

Handout on official notarization

Please read this handout carefully and make sure that your notarized copy meets the formal criteria described here. If your copy does not comply with our requirements, we cannot accept it.

1. What does official notarization look like?

We only accept notarized copies with an official seal and **authentic** signature. **Neither a copy of an officially notarized copy nor scanned documents are considered** officially notarized. Such documents will not be recognized as official notarizations.

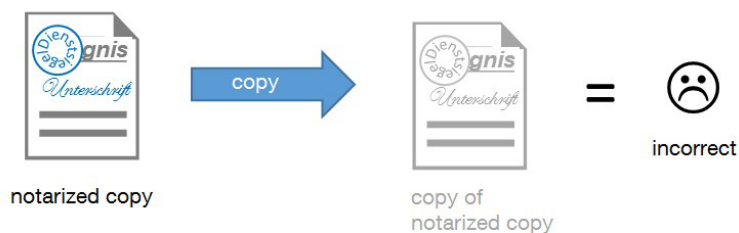
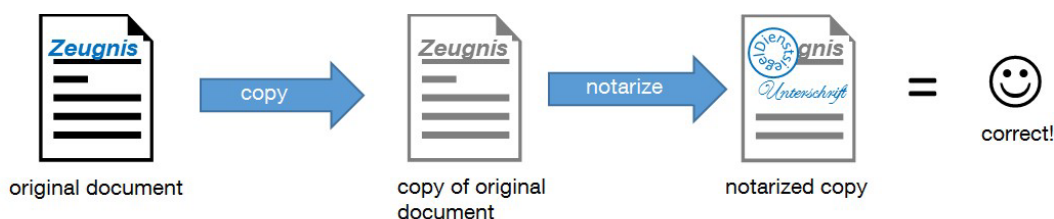


Figure 1: Notarized copy – correct and incorrect

A sealed letter does **not** substitute a notarized copy.

TUM will only accept **digital notarizations or verifications** if a verification link or code can be found on the document. The content of the document must be available in full on an official website of the issuing institution that can be accessed in German or English. If technical problems occur or verification is not possible for other reasons, a notarized copy must be submitted as a paper document.

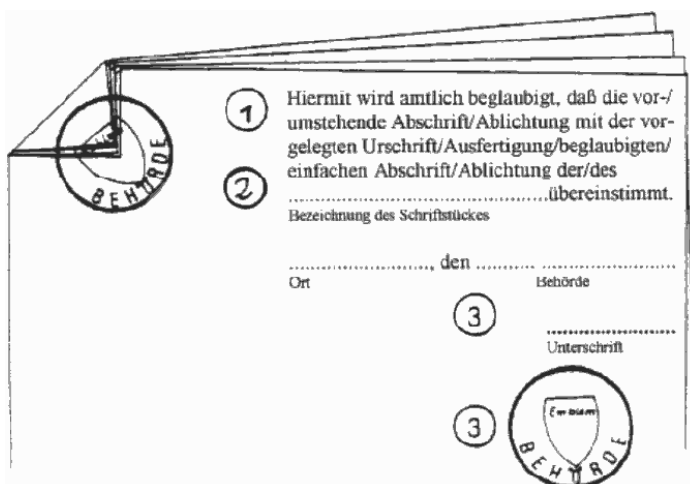
2. Who has authorization to issue official notarization?

TUM only accepts notarizations issued by

- authorized schools and institutions of higher education, as well as the relevant ministries of the respective home country
- the diplomatic body of the Federal Republic of Germany (German embassies)
- the cultural department of the respective country's embassy, from which the certificate originates
- authorities and notaries authorized to provide official notarization in the respective country

In no case will we accept notarizations from private individuals, lawyers, a priest's office, health insurance companies, banks or the AStA (student union executive committee)!

3. Which qualities must an official notarization have?



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Figure 2: Stipulations of a correctly notarized copy

We only accept notarized copies that contain **all** of the following stipulations (see figure 1):

- 1) **Statement of authenticity** indicating that the copy corresponds to the original.
- 2) **Original signature** of the notary confirming the statement of notarization.
- 3) **Official seal**, usually **round or oval**, containing an **emblem** (e.g. official crest) and the **name of the authority**. A **simple ink stamp** is **insufficient!** (see figure 3) A notary without an official seal is **not qualified to notarize** your documents!

Official seal:



Simple ink stamp:

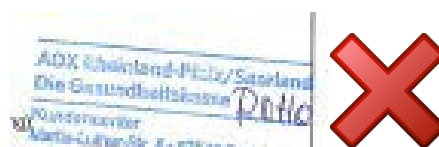


Figure 3: Official seal vs. invalid ink stamp

Multi-page documents:

If the copy consists of **more than one page**, evidence is required that all pages belong to the same document. The following forms of notarization are possible:

1.) It is sufficient for one page to carry the statement of authenticity and signature, provided that all pages are arranged and affixed so that they overlap and **each** shows part of the official seal (see figure 2).

or

2.) You may have each page notarized separately. In this case, your name must appear on each page of the original. If this is not the case, both your name and a reference to the type of certification (e.g. university entrance qualification) must appear in the statement of authenticity on each sheet, clearly indicating that the pages belong together to constitute a single document. In no case may you add any missing information yourself!

If there are relevant **copies on both the front and back** of the sheet, the following forms of notarization are possible:

1.) The statement of authenticity must refer to the front and back ("This is to certify that this page and its reverse side correspond to the original.").

or

2.) both the front and reserve sides of the sheet must be notarized separately.

4. How to notarize non-German documents

Official notarization of non-German documents:

If you are already in Germany, please contact the **embassy or consulate of your home country or a German notary** to have your documents notarized. German authorities (e.g. City Hall, Regulatory Office, District Administration Office) cannot notarize foreign language documents.

Please ensure that your notarized copy complies with the stipulations according to point 3.

Translation of documents that are not in English or German:

Documents in English need not be translated. Documents **not** issued in **German or English** must be translated and notarized by a **sworn translator**. Please submit a notarized copy of both the original document **and** the translated document.

5. Are there special rules for certain countries?

- Documents from the **United Kingdom (UK)** need to be notarized by a notary since the universities do not notarize themselves.
- Documents from **Iran** have to be notarized by the German Embassy in Teheran. [More information](#)
- Notarized copies from **China** require the red round seal and the round embossed seal of the university or the notary.
- Notarized copies from **Georgia** must bear an apostille (additional authentication of notarized documents for international purposes). The apostille must appear on both the Georgian-language original and the translation.