



Checklist – Before your arrival

Visa – Residence Permit

<input type="checkbox"/>	Check whether you need a visa based on your nationality (EU/EEA citizens do not need one).
<input type="checkbox"/>	If needed, apply for a scientific/research visa (§18d Aufenthaltsgesetz) or Blue Card at the German embassy. (digital.diplo.de/visa)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure your passport is valid for at least 6 months beyond your planned stay.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gather necessary documents (employment contract/invitation letter/hosting agreement, proof of accommodation, financial proof, health insurance, etc.).
<input type="checkbox"/>	If staying longer than 90 days, check if a residence permit application is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If your family will accompany you, apply for a Family Reunion Visa for each family member.

Health Insurance (Public vs. Private) – Mandatory for all residents in Germany

<input type="checkbox"/>	Check whether you need Public or Private Health Insurance (depending on your contract/stipend).
<input type="checkbox"/>	EU/EEA citizens can use EHIC but should register with a German provider if staying long term.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Travel Health Insurance might be sufficient for short term stays, you may need private coverage. (check Euraxess for more information)

Housing and Accommodation

<input type="checkbox"/>	Arrange temporary accommodation (MPIK Guesthouse, hotels..)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Research long-term rentals in advance if needed, housing can be hard to come by, especially in Heidelberg.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Some landlords require a Schufa (credit check), which you won't have yet, so prepare to offer proof of income or a higher deposit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Arrange childcare for your children if they will accompany you (Daycare, Kindergarten, School etc..).

Finances and Bank Account

<input type="checkbox"/>	Open a blocked account (Sperrkonto) if required for your visa.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Research German banks (Sparkasse, Deutsche Bank, Commerzbank) or online banks (N26, Revolut, DKB).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check if your home country's bank has partnerships with German banks.

Work Contract & Taxes

<input type="checkbox"/>	Review your employment contract (salary, tax class, benefits).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check if your home country has a double taxation agreement with Germany.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Get familiar with taxes & deductions (Lohnsteuer, Sozialversicherung, Kirchensteuer if applicable).

Language Preparation

<input type="checkbox"/>	Learn basic German, English is common in research environments but you will need to learn German for long-term stays.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Get a translation of key documents (birth certificate, academic degrees).