

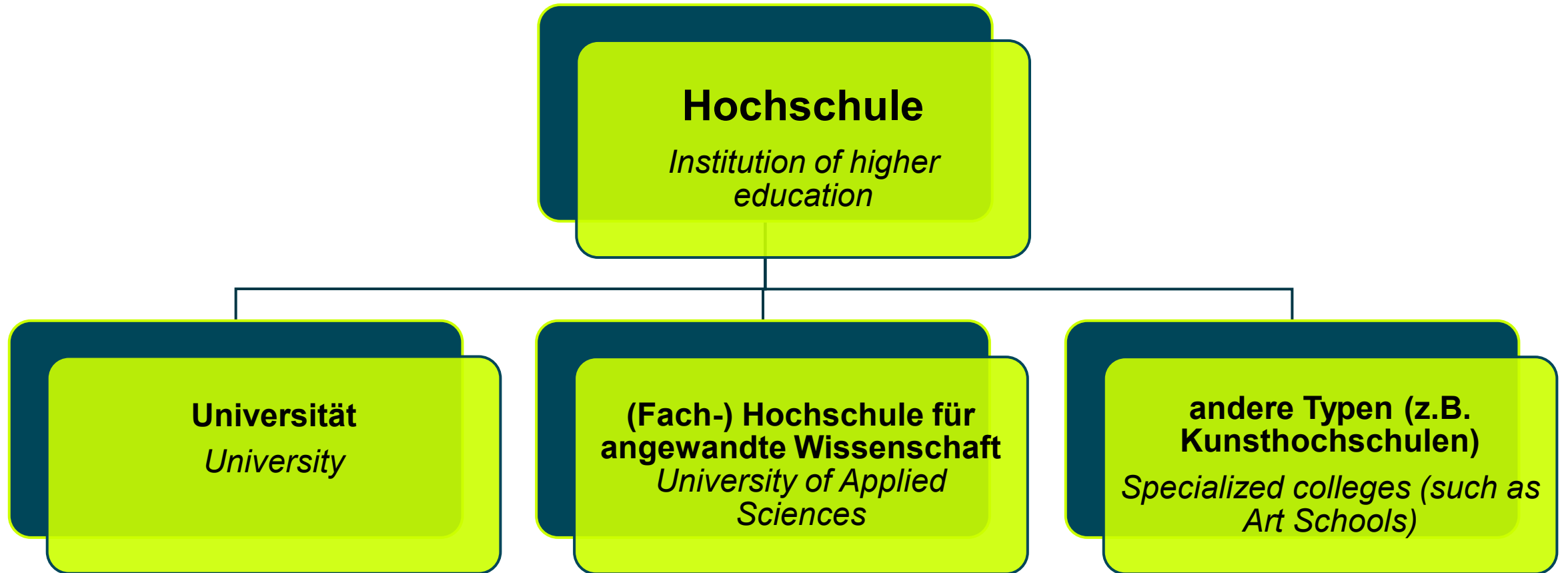
Studying at Freie Universität Berlin

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



Study Programs

Institutions of Higher Education



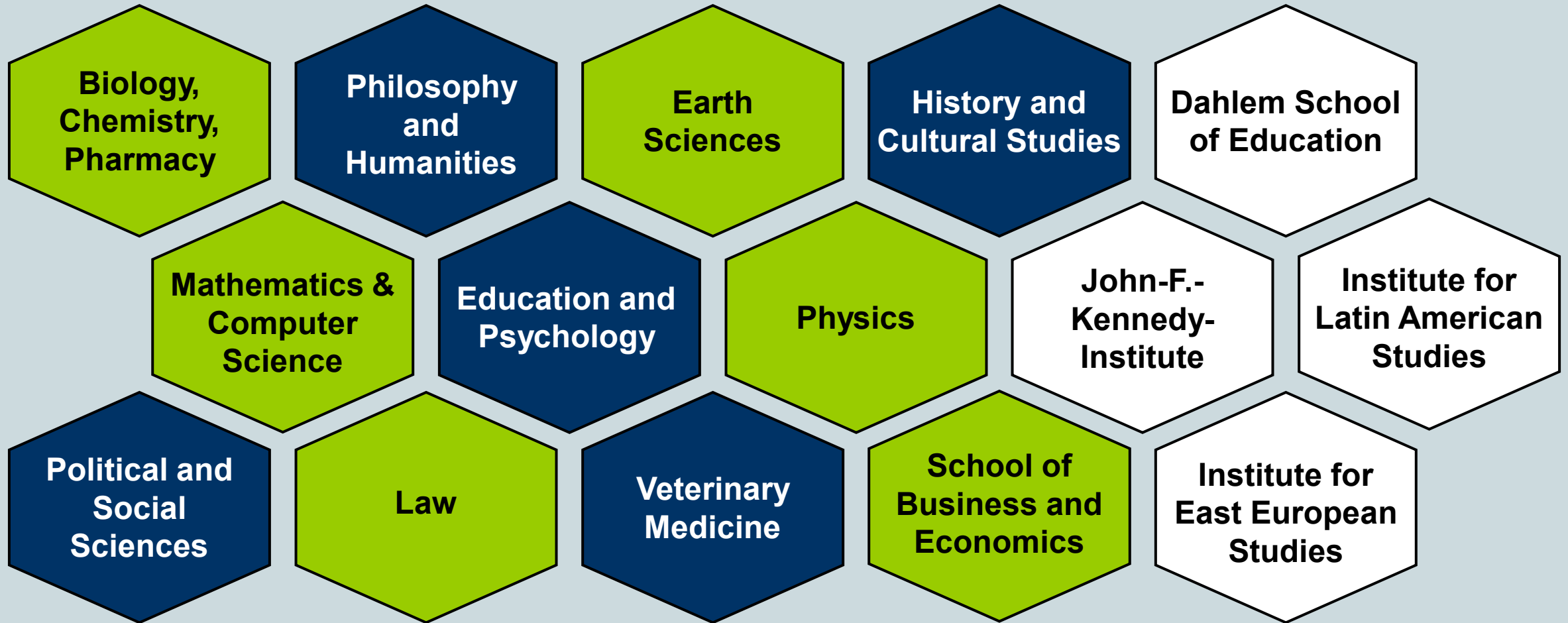
Freie Universität Berlin

Founded:	1948
Students:	33,000
Study Programs:	173
Bachelor's Programs:	78
Master's Programs:	95

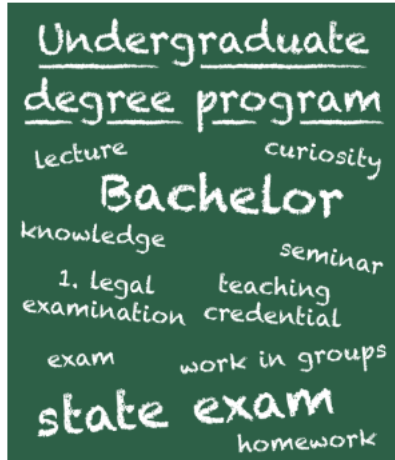


© Volker Möller

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](#)

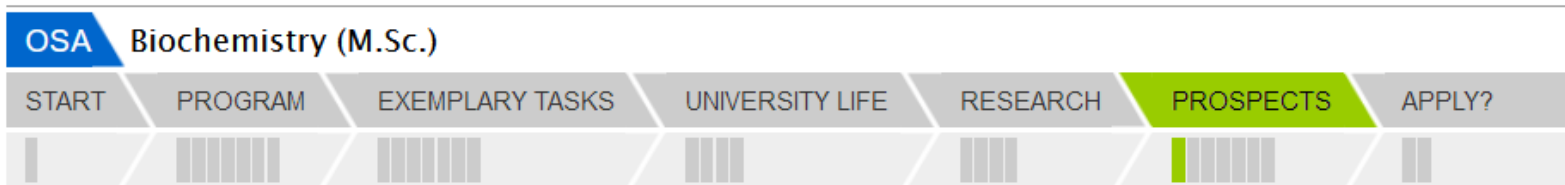
Master of Science

- [Biochemistry](#)
 - [Bioinformatics](#)
 - [Chemistry](#)
 - [Cognitive Neuroscience](#)
 - [Computational Sciences](#)
 - [Data Science](#)
 - [Economic Systems](#)
 - [Geographies of Global Inequalities](#)
 - [Mathematics](#)
 - [Pharmaceutical Research](#)
 - [Physics](#)
 - [Planetary Sciences and Space Exploration](#)
 - [Polymer Science](#) - 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

- [European and International Business, 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

Bachelor

3–4 years

Master

1–2 years

Doctorate

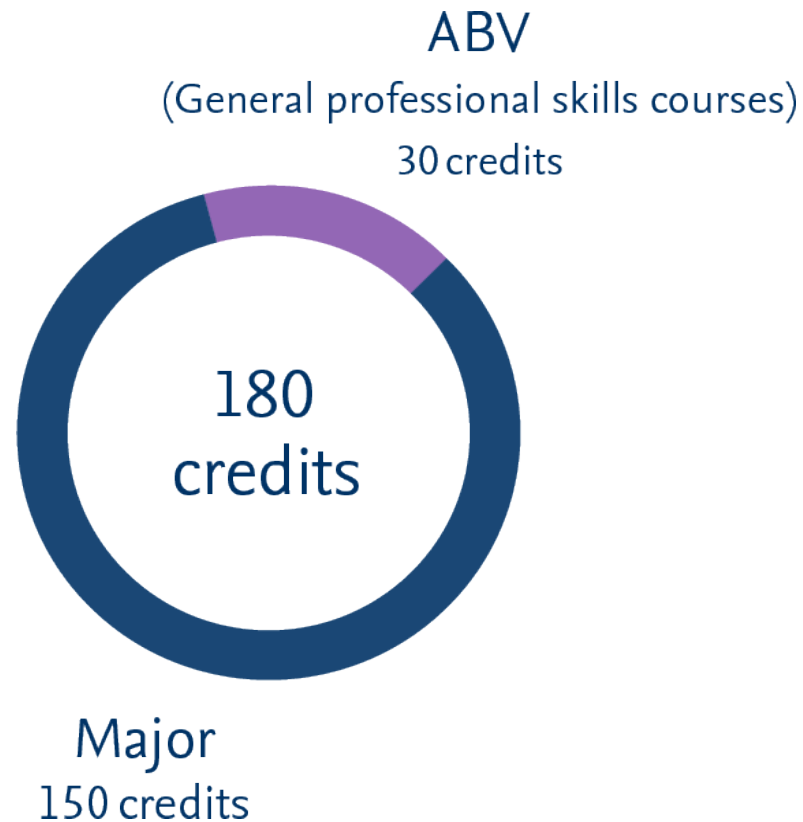
3+ years

4–6 years

State Exam



Single-subject Bachelor



ABV includes

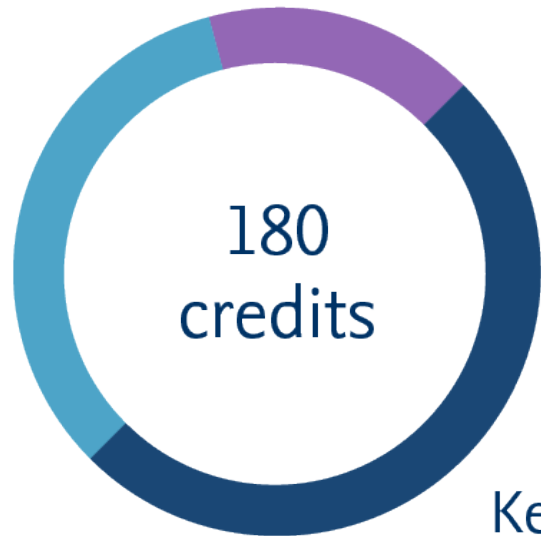
- Mandatory internship
- Elective courses in 8 areas (e.g. foreign languages, IT, Gender & Diversity)

Combination Bachelor

www.fu-berlin.de/bachelor
ABV

(General professional skills courses)
30 credits

Minor
60 credits



180
credits

Kernfach
90 credits

Minor 2
30 credits


Minor 1
30 credits



180
credits

Major
90 credits

Different combinations of subjects

Freie Universität  Berlin

Startseite Hilfe Kontakt Impressum

DE | EN

OSA

START STARTING POINT STUDY PROGRAMS **BA DEGREE PROGRAMS** PROSPECTS APPLYING

Interactive combination table

Here you can test different subject combinations!

The [table for subjects with optional teacher training](#) is on the next page and the combination [table for subjects at elementary schools](#) is part of the OSA Grundsulpädagogik (in German only).

(Kernfächer = major subjects; Modulangebote = minor subjects; LP = credit points)

	60 LP Modulangebote	30 LP Modulangebote
<input type="checkbox"/> Applied North American Studies	<input type="checkbox"/> Ancient Near Eastern Studies	Film Studies Modulangebot 60 LP
<input type="checkbox"/> Art History - Africa	<input type="checkbox"/> Art History - Africa	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art History - East Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> Art History - Europe and America	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art History - Europe and America	<input type="checkbox"/> Business	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese language and society	<input type="checkbox"/> Byzantine Studies	Art History - Europe and America Kernfach 90 LP
<input type="checkbox"/> Comparative Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese Studies	
<input type="checkbox"/> English Language and Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese language and society	
<input type="checkbox"/> Film Studies	<input type="checkbox"/> Classical Archaeology	
<input type="checkbox"/> French Language and Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Comparative Literature	General Professional Skills Courses (ABV) 30 LP
<input type="checkbox"/> German Language and Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Greek Language and Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Egyptology	
<input type="checkbox"/> History	<input type="checkbox"/> English Language and Literature	
<input type="checkbox"/> Italian Language and Literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Film Studies	
<input type="checkbox"/> Language and Society	<input type="checkbox"/> French Language and Literature (with and without prior knowledge)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Language – Literature – Culture: Dutch	<input type="checkbox"/> German Language and Literature	
<input type="checkbox"/> Latin Language and Literature		

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: Klaus Scholle



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



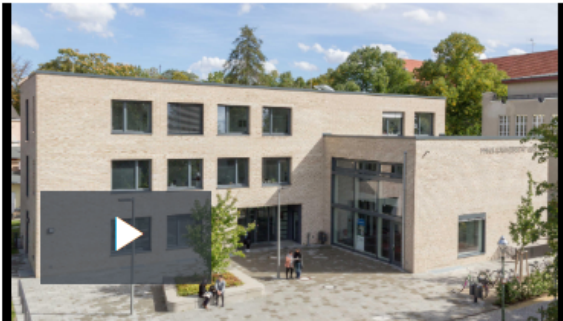
Graphic: FU Berlin

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

Illtisstr. 4 & Illtisstr. 1
14195 Berlin



Telephone [+49 30 838 70000](tel:+493083870000)

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

FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT
STUDENT SERVICES CENTER
ILTISSTR. 4
14195, BERLIN

THE INTERNATIONAL PEER MENTORING PROGRAM

Student? International? Looking for answers?

**LOOK NO MORE,
ASK YOUR
PEER MENTOR!**

REGISTER NOW

Our peer mentors are here to support you,
with studies, settling into Berlin, making
friends and **much more!**
Join our sessions by scanning the QR code:

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

▼ Admission Requirements

▼ Fees

▼ Subject

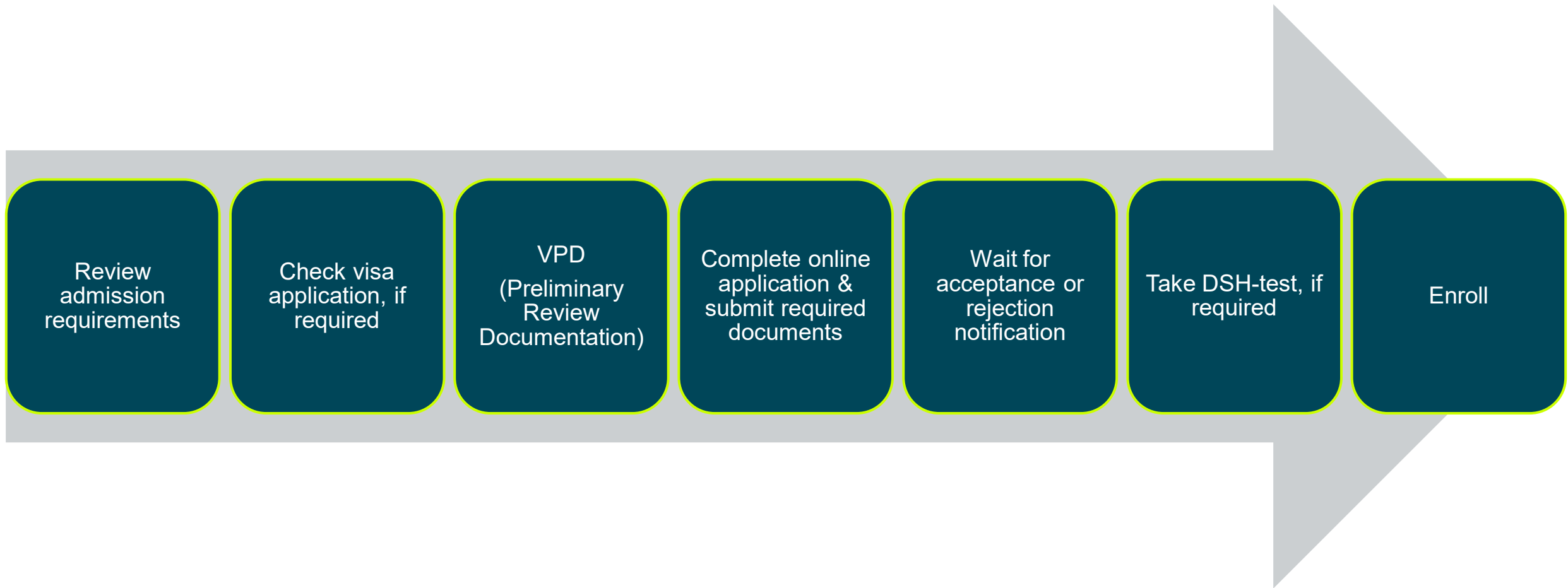
▲ Basic Information

1st Semester Admissions	Restricted admission
Admission for Higher Semesters	Unrestricted admission
Program Start	Winter semester
Language	German
Degree	Master of Arts (M.A.)
Duration	4 semesters

- „**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

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...

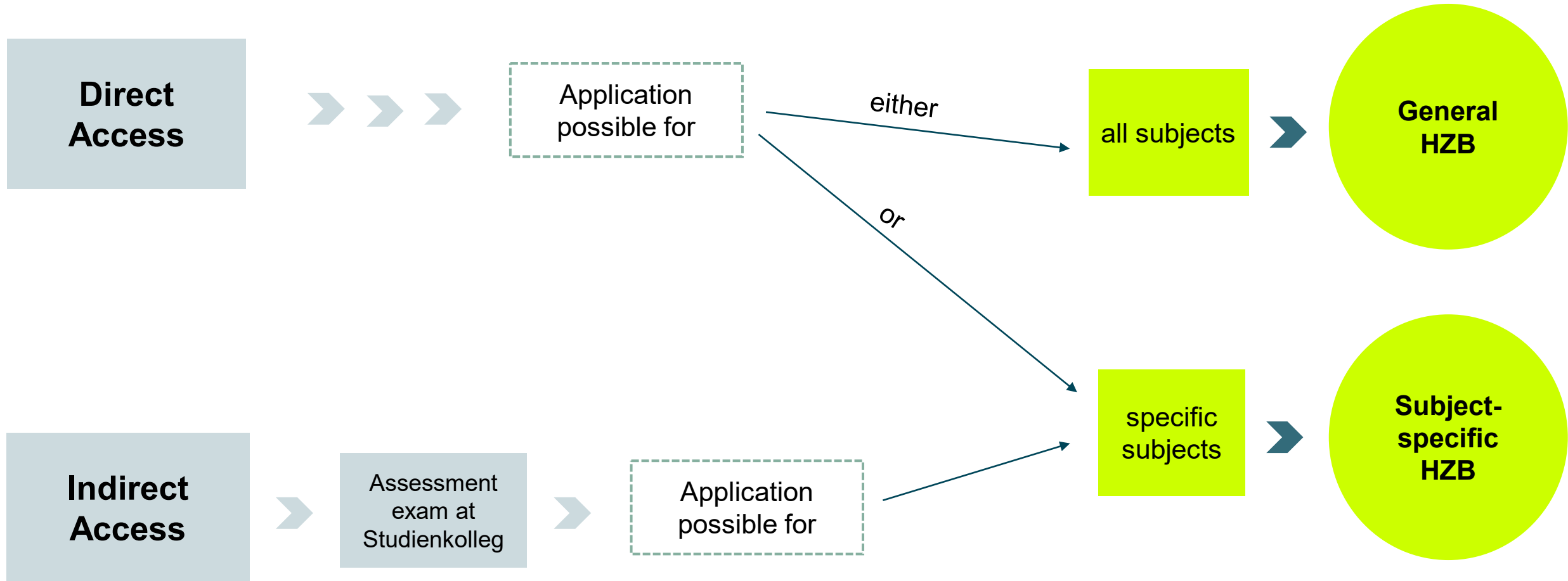
.. no access

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 apply for your desired degree program via uni-assist at the FU Berlin and are then invited to take the Scholastic Assessment Test (Entry Test).
- The preparatory course lasts 1 year. All-day classes take place on five weekdays in various subjects, and in German.
- Information on the entry test: <https://www.fu-berlin.de/sites/studienkolleg/studierfaehigkeitstest/index.html>

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)
- TestDaF 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 www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/studienangebot/grundstaendige/ whether the degree program of your choice requires additional skills in another language.

How can I provide proof of language skills?

- On the [university's **Application** website](http://www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/bewerbung/bachelor/allgemein/zugangsvoraussetzungen/) you can learn more about how to prove those language skills.

Admission Requirements for Master programs

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

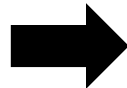
- ✓ university degree
- ✓ vocational experiences of at least 12 months in the field of study
- ✓ often German skills
- ✓ often further language skills

programs charge tuition fees

Admission Requirements for Master programs

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

- Master's programs

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

Contact Björn Kleier

Address Arnimallee 22
14195 Berlin

Telephone (030) 838-53701 (only for admission requirements and study program)

Email admission@chemie.fu-berlin.de

Homepage [Chemie \(Master\) • Department of Biology, Chemistry, and Pharmacy](#)

Admission Requirements for Master programs

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.

Admission Requirements for Master programs

Consecutive master programs

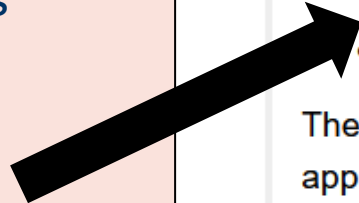
- ✓ undergraduate degree in the same or a similar field of study
- ✓ sometimes specialization, credit points in specific modules
- ✓ usually German skills
- ✓ often further language skills

▲ 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

Contact	Dr. Dorothee Risse, Dr. Johanna Bundschuh-van Duikeren
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Address	Habelschwerdter Allee 45 14195 Berlin
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Telephone	(030) 838-72329, (030) 838-60567
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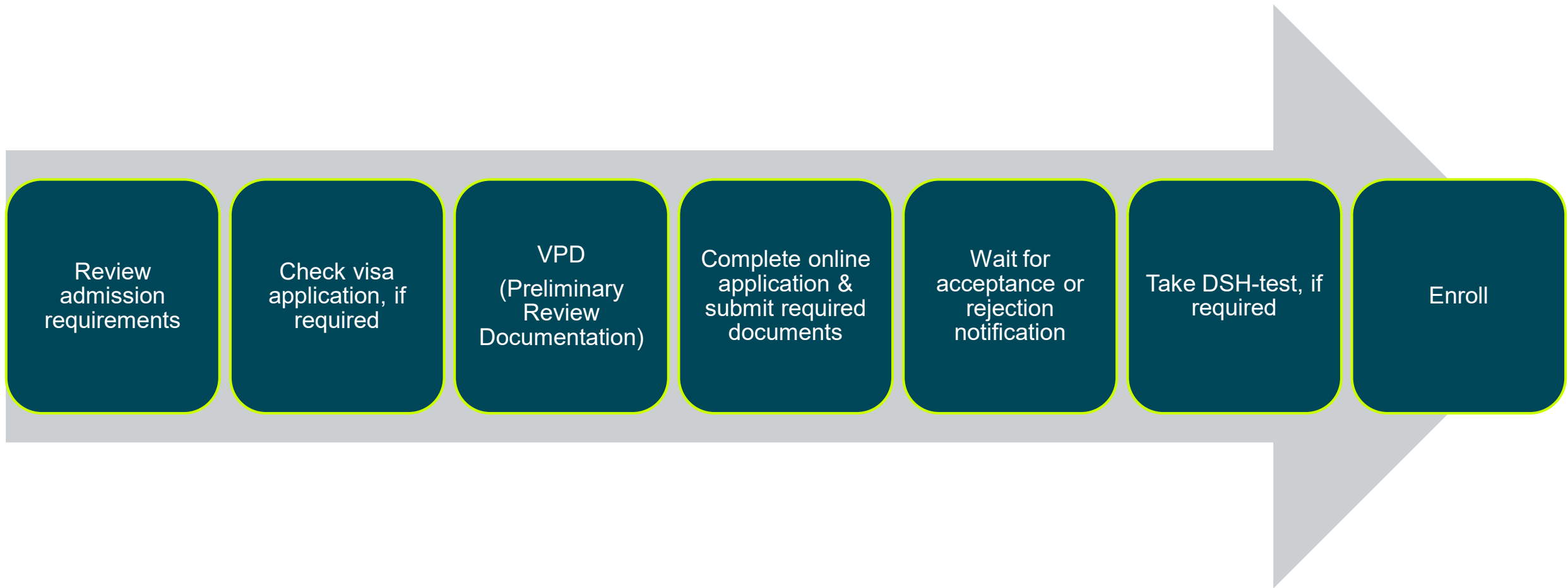
Fax	(030) 838-723 00
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Email	maagwliit@zedat.fu-berlin.de
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Homepage	Masterstudiengang Angewandte Literaturwissenschaft - Gegenwartsliteratur (in German)
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Applying in 7 Steps



Step 2: Visa and Residency Permits, if required

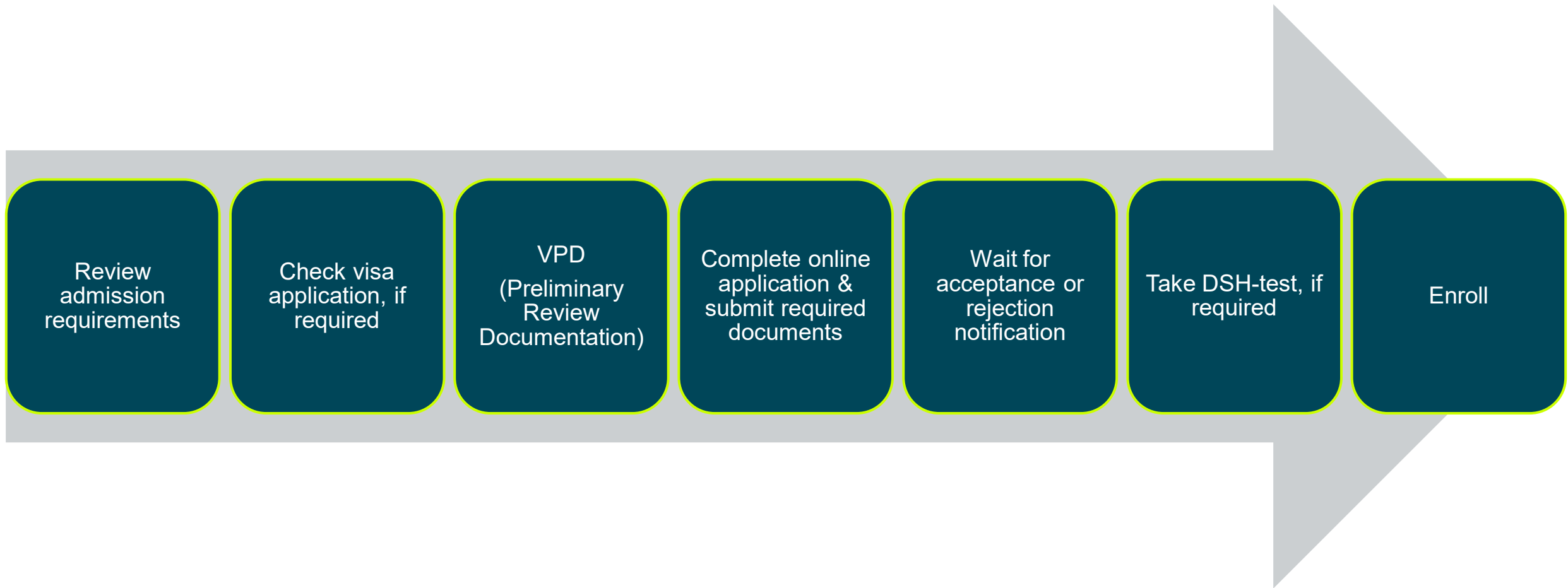
Do I need a visa?

- Check <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/visa-service/visabestimmungen-node>
- <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: <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/about-us/auslandsvertretungen>
- 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

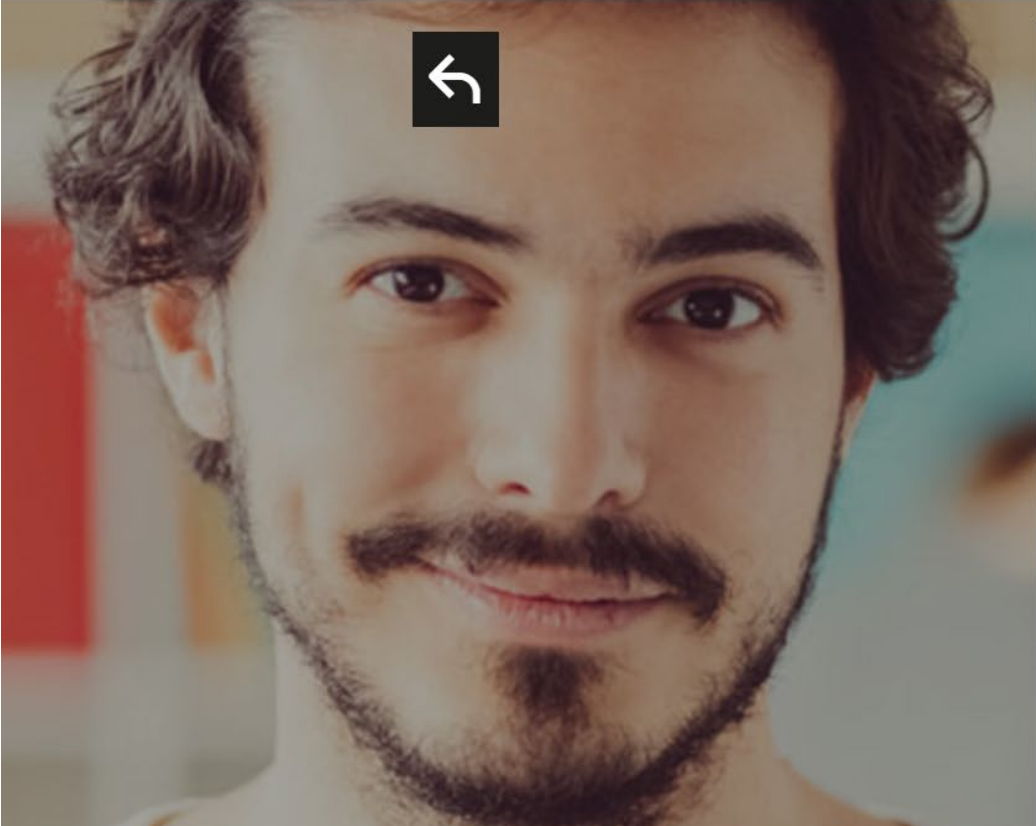



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[GET INFORMATION](#) [PLAN YOUR APPLICATION](#) [ASSEMBLE YOUR DOCUMENTS](#) [APPLY ONLINE](#) [PAY ALL FEES](#) [SEND & TRACK](#)

[Start](#) / [How to apply](#) / [Plan your application](#) / [VPD](#)



VPD – preliminary re-view documentation

Some of our universities use special application procedures. Find out here what a VPD ("Vorprüfungsdocumentation") 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)?

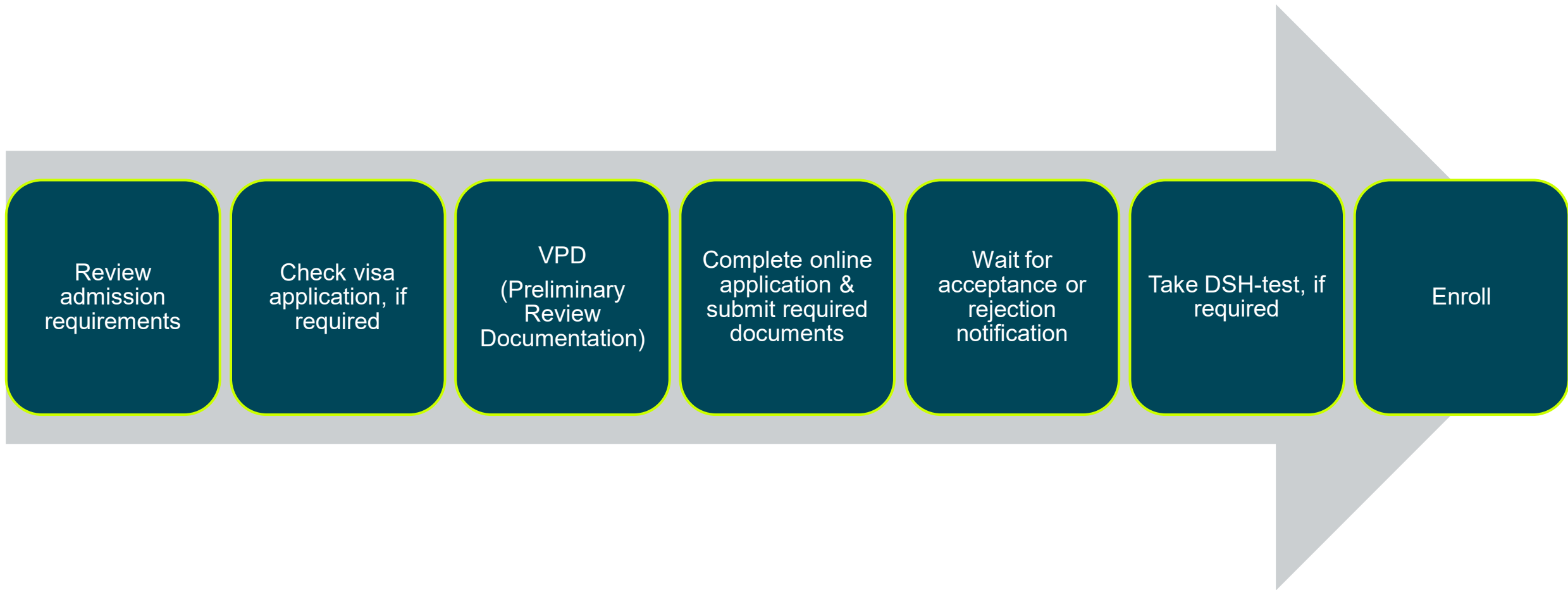
We create the VPD for some universities. It contains the following information:

- 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

- Having the documents of your HZB checked by uni-assist
- Valid for only one university and only for one year

Applying in 7 Steps



Undergraduate degree programs: Documents needed for the VPD/application

In general:

- 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
- Upload proof of sufficient knowledge of German (exception: North American Studies)

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.
- 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.
- Missing documents due to flight: request self-disclosure form from uni-assist (application still possible)

Graduate degree programs: Documents needed for the VPD/application

In general:

- graduation certificate (if you have 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
- If required, upload proof of sufficient knowledge of German
- If required, upload proof of sufficient proof of English language knowledge

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.
- Missing documents due to flight: request self-disclosure form from uni-assist (application still possible)

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: **Dentistry, Medicine, Pharmacy, Veterinary Medicine**

<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ German abitur or▪ EU/EEA citizenship ↓	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ No German abitur and▪ No EU/EEA citizenship ↓
Register at www.hochschulstart.de	Register at www.hochschulstart.de
Apply via www.hochschulstart.de	Apply via https://fu-berlin.hispro.de 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 <https://fu-berlin.hispro.de> 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 <https://fu-berlin.hispro.de> and upload your VPD document there
- Up to 3 applications, parallel admissions possible

Step 4d: Application for Master's programs

Apply

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

Application deadlines for Undergraduate Degree Programs

Undergraduate study programs with restricted admission + combination's bachelors

for the summer semester: 01.12. - **15.01.** / for the winter semester: 01.06.- **15.07.**

Undergraduate study programs with unrestricted admission

for the summer semester: 01.12. – **01.03.** / for the winter semester: 01.06. – **01.09.**

Exception:

31.05. (winter semester): High school graduates of earlier years from EEA countries who want to apply for Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacy, Human Medicine or Dentistry

Application deadlines for Master Programs

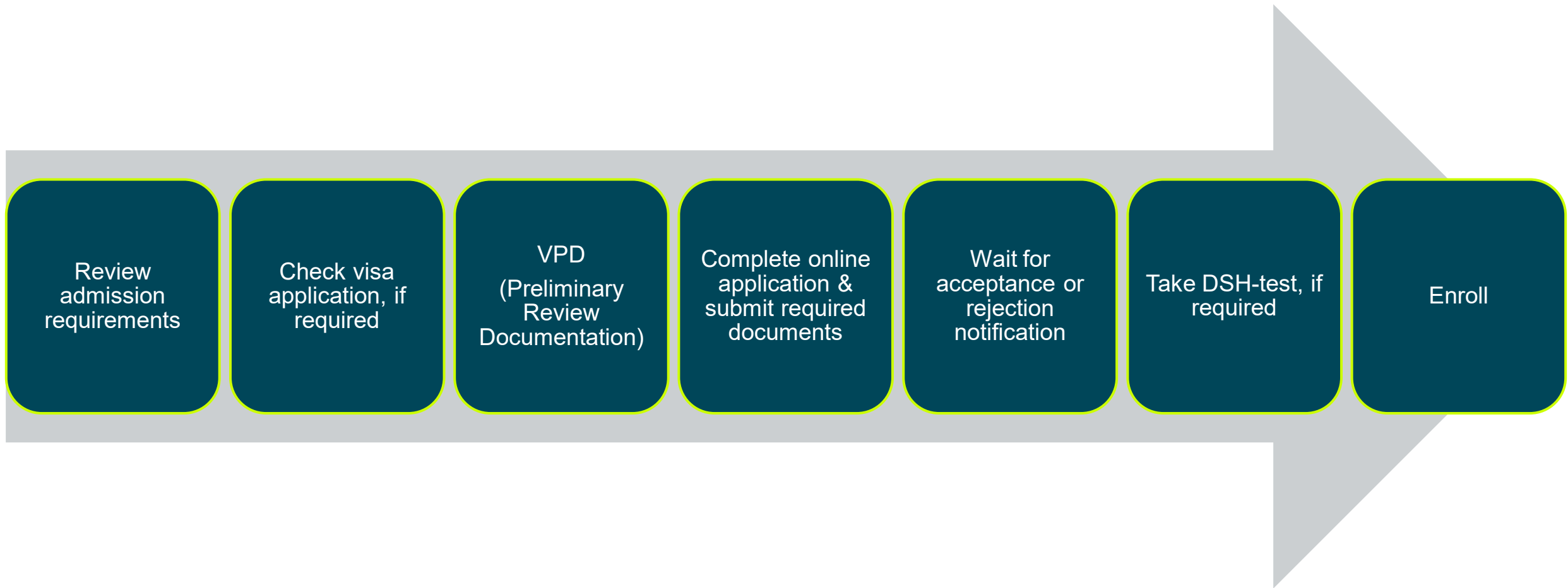
Master programs with restricted admission

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. – 15.02. / for the winter semester: 15.04. – 15.08.

Applying in 7 Steps



Step 5: Admission quotas for Bachelor programs

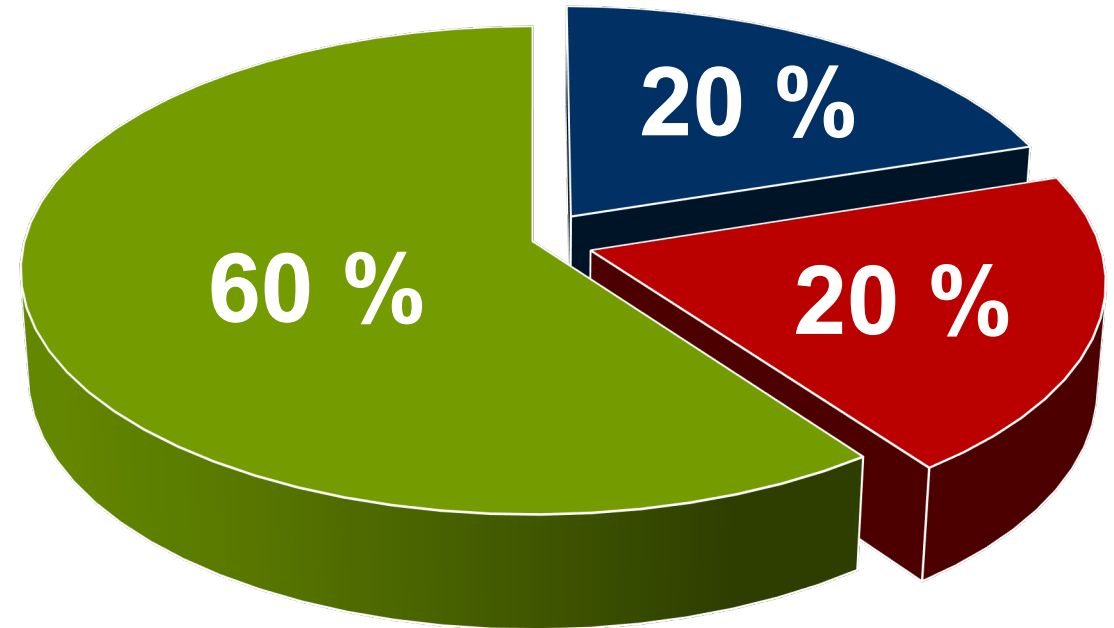
8 % to applicants with no German abitur AND no EU citizenship
(5 % in Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy)

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**

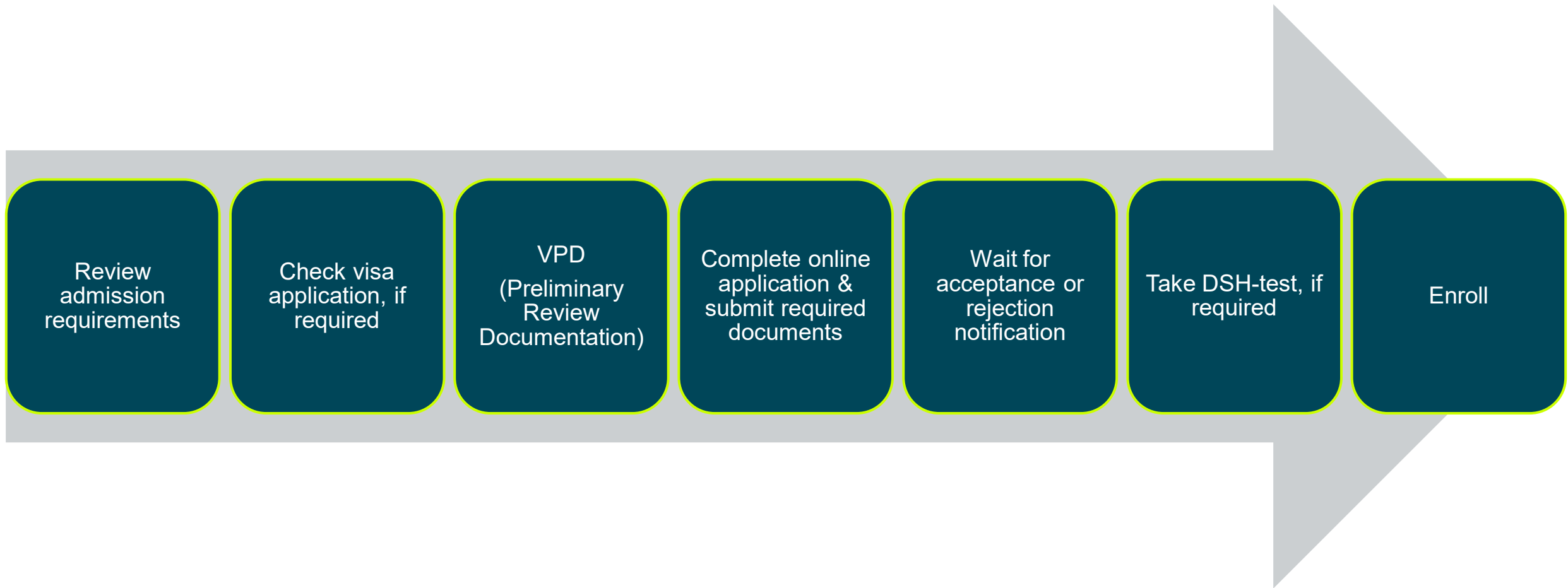
Remaining study places:

➤ **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

- 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 (<https://www.stw.berlin/en/finanzierung/baf%C3%B6g-faq/20.-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 ...)