

### Studying at Freie Universität Berlin

International Student Support, Center for Academic Advising and Psychological Counseling (December 2025)











**During Studies** 

Pre-Arrival Mentoring

Starting Your Studies











Living in Berlin



Peer Mentoring Program









International Club



ZE Studienberatung und Psychologische Beretung Iltisstr. 4

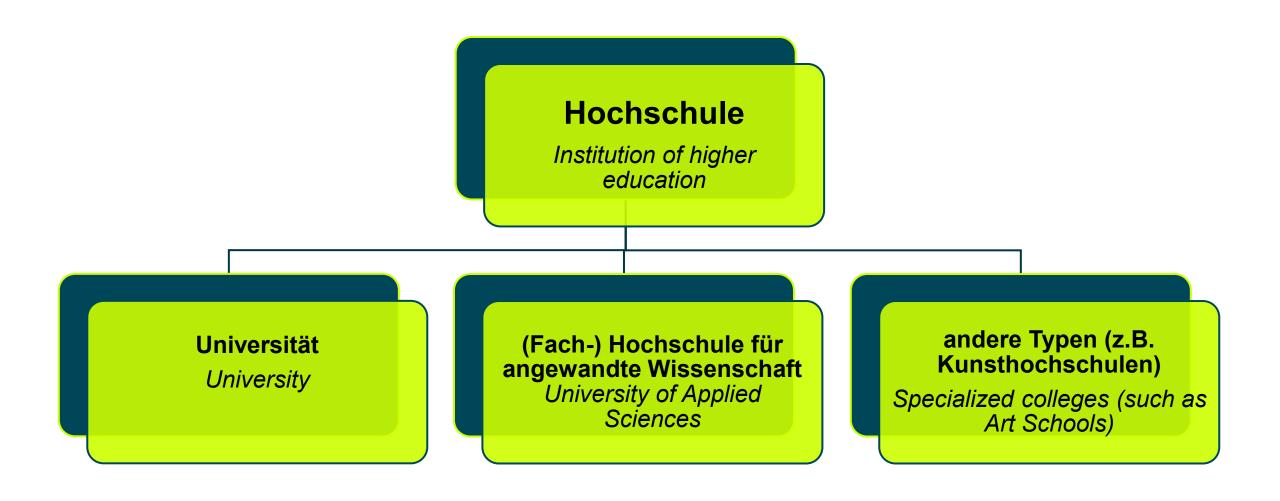
E-Mail: international@studienberatung.fuberlin.de www.fu-berlin.de/studienberatung/

Information on

our website

### **Study Programs**

### Institutions of Higher Education



### Freie Universität Berlin

Founded: 1948

Students: 33,000

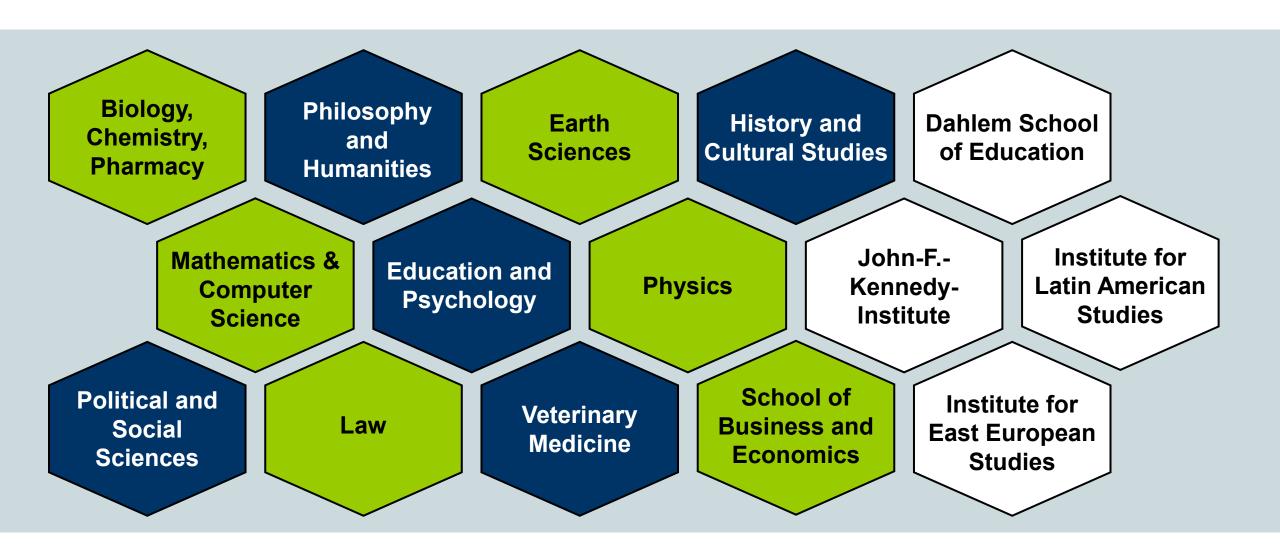
Study Programs: 173

Bachelor's Programs: 78

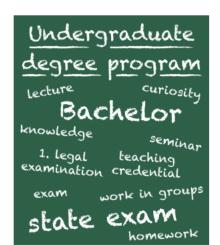
Master's Programs: 95



### Academic Departments & Central Institutes



### Overview of Study Programs



#### Bachelor's degree and state exam - Undergraduate Degrees

An undergraduate degree leads to a first university degree qualifying for a profession (bachelor's degree, bachelor's degree with teaching option, state examination, first law examination).

- > Undergraduate degree programs at Freie Universität Berlin
- > Programs in English at Freie Universität Berlin
- > Numerus Clausus undergraduate degree programs
- ➤ Application for undergraduate degree programs



#### Master's degree - Graduate Degrees

An graduate degree supplements the undergraduate degree and leads to the second highest university degree. It can serve to scientifically deepen previous studies or open up new areas of knowledge.

At Freie Universität Berlin, there are a variety of master's degree programs with different durations, admission requirements, and costs.

- > Graduate degree programs at Freie Universität Berlin
- > Programs in English at Freie Universität Berlin
- > Numerus Clausus Master's Programs
- > Application for graduate degree programs

### Bachelor and Master programs offered in English

No knowledge of German is required for admission to these degree programs.

#### Bachelor

• North American Studies (Bachelor of Arts)

#### Master of Arts

- Archaeology of the Ancient World
- Digital Studies of Ancient Texts
- English Studies: Literature, Language, Culture
- Global History
- Global East Asia
- History and Societies of the Islamic World
- Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East
- Iranian Studies
- North American Studies
- Semitic Studies
- Sociology European Societies

#### **Master of Science**

- Biochemistry
- Bioinformatics
- Chemistry
- Cognitive Neuroscience
- Computational Sciences
- Data Science
- Economic Systems
- Geographies of Global Inequalities
- Mathematics
- Pharmaceutical Research
- Physics
- Planetary Sciences and Space Exploration
- <u>Polymer Science</u> Joint program with Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin & Technische Universität Berlin & Universität Potsdam
   For application details, please see the linked course description.

#### Continuing Education Master's Programs

- <u>European and International Business</u>, Competition, and Regulatory Law (Master of Business Law)
- International Health (Master of Science) Charité
- Medical Neurosciences (Master of Science) Charité
- Molecular Medicine (Master of Science) Charité

## Online Assistant for Choosing Your Degree



#### **Prospects**

Many graduates from the Biochemistry Master's program at FUB continue to obtain their PhD. Thereafter, graduates can work in very different occupations. Many remain in research while others go on to work in pharmaceutical or biotech companies.

On the following pages, you can read short interviews with FUB Biochemistry graduates working in various occupational fields. They describe how they decided to pursue their profession, provide insights into their professional life and explain what skills and competences they need on a regular basis at work.



Lisa Neidhardt, PhD student



Sana Khan Khilji, PhD student



Dr. Holger Sieg, Junior Research Group Leader



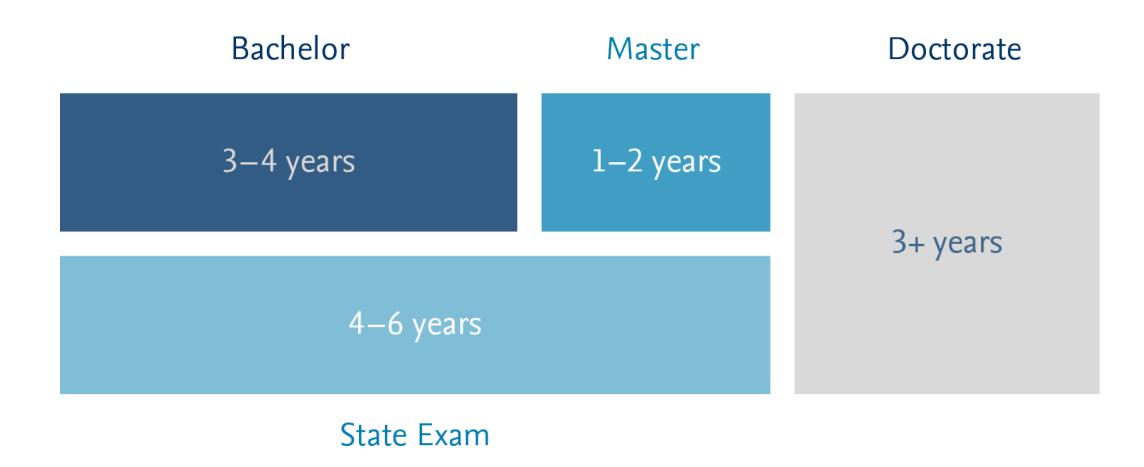
Dr. Alexander Ulrich, Research Scientist

The program description of each master's program includes information about:

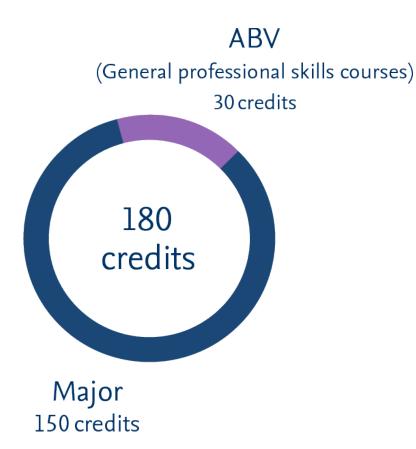
- ✓ course content
- ✓ (video) interviews with lecturers and (former) students
- ✓ example assignments
- ✓ student feedback and perspectives

### **Study Structure**

### Study Structure



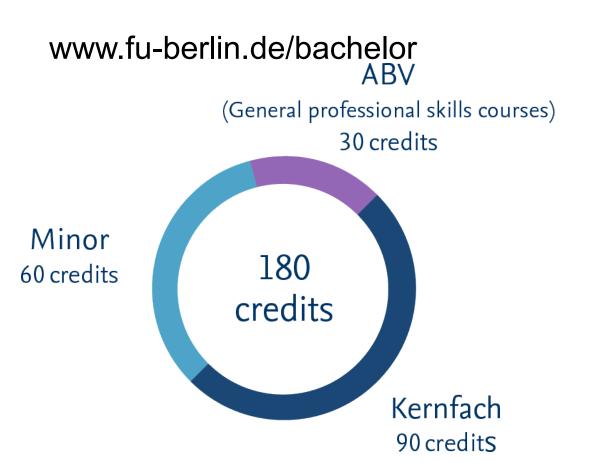
### Single-subject Bachelor



#### **ABV** includes

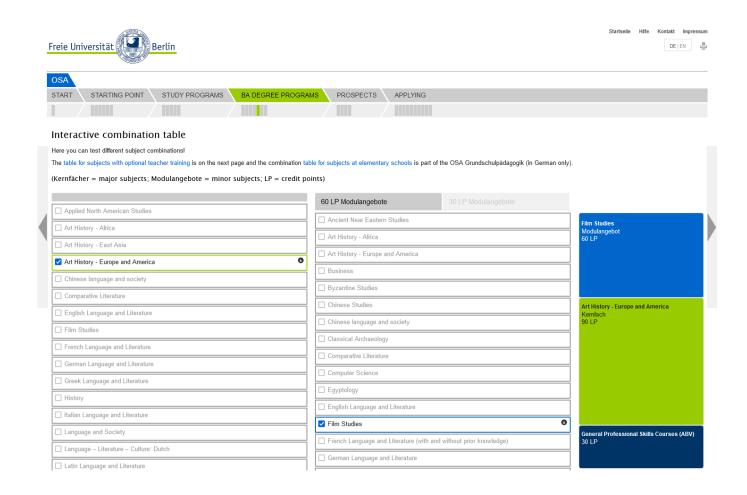
- Mandatory internship
- Elective courses in 8 areas (e.g. foreign languages, IT, Gender & Diversity)

### **Combination Bachelor**





### Different combinations of subjects



### **University Life**

### Semester Schedule

Winter Term: October 1 – March 31

**Courses start in mid-October and end in mid-February** 

Summer Term: April 1 – September 30

Courses start in mid-April and end in mid-July

### Lecture Hall and Seminar Room







Image: Stefan Wolf Lucks

### Libraries





Image: David Ausserhofer Image: Reinhard Görner

### Cafeterias and Student Cafés



Image Marina Kosmalla

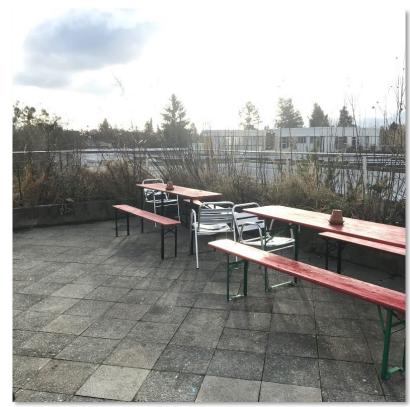


Image: Diana Wilke

### Student Mobility

Freie Universität Berlin cooperates with selected universities around the world. Students can take part in several exchange programs
Students can also receive funding for internships abroad
Information provided by the Student Mobility Unit



Graphic: FU Berlin

### **Support Services**

#### Student Services Center















#### Information and Advising at the Student Services Center



The Student Services Center (SSC) is the first address for all concerns related to studying at Freie Universität. Please also note the information about visiting the center.

Information on the services offered by the individual counseling services can be found on the respective subpages.

Those seeking support should contact the Info-Service Studium first with any concerns.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9.00-16.00 h

Friday: 9.00-14.00 h

#### CONTACT

#### **Address**

Iltisstr. 4 & Iltisstr. 1 14195 Berlin







**Telephone** <u>+49 30 838 70000</u>

Email info-service@fu-berlin.de

### Allgemeine Studienberatung

### **General Academic Advising**

#### Wir informieren und beraten zu

- Studieninhalten und -anforderungen,
- Zugangsvoraussetzungen und numerus clausus,
- Fächerwahl,
- Fach- und Hochschulwechsel ....



#### We inform and advise you regarding

- study programs,
- admission regulations and chances,
- choice of disciplines,
- change of study program ....



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT



#### What to expect:

- Information Events
- Workshops
- Monthly Newsletter
- Peer Mentoring for International Students with exciting events, writing groups and mentoring sessions



### Websites for study and career guidance



#### www.hochschulkompass.de

Suchmaschine für Studiengänge in ganz Deutschland Search engine for degree programs throughout Germany



#### www.berufenet.arbeitsagentur.de

Berufsbeschreibungen, Zugang zur Tätigkeiten, Verdienstmöglichkeiten Job descriptions, access to activities, earning potential

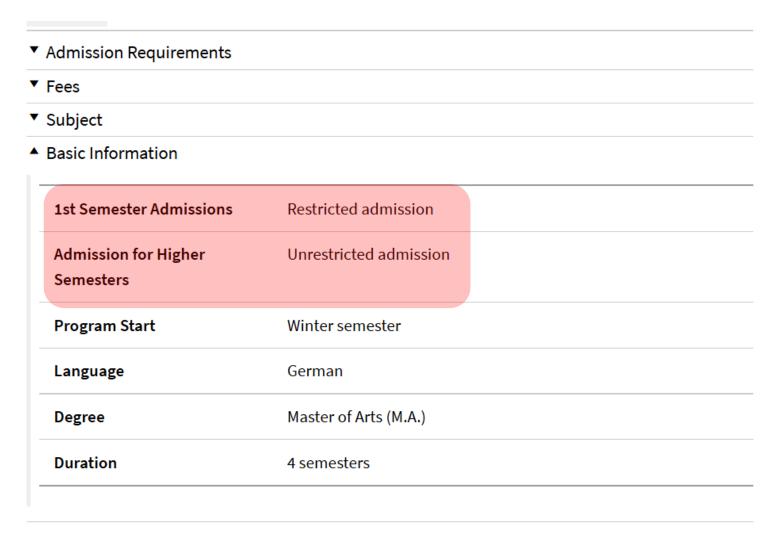


# Admission and Application Process

### Admission restrictions

- Most study programs have an admission restriction (Numerus Clausus)
- The Latin term *Numerus Clausus* stands for "restricted number" and means that the number of applicants admitted must not be (much) higher than the number of available places (as calculated by the respective university).
- To see whether a study program has restricted admission, look out for the phrase "lokale Zulassungsbeschränkung"/"Restricted admission" in the program description at the link below

### Admission restrictions



■ "Restricted admission" → limited number of study places; applicants chosen through different criteria (GPA and others)

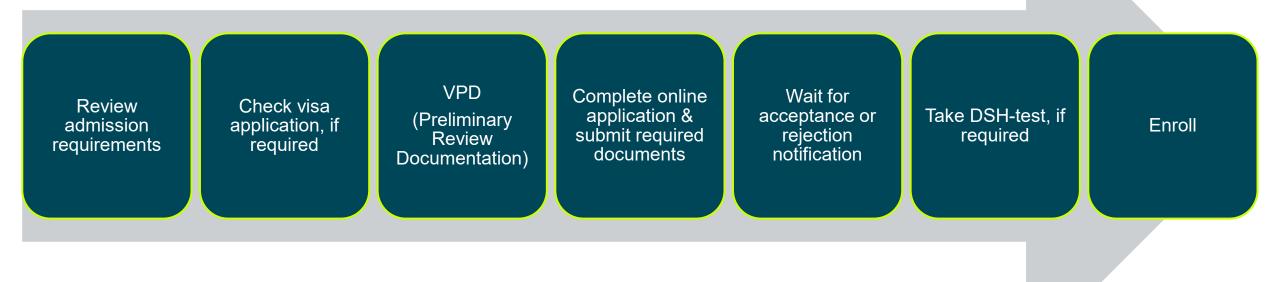
"Unrestricted admission" →
 unlimited number of study places;
 every applicant who meets the
 admission requirements, will get
 offered a study place

### When does my chosen program start?

Admission Requirements	
Fees	
Subject	
Basic Information	
1st Semester Admissions Restri	icted admission
Admission for Higher Unres	stricted admission
Program Start Winte	ersemester
<b>Language</b> Germ	an
<b>Degree</b> Maste	er of Arts (M.A.)
<b>Duration</b> 4 sem	nesters

Application and Admission Process

### Applying in 7 Steps



### Step 1: Review Admission Requirements

#### Required for the **application**:

- a higher education entrance qualification (HZB)
- Sufficient German skills (except for Bachelor's and Master's programs in English)
- Additional language skills, depending on the study program

# Higher Education Entrance Qualification (HZB) (relevant for undergraduate programs)

- Whether you have a higher education entrance qualification that is accepted as equal to the German HZB depends on your educational background.
- Conditions usually include the following:
  - a high school diploma or school-leaving qualification from your native country that grants you access to higher education in your native country or, as the case may be,
  - a combination of school-leaving qualification, university entrance exam and/or years already enrolled as a student at a university.

# Higher Education Entrance Qualification (HZB) (relevant for undergraduate programs)

You either have...

#### .. direct access

to higher education in Germany

or...

#### .. indirect access

to higher education in Germany

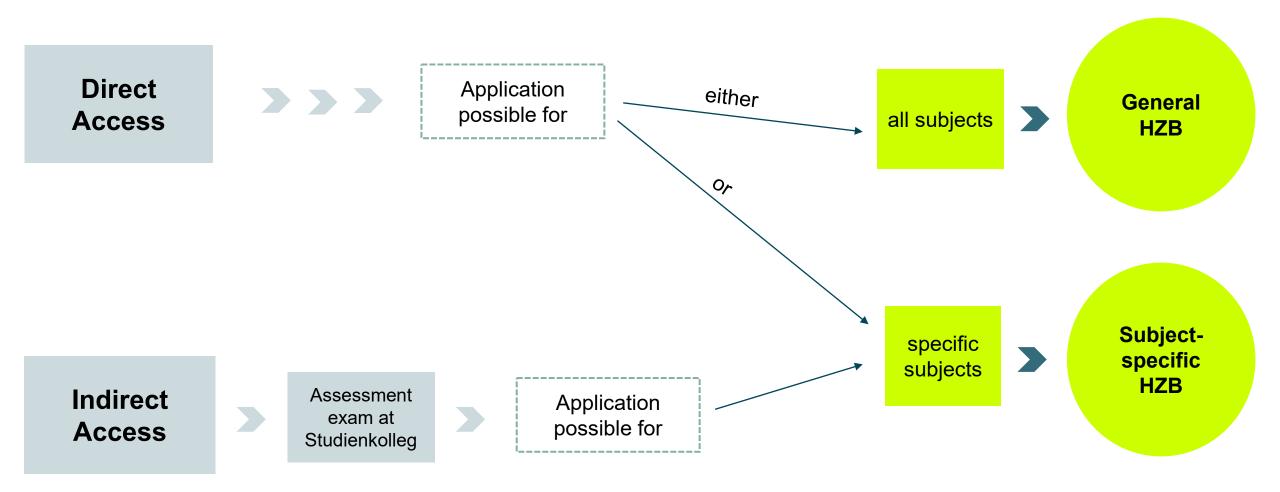
or...

#### .. no access

to higher education in Germany

Please visit the
General Academic
Advisory Service
of FU Berlin or an
educational
counseling service
in Berlin

# Higher Education Entrance Qualification (HZB) (relevant for undergraduate programs)



# What type of higher education entrance qualification do I have? (relevant for undergraduate programs)



CHECK

### Check: university admission

If you wish to study in Germany, you need a University entrance qualification, called "Hochschulzugangsberechtigung" or "HZB" for short. This database was developed in cooperation with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Its contents are based on the guidelines provided by the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB).

Find out quickly and simply if you are qualified to study in Germany using your Educational certificates.

## Studienkolleg

- If you have an indirect university entrance qualification, you have to do an assessment exam ("Feststellungsprüfung").
- This assessment exam is the final part of a one-year preparatory course at Studienkolleg. You can apply for FU Berlin's Studienkolleg directly, but you will need a pre-check ("VPD") by uni-assist in order to apply.
- For application, German skills at level B2.2 CEFR is required.
- After application you will then be invited to take an entry test for being selected to the Studienkolleg.
- The preparatory course at Studienkolleg has all-day classes taking place on five weekdays in various subjects and in German.
- Information on the entry test: <a href="https://www.fu-berlin.de/sites/studienkolleg/studierfaehigkeitstest/index.html">https://www.fu-berlin.de/sites/studienkolleg/studierfaehigkeitstest/index.html</a>

## German Skills

## For the application, you need one of these certificates

- C1 CEFR certificate with grades
- TestDaF with at least level 4 in two parts and level 3 in two parts (f.e. 4/4/3/3)
- language evaluation test, which attests skills at level C1 CEFR
- DSH 1

For enrollment (shortly before semester start), you need one of these certificates

- DSH 2 (test offered by FU Berlin)
- Telc C 1-Hochschule (at least "good"/"gut")
- C 2-Zertifikat des Goethe-Instituts
- Deutsches Sprachdiplom der Kultusministerkonferenz - Zweite Stufe (DSD II)
- Feststellungsprüfung des Studienkollegs (Assessment Exam of the Studienkolleg)
- <u>TestDaF</u> with at least level 4 in all four parts

## Additional Language Skills

Some degree programs require English (or other language) proficiency for enrollment.

## What additional language skills do I need to prove?

You can check on <u>www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/studienangebot/grundstaendige/</u> whether the degree program of your choice requires additional skills in another language.

## How can I provide proof of language skills?

On the <u>university's Application website</u> you can learn more about how to prove those language skills.

### **Consecutive master programs**

- ✓ undergraduate degree in the same or a similar field of study
- ✓ sometimes specialization, credit points in specific modules
- ✓ usually German skills
- ✓ often further language skills

### **Master of Education**

- ✓ university degree with specific amount of credits in didactics and pedagogics from a German university
- ✓ German skills
- ✓ often further language skills

## Continuing education master programs

- ✓ university degree
- ✓ vocational experiences of at least 12 months in the field of study
- ✓ often German skills
- √ often further language skills

programs charge tuition fees

## **Consecutive master programs**

- ✓ undergraduate degree in the same or a similar field of study
- ✓ sometimes specialization, credit points in specific modules
- ✓ usually German skills
- ✓ often further language skills

### Chemistry

Contact

**Email** 

Homepage

- Master's programs

Department of Biology, Chemistry, and Pharmacy Institute of Chemistry and Biochemistry



Address	Arnimallee 22 14195 Berlin
Telephone	(030) 838-53701 (only for admission requirements and study program)

admission@chemie.fu-berlin.de

Chemie (Master) • Department of Biology, Chemistry, and

Björn Kleier

**Pharmacy** 

### **Consecutive master programs**

- ✓ undergraduate degree in the same or a similar field of study
- ✓ sometimes specialization, credit points in specific modules
- ✓ usually German skills
- ✓ often further language skills

#### Admission Requirements

For admittance to the master's program applicants need to fulfill the following admission requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in business administration with a minimum of 18 credit points in accounting and/or taxation and also with a minimum of 18 credit points in mathematics, statistics, and/or econometrics or an equivalent degree with a minimum of 18 credit points in accounting and/or taxation and also with a minimum of 18 credit points in mathematics, statistics, and/or econometrics.
- Proof of English language skills (level B2 CEFR) or equivalent.
- Applicants are required to show the ability to treat subjects in the areas of Management and/or Marketing under supervision with scientifically sound methods. The Bachelor's thesis or a term paper of at least 15 pages text may serve as proof of this ability.

The DSH - or German Language University Entrance Exam for Foreign Students - is obligatory for all applicants whose first language is not German and who have earned their initial degree from a university (or equivalent institution) where the language of instruction is not German.

Detailed information on application requirements can be found on the master's program's website.

### **Consecutive master programs**

- ✓ undergraduate degree in the same or a similar field of study
- ✓ sometimes specialization, credit points in specific modules
- ✓ usually German skills
- ✓ often further language skills

### Admission Requirements

For admittance to the master's program applicants need to fulfill the following admission requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in art history or equivalent university degree with credit points in art history corresponding to the program at Freie Universität Berlin with at least 60 credit points.
- Proof of English language skills (level B1 CEFR).
- Proof of another modern foreign language (level B1 CEFR) or Latin language skills.

The DSH - or German Language University Entrance Exam for Foreign Students - is obligatory for all applicants whose first language is not German and who have earned their initial degree from a university (or equivalent institution) where the language of instruction is not German.

## Questions related to Admission Requirements

## Applied Literary Studies - Contemporary Literature

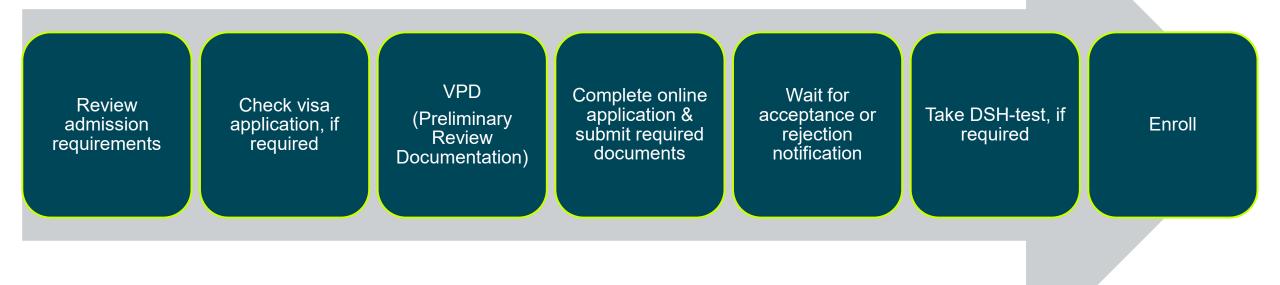
- Master's programs

Department of Philosophy and Humanities		
Peter Szondi Institute of Comparative Literature		





# Applying in 7 Steps



## Step 2: Visa and Residency Permits, if required

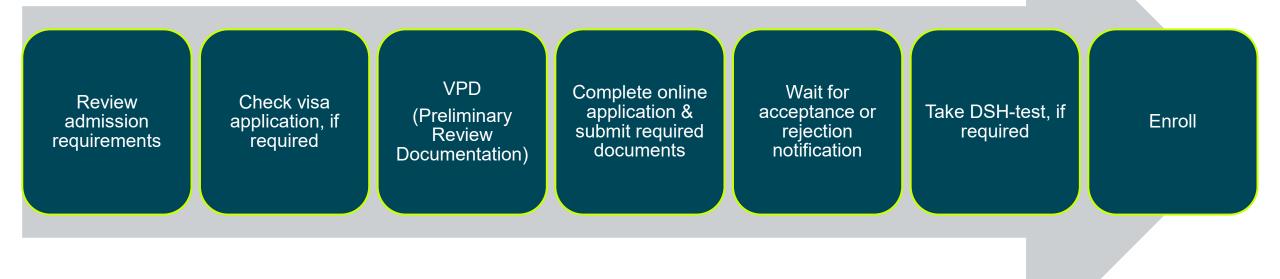
### Do I need a visa?

- Check <a href="https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/visa-service/visabestimmungen-node">https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/visa-service/visabestimmungen-node</a>
- https://www.daad.de/en/studying-in-germany/living-in-germany/visa/
- https://www.study-in-germany.de/en/plan-your-studies/requirements/visa/

### Where do I apply for a visa?

- Contact the German embassy or consulate in your home country. You can find the addresses of the German embassy or consulate here: <a href="https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/about-us/auslandsvertretungen">https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/about-us/auslandsvertretungen</a>
- Information on how to apply and required documents is available on the website of the respective German embassy or consulate.

# Applying in 7 Steps



## Step 3: Before application – VPD

② My assist ☑ Contact ⑤ Language ◯ Search

**assist** 

HOW TO APPLY

ABOUT US

PLAN YOUR APPLICATION ASSEMBLE YOUR DOCUMENTS APPLY ONLINE PAY ALL FEES SEND & TRACK

Start / How to apply / Plan your application / VPD



## VPD - preliminary review documentation

Some of our universities use special application procedures. Find out here what a VPD ("Vorprüfungsdokumentation") is and what you need to consider.

- ∨ What is a preliminary review documentation (VPD)?
- □ Do I need to follow the VPD procedure?
- ∨ How do I get a VPD?
- ∀ How long does processing take?
- ∨ What do I need to do after receiving my VPD?

#### What is a preliminary review documentation (VPD)?

We create the VPD for some universities. It contains the following information:

- which educational certificates were presented
- how uni-assist evaluates these educational certificates
- how uni-assist rates the grade within the German system of grades

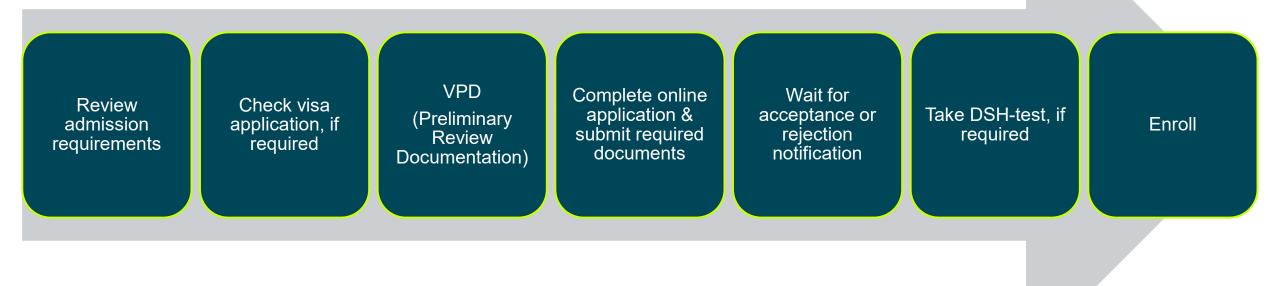


## Before application – VPD

- VPD: Having the documents of your HZB checked by uni-assist
- You can apply for a VPD at any time, regardless of our application deadlines. It is valid for one year after issuance.
- Valid for only one university and only for one year
- Necessary, if your bachelor's degree is not from a German university

Important Note: Apply for the VPD as early as possible because it might take up to 8 weeks until you receive your VPD, which you need for applying at FU Berlin.

# Applying in 7 Steps



# Undergraduate degree programs: Documents needed for the VPD/application

#### VPD:

- Upload school leaving and university certificates (in original language)
- Upload official translations of all certificates if issued in any language other than English or German

#### **Online Application at FUB:**

Upload proof of sufficient knowledge of German (exception: North American Studies) + all school leaving and university certificates + official translations

#### **Additional information:**

- If you have to prove other language skills for your study program, you need to do so upon enrollment, hence it is not part of the application process (only for undergraduate studies!)
- Applicants with certificates from China, India or Vietnam have to submit the original certification from an Academic Evaluation Centre (Akademische Prüfstelle APS) in addition to the required documents.
- Please check <a href="https://www.uni-assist.de/tools/laenderhinweise/">https://www.uni-assist.de/tools/laenderhinweise/</a> to find out if you need adittional documents for the VPD
- Missing documents due to flight: Please be sure to mention this on your form at uni-assist because application is still possible in that case

# Graduate degree programs: Documents needed for the VPD/application

#### For the VPD:

- graduation certificate (if you have completed your studies) and school leaving certificates (if you have not completed your studies)
- official current transcript of records (with an overall grade)
- Upload official translations of all certificates if issued in any language other than English or German

### For the online application at FUB:

- VPD + all school leaving and university certificates and official translations
- If required, upload proof of sufficient knowledge of German
- If required, upload proof of sufficient proof of <u>English language knowledge</u>
- If required, proof of another language

# Graduate degree programs: Documents needed for the VPD/application

#### **Additional information:**

- Applicants with certificates from China, India or Vietnam have to submit the original certification from an
   Academic Evaluation Centre (Akademische Prüfstelle APS) in addition to the required documents.
- Please check <a href="https://www.uni-assist.de/tools/laenderhinweise/">https://www.uni-assist.de/tools/laenderhinweise/</a> to find out if you need adittional documents for the VPD
- Missing documents due to flight: Please be sure to mention this on your form at uni-assist because application is still possible in that case

# Special documents needed for application for Master's programs

- If you do not have completed your bachelor's program, you can apply with a Transcript of Records instead under two conditions:
  - 1. You have completed at least 2/3 of your study program
  - 2. You have registered for the bachelor's thesis (but not all of our Master programs require this)

# Step 4a: Application for Staatsexamen: Pharmacy and Veterinary Medicine

<ul> <li>German abitur or</li> <li>EU/EEA citizenship</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>No German abitur and</li> <li>No EU/EEA citizenship</li> </ul>
Register at www.hochschulstart.de	
Apply via www.hochschulstart.de	<b>Apply</b> via <a href="https://fu-berlin.hispro.de">https://fu-berlin.hispro.de</a> and upload your VPD document there
Prioritize your applications, if you have more than one	Prioritize your applications, if you have more than one

# Step 4b: Application for Mono Bachelor's programs and Law

Register at www.hochschulstart.de

Apply via <a href="https://fu-berlin.hispro.de">https://fu-berlin.hispro.de</a> and upload your VPD document there

Prioritize your applications, if you have more than one

(Up to 3 applications, but only one admission possible)

# Step 4c: Application for Combination Bachelor's programs

## **Apply**

- via <a href="https://fu-berlin.hispro.de">https://fu-berlin.hispro.de</a> and upload your VPD document there
- Up to 3 applications, parallel admissions possible

## Step 4d: Application for Master's programs

## **Apply**

- via <a href="https://fu-berlin.hispro.de">https://fu-berlin.hispro.de</a> and upload your VPD document there
- No VPD required if you have a German university degree
- Two parallel applications possible

## Application deadlines for Master Programs

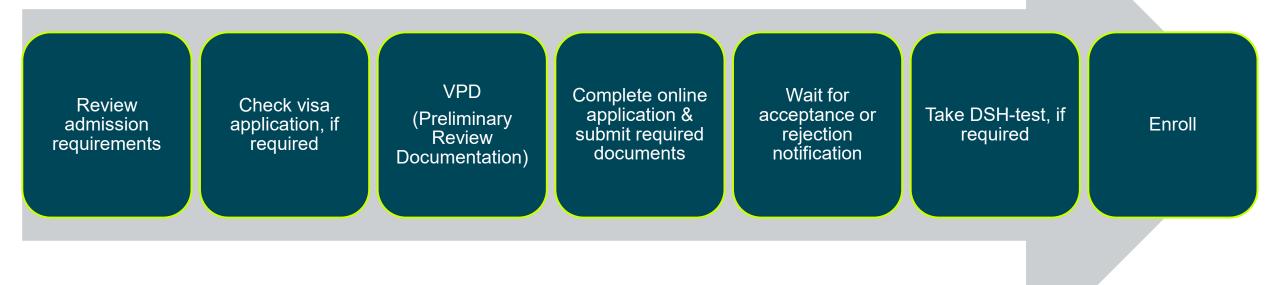
### Master programs with restricted admission

for the summer semester: 01.12. - 15.01. / for the winter semester: 15.04.- 31.05.

### Master programs with unrestricted admission & Master of Education

for the summer semester: 01.12. - 15.01. / for the winter semester: 15.04. - 15.08.

# Applying in 7 Steps



## Step 5: Admission quotas for Bachelor programs

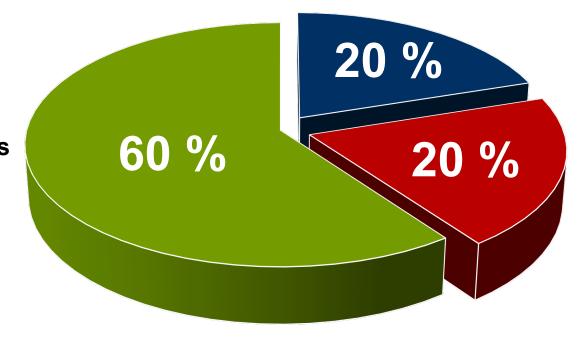
8 % to applicants with no German abitur AND no EU citizenship (5 % in Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy)

of the rest:

20 % according to the grade point average (GPA)

20 % according to the number of waiting semesters

60 % according to a quota of the university GPA + practical/vocational experiences, or GPA + study test



## Selection Process for Master programs

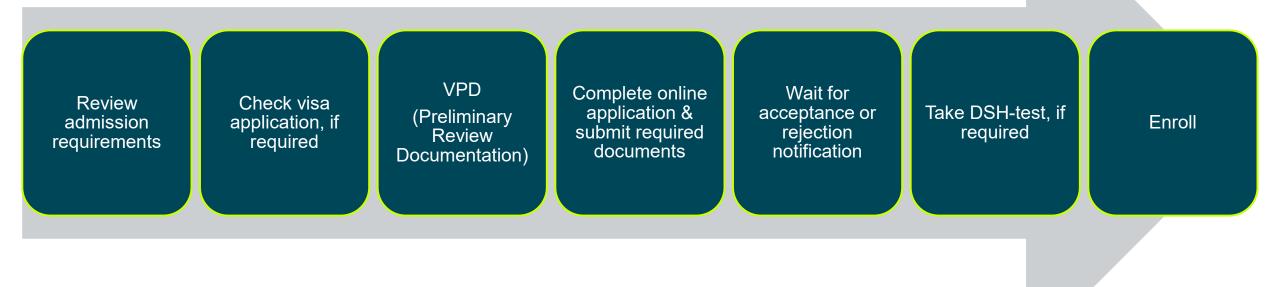
> 5 % hardships

Remaining study places:

- > 20 % wait time
- > 80 % university quota\*

\*calculation depends on the master program's admission statues; usually the **grade point average** of your bachelor degree **plus additional points** for vocational experience, or subject-related specialisations, or an interview, or an combination of all.

# Applying in 7 Steps





## Questions related to your Application

## www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/beratung/ssc

info-service@fu-berlin.de

+4930 838 70000

Mon-Thu 9-16h, Friday 9-14h



Student Services Center, Image: Neslihan Berrais

## Costs and finances

- Information on working as an international student: <a href="https://www.stw.berlin/en/kompetenzwerk/job-und-career/studentjobs.html">https://www.stw.berlin/en/kompetenzwerk/job-und-career/studentjobs.html</a>
- Costs depending on living situation, family status, lifestyle etc.
- No general study fees
- Semester contribution including public transport) of currently a little over EUR 350.00
- Federal Student Assistance Act available for non-German students if they fulfil certain criteria; maximum rate about 900 €/month as an orientation (<a href="https://www.stw.berlin/en/finanzierung/baf%C3%B6g-faq/20.-">https://www.stw.berlin/en/finanzierung/baf%C3%B6g-faq/20.-</a> baf%C3%B6g-for-international-students.html)
- Scholarships: www.daad.de / www.stipendiumplus.de / www.mystipendium.de / www.e-fellows.net
- Student credits (Studentische Darlehenskasse, Bildungskredit des Bundesverwaltungsamt, KfW, banks ...)
- Tips on housing: <a href="https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/international/degree\_seeking/housing/index.html">https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/international/degree\_seeking/housing/index.html</a>