

Newcomer Information on Visa and Registration Issues

Visa and Document of Residency

Non-EU citizens need a visa. It is your responsibility to get one in time to start your PhD fellowship at BIGSSS in September. We will be happy to support you in your efforts, but we would like to stress that ultimately this is your responsibility.

Also, we can recommend the [DAAD visa application guidelines](#).

Please note that the time it takes to acquire a visa varies largely from country to country. In some countries, it is a rather quick procedure once you get your stipend letter from BIGSSS. In others, you need to register for an appointment with a privately run company that will then allocate you an appointment with the visa-granting institution situated in another part of the country. This may take much longer than you think.

Therefore we expect every fellow to start applying for a visa immediately after acceptance to BIGSSS.

Should you encounter problems during the application for a visa, please do not hesitate to [contact us](#). We will do our best to help you.

EU citizens do not need a visa. Instead, you need to complete a so-called "Aufenthaltsanzeige" (Document of Residency) within three months of moving to Bremen. For details, please visit the website of the [Bremen Service office](#) on campus of the University of Bremen.

Registration of Your Residence

German law requires everybody to register their residence. Therefore, once you have found an accommodation in Bremen, you need to register your residence, e.g. at the [Bremen Service office](#) on campus of the University of Bremen. You also need this for your residence permit application.