



## Possibilities to get a University Entrance Qualification

If you do not yet have a Hochschulzugangsberechtigung (HZB, "Abitur") (university entrance qualification) valid for Germany, there are several possibilities of getting this in Germany / in the state of Hesse.

### General information about the Hochschulzugangsberechtigung (HZB)

- Direct HZB: This means that your school-leaving diploma from abroad is considered equivalent with the German secondary education diploma. You can take up your studies in Germany without further qualifications.
- Indirect HZB: If your university entrance qualification is not considered equivalent with the German one (this is often because of fewer school years or major differences in content taught), you must attend a preparatory college and pass a specific entrance exam before taking up your chosen studies. If you pass this, you are qualified to study at a German university but only for specific programmes (so-called "direkte fachgebundene HZB"). The one-year course at the preparatory college serves to prepare students regarding both language skills and content. Usually there is a large number of applicants for only a few places. For further information, go to [www.studienkollegs.de/](http://www.studienkollegs.de/) or [www.uni-frankfurt.de/43662351/studienkolleg](http://www.uni-frankfurt.de/43662351/studienkolleg)

### 1) If you do not have any university entrance qualification from abroad

#### a) Special course offered by the Otto Benecke Stiftung e.V.

- Admission requirements: foreign education diploma equivalent to at least the German intermediate school-leaving diploma "Mittlere Reife" (usually after ten years of school)
- Duration: 24 months, probation period: 3-6 months
- Venues: Geilenkirchen (Northrhein-Westphalia), Hanau-Hasselroth (Hesse), Hamburg (Hamburg)
- These courses enable students to complete either the general university entrance qualification or the school-related part of the entrance qualification for a university of applied sciences. In the latter case, you also have to show proof of practical training, either completed professional / job training or traineeship.
- Please note that there are far fewer places available than there are applicants.
- <http://old2017.obs-ev.de/backup/garantiefonds-hochschulbereich-beratung-kurse-foerderung/kursberblick2/sonderlehrgang/>
- Information in Frankfurt: Bildungsberatung Garantiefonds-Hochschule beim Jugendmigrationsdienst des Evangelischen Vereins für Jugendsozialarbeit e. V., Rechneigrabenstr. 10, 60311 Frankfurt; [bildungsberatung@frankfurt-evangelisch.de](mailto:bildungsberatung@frankfurt-evangelisch.de)

#### b) Evening College, Hessen College

- Admission requirements: minimum age 18 years, intermediate school-leaving diploma and completed professional training or at least two years of work experience (managing a family household is considered equivalent to work experience); and passing a specific qualification test in German, English and Mathematics. Applicants who have a lower than intermediate school-leaving diploma have to attend a special preparatory course.
- An evening college / Hessen College education is divided into preparatory course (6 months), introductory phase (1 year) and qualification phase (2 years). The school year and holidays are the same as those at regular schools.
- Students at the **evening college** must be working in a job, except for the last three semesters of the qualification phase, which is why the classes are held in the evenings.
- Students at the **Hessen College**, where classes are taught during the day, may not hold a regular job for the duration of their studies.
- There are Hessen Colleges in Frankfurt, Kassel, Wetzlar and Wiesbaden.
- After completing the fourth semester of the qualification phase, students take a final examination, the "Abitur" or "**Allgemeine Hochschulreife**", which enables them to take up university studies. Student who leave the evening college or the Hessen College after having successfully completed the second semester of the qualification phase will receive a certificate of qualification for studying at a university of applied sciences ("Zeugnis der Fachhochschulreife").
- <https://kultusministerium.hessen.de/schule/schulformen/schulen-fuer-erwachsene/abendgymnasium-und-hessenkolleg>



- [https://kultusministerium.hessen.de/sites/default/files/media/hkm/schulen\\_fuer\\_erwachsene-adressliste\\_inkl\\_internetadressen\\_stand\\_november\\_2016.pdf](https://kultusministerium.hessen.de/sites/default/files/media/hkm/schulen_fuer_erwachsene-adressliste_inkl_internetadressen_stand_november_2016.pdf)
- [www.hessenkolleg-frankfurt.de/index.html](http://www.hessenkolleg-frankfurt.de/index.html)

#### c) School education / job training at vocational schools leading to the Abitur or to Fachhochschulreife

- If you already hold an intermediate school-leaving diploma, you can get the qualification for studying at a university of applied sciences ("Fachhochschulreife") by way of attending a specialised secondary school ("Fachoberschule") or by completing a dual professional education in combination with additional exams.
- The "Fachoberschule" requires an intermediate school-leaving diploma and offers further education with diverse focal points and in diverse professional fields.
- The "Fachhochschulreife" is a qualification for taking up studies at a "Fachhochschule" or a so-called tiered course of studies ("gestufter Studiengang") at a university in Hesse.
- Refugees aged between 16 and 18 can attend so-called "InteA" classes which run for up to two years and teach the basics of the German language including job-specific terminology.
- This site gives an overview of the various possibilities to obtain the "Fachhochschulreife":  
<https://wissenschaft.hessen.de/studium/zugangsvoraussetzungen/fachhochschulreife>
- <https://kultusministerium.hessen.de/schulsystem/schulwahl/schulformen/berufliche-schulen/fachoberschule>

#### d) Studying after having completed job/professional training

- In Hessen you can take up studies after having completed job/professional training (and after passing a university entrance exam).
- Requirements: a minimum of two years of professional training and three years of working in a profession that is related to the intended study programme. If you want to study something that is not related, you have to show proof of specific further education/training amounting to at least 400 hours in a field that is related to the intended study programme.
- You must then still pass a university entrance exam assessed by a cross-university examination committee in order to obtain your university entrance qualification.
- [www.frankfurt-main.ihk.de/berufsbildung/bildungspolitik/hochschulen/studieren/](http://www.frankfurt-main.ihk.de/berufsbildung/bildungspolitik/hochschulen/studieren/)

#### e) Regular secondary school and German Abitur (in individual cases)

- Attending the introductory phase (11th grade) – **only possible before turning 19 years of age**
- As of age 19, it is only possible to be accepted to the introductory phase for good reason and after consultation on different ways to obtain the university entrance qualification (vocational college, evening college, Hessen College, other institutions of further education, so-called "Nichtschülerprüfung"). This also requires consent by the supervising education authority.
- Duration: 2-3 years
- Leaving certificate: Abitur (qualifies for all study courses in Germany)
- Requirements: Intermediate school leaving diploma or equivalent

## **2) Recognition of foreign school / educational diplomas in Hesse (sometimes necessary for professional training or continued school attendance)**

### Central authority for the recognition of national and foreign educational certificates (State Education Authority Darmstadt)

- Some certificates from abroad that prove you have completed your school education or job/professional training may be recognised. For example, you can apply for your certificate obtained abroad to be recognised as equivalent with a German school-leaving diploma ("Gleichstellung").
- A fee will be charged for the process of examining and evaluating your application.
- For further information, go to <https://schulaemter.hessen.de/schulbesuch/bildungsnachweise>
- The leaflet "Recognition of school qualification and professional education in Hessen" offers further information about possibilities of having foreign university diplomas and other qualifications confirmed/recognised.

Please note that we cannot guarantee that the information given above is complete and correct.

International Office | Academic Welcome Program for highly qualified refugees (AWP)  
[awp@uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:awp@uni-frankfurt.de), [www.uni-frankfurt.de/awp](http://www.uni-frankfurt.de/awp)