Information regarding COVID-19 for international scholars

Dear international scholars,

As COVID-19 continues changing our everyday lives, we have gathered the most important information around the pandemic, on entering Germany, on quarantine, on testing, on infection control measures, etc. We try to keep the information as updated as we can. However, we also ask you to inform yourself actively on the recommendations, instructions and measures taken by the University of Stuttgart, the city of Stuttgart, the state of Baden-Württemberg and the Federal Government of Germany.

Travelling to Germany

What are the current entry restrictions for Germany?

From March 30 a negative test is required for everyone travelling per plane to Germany – independent if the travel destination is a risk area.

- **(Normal) risk area**: Persons who travel to Germany from “normal” risk areas have to do a coronavirus test on entry as soon as they arrive or within 48 hours after arriving. That rule is in addition to the mandatory 10-day quarantine, which is only possible to shorten on presentation of a second negative test taken on the fifth day after entry at the earliest.

- **High incidence area**: A negative test must be carried upon arrival. The quarantine period of 10 days cannot be shortened.

- **Virus variant area**: Germany restricted the travel from countries with a widespread of Covid-variants drastically and introduced a travel ban. Only German citizens, persons with permanent residence in Germany and persons who have a residence permit are allowed to enter Germany. They need to provide a negative test result taken before arrival, which is not older than 48 hours and need to obtain a 14-day quarantine. Quarantine shortening is not possible.

Furthermore, all travelers to Germany have to register online if they have stayed in a risk area within the last ten days prior to their entry to Germany. In addition, they must be able to present proof of this registration when entering Germany. More information is available on the information sheet of the Federal Ministry of Health as well as on the ministry’s website. To find further information check out the website of Baden-Württemberg and their FAQ regarding entries from risk areas.

Testing

Where can I get tested?

With an online appointment, you can go to the test-center at the airport to get tested after coming from a risk region. The PCR-test costs 67 Euro, the rapid test 35 Euro. If you have to get tested because you had contact with an infected person or your doctor advised you due to symptoms you can go to the test center Cannstatter Wasen or the test-center Neckarpark. In these cases testing remains free of charge. There are also several doctors’ offices who do testing, but please call beforehand and ask about their testing regulations for the safety of other patients.

Since March 8 one rapid test per week is free for everyone in Germany. You can go to special testing centers, some pharmacies offer testing as well. Explanation of the differences between “Schnelltest” (rapid tests) and “Selbsttest”.

The University of Stuttgart also offers rapid tests to employees who are not working full time from home. They will be available from end of April, dependent on the delivery date.
Quarantine
I need to be quarantined. What should I pay attention to?

In case you need to be quarantined, please check out the guidelines for self-isolation and quarantine by the Robert-Koch-institute. Information brochures are also available in other languages.

How can I get necessary items/food?

There are several German supermarket chains that offer online shopping:

- NETTO: https://www.netto-online.de/lebensmittel/
- REWE
- EDEKA: https://www.edeka24.de/
- REAL: https://www.real.de/lebensmittel/

Normally, it takes one to three days for delivery.

Another option is to order meals from:

- Lieferando: https://www.lieferando.de/
- Bring-Butler: https://www.bringbutler.de

You may find addresses of nearby restaurants, take-aways and shops which deliver non-food items here: https://www.stuttgartsindwir.de

Electronic articles can be ordered from Conrad, Mediamarkt or Saturn.

If these options are not possible for you, feel free to contact the Welcome Center for International Scholars and we will try to find a suitable solution.

Infection Control Measures
Which measures and regulations must be observed in Stuttgart and Germany?

In the following, the most important rules are presented. Please note that the presented rules do not cover all regulations. We kindly ask you to keep yourself updated actively on the recommendations, instructions and measures taken by the city of Stuttgart, the state of Baden-Württemberg and the government of Germany.

If no suitable physical infection protection devices are available, a minimum distance of 1.5 meters from other people must be observed. A medical mask (FFP2/3, KN95/N95 or a surgical mask) that covers mouth and nose must be worn by everybody older than 5 years.

From December a lockdown has started all-over Germany to stop the exponential growth of the infections. Everyone must reduce his/her private contacts even stricter than before in order to defeat the pandemic. There is a five-step reopening strategy to end lockdown gradually in view to the infection numbers. Please keep yourself updated since rules can loosen or tighten fast - especially regarding the rising numbers.
Private meetings are only permitted with your own household and one person from another household (plus children up to 14 years). Keep the number of households constant and as small as possible.

Hairdressers remain open, but a negative test is required. Flower shops and Garden centers remain open as well. Retails stores need to close again, only Click&Collect is possible in Stuttgart.

Theatres, cinemas, clubs, bars, sports clubs, swimming pools, fitness studios as well as restaurants and cafés stay closed (except take-aways and delivery).

Museums, galleries, zoos and botanical gardens need to close again in Stuttgart.

Kindergartens and primary schools need to close in case of an incidence over 200, emergency care is offered. Secondary Schools need to close, distance teaching is offered.

From April 16 exit restrictions at night apply in Stuttgart again from 9 pm to 5am.

Refrain from private travel and visitations. Overnight stays in hotels, hostels, etc. for touristic purposes are prohibited.

How can I protect others and myself?

To protect yourself and others, it is important to keep distance to other people, to wear a mask and to avoid closed rooms, especially with poor ventilation. In addition, group gatherings as well as close contact and discussions with others should be reduced. Hygiene measures such as coughing and sneezing in your elbows, regular ventilation, thorough washing of hands and general cleanliness are also important.

How do I behave in case of doubt?

If you have been in contact with a person was tested positive, contact the local health office immediately to ask how to proceed. Stay at home. Testing is possible from three days after contact to the infected person. If the test result is positive, please follow the guidelines, stay in quarantine and take care of your health status. Also directly inform your employer. Negative testing does not shorten the quarantine of 10 days (14 days if virus variation).

If you develop symptoms of Covid-19, please stay at home and do not get in touch with other persons. Contact the Fieberambulanz or your family doctor. They will inform you about how to proceed. To protect others do not go to the doctor without calling him or her before! The doctor will decide if a Covid-19-test needs to be taken.

Corona-Warn-App in Germany

The Corona-Warn-App helps to stop the spread of the virus and can be downloaded in app stores for free. It uses Bluetooth technology and detects other smartphones around you on which the app is also active. The app will inform you if you have had contact with someone who has been tested positive for coronavirus. You can then react quickly and prevent the virus from spreading unwittingly. You remain anonymous at all times when using the app.
Which measures and regulations must be observed at the University of Stuttgart?

To inform yourself about regulations at the University of Stuttgart please read the current hygiene concept and check out the webpage regarding Covid-19. The most important rules are to keep a minimum distance of 1.5m and to wear a medical mask everywhere on campus except for your own workplace. If you have respiratory symptoms or fever you are not allowed to come to the University – unless a doctor has confirmed that it is a non-hazardous condition.

When can I start working at my workplace in University after travelling to Germany from a risk region?

The corona regulations of the University of Stuttgart require you to present a negative corona test taken one the sixth day after arrival to get access to the buildings of the University of Stuttgart and the workplace at your institute.

Matters regarding visa, residents’ registration, residence permit

I am a Non-EU citizen. The German Embassy does not issue any visa due to the corona situation. What can I do?

The University of Stuttgart does neither have any information nor any influence on visa applications. Please check the websites of the respective embassies for more information.

What happens if my visa expires before I was able to enter Germany?

You will need to re-apply for a new entry visa at the German embassy nearest to you.

I have just moved to Stuttgart. How can I register myself?

If you need to register or de-register in Stuttgart, please contact one of the Residents’ Registration Offices of Stuttgart by phone or e-mail if and ask how to proceed. If you live in another town, contact the “Rathaus” of your town. It is possible to send the necessary documents to the citizen’s office, please add your contact details for questions.

I am a Non-EU citizen: How can I get a residence permit if the validity of my visa does cover the whole time of my stay? And how can I extend my residence permit in case I intend to stay longer?

If you live in Stuttgart and need your residence permit to be issued for the first time or get it extended, please send all necessary documents to auslaenderrecht.arbeit.a-k@stuttgart.de or auslaenderrecht.arbeit.l-z@stuttgart (depending on the first letter of your last name) and ask them to issue/extend your title. Don’t forget to send the filled in and signed application form for a residence permit or application form for an extension of your residence permit, too. The Foreigners’ Registration Office will then either give you an appointment or send a new provisional residence title by post. Thus, please make sure that your name on your letter box can be read clearly.

If you live in another town, please contact the Welcome Center for International Scholars, we will help you to get in touch with the competent authority.

How can I stay healthy?

Eating well, doing exercises and finding appropriate support in need of help are always important, but maybe even more in times of crises.

The Health Management Department (Betriebliches Gesundheitsmanagement) of the University of Stuttgart publishes easy recipes and hints for every day (in German). You may subscribe to the newsletter called “loving food monthly” via a mailing list.
University Sports (Hochschulsport) offers online courses during Corona times. You need to register online on their webpage. On their YouTube channel they offer FIT@WORK, very brief exercises which can be done in front of your desk without having to change clothes.

Counseling on all physical and mental health problems in quite a number of different languages including English is offered by the University’s Occupational Medical and Health Services (Arbeitsmedizinischer Dienst). You may find contact details on the bottom of their webpage.

Where to get more information in English about the situation in Germany

- ‘Zusammen gegen Corona’ by the Federal Ministry of Health
- Deutsche Welle
- The local
- I am an expat
- https://www.integrationsbeauftragte.de/ib-de/amt-und-person/informationen-zum-coronavirus
- Government of Baden Württemberg: information in French, Italian, Turkish, Polish, Russian, Arabic and Romanian)