

Table of Contents

School, Higher Education, Lifelong Learning	2
General information on school attendance	2
Compulsory education	2
Registration for elementary school	2
Registration for a secondary school	3
Change of school after the 10th grade	4
Native language lessons	4
School vacations and public holidays	5
Parents in the school organization	5
What should I do if my child is sick?	6
How much does the school cost?	6
Catch up on school graduation	6
Advice and assistance	7
Initial school counseling	7
Infopoint for School Inclusion (ISI)	7
Regional State Office for Schools and Education (RLSB)	8
Training and international support of the Hannover Region	8
General education schools	9
Elementary school	10
Secondary school	11
Realschule / Secondary school	11
School with a special pedagogical profile (SbpP)	12
Gymnasium / High school	12
Integrated comprehensive school (IGS)	12
Inclusive school / school for children with special needs	13
Vocational schools	13
School support services	15
School Social Services	15
Afternoon care	15
Learning support at elementary school	15
Rucksack Schule - language and parent education program	15
Ehrenamtliche Angebote	16
Recognition of foreign qualifications	16
Recognition of foreign school-leaving qualifications	16
Recognition of foreign academic degrees	17
Recognition of foreign vocational training qualifications	17
Recognition Counseling	18
University study	18
General Information	18
Universities and colleges in Hannover	19
Financing your studies	20
Search for a flat	21
Study counseling	23
Adult education and lifelong learning	24

School, Higher Education, Lifelong Learning

General information on school attendance

Compulsory education

In Germany, **school attendance is compulsory by law**. This means that all children **between the ages of 6 and 18** must attend school. The parents or guardians of the children have the duty to ensure that the children attend school. The school monitors school attendance.

Compulsory education includes:

- regular attendance at classes
- regular participation in the obligatory events of the school
- compliance with the school rules

You can find more information here:  <https://service.niedersachsen.de/detail?pstId=866...>

Compulsory schooling for children of refugees only begins with their habitual residence in Germany.

Registration for elementary school

Start of compulsory schooling and school enrollment dates in Lower Saxony:

If your child reaches the age of 6 by September 30th of the year of enrollment, he or she is required to attend school.

If your child reaches the age of six in the period from July 1st to September 30th, you have the option of postponing the school enrollment date by one year. **In doing so, you must decide by May 1st of each school year whether to delay enrollment by one year.**

Approximately 15 months before school enrollment, you will receive a written invitation from the City of Hanover to register your child for school. In the invitation letter, you will be informed of the name of the responsible elementary school and the exact registration period.

The date for your child's enrollment in school depends on the [school vacations](#). School enrollment always takes place on the first Saturday after the summer vacations of the enrollment year.

You can find more information about school registration (elementary school) in Hannover online

- in the multilingual brochure "[My child is coming to school](#)" in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Turkish

- as well as in the explanatory video "[What is an elementary school?](#)" in German

To enroll your child in a school, you will need the following **documents**:

- your identification card, birth certificate or proof of arrival
- registration certificate
- all documents concerning your child (identity card/passport, birth certificate, report cards, medical certificates, etc.)
- proof of measles vaccination

💡 Please take your child with you to the school for registration.

Registration for a secondary school

Choice of secondary school

After the fourth grade, elementary school children move on to a secondary school. For you as parents and guardians, this change of school means that you have to make a decision together with your child: Which secondary school is right for our child?

All types of schools can be chosen freely.


In Hannover, you can choose from the following state secondary schools:

- 3 Oberschule (OBS)
- 5 Realschule (RS)
- 2 Schulen mit besonderem pädagogischen Profil (SbpP) (schools with a special educational profile)
- 17 Gymnasien (GY)
- 11 Integrierte Gesamtschulen (IGS) (integrated comprehensive schools)

Alternatively, you can also choose an independent school.

Support in choosing a secondary school is available from the teachers at your child's elementary school. In the 4th grade, the teachers offer discussions to inform you about the individual learning development of your child. In most cases, they also make a recommendation about the choice of school type.

Many elementary school also organize information evenings on the transition to secondary schools. In addition, there is an "open day" at the secondary schools, where the respective school introduces itself. The dates for the "open day" can be found on the school's homepage or can be obtained from the secretary's office.

Further information on changing schools can also be found on the homepage of the city of Hannover at  www.hannover.de/bildungsbuero.

How do I register my child at the new school?

There are fixed registration dates in the spring, which are slightly different each year. You can find out the registration dates directly at your elementary school or on the Internet under Bildungsbüro > [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

The registration - with the original of the half-year report of the elementary school - takes place **only at one school** of your choice. On the school's registration form, you can indicate other schools as alternative schools of your choice. After approximately one week, you will receive a written confirmation or rejection from the school.

Registration forms can be found on the website of the school you have chosen. Please note the instructions for submitting the application forms. They may be submitted in person, by mail, or by email, depending on the school.

For more information on which types of schools and which schools are available in the city area, please refer to the multilingual brochure "[The Schools from Grade 5](#)". You can also find an [explanatory video about general education schools](#) in Hannover on the Internet.

Change of school after the 10th grade

A **change of school** is also possible **after the 10th grade**. After the 10th grade, your child can, for example, change to a vocational school, to a Gesamtschule (comprehensive school) or to a Gymnasium (grammar school).

Students who want to change to a **vocational school** after grade 10 will receive the registration form from their school of origin.

If, however, your child wishes to transfer to a **Gesamtschule** or **Gymnasium**, he or she must fill out the registration form there. In this form you can also indicate a second and third wish. Multiple applications to different Gymnasien and Integrated Comprehensive Schools will not be accepted.

Further information on changing schools after the 10th grade can be found in the brochure "[The Schools from Grade 5](#)". The respective school and the Regional State Office for Schools and Education (RLSB) can also be contacted to answer questions.

Native language lessons

Many primary schools and general education schools in Hannover offer native language lessons. These lessons usually take place in the afternoon. You can ask your child's school whether native language lessons in your language are offered there. You can also ask the [Regional State Office for Schools and Education \(RLSB\)](#) whether lessons in your mother tongue are offered at a school. Sometimes you may need to go to another school for the duration of these courses.

The courses are designed to develop skills in your native language. This also makes it easier to learn other languages.

Native speaker lessons are currently available in the following languages:

- Albanian
- Greek
- Italian
- Croatian
- Russian
- Polish
- Portuguese

- Spanish
- Turkish
- Japanese
- Farsi
- Arabic
- Kurdish
- Romanian

School vacations and public holidays

School is **closed** during **school vacations** and **public holidays** in Lower Saxony.

 [Here](#) you can find the current vacation dates for Lower Saxony.

 [Here](#) you can find the public holidays for the current year.

Parents in the school organization

Parent-teacher conference

All parents of the respective classes are invited to a parent-teacher conference. You can exchange ideas with **other parents as well as the teachers** and get **a lot of information**. It is good if you take advantage of these meetings. The dates will be communicated in a parents' letter. It is important to read the **parent letters**.


Parent Representation

There are **two parent representatives** in each class. These are **elected** by all parents during a parent-teacher conference. The tasks and rights of the parent representatives are regulated by law. You take care of problems that other parents report to you. They represent the other parents in the school.

For more information on how you can get involved as a parent at school, contact the Migrant Parents Network of Lower Saxony (MEN). The association also offers general advice and information events about the Lower Saxony education system for parents with a migration history.

Migrant Parents Network of Lower Saxony (MEN)

 [Kurt-Schumacher-Str. 29, 30159 Hannover](#)

 [0511 9215106](tel:0511 9215106)

 @elternnetzwerk@amfn.de

Opening hours and online consultation hours

Mon. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tue. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Wed. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Thur. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.



What should I do if my child is sick?

If your **child is sick** or unable to attend school for other important reasons, you must **report him/her to school sick**. Please call the school **before the beginning of the school day**.

Schools expect a **written excuse**. This is a letter from the parent. The written excuse must be at school within three days.

If your child is **sick for a longer period of time**, he/she will need a **doctor's note**. The certificate must be handed in at school. It is best to ask the secretary what the school needs.

If your child does not come to school **without a telephone or written excuse or a note**, the school will contact you.


How much does the school cost?

General costs

Attendance at a **state school** is **free of charge**.

School ticket

Travel costs to and from school are covered by the Hannover Region for schoolchildren under certain conditions.

In principle, all students in grades 1 to 10 receive a free school ticket from their school if their route to school is more than two kilometers. You can find more information about the right to school transportation on the  [Hannover Region website](#).

School trips, school material, lunch

School trips, school materials or lunch also cost money. You have to pay part of it yourself. If you are eligible for education and participation benefits (Bildungs- und Teilhabeleistungen, BuT), the costs for school trips, school materials or lunch will be covered. You must submit an application for this to the relevant authority. If you need assistance with this, you can ask the class teachers or the school secretary.

If your BuT application is approved, you will receive a BuT learning support voucher in writing, which you and your child can redeem at all tutoring institutes in the state capital of Hannover.


Further information on all benefits of the education and participation package can be obtained from the [Service Office Education and Participation of the Hannover Region](#).

Catch up on school graduation

In principle, it is also possible to catch up on higher school qualifications. For example, you can also catch up on your high school diploma (Abitur) after you have earned your middle school diploma (Mittlere Reife).

Even if you do not yet have a school leaving certificate, you can catch up on it. If you have a foreign school diploma that is not recognized in Germany, you can catch up on the German school diploma through the second educational path.

This is possible, for example, at vocational schools, adult education centers, various vocational colleges or evening classes.

You can find more information about education providers and schools in the Hannover Region on the website of the  [Employment Agency - Second Educational Path](#).

Advice and assistance

Initial school counseling

The **initial school counseling at the Hannover Education Office** is a municipal counseling center that is happy to help with any questions you may have about school.

The Education Office supports all newly arrived families with school-age children in their search for a school placement. The advice is provided in close coordination with the Regional State Office for Schools and Education (RLSB) in Hannover.

You can get advice by phone, e-mail or in person after making an appointment!



Mon. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tue. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Wed. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Thur. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fri. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Education Office of the City of Hannover

School Department



[Brüderstraße 6, 30159 Hannover](#)



[0511 168-31061](tel:051116831061)



beratung-bildungsbuero@hannover-stadt.de



[>> Bildungsbüro](http://www.hannover.de)

Infopoint for School Inclusion (ISI)

The **Infopoint for School Inclusion (ISI)** of the City of Hannover offers advice and information about school for parents of children with a confirmed or potential need for special educational support.

Possible consultation topics:

- Inclusive schooling at regular and special schools.
- Information on various special needs
- Information and referral for individual needs

Counseling hours

Tue. 9 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Thu. 9 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.


Fri. 9 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.


 Please make an appointment for a consultation.

Contact

Education office of the City of Hannover

School Department

 [Brüderstraße 6, 30159 Hannover](#)

 [0511 / 168-31061](#)

 @beratung-bildungsbuero@hannover-stadt.de

 <https://www.hannover.de/Infopunkt-Schulischer-Ink...>


Regional State Office for Schools and Education (RLSB)


The Regional State Offices for Schools and Education (RLSB) offer advice and support in many areas for schools and study seminars, students, parents and guardians, as well as for school employees.

As parents and legal guardians you will find help there

- on all questions concerning the provision of instruction
- legal issues (e.g., classroom organization, disciplinary measures, appeals against grades, report cards, failure to transfer, and graduation),
- problems with school administrators and teachers

Regional State Office for Schools and Education (RLSB) Hannover

 [Mailänder Straße 2, 30539 Hannover](#) (Mail: P.O. Box 11 01 22, 39856 Laatzen)

 [0511 106-6000](#)

 @service@rlsb-h.niedersachsen.de

 [>> Beratung](http://www.bildungsportal-niedersachsen.de)

Training and international support of the Hannover Region

The Training Assistance Team of the Hannover Region is responsible for applications for student BAföG. It approves benefits under the Federal Training Assistance Act (BAföG) and advises on the application procedure.

As a rule, BAföG can only be granted to those who are under 45 years of age at the start of the training period. Support also depends on residence status and the income of parents or spouses. [Learn more](#)

Hannover Region - BAföG Team

Office for handing in documents and application forms

📍 Thurnithistrasse 2, 30519 Hannover

📺 Office opening hours

Mon. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Tue. closed

Wed. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Thu. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Fri. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Postal address

Hannover Region, Training Assistance Team

📍 Hildesheimer Straße 20, 30169 Hannover

or

PO Box 147, 30001 Hannover

☎ [0511 616-22252](tel:051161622252)

☎ [0511 616-22253](tel:051161622253)

@ BAfoeG@Region-hannover.de

📺 Office hours by telephone

Mon. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Tue. closed

Wed. 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Thu. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Fri. closed

💡 Personal counselling is **only** possible **after making an appointment with your contact person**. You can find the contact person responsible for your planned training under [this link](#).

🌐 [>> www.hannover.de >> Training assistance](http://www.hannover.de)

General education schools

Elementary school

In elementary school your child learns to read, write and calculate. The elementary school is generally located near your home.

Age: usually 6 years and older ("reference date" - your child will be 6 years old by September 30).

Requirement: primary school eligibility

At the end of the daycare center there is the elementary school entrance examination. A health care provider examines your child. They check if your child is ready for school or needs special support.

Duration: 4 years (1st grade to 4th grade).

💡 Explanatory video "[What is elementary school?](#)" (German)

💡 Brochure "[My child is coming to school](#)" in 6 languages (German, Arabic, English, French, Russian and Turkish)

Elementary school locations: There are a total of 61 elementary schools in Hannover.

The best way for parents to get an overview of the elementary school locations is to use the Geoinformation System (GIS) of the City of Hannover www.hannover-gis.de.

💡 In the GIS, use the topic selection to choose the topic School Affairs and then School Locations. A mouse click on the green dots shows addresses and contact details of the schools, the red lines on the city map mark the respective elementary school catchment areas.

All-day elementary schools

Normally, elementary school classes last until 1 pm. However, there are also all-day elementary schools where children are cared for between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.. Here, lunch is provided and afternoon activities are offered. Often, care is also offered during the vacations.

More information about all-day elementary school can be found online in the multilingual flyer "[All-day elementary school in Hannover](#)".

Freely selectable elementary schools

Which elementary school a child goes to usually depends on the family's main place of residence - after all, the journey to school should be as short as possible. If you do not want to send your child to the elementary school in the area where you live, you can apply for admission to another location or to an elementary school with a special educational concept. Enrollment at a private school is also possible, but often subject to fees.

In the brochure "[My child is going to school](#)" you will find the elementary schools run by the city that you are free to choose from. Elementary schools run by other independent organizations can be found online on this [website](#).

After elementary school

After the 4th grade, the transfer to a secondary school takes place. In the 4th grade, parents receive a counseling interview with the teacher. Here it is discussed which [secondary school](#) your child should go to.

Secondary school

There are three secondary schools in Hannover. Instruction in a secondary school takes place at different levels. Students receive individual support.

Age: usually from 10 years of age

Duration: between 5 and 6 years (5th grade to 9th grade or to 10th grade)

Requirement: Attendance of an elementary school

Certificate: At the end of the 10th grade, the following certificates can be earned:

- **Extended Secondary Certificate I**, which entitles the holder to attend the introductory phase of the "gymnasiale Oberstufe" (upper secondary school) at a "Gymnasium" (high school) or at a "Gesamtschule" (comprehensive high school) as well as at a vocational "Gymnasium" (vocational high school),
- Secondary school certificate I - **Realschulabschluss**,
- Secondary school certificate I - **Hauptschulabschluss**.

At the end of the 9th grade, the secondary general school certificate can be obtained.

On this  [website](#) you will find the contact details of the 3 secondary schools in Hannover.

💡 More information about the school organization and the foreign languages offered can be found in the brochure "[The schools from grade 5](#)".

Realschule / Secondary school

In a "Realschule", the focus is on career-related instruction and extended general education. The students are prepared for training and work and can form individual priorities by choosing profiles.

There are 5 Realschulen in Hannover.

Age: usually 10 years and older

Duration: 6 years (5th grade to 10th grade)


Requirement: Attendance of an elementary school


Certificate: At the end of the 10th grade, the following certificates can be earned:

- **Extended Secondary Certificate I**, which entitles the holder to attend the introductory phase of the "gymnasiale Oberstufe" (upper secondary school) at a "Gymnasium" (high

school) providing general education or at a "Gesamtschule" (comprehensive school) as well as at a vocational "Gymnasium" (vocational high school).

- Secondary school certificate I - **Realschulabschluss**
- Secondary school certificate I - **Hauptschulabschluss**

On this  [website](#) you will find the contact details of the 5 Realschulen in Hannover.


 More information about the school organization and the foreign languages offered can be found in the brochure "[The schools from grade 5](#)".

School with a special pedagogical profile (SbpP)

The City of Hannover offers two schools with a special educational profile:

- [Südstadtschule](#)
- [Glockseeschule](#)

Both schools also offer a primary level. At Glockseeschule Hannover, there are usually no new admissions in grade 5.

 More information about the school organization, foreign language offerings, and contact details can be found in the brochure "[The Schools from Grade 5](#)".

Gymnasium / High school

At a "Gymnasium", students receive an in-depth general education. They can form individual emphases by choosing special and in-depth subjects. Independent learning is taught and encouraged as a basic skill. At the end of the qualification phase, the general university entrance qualification and thus the general ability to study can be acquired through the Abitur examination.


Age: usually from 10 years

Duration: 9 years (5th grade to 13th grade)

Requirement: Attendance of an elementary school

Certificate: At the end of the lower secondary level, all possible qualifications of the general education system can be acquired after the 10th grade if the student leaves the school. At the end of the qualification phase, the general higher education entrance qualification can be acquired through the Abitur examination.

On this  [website](#) you will find the contact details of the 17 grammar schools in Hannover.

 More information about the school organization and the foreign languages offered can be found in the brochure "[The schools from grade 5](#)".

Integrated comprehensive school (IGS)

Integrated comprehensive schools offer instruction at various levels and individual support.

Age: usually from 10 years


Duration: between 6 and 9 years (5th grade to 10th grade or 13th grade)


Requirement: attendance at an elementary school

Certificate:

All general education diplomas can be earned after the 10th grade, as well as the Abitur at the five large comprehensive schools with secondary level II:

- IGS Kronsberg,
- IGS Linden,
- Leonore-Goldschmidt-Schule-IGS Hannover-Mühlenberg,
- IGS Roderbruch
- IGS Büssingweg with a joint upper school for IGS List and IGS Vahrenheide/Sahlkamp

On this  [website](#) you will find the contact details of the 11 Integrated Comprehensive Schools in Hannover.


 More information about the school organization and the foreign languages offered can be found in the brochure "[The schools from grade 5](#)".

Inclusive school / school for children with special needs

All secondary schools are inclusive schools. Joint learning (inclusion) means that children with and without special educational needs learn together in one school. Each school offers at least five percent of the total places in year 5 for inclusive education.

If your child has been identified as having special educational needs during primary school, you can also transfer to a special school in grade 5.

Special schools are available for all special educational needs except for the special need "learning". For the special needs "learning", all secondary schools are available within the framework of inclusion.

For more information on special schools, visit  www.hannover.de/förderschulen.

Vocational schools

For adolescents and young adults over the age of 15 who are no longer attending a general school, vocational schools offer various options. These schools prepare students for a profession and also offer the opportunity to obtain general school certificates.

In the case of dual training, the school part takes place at a vocational school.

At vocational schools there are the following **types of schools**:

Berufseinstiegsschule (BES)

The Berufseinstiegsschule provides its students with a technical and general education. School-age youths can learn the German language at a Berufseinstiegsschule, acquire the Hauptschulabschluss (secondary school certificate) and prepare for a profession.

Berufsfachschule (BFS)

Berufsfachschulen provide between 1 and 3 years of basic vocational training, vocational preparation or a vocational qualification. It is possible to achieve the next higher certificate of education up to an intermediate certificate of education. The vocational schools are usually divided into the following occupational fields:

- commercial field
- housekeeping-social pedagogic or nursing area
- industrial-technical field

Fachoberschule (FOS) (technical secondary school)

The FOS broadens general education and provides theoretical and practical training. After successful completion of the program, students are awarded the Fachhochschulreife (advanced technical college entrance qualification).

Berufsoberschule (BOS) - Class 13

The Berufsoberschule (BOS) is for students who have completed vocational training and have the entrance qualification for a university of applied sciences. The BOS usually lasts one year and prepares you for a subject-linked higher education entrance qualification or, with a second foreign language, for a general higher education entry qualification. You therefore attain the ability to study. The Berufsoberschule is available in the following orientations:

- Technology
- Business and administration
- Health and social services

Vocational Gymnasium

Young people who have earned the Extended Secondary Certificate I can attend a three-year vocational high school. Likewise, students from grade 9 of a general high school with promotion to the introductory phase can transfer directly to grade 11 of the vocational high school upon application.

The vocational Gymnasium leads to a general higher education entrance qualification (Abitur) and entitles students to study at any university or college. It is also divided into corresponding specializations:

- Business
- Health and Social Services - focus on social pedagogy
- Health and Social Services - focus on ecotrophology
- Health and Social Services - Focus on Health Care
- Technology

Technical school (FS)

Technical schools are institutions of continuing vocational education. This means that they build on vocational training and a corresponding occupation and further develop and deepen the qualifications acquired there. They prepare students for work in middle management or for

professional self-employment. At two-year and multi-year technical colleges with full-time instruction, the entrance qualification for studies at Lower Saxony technical colleges and, according to the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act, even all courses of study at universities in Lower Saxony is acquired.

💡 **Information on training** can be found at [>> www.arbeitsagentur.de >> ausbildung](https://www.arbeitsagentur.de)

💡 **Information on vocational schools in the Hannover Region** can be found on the following website: [>> www.hannover.de >> Berufsbildende-Schulen](https://www.hannover.de)

School support services

School Social Services

Many schools have school social workers. These can support children and adolescents at school. School social workers advise and help with school or private problems and other concerns. The offer is voluntary. The school social workers provide support confidentially. This means that they must maintain secrecy. There are also counseling teachers. Ask at your child's school.

If you want to check whether there are school social workers at your school, take a look at the overview on this [website](#).

Afternoon care

Many schools in Hannover offer after-school care for children. In these schools, lunch is provided after school as well as educational activities and sometimes homework help.

If you are interested, ask your school if there is such an offer.

Learning support at elementary school

Does your child have learning difficulties and needs additional support? Then you can register him or her for learning support at many elementary schools in the City of Hannover (LHH).

Learning support is provided by qualified staff and takes place in small groups after regular lessons in the school rooms. Your child can repeat the contents of the lessons there and prepare for class tests, for example.

Learning support in the elementary schools of LHH is free of charge.

If you would like to apply for [education and participation benefits](#) for learning support, please contact your child's teacher. They will assist you in applying for learning support at the responsible authority.

Rucksack Schule - language and parent education program

The "Rucksack Schule" program is designed for parents and their children. It is present in 33 elementary schools in the city of Hannover.

In Germany, it is desirable for parents to accompany and actively shape their children's educational path. This is the basis for a successful school experience. At the program, parents

can clarify their questions about the school system and receive support. In addition, parents receive suggestions on how to guide their children on their way through the educational system. Classroom topics as well as educational topics are covered. Parents can thus actively participate in school life.

The “Rucksack Schule” program supports language skills in the parents' language of origin and in German. It strengthens parents' self-esteem and parenting skills. In addition, “Rucksack Schule” promotes intercultural openness and contributes to successful integration.

The “Rucksack” parent group meets once a week for two hours in the morning in the rooms of the participating elementary schools. By prior arrangement, younger children are cared for during this time.

Contact and further information:

Language and parent education program “Rucksack Schule”

Department of Schools of the City of Hannover

📍 [Brüderstraße 5, 30159 Hannover](#)

☎ [0511 168-36403](tel:051116836403)

@ Rucksack-Schule@Hannover-stadt.de

🌐 [>> www.hannover.de](http://www.hannover.de) >> [Rucksack LHH](#)

Ehrenamtliche Angebote

If school or learning materials are urgently needed for refugee children and young people to start school, or if swimming courses are needed, **the Hannover support group for refugee shelters (Unterstützerkreis Flüchtlingsunterkünfte Hannover e.V. - UFU)** can help. The association also offers help with special questions or problems regarding school attendance.

Hannover support group for refugee shelters (Unterstützerkreis Flüchtlingsunterkünfte Hannover e.V. - UFU)

📍 [Bemeroder Rathausplatz 1, 30539 Hannover](#) (Postal address)

☎ [01523 / 3995661](tel:015233995661)


@ unterstuetzerkreis@uf-hannover.de

🌐 uf-hannover.de

Recognition of foreign qualifications

Recognition of foreign school-leaving qualifications

The recognition of a foreign school-leaving qualification is particularly useful if you want to start an apprenticeship. But you also need to have your school-leaving certificate recognized in order to start a course of study.

If you would like to have your school leaving certificate checked and recognized, contact the  [Regional State Office for Schools and Education in Lower Saxony](#).

Recognition of foreign academic degrees

You can check whether your degree is recognized in Germany.


Note that there is a difference between **regulated** and **non-regulated professions** when it comes to recognition.

Regulated professions

In regulated professions, you are only allowed to work if you have a certain qualification. These are for example

- medical professions
- legal professions
- the teaching profession at state schools
- professions in the public service

This means that you can only work in these professions if you have a **state recognition of your professional qualification** (for example, a vocational qualification or a university degree).


In the  [Recognition Finder](#), you can search for the relevant recognition body for regulated professions. You will also receive information on how to proceed.

Non-regulated professions

In non-regulated professions, you are **allowed to work without a state recognition of professional qualification**. However, it is advisable to apply for a certificate evaluation.





[The Central Office for Foreign Education \(ZAB\)](#) in Bonn is responsible for the certificate evaluation of non-regulated professions.

For more information on the recognition of your university degree from abroad, visit the  [Info portal on foreign educational qualifications](#).

Recognition of foreign vocational training qualifications

If you have completed vocational training abroad, you can check whether this training is recognized in Germany. As a rule, the respective chamber (Chamber of Crafts, Chamber of Industry and Commerce) is responsible for this. Chambers are contact points for various types of training.

You can use the  [Recognition Finder](#) to search for the relevant recognition office. There you will also receive information on how to proceed.


For more information on the assessment of your vocational qualifications, visit the website of the  [Regional State Office for Schools and Education](#).

Recognition Counseling


You can get advice on the procedure for the recognition of foreign qualifications (school, university, vocational training qualifications) from the Recognition Advisory Service of the Hanover Chamber of Industry and Commerce (IHK).

Hannover Chamber of Industry and Commerce (IHK), Recognition Advisory Service

 [Bischofsholer Damm 91, 30173 Hannover](#)

 [0511 310-7517](#)

 [@anerkennungsberatung@hannover.ihk.de](mailto:anerkennungsberatung@hannover.ihk.de)

 Consultations are only possible **by appointment**.

Mon. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tue. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Wed. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Thurs. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fri. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

 [>> www.ihk.de >> anerkennung-auslaendischer-abschluesse](http://www.ihk.de)

University study

General Information


General Information




There are many different courses of study in Germany. There are also different types of universities:

- Universities (scientifically oriented)
- (Technical) Colleges (practice-oriented)
- Dual universities / dual studies: Here we combine an apprenticeship with studies. You will also receive a salary during your studies, even if you do not work all the time.
- Art, film and music colleges (for artistic subjects)




There are state universities and private universities. The quality of private colleges is not necessarily better, but there you often have to pay high tuition fees.

Helpful websites for study orientation:



 [Hochschulkompass](#) (All courses of study and universities in Germany)

-  [Study in Germany](#) (information for refugees)
-  [Agentur für Arbeit](#) (study orientation)
-  [Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst](#) (DAAD)

Requirements


You would like to study in Germany? Then you need a university entrance qualification. If you do not have a German Abitur, you must check whether you can study in Germany with the school-leaving certificate from your home country. For more information, visit the  [Anabin website](#), the  ["Recognition in Germany" information portal](#), and the  [German Academic Exchange Service](#) (DAAD).



You must also provide proof that you have a good knowledge of German ([language level C1](#)), for example with the TestDaF, DSH or telc Deutsch C1 Hochschule certificates.

There is the possibility of funding through the  [Educational Counseling Guarantee Fund University](#). Further information is available from the  [German Academic Exchange Service](#) (DAAD).

Contact the university you would like to study at directly for more information. Most universities have counseling services. Please also note the deadlines for applying for a degree program!

No university entrance qualification






If you can study in your home country with your school leaving certificate, but not in Germany, you may be able to gain access to higher education through a  [Studienkolleg](#). There, foreign applicants are specifically prepared for studies at a university or college in Germany.

 You can find more information about the Lower Saxony Preparatory College in Hannover (Niedersächsisches Studienkolleg) in this  [video](#).

Universities and colleges in Hannover

Hannover is an important science location with its university and the various (technical) colleges. Here you will find an overview of all universities in Hannover.

Public universities

-  [Leibniz University Hannover](#)
-  [Hannover Medical School](#)
-  [University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover](#)
-  [University of Applied Sciences and Arts](#)
-  [Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media](#)

 [Municipal University of Administration in Lower Saxony](#)

Private universities


 [University of Applied Sciences for Business](#)

 [University of Applied Sciences](#)



 [Leibniz University of Applied Sciences](#)




Financing your studies

Financing your studies

Many students work alongside their studies. It is important that you don't neglect your studies as a result. It is regulated by the state that you are not allowed to work more than 20 hours a week during the lecture period. If you exceed this number of hours, you may be expelled from the university. In addition, you must note that there is a maximum number of semesters until the bachelor's degree or master's degree, which you may not exceed. First of all, you should check whether you can get state support. Examples of this include the  [Federal Training Assistance Act \(BAföG\)](#) and [housing allowance](#) (Wohngeld).

 The [short videos of the Science City Hannover](#) provide the most important information on the topic of costs and student financing.

BAföG is intended to help students who cannot be financially supported by their parents. You receive a monthly amount of money (over a fixed period of time), the amount of which depends on your personal circumstances. Not every student can claim BAföG. The responsible BAföG office must examine each application individually. As a rule, only full-time studies are supported. In addition, to be eligible for funding, you must not be older than 30 for a bachelor's degree program and 35 for a master's degree program. Information in easy language can be found at the  [Federal Ministry of Education and Research](#). The Studentenwerk Hannover also offers  [free advice on BAföG](#).


There are numerous **scholarships** that you can apply for. You can find an overview on the page of the  [Begabtenförderungswerke](#) and the  [Deutschlandstipendium](#). In addition, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) provides information about other scholarship opportunities at  [Stipendien finden - DAAD](#).

First-year students from families receiving social benefits can also apply for the  [semester contribution scholarship of the Studentenwerk Hannover](#).

In many degree programs, you can become a **working student** in the first semester, or later. You are then employed by a company. There you can gain initial experience and earn money on the side. Usually, companies offer contracts for ten to twenty hours per week. Another advantage is that working students with good grades are often taken on as employees after graduation. Find out from companies in your area whether they offer jobs for working students.

SHK means "**Student Assistant**". These are advertised positions at universities. Many of them can be found on bulletin boards or you can ask the university in person. As a SHK, you work a fixed hourly rate per week (maximum 20 hours). You perform tasks for a lecturer, a chair or an organization of the university.



Minijob on a 520-euro basis

Many students work part-time in the catering industry (for example, as a bartender or waitress), provide tutoring or help with childcare. There are always many job postings on university bulletin boards. Most students work in a mini-job (520€ basis). The advantage is that you are considered to be in low employment and do not have to pay taxes or social security contributions (unemployment insurance, health insurance and nursing care insurance). A minijob is usually easy to combine with your studies. You can find more information at the  [Minijob-Zentrale](#).

 In the [short videos of the Science City Hannover](#) you can find the most important information about jobbing during your studies.

Search for a flat

Have you been admitted to a university in Hannover? To ensure that you have a roof over your head when you start your studies, it is particularly important that you look for a room or an apartment early on. After all, a university admission does not guarantee a room in a student dormitory.




 You can find tips and information on finding a room in this  [video](#).

Start looking for a flat

The first step in any househunting process is to consider:


- what exactly are you looking for (your own flat or a room in a shared flat)?
- how high may the rent be (see also [Rent an apartment / rental contract](#))?
- what requirements does the flat have to meet (size, location, suitable for disabled people, etc.)?


Search via newspaper


Many landlords still advertise their vacant flats in the local daily newspapers - as they did in the times before the internet. On Wednesdays and Saturdays, the local daily newspapers in Hannover,  [HAZ](#) and  [NP](#), publish accommodation adverts. Since both newspapers are issued by the same publishing house, the advertisements are identical. So, if it comes to househunting, it doesn't matter which of the two newspapers you choose. Furthermore, it is worthwhile to take a look at the advertising journals, such as  [Der Heiße Draht](#).

Searching via the internet

The largest commercial flat portals are  [immobilienscout24.de](#),  [immonet.de](#),  [wohnungsbörse.net](#) and  [immowelt.de](#). These platforms also allow prospective tenants to create a profile and upload an application portfolio - the landlords then use this as a basis to select applicants whom they invite to view the apartments. These platforms are mainly used

by property management companies and estate agents, but also by private flat owners. Flats are also offered for rent on  [ebay-Kleinanzeigen](#). Please note that estate agents usually charge agency fees of 2-3 months' rent.






Another online source are the websites of municipal housing companies such as  [hanova Wohnen GmbH](#), commercial real estate companies or property management companies that advertise their flats on their own website.

The municipal pension fund of the city of Hannover (Zusatzversorgungskasse) offers its vacant flats  [here](#), for example.


There are also local groups on facebook about finding a flat and there are email newsletters offering flats.

Registering with housing associations

Housing associations or cooperatives are large providers of rental housing. The purpose of these associations/cooperatives is to provide low-cost housing for their members. Therefore, you have to become a member of the association or cooperative to be able to rent a flat here. These five Hanoverian cooperatives are mentioned here as examples, there are more:

-  [Heimkehr eG](#)
-  [Gartenheim eG](#)
-  [Ostland Wohnungsgenossenschaft eG](#)
-  [Selbsthilfe Linden eG](#)
-  [Spar- und Bauverein eG](#)


Shared flats / WG (Wohngemeinschaft)

WG is short for "Wohngemeinschaft" and describes an arrangement where several people live in the same flat and split the costs for shared facilities such as kitchen and bathroom. Prices vary considerably depending on the location and the size of the flat. Online offers of rooms in shared flats can be found, for example, at  [wg-gesucht.de](#)

Apartment viewing

Before an apartment is rented out there is often an apartment viewing. Usually several people interested in the apartment are invited to view it at the same time. Since affordable housing is rare in Hanover, many people apply for each apartment. It is therefore very important to obtain important documents such as a SCHUFA report or a tenant self-disclosure in good time. This can increase the chances of getting an apartment.

It is advisable to compile the documents into an "application folder" and take it with you to the viewing appointment. The application folder could contain the following documents, for example:

- Covering letter (who am I/are we, what do I do for a living, how old are my children, why would I like to rent the flat).
-  [Tenant self-disclosure](#)

- Copy of your passport/residence permit (Attention: copy front and back)
- Proof of your income

Study counseling

In Hannover you will find various contact points where you can get advice on studying. You can find an overview of the student advice centers in Lower Saxony at [>> international](http://www.studieren-in-niedersachsen.de). In the [video portal of the Hannover Science City Initiative](#) you will also find exciting short videos on important questions about studying in Hannover.

The Hannover universities have their own **counseling services for international students**:

- [Leibniz University Hannover](#)
- [Hanover University of Applied Sciences and Arts](#)
- [Hanover Medical School](#) (MHH)
- [Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media](#)
- [University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover](#)

💡 If you have doubts about your studies, you can also seek advice from the career counseling service at the Employment Agency (Agentur für Arbeit). This [video](#) summarizes the most important informations for you.

At the [Social Counseling Center of the Studentenwerk Hannover](#) you can get advice on various topics such as financing your studies, studying with a child or studying with a handicap. You can find the most important information in these [short videos](#).

Social Counseling Center of the Studentenwerk Hannover

📍 [Lodyweg 1C, 30167 Hannover](#)

✉️ [@soziales@studentenwerk-hannover.de](mailto:soziales@studentenwerk-hannover.de)

☎️ [0511 7688-919](tel:05117688919), [-935](tel:05117688935), [-922](tel:05117688922)

Counseling for international students in Hannover is also offered by the **Church Development Service of the Lutheran regional churches in Braunschweig and Hannover (KED)**. KED is also responsible for the Study Support Program for Students from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe (STUBE).

Counseling for foreign students (BaSt)

Maureen von Dassel

📍 [Kreuzkirchhof 1-3, 30159 Hannover](#)

✉️ [@vondassel@ked-niedersachsen.de](mailto:vondassel@ked-niedersachsen.de)

☎️ [0511 35374931](tel:051135374931)

☎️ [0151 11113073](tel:015111113073)

🕒 Thur: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. (noon)

Study Support Program for Students from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe in Lower Saxony (STUBE)

Brigitte Hartmann-Hasse

@hartmannhasse@ked-niedersachsen.de

☎ [0511 35374933](tel:051135374933)

☎ [0171 3025451](tel:01713025451)

Available: Wednesday - Friday

Andreas Kurschat

@stube@ked-niedersachsen.de

☎ [0511 35374936](tel:051135374936)

☎ [0151 68828485](tel:015168828485)

Adult education and lifelong learning

In Germany, there are many opportunities to continue your education even after school, training or university. You can acquire general qualifications or catch up on educational qualifications via the "second educational pathway". Adult education offers are basically open to all people. They cover a wide range of topics such as:

- Languages
- Life and educational issues
- Culture, art and music
- Society, politics and economics
- Technology and natural sciences
- Sport and health


You can also continue your education professionally.

In Lower Saxony there are nine public state institutions and state associations for adult and continuing education. They are organised in an umbrella organisation, the **Niedersächsischer Bund für freie Erwachsenenbildung e.V. (nbeb)**.

The nbeb is the responsible body for the **Agency for Adult and Continuing Education (AEWB)**. The AEWB is the central service provider for adult education in Lower Saxony.

Here you will find an overview of the recognised educational institutions for adult education in Hannover:

Lower Saxony Association for Independent Adult Education e.V.


 [Bödekerstraße 18, 30161 Hannover](#)

 [0511 300330-444](tel:0511300330444)

 info@nbeb.de

 www.nbeb.de

Agency for Adult and Continuing Education


 [Bödekerstraße 16, 30161 Hannover](#)


 [0511 300330-330](tel:0511300330330)

 info@aewb-nds.de

 www.aewb-nds.de

Ada and Theodor Lessing Adult Education Centre Hannover


 [Burgstraße 14, 30159 Hannover](#)


 [0511 / 168-44783](tel:051116844783)

 info.vhs@hannover-stadt.de

 www.vhs-hannover.de

Bildungsvereinigung Arbeit und Leben e.V.


 [Arndtstraße 20, 30167 Hannover](#)


 [0511 12105-50](tel:05111210550)

 info@aul-nds.de

 <https://www.aul-nds.de/>

Educational Association of the United Services Trade Union (ver.di) in Lower Saxony e.V.

 [Goseriede 10 \(House B 1st floor\), 30159 Hannover](#)

 [0511 12400-400](tel:051112400400)

 info@bw-verdi.de

 <https://www.bw-verdi.de/>

Bildungswerk der Niedersächsischen Wirtschaft gemeinnützige GmbH (Lower Saxony Business Education Centre)

📍 [Höfestraße 19-21, 30163 Hannover](#)

☎ [0511 96167-0](tel:0511961670)

@ info@bnw.de

🌐 www.bnw.de

Protestant Adult Education Lower Saxony

📍 [Odeonstraße 12, 30159 Hannover](#)

☎ [0511 1241-413](tel:05111241413)

@ EEB.Niedersachsen@evlka.de

🌐 www.eeb-niedersachsen.de

Catholic Adult Education in the State of Lower Saxony e.V.

📍 [Gerberstr. 26, 30169 Hannover](#)

☎ [0511 34850-0](tel:0511348500)

@ info@keb-nds.de

🌐 www.keb-nds.de

Rural Adult Education in Lower Saxony e.V. (LEB)

📍 [Bernstrasse 13, 30175 Hannover](#)

☎ [0511 30411-0](tel:0511304110)

@ kontakt@leb.de

🌐 <https://www.leb-niedersachsen.de/>

Association of Education Initiatives in Lower Saxony (VNB)

📍 [Warmbüchenstraße 17, 30159 Hannover](#)

☎ [0511 307660](tel:0511307660)

@ info@vnb.de

🌐 www.vnb.de

Association of Adult Education Centres in Lower Saxony (Landesverband der Volkshochschulen Niedersachsens e. V.)

📍 [Bödekerstraße 16, 30161 Hannover](#)

☎ [0511 300330-50](tel:051130033050)

@ info@vhs-nds.de

🌐 vhs-nds.de

Lower Saxony State Association of Home Adult Education Centres e. V.

📍 [Bödekerstr. 16, 30161 Hannover](#)

☎ [0511 326961](tel:0511326961)

@ info@landesverband-hvhs.de

🌐 www.landesverband-hvhs.de