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**Information Sheet for students living in
Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Puducherry:
How to open a blocked account**

1. What is a blocked account and why do I need it?

When you want to study in Germany, you will need money to cover your costs of living. This will include your fixed costs like rent or University administration fees, but also the costs for your every day living (food, clothes etc.)

In order to enter Germany, students from India need a valid visa. One of the requirements to obtain a visa is that the student can cover his or her costs of living while studying. There are different ways to prove this – the most common one among students is the so called **blocked account**.

This is a special bank account, where the student will have to deposit enough money for the first year of his or her stay in Germany. The amount the student is able to withdraw per month is limited to the amount mentioned below. This ensures that enough funds are left on the account throughout the stay and the student is not running out of money.

The German Ministry of the Interior has fixed the amount needed by foreign students at 720,-€ per month, 8640€ per year. This is the minimum amount, that needs to be deposited on the account. The student is free to deposit more money.

2. Where can I get the form to open a blocked account?

One option to fulfil this requirement would be to open a blocked account at a Bank in Germany or at a branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank in India. To our knowledge, several banks in Germany offer this service to foreign students at the moment (such as Deutsche Bank, Sparkasse Aachen, BW Bank). Please contact the international office at the university of your choice for further information if local banks offer blocked account options.

3. **NEW:** Information on Kotak Mahindra blocked accounts

You can contact any branch of Kotak Mahindra in India and request opening of a blocked account for student visa for Germany. The proof of opening such an account has to be presented at the time of applying for your visa, After having arrived in Germany and having opened a blocked account at any local bank in Germany, you can request Kotak Mahindra Bank to transfer the full deposited amount into the account in Germany.

4. I prefer to already have the account in Germany opened before the visa application. How can I get my signature authenticated for opening a blocked account in Germany?

For opening any kind of bank account in Germany, the bank will need to authenticate your signature and documents. This can be done at the German Consulate in Chennai for students who currently live and study in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

The students have to fix an appointment online on our website <http://www.chennai.diplo.de>. Under the category, Attestation => "opening a blocked account".

If you are not in a position to come on the scheduled date, you are **requested to cancel your appointment online or send us an email to info@chennai.diplo.de, at least one day in advance**, so that your slot can be given to someone else.

Besides, Deutsche Bank India is also offering a service to get the documents for the blocked account opening attested for those students, who would like to open the blocked account with Deutsche Bank India AND Deutsche Bank Germany. This can be done according to their banking regulations. Please check for their terms& conditions.

Procedure for attesting the opening form for blocked accounts in Germany:

Students who have booked an appointment for a particular date should come to the Consulate **between 8am and 10am** (if running late, please inform in advance). The following documents should be submitted in a closed envelope to the security personal at the entrance:

- passport
- duly filled opening form, which is not yet signed (**No Staples !!!**)
- passport copy
- fee (in cash)

Other documents are only needed in case of a scholarship, please inform in advance! Please abstain from handing in more documents than needed!

On the envelope, the name and the mobile number of the student should be marked. For the envelope, the students will receive a token.

The students should come to the Consulate for collection as per the slot mentioned on the email. They will hand over the token to the officer in charge and receive their documents, a receipt for the paid fee and, if applicable, the balance.

5. Fees for attestation

The fee is fixed in €, therefore the amount in Indian Rupees might change according to the exchange rate. At the moment, the fee is **approximately at 1600 Rs.** To avoid any problems, the students are **requested to check the current fee on our website (www.chennai.diplo.de) and at the information board of the Consulate**, which will be updated according to the exchange rate.

You will be handed over a receipt for paying the fee. The receipt for the cash payment is only for your personal information, it does not need to be sent to the bank of your choice – spelling mistakes in this receipt do not cause any problems for further proceedings.