



## Possibilities for Refugees to receive BAföG (Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz, the law governing educational funding in Germany)

### General information:

- The so-called BAföG is state-funded financial support for school and university students. 50% of the BAföG are a grant and 50% are a loan that has to be repaid up to a maximum amount of €10,000. Repayment begins, as a rule, 5 years after the regular study period is over.
- Students of the preparatory college Studienkolleg can receive support, but only in the form of the BAföG for school students (currently to a maximum of €590 per month, however 100% of this is a grant). DSH courses that last more than 6 months can also be supported.
- The preparatory course for studies of medicine at Goethe University ("Medizinpropädeutikum") and PhD studies are not eligible for support.
- University students can receive support to a maximum of currently €735 per month (for BA or MA studies).
- It is possible to take a part-time job earning up to a maximum of €450 monthly without this being offset against the BAföG.
- As a rule, support is granted for the duration of the standard period of studies (for BA courses, this is usually 6 semesters, for MA studies usually 4 semesters, for state exams this depends on the applicable study regulation). Exception may be possible in individual cases.
- Applications should be submitted as early as possible, however not before the student has been admitted / received confirmation that she or he has a place at university.
- You can apply for a preliminary ruling, which is then valid for one year – see: [www.studentenwerke.de/de/content/baf%C3%B6g-beratungspflicht-und-vorabentscheid](http://www.studentenwerke.de/de/content/baf%C3%B6g-beratungspflicht-und-vorabentscheid).
- Applications made during the winter semester usually take 6-8 weeks to process; in the summer semester this is usually faster.

There is advice and consultation available from the BAföG-Amt at the Studentenwerk Frankfurt:  
[www.studentenwerkfrankfurt.de/bafoeg-finanzierung/bafoeg/](http://www.studentenwerkfrankfurt.de/bafoeg-finanzierung/bafoeg/)

### When applying for BAföG, the following documents must be provided / the following criteria will be assessed:

#### 1. Residence document as follows:

- Residence permit pursuant to §§ 22, 23 para. 1, 2 or 4, §§ 23a, 25 para. 1 or 2, §§ 25a, 25b, 28, 37, 38 para. 1 no. 2, § 104a are eligible for BAföG.
- Foreigners whose deportation is suspended (§ 60a of the German Residence Act) and who are permanent residents in Germany can receive support if they have been in Germany for an uninterrupted period of at least 15 months and such presence was lawful or permitted or deportation was suspended.
- A preliminary residence permit or a confirmation that the applicant is seeking asylum does not, as a rule, grant entitlement to BAföG; however, if the applicant takes up studies during the first 15 months of his / her residency in Germany, she or he will continue to be entitled to basic income support.
- See also: [www.bafög.de/de/-8-staatsangehoerigkeit-224.php](http://www.bafög.de/de/-8-staatsangehoerigkeit-224.php)

#### 2. Age

- In Bachelor programmes, as a rule students are only entitled to BAföG if they are younger than 30 years old when they start their studies, for Master programmes they should be younger than 35 years. However, there are some exceptions – if you had to learn a language, sometimes up to three years are discounted.

#### 3. Previous studies or change of study subject

- Continued entitlement to BAföG after changing the subject of studies is only possible if the change happened by the end of the third semester.
- If you have already completed a Bachelor's degree abroad and this is recognised in Germany, as a rule it is not possible to receive financial support for further Bachelor's studies (it may, however be advisable to appeal against any such decision). If you have studied but not completed a Bachelor's programme, the time you already spent studying will sometimes be taken into consideration, i.e. the overall period of support will be shortened.



4. Parental income; support independently of any parental support may be given

- If the parents' whereabouts are unknown or they live abroad and there are legal or practical obstacles preventing them to pay support in Germany;
- If you have already turned 30 by the time you take up your studies / education / training and are still eligible for support (see above, exceptional circumstances).
- Currently only refugees from Syria are generally exempt from the need to prove the above, provided that the parents are located in a refugee camp abroad (this is based on a recent decision by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research). For all other countries, e.g. Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, it is decided on a case-by-case basis whether parental income is considered, and as a rule the minutes of the hearing by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees are consulted.
- [www.bafög.de/de/wann-bleibt-das-einkommen-der-eltern-unberuecksichtigt--380.php](http://www.bafög.de/de/wann-bleibt-das-einkommen-der-eltern-unberuecksichtigt--380.php)

Contact:

- BAföG-Amt des Studentenwerks Frankfurt  
Campus Bockenheim  
BAföG-ServiceCenter (EG) in der Neuen Mensa  
Bockenheimer Landstraße 133  
60325 Frankfurt  
Office hours: Mondays – Thursdays 10:00-15:00  
[www.studentenwerkfrankfurt.de/bafoeg-finanzierung/bafoeg/sprechzeiten/](http://www.studentenwerkfrankfurt.de/bafoeg-finanzierung/bafoeg/sprechzeiten/)
- Servicestelle Studium & Flucht (support in writing applications etc.)  
Hörsaalgebäude, room 101  
Campus Bockenheim (Gräfstraße 54)  
Office hours: Mondays 10 am – 12 pm, Thursdays 12 pm – 2 pm  
[www.uni-frankfurt.de/65769759/Infos-Studium](http://www.uni-frankfurt.de/65769759/Infos-Studium)

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