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## Daycare, school and university

### Daycare centre for children (Kindertageseinrichtung)

#### Daycare centres and childcare facilities

#### Day care centres

Children aged 0-6 years who do not yet have to go to school are looked after in day care centres (KiTa, kindergarten, day care centre). There are over 100 day-care centres spread across the city of Krefeld, run by different organisations, with different care focuses, age groups and care times. You should therefore always enquire directly at the day care centre.

It is important to enrol your child in a kindergarten. In kindergarten, the child learns to resolve conflicts and to find its way in different situations with other children. The child's language skills improve as the children talk and play together a lot. Here the children can gain their first experience of the German language and learn and discover new things every day.

The daycare centres offer a wide range of activities to encourage the children in their individual development. The daycare centres play, laugh, do gymnastics, sing and much more together. By socialising with other children, the children learn to be considerate, to assert themselves against their peers and train their language skills. The kindergarten prepares the children optimally for school.

A new kindergarten year begins every year in August, when many school-ready children have moved on to school. The free places in the kindergarten are then allocated to new children.

#### Child day care

For very young children, it can sometimes be better to go to a childminder. There, a childminder looks after the children in small groups of a maximum of 5 children. The parents and the childminder agree the childcare times individually in a contract, which they then submit to the youth welfare office. This contract is called a childcare contract.

#### Places and costs



At KITA-ONLINE centre and register your child directly online.

you can search for a suitable day-care

You can specify two additional day care centres of your choice. Please note: once you have filled in all the details and sent off your child's enrolment, you will receive a confirmation email. This email contains a link which must be activated by clicking on it. Only when you click on the link in this email will the enrolment be completed and your child will be registered in the system. The email is not a confirmation of a place. It only confirms that your data has been entered into the system.

Irrespective of this, you can register your child in person at a childcare centre.

Unfortunately, there are still not enough places in day care centres and day care centres. To find a place, ask the youth welfare office or your childcare centre.

You must pay a certain amount each month for the care of your children in a day care centre or child day care facility. If you have no income or only a low income, you are probably exempt from this contribution. You can obtain further information from the youth welfare office.

You can find information on childcare options here:

**City of Krefeld, Department of Youth Welfare and Employment Promotion** 

[Von-der-Leyen-Platz 1, 47798 Krefeld](#) Enquiries regarding admission to a daycare centre: 

[02151/863366](tel:02151863366) Enquiries regarding admission to a day care centre: [@tagespflege@krefeld.de](mailto:@tagespflege@krefeld.de)

Enquiries about parental contributions: [@elternbeitraege@krefeld.de](mailto:@elternbeitraege@krefeld.de) **The Krefeld Child**

**Protection Association (only day care centres)**  [Dreikönigenstraße 90-94, 47798](#)

[Krefeld](#)  [02151/961920](tel:02151961920) [@info@kinderschutzbund-krefeld.de](mailto:info@kinderschutzbund-krefeld.de)

## Support services

### Griffbereit (1-3 years)

is aimed at parents and their children between the ages of 1 and 3 and is offered in daycare centres, family centres and migrant organisations. The project promotes children's development through specific activities suitable for young children and creates an important basis for acquiring language skills. Multilingualism is recognised as a potential of the children: Toddlers from families with a migrant background come into contact with the German language at a very early age and German children with a foreign language. Children who come into contact with different languages learn the importance of language and very quickly learn to communicate with each other.

### Rucksack KiTa (4-6 years)

is aimed at parents with an international family history and their children between the ages of 4 and 6 who attend a day care centre. The project supports the language education and general development of children. The special feature is that the children are supported by the parents in their family language and by the teachers in the German language.

Further information on the programmes can be obtained from the [Integration Department / Municipal Integration Centre](#).

## Step by Step

The "Step by Step" programme is for children who do not have a place at a daycare centre and their parents. It helps you and your child to prepare for the start of school. You meet with other parents and trained people. The people are immigrants themselves and speak different languages. While you exchange ideas and receive information on the topic, your children can play, sing and do handicrafts in another room under supervision. It is a very good opportunity

to prepare for the start of school together. You and your child are cordially invited to come along!

The offer is free of charge and takes place every Wednesday from 7 January 2026 from 9.00 - 12.00 a.m. at the Hubertusstraße Family Centre, [📍 Hubertusstraße 82](#) in Krefeld.

To participate, your child must be vaccinated twice against measles.

Please register with the City of Krefeld:

Mrs Bauer, telephone: [02151 863337](tel:02151863337) e-mail: [katrin.bauer@krefeld.de](mailto:katrin.bauer@krefeld.de)

Mrs Gangolf, telephone: [02151 862597](tel:02151862597) e-mail: [nicole.gangolf@krefeld.de](mailto:nicole.gangolf@krefeld.de)

## School

### General information

### Compulsory education

All children in Germany have the opportunity and the right to attend school.

In Germany we call this compulsory education. This means that all children from the ages of 6 have to attend school in Germany. Children's parents and guardians have a duty to ensure that their children attend school regularly.

This period of school attendance totals twelve years; nine of these are 'full-time compulsory education' (general compulsory education) and three are 'part-time compulsory education' (compulsory vocational education). 'Part-time compulsory education' does not apply if the person attends school full-time during that period. If not followed by vocational training or attendance at another school, the period of full-time compulsory education totals ten years (including a 'Berufsgrundbildungsjahr' – a year of basic vocational training). Compulsory education ends when your child reaches the age of 18 if they are not enrolled in vocational training.

Schools often give children written information to take home with them and give to their parents. It is important that you read this information.

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## Registering at a school - Special case for immigration


If your child has to attend school, you will receive a written request from the City of Krefeld to register your child at a primary school. You can find more information on the registration process [here](#).


If you have come to Germany from abroad and your child is a little older, and maybe has already attended school abroad, then the situation is a little different. In this case, you have to apply to the [Communal Integration Centre](#) for [advice for lateral entrants](#). Teachers will take a look at your children's most recent certificates and reports, talk to you and your child, and then find the right school for them. Sometimes it can take a few weeks before your child can actually take part in classes. For this reason, you should make an appointment for advice as soon as possible so that your child can get back into education quickly and come into



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contact with children of their age.

 [Hansastr. 32, 47799 Krefeld](#)

 [02151 862565](tel:02151862565)

 [welling-osterloh@krefeld.de](mailto:welling-osterloh@krefeld.de)

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## Recognition of foreign school qualifications

School achievements abroad can only be recognised through any school qualifications awarded. You can find more information in the section on [Recognition of foreign educational qualifications](#).

There is no official recognition process for achievements from incomplete school education. The respective school administration will decide on the right level of German school for a child to continue their education, in collaboration with the local school authority, the pupils and their parents, and often after a trial lesson.

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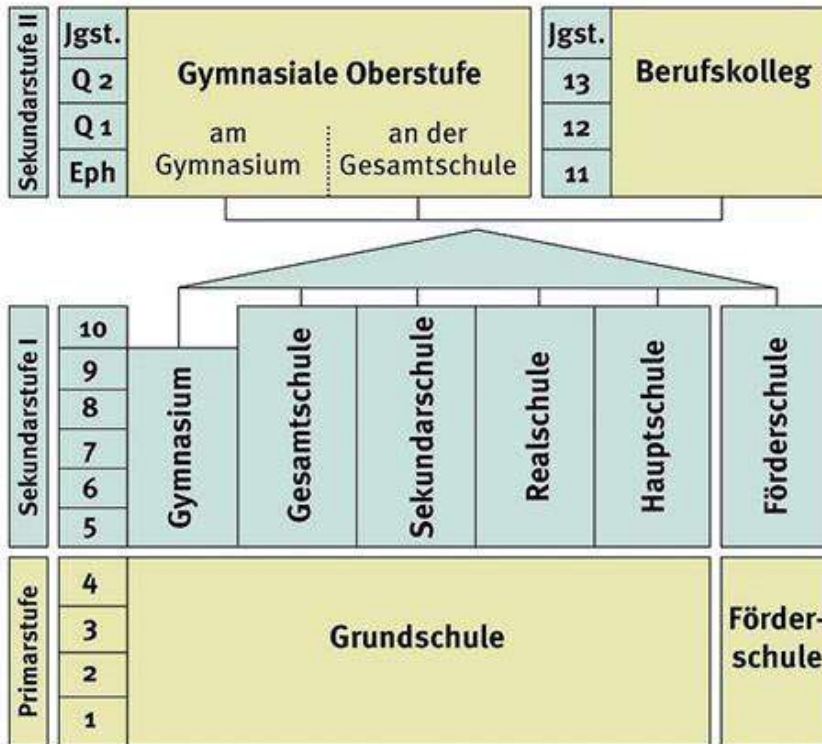
## Notification of illness

If your child is ill, please contact the respective school's secretary office immediately in the morning. In general, it is enough if you report your child as ill yourself. Please provide a written note for the next school day that your child is able to attend. If the school needs a medical certificate, your child's teacher will ask you for one directly.

## School system in North Rhine-Westphalia

There are lots of different kinds of schools in Germany. The school system in Germany is very complicated, and each federal state has its own rules.

## Das Schulsystem in NRW



### Grundschule (primary school)

Children start their education at a 'Grundschule' (primary school), which goes from classes 1 to 4. Children's progress is encouraged from the very start, with consideration for their personal requirements and interests. They are taught basic knowledge, skills and values.

### Realschule (standard secondary school)

'Realschule' (standard secondary school), from classes 5 to 10, provides an expanded general education, practical skills and career-oriented content. Teaching here is career-focused, but does include some academic content as well. The skills acquired allow pupils to continue their education through a vocational training programme or in the upper stage of grammar school.

### Gymnasium (grammar school)

'Gymnasium' (grammar school) provides an in-depth general education. Pupils acquire the knowledge and skills that are required for university studies or a challenging vocational training programme.

### Berufskolleg (vocational college)

Vocational colleges provide a career-oriented education in simple and joint programmes, and makes it possible to acquire general qualifications from Secondary Stage II. It is also possible to catch up on qualifications from Secondary Stage I.

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💡 You can find an explanatory film in various languages at the following [link](#).

## Support services

### Advice for lateral entrants

[Advice for lateral entrants](#) includes initial advice on getting a school place for children and teenagers who have recently arrived in Germany and have to attend compulsory education. School places are only provided after a consultation at the [City of Krefeld's Communal Integration Centre](#), which is focused on providing advice and obtaining information.

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### Rucksack Schule ('Rucksack school', 6-10 years)

This service is aimed at parents with a migration background and their children from the first to the fourth year of schooling.

The focus is on language development with the help of general orientation in the topics presented in class education. Children get help with all subjects in German, and also receive support in their own language and from their family. Parents learn how they can best help with their children's general and academic development.

You can find more information at the City of Krefeld's [Integration Department](#).

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### After-school care (6-12 years old)

Schoolchildren from 6 to 12 years old can receive after-school care. There are many different types of supervision programmes: 'Hort' (after-school programme), lunchtime supervision or full-day schooling. All of these formats provide homework support for children. And there's plenty of time for fun and games, too. Your child's primary school or the [Jugendamt](#) will tell you which supervision format your city offers for primary and other school students.

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### Education and Participation Package (BuT)

The Education and Participation Package provides financial support for children from low-income families so that they can make the most of education programmes. For more information, please contact [Social Issues, Seniors, and Living Issues](#). You can also apply for support there.

## Studies

### General information

Everyone has the opportunity to study in Germany, even if you obtained your school leaving certificate abroad. In this case your certificate will have to be checked to make sure that it's recognised in Germany. Plus, depending on the course and the language of instruction you have to speak and write German very well (usually C1, but at least B2).

You should get information about the exact requirements directly from the university that you would like to study at. Please also take note of the deadlines to apply for a course of study.

Information at a glance:

- The universities will check whether you meet the requirements.
- You can also often take the German exam at the university itself.
- TestDaF, DSH or telc are accepted as [proof of language level](#) , for example.
- Residence status plays no role for university studies.

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### How do you get a university entrance qualification?

If you are able to study in your home country but not in Germany with your school-leaving qualification, you might be able to enter university via a preparatory college (Studienkolleg). There, foreign university applicants are given targeted preparation for future studies at a German research university or university of applied sciences.

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### Advice and support in Krefeld

Two bodies in Krefeld advise [people with an international family background](#) on the topic of higher education:

- [International Office at the Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences](#): Here you can receive advice on all issues relating to contacts abroad, regardless of whether you'd like to do an student internship, study abroad or come to the Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences as a foreign student.
- [Refuture e.V.](#): The organisation was founded by committed young people who themselves had moved to Germany and started their studies here. The services they offer include advice on university admissions and careers orientation.

Anyone who is [the first person in their family to go to university](#) can get help from the organisation [ArbeiterKind.de](#) in Krefeld. The volunteers at the Krefeld group help with university-related issues and share their own experiences. They will invite you to a face-to-face meeting once a month. You can contact the organisation at: [@krefeld@arbeiterkind.de](mailto:krefeld@arbeiterkind.de).

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#### Further links:

[Anabin](#): Information on having foreign qualifications recognised in Germany

[DAAD](#) (German Academic Exchange Service): Studying in Germany and abroad

[Hochschulkompass \(Higher Education Compass\)](#): Up-to-date overview of public universities in Germany, as well as courses on offer, PhD openings and international partnerships

[Study in Germany](#): Information for asylum applicants

[Federal Employment Agency \(Bundesagentur für Arbeit\)](#): Finding a course and orientation

[Conference of State Education Ministers](#): Assessment of qualifications

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## University system in Germany

There are lots of different types of universities and courses in Germany: The choice depends on your own interests.

- Universities
- Universities of applied sciences and technical colleges
- Dual studies
- University for Art, Film and Music
- Distance learning

All types of university offer bachelor's and master's programmes.

There are both public and private universities. Private universities are not necessarily better than public ones – however, students usually have to pay high tuition fees at private universities.

## Universities

- are very academically oriented
- If you want to do a doctorate, a university is the right place for you

## Technical colleges

- Studies are very practice-oriented
- The course is tailored to the specific requirements of professional life.
- The course is made up to a large extent of internships and practical semesters

## Dual studies

- Combining training and studies
- You will also receive a salary during your studies

## Colleges for artistic subjects (arts, film, music)

- The focus is on artistic subjects such as visual arts, dance, graphics, singing, or fashion design

## Distance learning

- No obligatory attendance in person
- Possible to study part- or full-time
- Study materials are available online
- Focus on independent study

## Financing and Scholarships

### **BAföG = Federal Training Assistance Act**

Students in Germany can receive financial support through the Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz, a federal act for promoting higher education – referred to as ‘BAföG’ for short. The payments are made monthly and, ideally, continue for the duration of your course of study. The amount of BAföG support you can receive could reach up to €1,108, depending on your age and personal situation. Half of the total BAföG must be paid back after the course of study has been completed. Information about BAföG changes regularly, so it’s important to check it frequently. You can find more detailed information [here](#).

### **Grants**

There are many grants you can apply for. And not just in the first semester, but throughout your studies. Unlike BAföG support, a grant does not usually need to be paid back, so it’s important to perform well in your studies and take on voluntary commitments in order to be awarded a grant. The amount is often calculated in line with BAföG rules. There is also an additional €300 paid monthly – this is known as ‘Büchergeld’.

As a general rule, if you are entitled to BAföG, you can also apply for a grant.

Organisations that offer grants:

- [Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung](#) – grants for people seeking asylum
- [Hans Böckler Stiftung](#) – grants for people seeking asylum
- [Konrad Adenauer Stiftung](#) – grants for people seeking asylum
- [Evangelisches Studienwerk Villigst](#) – grants for people seeking asylum
- [Brot für die Welt](#) – grants for women seeking asylum
- [Deutschland-Stipendium](#)

One exception is the [Otto Benecke Stiftung’s guarantee fund](#), for example. The programme is aimed at immigrants who are new in the country and who would like to get the higher education entrance qualification, prepare to go to university, and start their academic career.

## **Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences**

**Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences** is one of the largest and best-performing universities of applied sciences in Germany. It has two locations, in Krefeld and Mönchengladbach. The focus of its teaching and research is on the connection between technology and society.

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The university offers 87 bachelor's and 27 master's study programmes. You can find an overview of courses [here](#).

The **Central Academic Advice Centre** can provide you with general information about higher education (including study opportunities and how to choose a course)

- Orientation events at the beginning of the semester
- Support during your studies
- Seminars and events on exams, study techniques and ways of working, and organising your studies

More info at: [🌐 Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences @ studienberatung@hs-niederrhein.de](#)

The **International Office** gives advice on the following areas in particular to people from other countries who are interested in university studies:

- Study opportunities, requirements and application procedures
- Information on funding options
- Semesters abroad
- General advice for exchange students

More info at:

[🌐 International Office – Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences](#)

[@webmaster@hs-niederrhein.de](#)