

Funding your studies as an international student during the COVID-19 pandemic

Information from the BAföG- and financial guidance and the guidance for international students at the RefRat HU



Residency during the COVID-19 pandemic

The federal ministry decided that the residence of non-EU citizens is subject to special regulations during this pandemic. This includes some specifics which you can find in a newsletter by the federal ministry. We have explained some of the specifics for international students here.

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/downloads/DE/veroeffentlichungen/2020/corona/rundschreiben-20200409.html>

Social benefits/welfare for international students during the COVID-19 pandemic

- International students can access social benefits until the 17th of June
- It is uncertain, which role declarations of commitment or assets in your country of origin will play
- Extensive information all around Arbeitslosengeld 2 (including for international students) during the pandemic can be found here: <http://basta.blogspot.eu/2020/04/10/corona-hartz-iv-ein-kleiner-ratgeber/>

Usable assets

- In the current situation, assets will not be taken into consideration for 6 months – as long as they are not considerable usable assets
- In reference to the Wohngeld (WoGG), considerable usable assets are 60.000€ for one person in a household and 30.000€ for every other person in that household.
- You will have to sign a statement as part of the application stating, that you do not have any considerable usable assets.
- It will be assumed that you do not have any considerable usable assets.

Part-time study and student jobs

If you are a part-time student, you are fully subject to social insurance contributions. This means you pay more social insurance, but you gain privileges from this. Your employer can apply for short-term allowance/working benefits

for you and you are health-insured through this job. This can be cheaper than getting your own student health insurance.

Part-time study and international students

This means applying for ALG 2 until the 17th of June will currently not interfere with the residence status, this includes international students. If you are studying part-time, your residence will not be influenced because

§16b of AufenthG, Abs. 5, 1(c) permits part-time study for international students: https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/aufenthg_2004/_16b.html

The foreigners' registration office currently operates like this:

“These considerations are only to be used in favour of the part-time student, if

- *the extent of the part-time studies reaches at least 50% of the full-time equivalent*
- *the student is not employed more than 20 hrs per week*
- *the study happens in person*
- *alongside the admission statement from the educational institution the student can present individual documentation over the course of studies which has been signed by a student adviser*
- *the part-time study most likely does not cause the duration of stay as outlined in Nr.: 16.2.7. VwV-AufenthG to exceed ten years*
- *the student does not partake in another part-time study”*

In person study currently means online study as a replacement for in person study. Documentation about your course of studies is probably difficult to obtain right now but is unlikely to be necessary until the 17th of June.