



Hochschule Aalen
UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

FAQ – TUITION FEES

Valid from February 2026

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Who has to pay international tuition fees?

International prospective students who are not citizens of an EU/EEA member state (third-country nationals) and do not have a German university entrance qualification (e.g., Abitur) must pay tuition fees if they enrol in or transfer to a bachelor's or masters/master's programme.

How much are the tuition fees?

Prospective international students must pay €1,500 in tuition fees for every semester of their course of studies. The usual Semester Contributions must also be paid.

When and how are tuition fees paid after admission for the first semester?

The tuition and Semester Contributions are due in full when you submit your application for matriculation. The deadline for matriculation can be found in your letter of admission.

You should ensure that the transfer fees and any losses due to the exchange rate are also covered by the payment. If the amount received by Aalen University of Applied Sciences is lower than the amount due on the due date, enrolment will only be completed once the difference has been paid.

You can ask another person in Germany or abroad to transfer an amount for you, but you should make sure that the correct reason for payment, purpose of payment is stated. Cash or card payments on site are not possible. Installment payments and payments for two semesters at the same time are not possible.

Information about the bank account and reason for payment, purpose of payment can be found in the admission and Official notification of tuition fees as well as in the application for enrolment at the end of the online enrolment process.

When and how are tuition fees paid for the following semesters during the course of studies?

From the second semester onwards, tuition fees and general Semester Contributions are due in full during the re-registration period (latest possible date for re-registration).

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A late fee is payable for late re-registrations.

Who does not have to pay tuition fees?

German citizens, citizens of an EU/EEA country, and prospective students who have obtained their university entrance qualification (e.g., Abitur) in Germany or a German university entrance qualification (German schools abroad) generally do not have to pay tuition fees.

This includes:

- Persons from the EU and the EEA (EU + Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein),
- International applicants/students who have a domestic university entrance qualification,
- students in a doctoral study program, and
- Double degree students from partner universities, provided that mutual fee exemption has been agreed in partnership agreements.

Who is exempt from the obligation to pay tuition fees?

Prospective students who have a well-established relationship to Germany are exempt.

If one of the exceptions applies to you, please send an email with the relevant reason for the exception to gebuehren@hs-aalen.de and send us your proofs before the first day of classes.

Exceptions from the obligation to pay tuition fees exist for:

- Spouses, partners, and children of EU/EEA nationals in accordance with Section 3 (1) and (4) of the Freedom of Movement Act/EU, or children who are not entitled to these rights because they are 21 years of age or older and do not receive financial support from their parents or their spouses or partners.
- Foreigners with a permanent settlement permit or EU long-term residence permit
- Foreigners with habitual residence in Germany who are granted recognition abroad under the Geneva Convention on Refugees and who are not only temporarily authorised to reside in Germany,

- Stateless foreigners under the law on the Legal Status of Stateless Foreigners in the Federal Territory,
- Foreigners who have their permanent residence in Germany and have a residence permit for reasons of international law, humanitarian, political, family, and other reasons with good prospects of remaining. This includes all those who have a residence permit in accordance with Sections 22, 23 (1), (2) or (4), Sections 23a, 24, 25 (1) or (2), Sections 25a, 25b, 28, 37, 38 (1) sentence 1 number 2 or Section 104a of the Residence Act (AufenthG)
- spouses, life partners, or children of foreigners with a permanent settlement permit who have a residence permit in accordance with Sections 30 or 32 to 34 of the Residence Act (AufenthG),
- foreigners who have their permanent residence in Germany due to a ban on deportation or another obstacle to departure, with a residence permit pursuant to Section 25 (3) or (4) sentence 2 or (5) or Section 31 of the Residence Act, who have been residing in Germany legally, with permission, and have received temporary suspension of deportation for at least 15 months without interruption,
- Spouses, life partners, or children of foreigners with a residence permit who have a residence permit in accordance with Sections 30 or 32 to 34 of the Residence Act and have been residing in Germany legally, with permission, and have received temporary suspension of deportation for at least 15 months without interruption,
- Tolerated foreigners with permanent residence in Germany who have been residing in Germany legally, with permission, and with a receipt for temporary suspension of deportation for at least 15 months without interruption,
- Foreigners who have resided in Germany for a total of 5 years and have been legally employed,
- Foreigners at least one of whose parents has resided in Germany for a total of three years during the last six years prior to the start of their course of studies and has been legally employed
- Foreigners who have completed a Bachelor's *and* masters/master's programme or a state examination or diploma programme in Germany (see then tuition fees for a second degree),

- Swiss citizens with Swiss nationality to whom the exception under the EU/Switzerland Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons applies,
- Turkish citizens with nationality who are covered by the exception under Decision No. 1/80 of the Association Council of September 19, 1980, on the development of the Association (EEC/Turkey), and
- Scholarship holders of the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung.

Who can be exempted from tuition fees?

You may be exempt from the obligation to pay tuition fees if you

- receive a scholarship from the DAAD,
- *are* a national of a country party to / signatory state to the partnership agreement 2000/483/EC between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part
- have the nationality of a country that has been designated by the United Nations as one of the least developed countries (LDC).
- Foreigners with a residence permit in accordance with Section 55 (1) of the Asylum Act who have a nationality of a country of origin that has been assessed by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees on the basis of an announcement by the Federal Ministry of the Interior with a recognition rate of 50 percent or more. You can find out which countries this currently applies to on the website of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees.
- Students with a disability causing difficulties during studies in accordance with Section 2 of SGB IX
- Students on a semester on leave.

If one of the exceptions applies to you, please send an e-mail with the relevant reason for the exception to gebuehren@hs-aalen.de and send us your proof before the first day of classes.

Do exchange students, Erasmus students, or students on a temporary study program have to pay tuition fees?

International students who are enrolled as part of university agreements do not pay fees if they come as part of a bilateral agreement with the partner university, usually for two semesters and without the intention of obtaining a degree (awarded), and if mutual exemption from fees has been agreed.

International students who are enrolled as part of agreements at state, federal, or international level that guarantee exemption from fees do not pay any fees.

Do international students who are pursuing a second course of studies pay double?

No. Anyone who has completed a Bachelor's and master's degree, state examination or diploma program in Germany only pays the tuition fee for a second degree (650 euros/semester).

If none of the bachelor's or master's degrees have been completed, international students only have to pay the tuition fees for international students (1,500 euros).

If international students take up another course of studies (e.g., another bachelor's or master's degree), they must pay €1,500 in tuition fees. If international students are exempt or exempted from the obligation to pay tuition fees for this course of studies (§ 5 and 6 LHGebG), the fee for a second course of studies must be paid (§ 8 LHGebG).

Tuition fees upon withdrawal from the EU/EEA

If a country leaves the European Union or the European Economic Area and citizens of that country would then be liable to pay tuition fees, citizens of that country can continue their studies in that degree programme free of charge, provided that they were enrolled in a degree programme at an institution of higher education in Baden-Württemberg for at least five semesters when the withdrawal took effect.

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Students from the United Kingdom who have taken up their course of studies with their own permanent residence in Germany by December 31, 2020 (= end of the transition period) are not required to pay tuition fees in accordance with §3 (1) (LHGebG).

Reimbursement and subsequent collection of tuition fees

If you undergo exmatriculation before the start of the semester, the fee paid will be subject to reimbursement upon submission of an application.

If you undergo exmatriculation within one month of the start of the lecture period, the fee already paid can also be refunded. A reimbursement application must be submitted.

If fees were not charged despite an existing obligation to pay tuition fees, they may be charged retrospectively.