

EDUCATION

Background education | Higher education | Work experience  

Background education

- primary school - Grundschule
- secondary school - Sekundarschule, Realschule
- grammar school(BE), high School(AE) - Gymnasium
- comprehensive School - Gesamtschule
- vocational School - Berufsschule
- vocational training - Berufsausbildung
- College of Higher, Further Education - Berufsfachschule, Fachoberschule
- boarding school - Internat
- private/public school - Private/ staatliche Schule
- vocational baccalaureate diploma - Fachabitur:
- technical diploma - technisches Fachabitur
- A'levels, advanced levels (BE), High School Diploma (AE) - Abitur
- to take/ do one's 'A' levels, to graduate from High School - Abitur ablegen
- to obtain general university entrance qualification/ certificate - Allgemeine Fachhochschulreife

Exams, assessments

- to sit (for)/ take/ write an exam paper - eine Prüfung ablegen, Klausur schreiben
- to pass a exam - eine Prüfung bestehen
- to fail an exam - durch eine Pr. durchfallen
- to resit an exam - Prüfung wiederholen
- oral / written examination - mündliche / schriftliche Prüfung
- to write assignments - Belegarbeiten schreiben
- to learn by rote: auswendig lernen
- to cram for an exam: paukeln
- to learn strategies to cope with anxiety and stress during finals - Lernstrategie und Strategien um Stress zu bewältigen zu lernen
- to overcome challenges - Herausforderungen bewältigen

How to describe your background education?

Questions: Tell us about your previous education, talk us through your CV. Tell us about your educational background.

- I attended the (name of school).
- I attended a (type of school/ see right column).
- I graduated from a (school type) in (year).
- I graduated from the (school name), which was a (school type) in (year).
- I earned/ obtained/was awarded my A levels/ technical diploma/ school leaving certificate in (year).
- After successful completion of my A levels, I had a golden opportunity to study abroad and learn about another culture in (country/ city), and then I applied for this university.

Questions: How was your experience during high school? How has it prepared you for this university/job?"

- I had a positive & pleasant experience during high school. My teachers and my parents were supportive. They taught me useful learning strategies, and how to cope with finals pressure and stress and to overcome the challenges of the selective schooling process to transition to high school in Germany.
- I had the chance to study in a very good comprehensive school.
- I had some unfortunate experiences but it was ok.
- It was good. I had to learn a lot by rote, I had to cram for my finals, and the selective process was a little bit discouraging, but I learned a lot and I made it at the end.
- I did not like the selective schooling process but this experience taught me, among other aspects, how to push myself and recover from setbacks.
- I consider that final grades are not reflective of the quality of students work, and abilities, but exams help us to continue learning and improving ourselves after all. So, I am thankful.
- I had access to education for free, it was not perfect. I wish it had been more motivating, encouraging, but it provided me with essential knowledge. Therefore, I am grateful for my education.

Higher education

- to apply for a place at a university - sich um einen Studienplatz bewerben
- to meet the entrance requirements - die Hochzulassungsvoraussetzungen erfüllen
- to be enrol in a Bachelor's or Master's program -
- to enrol in a course/ to register in/on/for a course - sich einschreiben, Kurse belegen
- to attend lectures, courses, seminars - Vorlesungen und Seminare besuchen
- compulsory course - Pflicht course
- tutorial - Konsultation (beim Tutor)
- to major in/ specialise in (the field of) - sich spezialisieren (auf dem Gebiet/ im Fach)
- to switch courses/ to another course - was Studienfach wechseln
- to complete or finish one's studies/ courses - sein Studium abschließen
- to be awarded a Bachelor's/ Master's degree - ein Diplom verliehen
- to continue further education, retraining - sich weiter bilden

Work experience

- to to do / complete/ undertake a work placement (BE)/ an internship (AE) - ein (Betriebs) Praktikum machen, absolvieren
- to do an apprenticeship - eine Ausbildung machen,
- to have a working student job - einen Studenten Job zu haben
- to have a part time job - einen Teilzeit Job zu haben
- to have a full time job- eine Vollzeitstelle zu haben

Student Finances

- to pay tuition fees - Studiengebühren bezahlen
- to be eligible/ entitled to receive a grant/ scholarship - auf Stipendium Anspruch haben
- BAfög: a combination of a student grant and loan

How to describe higher education?

Questions: Tell us about your current studies or career.

- I am currently studying (subject, field). I am majoring in a field/ specialisation. My major is... am pursuing a bachelor's/ master's degree.
- I am enrolled in a bachelor's/ master's program.
- I signed up for a proficiency course.
- I am an undergraduate student, a freshman/ sophomore/ junior/ senior...
- I am attending eight courses right now.
- I took 2 elective and 6 compulsory courses this semester.
- I have recently switched courses/ studies and had a fresh start in a new field. I am happy I did not drop out my studies.
- After completing my bachelors degree, I am going going to pursue a Master's degree, and later a PhD (the highest level of education).
- I am going to graduate in (year)/ two years.
- I am going to excel in my studies, and graduate sooner than expected and with honours!
- I am enjoying my studies at university and taking advantage of the fact that I can learn a lot for relative affordable tuition fees.

Questions: Tell us about your work experience. Do you think you're qualified for this position?

- Yes, I thoroughly enjoyed my internship this summer and now have very valuable experience under my belt. I learn a lot about... and I could bring new perspectives into organisational issues.
- As I reflect back on all I have learned during my internship, I realise what an excellent experience this has been. I acquired skills such as problem solving skills, ...
- I volunteered at a nursing home assisting elderly and disabled people on the weekends and I learned a lot about providing care, and this helps me to cover my daily expenses as I am not eligible to receive any grant.
- I took an apprenticeship last year and I gained a lot of valuable practical experience working as a mechanic/ electrician, designer for (name of the company).
- I have worked for companies such as (name of the companies) as an intern. I could take a look on these organisations and on many professions, and have gained enough experience to take on a permanent paid position.
- I have 2 years experience as a waitress. This provided me with excellent communication skills & organisational strategies.
- I may not have enough experience yet, but I learn quickly, and I am committed to improve myself and continue learning all my life.

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