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Data protection information for the online survey

Career Perspectives of International Students in Germany
Date: 22 November 2026

This information explains which data are collected for the Master's study and how they are used.

I. Data controller and study contact

Data controller:

University of Koblenz
Universitätsstraße 1
56070 Koblenz, Germany
Telephone: +49 261 287-0
Email: service@uni-koblenz.de

Researcher and study contact:

Gülsah Alkaya-Saunders, Master's student
Institute for Psychology, University of Koblenz
Email: gulsahsaunders@uni-koblenz.de

II. Data protection contact

University of Koblenz – Data Protection Officer
Konstantin Wagner
Universitätsstraße 1
56070 Koblenz, Germany
Email: datenschutz@uni-koblenz.de

III. Data processing and voluntary participation

The study examines associations between international students' entrepreneurial intentions in Germany, entrepreneurial self-efficacy, perceived sociocultural evaluations and perceived labour-market-related barriers. The results will be used for the Master's thesis and a planned scientific publication. The survey cannot establish causal effects.

The survey collects consent and screening responses, information about these topics, and general competence and control beliefs. It also collects gender, the society in which you mainly grew up, citizenship group, length of residence in Germany, the degree you are pursuing, field-of-study group, entrepreneurship experience, entrepreneurship education, family-business background, intended business location, intention to remain in Germany and an overall self-rating of German language skills.

Technical survey data include the start and completion status of the survey, time spent on individual pages and a technical case identifier. These data are used to run the survey

and assess data quality. Two attention checks are also included. The case identifier is not linked to a list of names or contact details.

The questionnaire does not ask for names or email addresses. IP addresses are not stored in the research dataset. Please do not enter names, university names or other identifying details in free-text fields. Combinations of background information may also allow recognition. Such information will be checked before sharing or publication and generalised or removed where necessary. The GDPR does not apply to genuinely anonymous data.

Participation is voluntary and requires your active consent. You may stop at any time by closing the survey window without disadvantage. Responses already transmitted remain stored and may be analysed if the predefined data-quality criteria are met and all information required for the respective analysis is valid. Genuinely anonymous responses that can no longer be linked to you cannot be located, changed or deleted at your individual request.

IV. Storage and deletion

The survey is hosted on https://www.soscisurvey.de/. After data collection has ended and the final export has been checked, the active SoSci survey data will be deleted. Automatic project archiving takes place after the inactivity period specified in the project; logging into the project again postpones this date.

According to the provider, backups on the standard server are retained for one year and then deleted. Deletion from the active project therefore does not immediately remove data from all backups.

Exported research data and necessary analysis materials will be stored in an access-restricted area of the University Nextcloud. Local synchronisation copies will also be protected. Retention is ten years after completion of the Master's thesis. If the results are made publicly available at a later date, the ten-year retention period begins on that later date. The research data, including local working copies, will then be deleted. Continued institutional archiving will be secured before the student account ends.

V. Access and recipients

Scientific access to raw data is restricted to Gülsah Alkaya-Saunders and her two thesis examiners.

SoSci Survey GmbH provides the survey service. The University Nextcloud provides secure storage. Technically necessary access by the relevant administrative teams is distinct from scientific use of the data.

Only results without identifiable individual information will be published. Public sharing of raw data or additional use in other research projects is not planned. Legally required disclosures of personal data remain unaffected.

VI. Location and technical processing

According to the provider, the SoSci survey servers are located in Germany. Exported data are stored in the University Nextcloud.

The provider's internal security and error logs are distinct from questionnaire responses. The statement that IP addresses are not stored in the research dataset does not mean that the provider never processes IP addresses under any circumstances. Time spent on individual pages is recorded to assess data quality.

VII. Voluntary provision of information

You are not legally or contractually required to participate. Without consent, or if the eligibility requirements are not met, the survey ends.

Core questions require an answer to proceed. Employment-barrier items also offer "Does not apply" and "Cannot assess". Background questions may be left unanswered. You may stop participating at any time, including when answers are required. Missing information may limit the analysis but will not cause any disadvantage to you.

VIII. Automated decisions

There will be no solely automated decisions with legal or similarly significant effects on you and no profiling within the meaning of Article 22 GDPR. Screening and attention checks only assess eligibility or scientific data quality.

IX. Data protection rights and contact

The GDPR does not apply to genuinely anonymous research responses. Such responses cannot be specifically linked to you, corrected or deleted at your individual request.

Where personal data are processed outside these anonymous research responses, statutory data protection rights apply subject to their respective conditions, including access, rectification, erasure and restriction, and, where applicable, data portability, withdrawal of data protection consent or objection. This is distinct from your consent to voluntary study participation.

For study questions, contact gulsahsaunders@uni-koblenz.de. For data protection questions, contact datenschutz@uni-koblenz.de. Please do not send additional identification data solely to try to link anonymous responses to your identity.

If you believe that your personal data are being processed unlawfully, you may complain to a data protection supervisory authority. The competent authority is:

The State Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information of Rhineland-Palatinate
Hintere Bleiche 34
55116 Mainz, Germany
Email: poststelle@datenschutz.rlp.de