

To study- explications and hints



There are jobs, for example teacher or doctor, your child can only pursue after finishing studies. After passing the A- Level examination your child is qualified to study. Therefore it is important to be well informed about the topic **“Study”**.

There are a lot of things which must be paid attention to. For example there are different types of universities, many different courses of studies and in some cases the possibility to get financial support.



The types of universities

- **Universities/ “Hochschulen”**
 - they are the biggest
 - you have to be very autonomous (e.g. arranging your time-table; there are no classrooms but lecture halls ...)
 - there are universities where you can study medicine, politics, sport or economy for example
 - to become a teacher it is also necessary to study at a university
 - mainly you learn similar to school (full time studying)

- **Technical Colleges/ “Fachhochschulen”**
 - mainly you can participate in courses like social work, design, agriculture...
 - other than visiting school, there are also phases of practical trainings/internships where you have to go to work



- **University of cooperative education/ „Berufsakademien“**
 - it is divided: you visit half a year the school and half a year you are working in a business
 - it is necessary to have a contract with a firm
 - the studies lasts 3 years usually

Where you can get information?

As there are so many possibilities, it is important to inform yourself about all the courses of studies and the different types of universities. To make a decision it is important to be well informed.



you get information...:

- ...if you visit a university with your child
- ...if you take part at the so called „Tag der offenen Türen“ of the universities or colleges
- ... if you inform yourself there at the different desks (you can ask other students or professors about the different courses of study)
- ...if you take part at different lectures there → they are sometimes offered by the universities
- ... if you go to the course guidance of the Federal Employment Agency. The staff there knows a lot about all interesting things and they will be happy to help you
- ...if you look at the homepages of the universities, vocational academies and colleges.

Here are some examples for Saxony:

- **www.tu-dresden.de** (the Technical University of Dresden is a university, where you can study a lot of technical und economical things)
- **www.ehs-dresden.de** (the Evangelical University of Dresden is a college, where you can mainly study social work)
- **www.uni-leipzig.de** (the University of Leipzig is a university)
- **www.htw-dresden.de** (the University of Technology and Economics Dresden is a college, where you can study a lot of technical and economical things)
- **www.hszg.de** (the University of Zittau/Görlitz is a college where you can also study a lot of different things)



Please pay attention that those 5 homepages are only some examples. There are a lot more homepages of universities and colleges where you can inform yourself.



Financial Support

It is important to inform yourself comprehensively whether there are possibilities to get financial help during a study or not.

It is possible that your child gets a grant (“Bafög”). Anyway therefore you have to meet certain criteria. For example you need a permanent settlement permit or a permit for a permanent residency. This is similar to the child benefit.

“Bafög” is a help for students to afford studying. If the parents do not earn enough money, it can be applied as additional help. After finishing the studies half of the money has to be paid back.

There are many students, which are financially supported by their parents during their studies. On the contrary there are many parents who aren’t able to afford all the expenses of their children. Therefore many students have a job alongside their studies and earn some money.

They work for example as assistance in a cafe or in a shop. It’s also possible to look for a job, which has something to do with the courses of study you decide for.

The application

If your child have chosen the right courses of studies, it is necessary that you pay attention that there are different forms to apply for it.



Vocational academy

- Your child wants to study at a vocational academy?
Then pay attention that you have to apply early for it. It is similar to an apprenticeship that means you have to apply almost 1 year before the study begins (remember that you also need a conclude with a firm which is willing to educate your child)

University

- Your child wants to study at a university? Then you have to apply online, that means you have to apply with the internet
- to apply for a study at a university is different from applying for an apprenticeship. It needs to be said, that you have to fill out a form which has to be posted to the university
- a study at a university usually begins in October (you apply for it 3 months ago)
- in Germany are many universities which have numerous clauses, that means that a lot of courses of study demand a certain grade point average which must be achieved in the A-Level examination
- a copy of the certificate of the A-Level examination must also be sent to the university
- Pay Attention: in special cases you have to pass an admission exam (for example if your child wants to become a teacher of arts)

Colleges

- the application often takes place online
- a copy of the certificate of the A-Level examination must also be sent to the university.
- if your child wants to study something which has something to do with art (for example fashion) or languages it's often necessary to pass an admission exam
- the college wants to know whether your child is suitable for the studies or not
- the admission exam can be really varied
- a good knowledge in languages is really important for courses of studies which have something to do with languages → in this case it will be test if somebody meets the requirements
- in some cases it's also possible that you have to design a creative folder (e.g. if somebody wants to study something with art)