Studies in Medicine in Germany

1. Medical Studies
Medical Studies in the Federal Republic of Germany are regular university studies offered at the 37 Medical Faculties of the respective universities (check: www.higher-education-compass.de). The Medical Faculties are not separate professional schools (like in the U.S.), and admission to them does not require prior completion of a Bachelor’s degree.

The training of a medical student in the Federal Republic of Germany is completed after passing Stage III of the Official Medical Licensing Examination. This comprises at least 6 years, i.e. a minimum of 12 semesters of medical studies (plus three months for the final exam).

The break-up of these studies is as follows:

1. Preclinical Stage of Studies (as a rule two years) concluded by Intermediate Medical Examination ("Physikum")
2. Stage I of clinical studies (as a rule one year) concluded by Stage I of the Medical Examination
3. Stage II of clinical studies (as a rule two years) concluded by Stage II of the Medical Examination
4. Stage III of clinical studies, 48 weeks of practical training (Praktisches Jahr) concluded by oral and written examination (Medical Licensing Examination)

Please note:
- For German and international students alike, first year admission to German Medical Faculties is severely restricted ("Numerus Clausus"), due to overwhelming demand, and subject to entrance examinations and tests.
- However, up to 8% of the available places are reserved for international students. Preference will be given to qualified students from countries where the pursuit of medical studies is either not possible at all or severely inadequate.
- Entry at an advanced stage ("Seiteneinstieg") is, in principle, possible for international students who have completed all or certain stages of their medical education in their home countries, and the restrictions mentioned above, no longer apply.
- The Indian M.B.B.S. degree (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) does not correspond to the official Medical Licensing Examination of the Federal Republic of Germany. Rather, the Indian M.B.B.S degree, in principle, reflects a stage of proficiency approximately commensurate with Stage II of Clinical Studies only.
- The language of instruction is exclusively German
- At present, some public German Universities have started charging tuition fees, though there are still no fees at most of the universities.
- For Postgraduate Studies, candidates have to apply for a licence to practice medicine by the Federal Ministry of Health. There are relatively few examples known in which such licences have actually been granted.

II. Clinical Research
There are no restrictions to the pursuit of clinical research in the medical and bio-medical fields by qualified international scholars at Medical Faculties or research inquiries to DAAD New Delhi. Scholarships from German sources, for medical studies and postgraduate training in medicine are, generally, not available for Indian citizens. For clinical research, however, both junior and senior scientists may apply for the relevant DAAD or Alexander-von-Humboldt Foundation fellowships and research grants.

For further information please contact the Medical council of India: http://mciindia.org