

PRESS RELEASE
by the Bavarian Studentenwerk institutions
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Interim financial aid for students provided by the BMBF - update on the situation in Bavaria

- 30,000 applications received in Bavaria, just over 13,000 of them complete and moved to the processing stage
- About 60% of applications accepted
- Filing your application - what you need to keep in mind

Students facing financial difficulties as a result of the coronavirus pandemic can apply for interim financial aid (*Überbrückungshilfe*) from funds provided by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The application portal opened on 16 June. The BMBF has provided a total of €100 million in emergency funds. The Bavarian Studentenwerk institutions have started processing the applications on 29 June.

More than 13,000 of the 30,000 applications that have been received to date were complete and have moved to the processing stage. "All Studentenwerk institutions have set up teams dedicated to processing the applications. Some of them have even asked staff members to return from reduced hours to full-time work. More than 50% of the applications received in Bavaria have been processed already. And our staff make sure that the money is paid out as soon as possible after an application has been accepted," said Mathias M. Meyer, spokesman of the Bavarian Studentenwerk institutions. So far, about 60% of applications have been accepted. Only about 25% have been rejected. In the remainder of cases, the applications were incomplete and students were asked to supply missing documents.

When applications were rejected or students were asked to supply missing documents, this was usually due to the fact that the information provided was incorrect or incomplete or documents were missing. "We strongly advise students to prepare their applications carefully and double check that they have included all required supporting documents and that each of those documents is legible. Also, students should submit a self-declaration that gives details about their current situation and financial difficulties," Mr. Mayer added. "Students must describe the difficulties they are facing in detail and must demonstrate in a convincing manner that those difficulties were caused by the coronavirus pandemic."

The Bavarian Studentenwerk institutions ask applicants to keep the following in mind:

- Make sure the files you upload are legible; upload all required documents.
- Submit bank statements documenting the balance in all of your accounts (including PayPal and credit card accounts) on each date up to and including the day prior to the date of your application. Do not submit screenshots of banking apps or similar. The matching name and IBAN as well as the account balance must be clearly shown on the bank statements.
- In your self-declaration, give detailed information about the financial difficulties you are facing and demonstrate in a convincing manner that those difficulties were caused by the coronavirus pandemic.
- Remember that you **MUST** submit your documents via the application portal; you **CANNOT** mail or email them to the Studentenwerk. This is also true for any missing documents that you may be asked to supply.

More information is available on the websites of Deutsches Studentenwerk (DSW) and the BMBF.

Answers to frequently asked questions provided by the DSW:

<https://www.studentenwerke.de/en/content/faqs-students>

Answers to frequently asked questions provided by the BMBF:

<https://www.bmbf.de/en/interim-financial-aid-for-students-what-you-need-to-know-12062.html>

To read more about the interim financial aid programme and submit your application, go to www.ueberbrueckungshilfe-studierende.de

signed

Mathias M. Meyer

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Spokesman of the Bavarian Studentenwerk institutions