

Germany – Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich

Institution	Ludwig-Maximilians University (LMU)
Study programs	LMU provides Bachelor- and Master programs (national and international) in education as well as structured PHD programs. http://www.fak11.lmu.de/studium/index.html
Skills in German language	German language skills are necessary for admission for many study programs, but there are also study programs in English language: http://www.en.mcls.lmu.de/study_programs/master/index.html
Study fees	There are no study fees at LMU
Interviewed Person	Refugee

I – Preparation

29, male, Syria, in Germany for two years and four months, with residence permit

II - Awareness

I couldn't bring so many things with me because my trip to Germany took a very long time. I just had my high school graduation diploma and some documents from my university. The rest is still in Syria.

III - Starting up

The problem here was not to get the documents validated. It was to get an idea what to do here in Germany (going to university, making an apprenticeship ...) and how. I had sent all my documents to 'Uni assist' (<https://www.uni-assist.de/>); they checked them and told me that I can begin to study at a university here in Germany. I did that because I want to continue my studies I did in Syria at the Technical University in Munich. But I realized that it is too difficult for me to continue my studies in Germany and so I changed my plan. Maybe now I begin with computer science or biology. The difficulty is that the validation of my documents says that I can continue my study at the Technical University but it is not clear whether I can begin with a new program at the LMU. The biggest problem for me is the language. The process to get permission for residence here took a long time and I had to wait for about one year at home without doing anything to learn German. I was not allowed to visit a course and I had nearly no contact to German speaking people. No information about the education system in Germany and so on.

I have a school graduation diploma, but the marks are not so well. What can I do with it here? Can I repeat the examination to get better marks? Could I start to study medicine? I don't know.

IV – Documentation and support

It is very difficult here in Germany to find advice and help. The interviewer is telling about some possibilities in Munich or at the LMU to get help or advice. The interviewee does not know any of them. He is telling that he is participating in a project (TABS = Teilhabe am Bildungssystem = participating in the education system: <http://www.psy.lmu.de/ape/personen/mitarbeiter/geselbracht/projekte/tabs.html>) and he is getting information from there. He has learned there what he can do until he can begin his studies in Munich (the interviewee is telling later that this project was the first and only

source of information about education and the educational system in Germany). Before he was participating in a course for refugees at the Technical University in Munich. The problem there is that they tell you first have to learn the language properly – then we can give you advice and help you. That is boring to me because I am not a quick language learner. The educational system in Syria has changed during the last decades. I started to go to school in the late 90s. And since 2000 there were big changes and new plans. My first years at school were in the old system and I didn't learn so much. Especially concerning foreign languages and basic knowledge.

In Syria I studied to become a constructional engineer. But it is hard to study that subject at the Technical University in Munich because of my language problems. Maybe in the future this is possible, but not at the moment. But the problem is not only the language, it is the concrete subjects that are taught, too. They are very different from that what was taught in Syria.