.

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- + For students who want to brush up their German skills before the official start of their school stay, we recommend taking part in one of our individual One-to-One programmes. Here, students are attentively nurtured and at the same time get used to the way of life in Germany. After such preparation, they can concentrate without distraction on the Academic year programme when it officially starts. For more information about this, please contact us.
- + Students will be asked to submit a short video of about one minute, in which they introduce themselves to their host family.

What to expect from the High School programme

Registration

When you send your registration form to ASTUR, a registration fee of 300 EUR becomes due and payable. Naturally, we treat this registration fee as a down payment for the total program costs. The registration process requires you to fill out a number of forms and statements. Therefore, please plan ahead so that there is enough time for the paperwork. Among other documents, you need a statement from your German teacher and your physician. We can register you as a student only after having received your registration form and all necessary documents.

Important: If your home country is not a member of the Schengen Area, you have to apply for a Visa before you travel to Germany to begin your programme. Students that cannot provide a valid visa to ASTUR before travelling to Germany cannot attend our programme. Kindly be informed that you are responsible yourself for your visa application and any renewal which might have to be taken care of during your stay in Germany.

After having received your full registration, we will send you a booking confirmation and start the placement process. Of course, we will keep you up to date about all steps along the way.

Please include a short video of about one minute to your registration, in which you introduce yourself to your future host family. You can talk about your hobbies, family, your school and learning goals. Please record this video in German. You are free to use your smartphone.

Arrival and Accommodation

Arrivals for the High School programme are fixed to take place on the weekend before school starts, so you can get to know your host family before your classes start on Monday. Departure days are fixed to take place on the weekend after school has finished. You make your travel arrangements yourself: either your parents bring you to the host family by car, or you arrive by plane or by train at your destination. Should you travel by train, please note that your host family will pick you up at the train station nearest to their home.

Your host family is happy to welcome you almost any time. However, times of arrival and departure should be reasonable. If, due to your flight for example, you should arrive or depart very early (before 10.00 AM) / very late (after 07.30 PM), we have to charge an additional fee.

Should you travel by plane, we recommend that you book our transfer service to/from the host family as early as possible. That way you will be picked up on time and will not have to worry about anything. Please note that your host family will pick you up at the airport, which is closest to their home. We cannot guarantee pick-up, if you arrive at a different airport than the one closest to your host family's hometown. In such cases, we have to charge an additional transfer fee.

Example: If your host family lives in Erlangen, the nearest airport will be Nuremberg (NUE).

If, due to your age, you have booked a UM service (UM = Unaccompanied Minor) with your airline, you also have to book our UM service accordingly – in addition to our general transfer service. This is necessary, as handling unaccompanied minors at the airport is more complicated and time-consuming.

Private Accommodation with a host family

You will be placed by ASTUR with a host family who best fits your personal requirements, your interests and wishes. In order to do this, we will look for the "right" host family in all German Federal States and independently of school frameworks at first.

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During a homestay programme, our international guests get first-hand experience of life in a German household with its every day culture and typical way of living. High School students will always be accommodated in a single room.

The host families will provide you with full board accommodation. You will begin the day with a typical breakfast in the morning. For the afternoon you will be given a packed lunch by your host family or you will have lunch with the family. In the evening the family will prepare a hot meal. We recommend that you let your host family know, if there is anything you just love to, or really don't like to eat. Another advantage of host family accommodation is effortlessly getting to know the German cuisine. If you have lunch in the school cafeteria you have to arrange your meals there on your own.

In order for your host family to adequately prepare for you as their guest, please indicate in your application whether you are a vegetarian, a vegan or have any dietary incompatibilities. We will take your requirements into account and make the necessary arrangements individually.

Welcoming families

Rarely, it may occur that you cannot yet move in with your designated host family right away. This may be due to many reasons: Sometimes your designated host family is not yet ready for you for vocational or personal reasons. Another reason may be that a designated host family has joined our team only recently. Even though they meet all our formal prerequisites, sometimes the host families would like to embark on their journey with a shorter period than your stay would entail. In such cases we will place you with a so called Welcoming Family during the transitional period. Besides, we have hosted students who got along so well with their Welcoming Families that they decided to stay with them for the entire High School Year.

Attending school in Germany

ASTUR will place you in a school and you will take part in regular lessons, following the same timetable as your German fellow students. This means that you are assigned to a class according to your age, previous school results.

It is important to be aware that the specific duration of your stay is dependent on the holiday schedule which applies to the region (*Bundesland*) of your stay. The variations of our High School programme include either 8, 12, 19 or 44 weeks. These periods are to be considered as the minimum duration of your stay. However, due to German school holidays it is likely that not every week of your High School programme will actually be spent at school. If, for example, you have booked the Trimester variation of 12 weeks but at one point your German school closes for 2 weeks due to Easter or autumn holidays, in the end you will have spent only 10 weeks at school. If you want to attend your German school longer, then you can extend your programme by booking additional weeks. The same applies for summer holidays. Since the dates of the summer holidays are dependent on the individual *Bundesland*, we have to carefully coordinate in advance when your programme can start, depending on how long you want to stay in Germany.

In principle, a complete Academic Year is a full German school year, excluding the summer holidays. An Academic semester can either be completed in the first or the second term of the school year. An Academic Trimester or Academic Two Months may be booked more flexibly. Nonetheless, for such periods it is advisable to begin right at the start of term or at the start of the second term. We are happy to indicate specific dates for each variation on request.

There are two possibilities for you to get to school every day. Either go to school with your host brother or host sister, or your host family shows you the way before school starts and walks with you on your first day, after which you will manage on your own. On your first day, you have to register at the school office. Afterwards, the teachers will help you settle in and meet your new classmates. Depending on the *Bundesland* and the type of your school, it may be necessary to fill out certain forms. But don't worry, you can take these forms to your host family and ask them to help you fill them out.

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The idea of the programme is that you take part in class just like a German pupil. That of course means sitting class tests and exams in all the subjects on your timetable. You also have to do homework like all other students.

During your stay we need your feedback at the beginning, the end and – if applicable to your stay – every three months. You can write about your daily life in the host family, your experiences at school and your free-time activities.

At the end of your stay, given that you completed a full school year, you will receive grades and/or an official report from the school. If you stayed for a shorter period of time, the school will decide which type of report you get. If your stay doesn't end at the same time as the German semester or school year, you will receive a certificate of your stay regardless.

Please note: it is your responsibility to forward your German school performance to your school or the school department in your home country for approval. So please make absolutely sure you know exactly, which subjects you have to register for and how many lessons you have to take in order for your High School programme to be approved at home.

Free Time and Supervision

The Academic Two Months, Trimester, Academic Semester and Academic Year programmes do not include pre-organised free time supervision. You can manage your afterschool free time activities yourself. Maybe you can draw inspiration from the hobbies of your classmates and host family. In school you can take part in any extracurricular activities on offer. After school you are free to join, for example, a local sports club and choose from their range of activities. That way you will have the opportunity to make even more friends apart from your host family.

You will spend the evenings with the host family. They will integrate you in their everyday life. You might cook together with the family or play a typical board game.

Please be aware that during your high school stay you may not be able to pursue your hobbies or interests the way you are used to, especially if they are more unconventional. Our highest priority is always to find a "most suitable" host family and school.

Good to know

Before the beginning of your stay you will receive a detailed information pack from us with everything you need to know about arrival, what you should pack and the activity programme.

Your host family can give you access to their Wi-Fi. However, ultimately it is their decision to grant or deny you access.

It is most likely that your regular health insurance will not cover all treatment costs incurred in Germany. We, therefore, generally recommend purchasing foreign health insurance as well as accident and liability insurance. ASTUR offers a complete pack, including all necessary insurances, at a small fee for your convenience.

If you do not book your insurance through ASTUR, we will need to see proof of your existing insurance before your arrival.

If you need a visa to enter Germany, the visa application process will require you to show proof of existing insurances for the duration of your stay. It's best to discuss those issues with your agency or with us directly. We're always happy to help.

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Further Information

Please note that, for our High School programme, a good understanding of the German language is required. We recommend that you have attained a minimum level of B1 in German according to CEFR standards.

Please also note that, owed to the fact that the responsibility for educational matters in Germany rests with the individual Federal States (Bundesländer), dates of school holidays vary geographically. When it comes to possible beginnings and durations of an Academic Year, we must observe current educational frameworks in every region. Therefore, you should always get in contact with us for advice before booking a High School Programme.

Perfect preparation through private lessons

One final tip: If you want to brush up your German skills before the official start of your school stay, we recommend taking part in one of our individual One-to-One programmes. Here, students are attentively nurtured and at the same time get used to the way of life in Germany. After such preparation they can concentrate without distraction on the High School programme when it officially starts. For more information about this, please contact us.