

***EU directive 2016/801** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals.

Many of you may have already heard about it, as this EU regulation has already been existing for a couple of years. In the last years, we have faced several problems concerning this issue. In order to facilitate the process for the students, we get in touch with you today.

For those of you, who do not know about it in detail, please find below a brief explanation: Students with a non-EU citizenship who have currently a residence permit in the EU member state of their home university do have to follow certain procedures when doing an ERASMUS+ exchange and organizing their entry to the other EU member state. Compared to the former procedure, they now do **not** have to apply for another, second residence permit in the EU member state of their receiving institution.*

For Germany, the following applies:

The receiving institution (guest university), in this case TH Köln, has to collect certain documents. Those documents have to be uploaded by us at a server from the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (*Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge* - BAMF). They check the documents and – as a last step – issue a confirmation letter ("*Bescheinigung über die Mobilität*") allowing the student to enter Germany without the need of a German residence permit. **Only the combination of the residence permit from the first EU member state and the official letter is the correct replacement of the German residence permit.** It takes a certain amount of time for the BAMF to check the documents. Therefore, we kindly ask you to be aware of this fact that non-EU citizens do, unfortunately, have to follow a very bureaucratic procedure in Germany taking a very long time.

Documents that need to be provided by the student are:

- Residence permit of the first EU Member State
- Evidence of the participation in a Union or multilateral program with mobility measures or the agreement between the higher education institutions (the Erasmus grant agreement is accepted)
- Proof of admission to the receiving higher education institution
- Recognized, valid passport
- Proof of subsistence (including health insurance)

As a consequence, we would be pleased if you could inform your students as early as possible about this issue (we can only inform your students with all necessary information as soon as they are officially admitted for studies at TH Köln).

Due to our experience of the last years, the most difficult document to hand in is the proof of subsistence, which can be already organized in advance. Currently, students have to prove at least € 861 per month**.

Options in order to prove subsistence are:

- Blocked bank account ("Sperrkonto")
- Scholarship (for sure the ERASMUS grant is accepted, but mostly not sufficient)
- Declaration of commitment
- Proof of income from parents
- Bank guarantee/student loan

More information on that topic can be found on the ["Study in Germany" Website](#).

On top of that, students should be aware that the residence permit from the first EU member state as well as their passport need to be valid at least until the end of their ERASMUS exchange stay.