

Info Sheet: Travelling to Schmalkalden During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The winter semester 2021/22 has already been the fourth extraordinary semester since the outbreak of COVID-19. Students will have many questions, and while we cannot answer all of them, one thing is certain: Schmalkalden University of Applied Sciences (SUAS) will do everything possible to ensure a pleasant study atmosphere as well as a high standard of teaching, whether on campus or online. But more importantly, the university will take appropriate measures to ensure that all members of SUAS remain healthy. This info sheet is developed in cooperation with the local Health Office to provide you with important details concerning implications on your upcoming study semester in Schmalkalden. The info sheet includes mainly (a) health regulations for incoming students and (b) current regulations at SUAS. Additionally, we are going to provide you with (c) all necessary contact details, (d) an overview of the current entry regulations and (e) information about vaccinations. This Info Sheet will be updated regularly and published on our website. This version is as of 15/11/21.

(a) Health Regulations for Incoming Students

Germany is a Federal Republic. This means that the country is subdivided into several federal states ("Bundesländer") which, in turn, are subdivided into several districts ("Landkreise") or cities with district status ("kreisfreie Städte"). There are 16 federal states in Germany; Schmalkalden is situated in the Free State of Thuringia. Each of those administrative regions (Republic, state, district) has individual functions and responsibilities. With regard to the current pandemic, the Federal Republic has passed many (though not all) powers to the states, and within the states, the several districts might have individual regulations in place. This means, you are required to follow federal, regional and local regulations.

The complete Corona regulations currently applicable for the Schmalkalden-Meiningen district and all updates can be found (in German language) [here](#). You are personally obliged to track any changes on those regulations – we may guide you but the responsibility for the steps taken is solely yours. The regulations listed on the website determine clear rules on what people arriving from abroad must observe when entering the country. Furthermore, the regulations passed by the district include rules on distance, hygiene and behaviour in public places. For example, people should keep at least 1.5 metres distance to those surrounding them, wear a mouth-nose cover in public and enclosed spaces, such as stores or public transportation vehicles, and mind proper hygiene rules, e.g. sneeze into the inside of one's elbow.

Concerning your individual arrival situation, the main filter is the risk area definition of the German Robert Koch Institute. Whether or not you have been to a risk area is decisive for the steps to be taken by yourself in order to enter the country and travel to Germany: The list of Corona risk areas defined by the Robert Koch Institute can be found [here](#). It can be updated or changed at any time. The list includes countries from which many of our incoming students are coming.

Right now, there are three types of areas: "normal" areas, high risk areas and virus variant areas (listed as "areas of variant of concern" by the RKI). Everyone entering Germany needs to provide a proof that he or she is not infected with COVID-19. For people coming from "normal" areas or high risk areas this can be a negative test result, a proof of vaccination or a proof of recovery. For people coming from virus variant areas a negative test result is the only option. Please mind the [requirements for COVID-19 tests](#) set out by the Robert Koch Institute. The test result needs to be in German, English, French, Spanish or Italian language.

Additionally, you are obliged to complete [digital registration](#) upon entry, if you are coming from a high risk area or a virus variant area. People who arrive from these areas (high risk or virus variant) also need to undergo quarantine after entering. For high risk areas this means a ten-day quarantine, which can be

shortened or skipped by providing a proof of vaccination or recovery from the first day or starting from the fifth day by providing a negative test result. The quarantine for virus variant areas is even stricter: People coming from those regions are obliged to undergo a fourteen-day quarantine, which cannot be shortened at all.

The table on the following page should make it easier for you to complete the steps associated with your personal situation and journey in time and in full. Assuming that you adjust to this in the best possible way and follow changes regularly, the associated steps will hardly affect your stay – conversely, complications can arise if you do not know or follow the regulations.

(b) Corona Regulations at SUAS

In addition to the federal and district Corona regulations, the university has introduced special Corona regulations that all members of SUAS are required to follow. The university informs about current rules on a regular basis via e-mail and via the university website. Two documents are especially relevant: the [hygiene concept](#) and the [Corona regulations](#). Make sure that you follow any changes and fully understand the regulations listed.

(c) Contact Data

(i) Medical Emergency Service

If you are in Schmalkalden and have symptoms like fever, a sore throat, breathing difficulties or a loss of taste, call the Medical Emergency Service under 116117. They are going to advise you about the next steps, including the details of a potential COVID-19 test. Do not go to a doctor or the hospital, and strictly avoid any contact to other people.

(ii) Health Office

If you have had contact to a person who has been proven Corona-positive or have questions on your quarantine status, please call the Schmalkalden-Meiningen Health Office at +49 3693 4858736. The health experts are going to inform you about further actions.

(iii) University

You can address questions regarding the coronavirus to the SUAS Corona Infoline via corona-infoline@hs-schmalkalden.de or from Monday to Thursday, 9:00 to 12:00, at +49 3683 688 9999.

(d) Overview

The following table shows you the basic rules for entering Germany for travellers coming from different areas. First you should check here which type of area you are coming from in order to find out which rules apply for you. The rules applicable for you depend on where you have been during the last 10 days prior to your arrival in Germany.

Further information provided in English can be found on the page of the Federal Ministry of Health here. Exemptions from the basic rules can be found here (in the 6th section of the Ordinance on protection against risks of infection with the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus posed by persons entering the country following the determination of an epidemic situation of national significance by the German Bundestag).

	No Risk Area	High Risk Area	Virus Variant Area
Obligation to provide proof ⁵ before departure and <u>upon entry</u>	YES (negative test result ¹ , proof of vaccination ² or recovery ³)	YES (negative test result ¹ , proof of vaccination or recovery ³)	Travel Ban YES (only negative test result ⁴)
Digital Entry Registration (control before departure and upon entry)	NO	YES	YES
Obligation to quarantine	NO	YES 10 days (can be shortened at the 1 st day by providing a proof of vaccination or recovery ³ ; can be shortened earliest at the 5 th day with a negative test result)	YES 14 days

Notes:

¹A valid negative test result can either be a PCR (or similar) test which was done max. 72 hours before entering Germany or an antigen test which was done max. 48 hours earlier. It must be provided in German, English, French, Italian or Spanish language. Further information about the recognition of different COVID-19 tests can be found [here](#).

²Proof of vaccination must prove a full course of vaccination against the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus was completed. The vaccination on which it is based must be comprised of one or more of the vaccines listed by the Paul Ehrlich Institute [here](#) and either comprise the number of vaccine doses necessary to provide full protection as published on this website, and no less than 14 days may have elapsed since the last required single vaccination, or for recovered persons, consist of the administration of one vaccine dose. To prove they are fully vaccinated, recovered persons must prove that they had had COVID-19 before they were vaccinated (see below). To certify vaccination, the proof must include the following data: the personal data of the vaccinated person, date of vaccination, number of vaccinations, vaccine name, name of the disease vaccinated against and characteristics that indicate the person or institution responsible for carrying out the vaccination or issuing the certificate, for example an official symbol or the name of the issuer. It must be provided in German, English, French, Italian or Spanish and in written or digital form. Photographs of written proof are not considered proof in digital form. Proof in digital form should have been issued in digital form by the authorised issuer and transmitted in digital form to the authorised recipient.

³A proof of recovery is a proof of a previous infection with the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus issued in written or digital form in German, English, French, Italian or Spanish, if the test is based on laboratory diagnostics comprising a nucleic acid test (PCR, PoC-PCR or other nucleic acid amplification test methods) and it was performed no less than 28 days and no more than six months previously. Further information about the recognition of different COVID-19 tests can be found [here](#).

⁴A valid negative test result can either be a PCR (or similar) test which has been done max. 72 hours before entering Germany or an antigen test, which has been done max. 24 hours earlier. It must be provided in German, English, French, Italian or Spanish language. Further information about the recognition of different COVID-19 tests can be found [here](#).

⁵The proof needs to be uploaded [here](#).

(e) Vaccinations

If you have not been vaccinated with a valid vaccine (check information about vaccines valid in Germany [here](#)) already, you can book an appointment for your vaccination [here](#) or just visit one of the vaccination bus stops, which can be found [here](#). You can also find information about the vaccination or Covid-19 in general in different languages [here](#).

If you have already been vaccinated with a valid vaccine (check [here](#)) and do not have a yellow WHO vaccination pass yet, you can get one at the doctor's office of [Dr Heuer](#) in Schmalkalden. The staff speaks English and the service is for free, if you have public German health insurance; if you don't it will cost between €5 and €15. This amount can be refunded from your health insurance.