

EXCHANGE PROGRAM Institutional Data Sheet

GENERAL INFORMATION

Institution	Merz Akademie, Hochschule für Gestaltung, Kunst und Medien D STUTTGART
General website	www.merz-akademie.de
Information for Incoming	https://www.merz-akademie.de/international-office/#incomings
Merz Akademie brochure	https://www.merz-akademie.de/wp-content/uploads/MA_Broschuere_engl.pdf
International Office – address	International Office Teckstr. 58 70190 Stuttgart
International Office - contact	Birgit Haasen phone: +49 711 268 66 47 fax: +49 711 268 22 21 email: birgit.haasen@merz-akademie.de

DATES

Academic calendar	Winter semester: 01/09 – 28/02 Summer semester 01/03 – 31/08
Lecture period	Winter semester 25/26: Okt. 6th, 2025 – Jan. 30th, 2026 Summer semester 2026: April 6th – Jul. 17th, 2026 Orientation week begins one week BEFORE lecture period, project presentations/ exhibitions end one week AFTER lecture period.
Applications deadline for exchange students:	01/05 for the winter semester (nominations until 15/04) 01/11 for the summer semester (nominations until 15/10)
Transcript of Records procedure:	Students need to contact the student office.

LOCAL GRADING SYSTEM OF THE INSTITUTION

Local Grade	German Description	English Description
1,0 – 1,5	Sehr gut	Very good
1,6 – 2,5	Gut	Good
2,6 – 3,5	Befriedigend	Satisfactory
3,6 – 4,0	Ausreichend	Sufficient
> 4,0	Nicht ausreichend	Non-Sufficient

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INCOMING STUDENT INFO

Course catalogues	BA Study Plan: https://www.merz-akademie.de/wp-content/uploads/Merz_Akademie_BA_Modulplan_ENG.pdf General BA Course catalogue Master program: Research in Design, Art and Media – Designing the Future Study regulations and Module plan
Required language skills	B2 (CEFR) German or English
Health Insurance	Germany health insurance is mandatory for students. Students from EU countries health insured can use the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC): http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=559 Health Insurance Options for International Students in Germany https://www.germany-visa.org/insurances-germany/health-insurance/international-students/
Private liability insurance (optional)	This type of insurance (in German “Haftpflichtversicherung”) compensates for personal injury and damage to property caused by unintentional misconduct. It is not obligatory to take out liability insurance but we strongly recommend it. For example, personal injuries could be caused by a bicycle accident (harm to another person) or you rent an apartment while traveling in Germany and something gets damaged by accident. Please check in your home country if any type of insurance applies in Germany (or also other European countries, if you plan to travel). Costs are approximately EUR 20 to EUR 25 for six months. https://www.germany-visa.org/insurances-germany/liability-insurance/
Visa	Student visa (“Visum zu Studienzwecken”) German embassy or consulate in your home country usually valid for 3 months Around 90 EUR https://www.study-in.de/en/plan-your-studies/requirements/visa-and-residence-permit_26604.php Visa Application Amt für öffentliche Ordnung, Ausländer- und Staatsangehörigkeitsrecht Eberhardstraße 39 70173 Stuttgart Required documents • Certificate confirming health insurance coverage • Proof of financial resources • Certificates of past academic work and achievements • Notification of admission from the Merz Akademie • Student ID from the Merz Akademie • Certificate of German language proficiency or proof that you plan to attend a language course in Germany (for visa extension)
Visa (cont’d)	

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Bank account for studentship	We recommend opening a local bank account during your stay in Stuttgart, as certain monthly payments (e.g., rent, insurance, or subscriptions) often require direct bank transfers. You can open an account at any major bank in Stuttgart, such as BW Bank, Deutsche Bank, Commerzbank, among others. You'll typically need the following documents to open a bank account: • A valid passport and a current visa. • Student ID from the Merz Akademie. • Proof of financial resources. • Registration certificate from the city of Stuttgart (Meldebescheinigung). The blocked bank account (Sperrkonto) serves as proof of financing for a student visa or residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) in Germany. It ensures that you can pay the cost of living during your stay in Germany. The current requirement of proof is 992€ per month. See links below for more information and how to apply: https://www.mygermanuniversity.com/de/blocked-account-germany https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/sperrkonto/388600
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HOUSING

Studierendenwerk Stuttgart	Student Dormitory Accommodations The Studierendenwerk Stuttgart owns and maintains several student dorms in Stuttgart. Conditions and Application Process: Rents for single rooms range approx. between EUR 350 and EUR 475. Rental of a dormitory room includes: furniture, internet access, also bed linen (duvet, pillow, duvet cover, pillow case, sheet) and final cleaning after departure Online Application via Studierendenwerk Website must be completed. here Please note deadlines for housing application process: For winter semester - June 15th For summer semester - December 15th VERY IMPORTANT: If you do not register until deadline, you will not receive a student room. Studierendenwerk Accommodation Fact Sheet
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COSTS

Cost of living	approx. 800-1000 EUR per month rent for apartment/ room: approx. 350-475 EUR per month health insurance: 100-150 EUR per month misc. costs
Semester contribution	Studierendenwerk Stuttgart membership fee: 96,50 EUR allocated through the university in order to: - receive access to housing in student residences of Stuttgart (see Housing) - benefit from other student services of the Studierendenwerk Stuttgart