Consultancy and Funding

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The University Guarantee Funds (GF-H) educational consultancy is a federal programme which is aimed at giving professional advice to immigrant secondary school graduates, students and young university graduates according to University Guarantee Funds’ guidelines (RL-GF-H).

The aim of our advisory service is to help you to continue your academic career in Germany as soon as possible.

Our consultants provide you with individual and detailed information on suitable qualification programmes in Germany, and, together with you, you will develop your own personal education plan. In the process, we aim to show you the most effective way to achieve your own educational goal by taking into consideration your foreign qualifications. We assist you during application procedures and advise you on financial support opportunities for your professional development. Furthermore we check if applicants fulfil the relevant requirements according to the guidelines of the University Guarantee Funds and can receive our corresponding funding.

It is our goal to prepare you as best as possible for your academic career. The key elements of our consultancy concept include:

- Evaluating your educational background
- Providing information about language requirements
- Giving you tips regarding
  - school programmes intended to help you achieve a higher education entrance qualification
  - forms of university access
  - study programmes on offer in Germany
  - funding opportunities (such as the “BAföG” student grant, scholarships, etc.).
- Assisting you with
  - your choice of studies and career
  - application and admission procedures for entry to higher education institutions or in order to obtain an internship

Refugees, late repatriates and Jewish immigrants, who are under the age of 30, can be subsidised according to the guidelines of the university guarantee funds. The aim of such funding is to enable you to embark on, or continue, your personal academic career.

Applications for funding can only be made in one of our 22 educational guidance centres. Here, we check an applicant’s suitability, and whether they comply with formal criteria and requirements, which include, amongst other things, proof of your residence status according to §§ 4 and 7 of the Federal Expelled Persons Law (BVFG) or according to §§ 23.1, 23.2 and 23.4, 25.1 and 25.2 of the Residence Law (Aufenthaltsgesetz), in connection with §§ 3.1 or 4.1 of the Asylum Procedure Law (Asylgesetz). Likewise, you should be sure to make an application to the University Guarantee Funds educational consultancy within two years of having entered Germany (refugees whose status was only recognised following a delay, can still submit an application to us within a year of having their status recognised).

Generally, the funding period ends after 30 months of training or education, but no later than 60 months after your entry into Germany.

The most important subsidised measures include language courses and “Abitur” general qualification for university entrance preparation courses. The grant will be distributed by the Otto Benecke Stiftung e. V.

Financial support according to the guidelines of the University Guarantee Funds includes:

- Course fees (provided they are not for educational measures for which the cost is assumed by the federal states)
- Travel expenses (necessary daily travel costs to your place of training or education, as well as travel expenses incurred in connection with the transport to and from the place of training or education at the beginning and the end of a course)
- Costs of special requirements (e.g. necessary health insurance costs, or costs relating to the translation, authentication, and recognition of certificates, etc.)
- Living expenses (basic lump sum if it is not possible to reside with your parents)*
- Accommodation expenses (capped grant)
- Private tuition where necessary

*In accordance with § 13 para. 1 no. 2 BAföG

Please see www.bildungsberatung-gfh.de for further information.

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