



## Residence permit for the purpose of taking up qualified employment

Information on requirements, entitlements and the application process

The German Skilled Immigration Act was adopted in March 2020 and revised in 2023. The new law provides new opportunities for skilled workers from non-EU countries to immigrate to Germany in order to take up employment. This applies to skilled workers with vocational qualifications as well as to skilled workers with academic qualifications.

### Requirements

If you are a skilled worker who wants to work in Germany, the following requirements apply in order to receive a visa:

- **vocational training certificate** or **university degree**
- for all regulated occupations in Germany: **certificate of recognition** demonstrating the full equivalence of your qualification as well as a **professional practice permit**
- for non-regulated occupations in Germany that require vocational training: **certificate of recognition** demonstrating the full equivalence of your qualification
- for non-regulated occupations in Germany that require an academic qualification: **statement of comparability**
- no specific requirements regarding **German language skills** (except for some regulated occupations in Germany for which the regional authority determines whether specific language skills are required); in general, it is your future employer's responsibility to examine if your language skills are sufficient
- **work contract** or **job offer** in a qualified position. This means that a university degree or qualified vocational training must be required to do the job. Auxiliary tasks will not be sufficient for this purpose.
- a work contract or job offer with a **minimum salary** of €53,130 (as of 2025) if you are older than 45 years
- **approval of the German Federal Employment Agency** regarding the working conditions

### Entitlements

If you meet the above-mentioned requirements, you are entitled to the following:

- obtain a **residence permit** for the purpose of taking up qualified employment for up to four years – or less in case your employment contract states a shorter term.
- request a **residence permit** for the immigration of your **spouse and children** (under the age of 18) if you have sufficient financial means to cover living expenses and health insurance for yourself and your family.

- request a residence permit for the immigration of your **parents and parents-in-law**, if your visa or residence permit was first issued after 1 March 2024
- apply for a **permanent residence permit** if you fulfil the following criteria:
  - qualified employment for at least 36 months
  - contribution to the German pension fund for 36 months
  - sufficient means to cover your living expenses and adequate residential space
  - sufficient knowledge of German language (at least language level B1) and basic knowledge of Germany's legal and social system

## Application process in four steps



### 1. Recognition of qualification

As a skilled worker from a non-EU country who wants to work in Germany, you need to prove that your foreign qualification is **fully equivalent / comparable** to the German reference occupation. If you want to work in an occupation requiring vocational or in a regulated occupation requiring academic qualification, you have to go through the **recognition procedure**. In order to receive a **certificate of recognition**, please contact the “Service Center for Professional Recognition” (ZSBA) accessible via the hotline “Working and Living in Germany”. The ZSBA advisors will support you in identifying the appropriate reference occupation in Germany, compiling the application documents, and identifying the relevant recognition authority in order to obtain your certificate. The recognition procedure can take up to four months. The costs of the procedure vary greatly. Depending on the profession, costs can amount to several hundred euros. Only if the certificate of recognition states that your qualification is fully equivalent, you may apply for a residence permit for the purpose of taking up qualified employment.

#### Website “Recognition in Germany”

[www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/index.php](http://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/index.php)

#### Service Center for Professional Recognition (ZSBA)

<https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/service-center-for-professional-recognition.php>

#### Hotline “Working and Living in Germany”

+49 30 1815 1111

If you want to work in a non-regulated occupation in Germany that requires an academic qualification, you do not have to go through the above-mentioned recognition procedure, but you must prove that your foreign academic qualification is comparable to a German university degree through a **comparative assessment**. As a first step, you should check whether your university degree is listed in the database “Recognition and evaluation of foreign qualifications” (ANABIN). If ANABIN confirms comparability between your foreign university degree and the reference university degree in Germany, a printout of the result may be sufficient.

If your foreign degree is not listed in the database, you have to request an individual **statement of comparability** from the “Central Office for Foreign Education” (ZAB). You can request the statement of comparability online, and it costs €208.

**ANABIN database: Recognition and evaluation of foreign qualifications** >> website in German language only  
<https://anabin.kmk.org/cms/public/startseite>

**ZAB: Statement of comparability**  
<https://zab.kmk.org/en/statement-comparability>

## 2. German language skills

The proof of German language skills is not mandatory by law when applying for a work visa. Nevertheless, it may be necessary to prove a certain level of German language skills for the recognition of foreign qualifications (e.g. in regulated professions in Germany). It is therefore recommended that you have at least basic German language skills in order to support your professional life and your overall successful integration in Germany. In many countries, various language schools offer – mostly fee-based – **courses of German as a foreign language**. Here is a small selection of language schools that offer German language courses as well as certified exams that are accepted by the German authorities.

**Goethe-Institute**  
[www.goethe.de/en/](http://www.goethe.de/en/)

**Austrian German Language Diploma (ÖSD)**  
[www.osd.at/en/](http://www.osd.at/en/)

**The European Language Certificate (TELC)**  
<http://www.telc.net/en>

## 3. Work contract / job offer

There are numerous online resources available for those looking for a job in Germany. Germany's largest online **job exchange** is the job portal of the German Federal Employment Agency. If you want to apply for a job, you usually have to submit the following documents to the employer:

- a cover letter explaining your motivation for the job
- a curriculum vitae, ideally using the Europass format
- certificates of your qualifications from the educational institution(s) that you attended
- if available: reference letters from previous employers

Once you have found a job, your future employer should fill in the **Declaration of Employment**, which contains information on the functions and responsibilities of the employee, the working time, and the salary as well as some other details. This declaration is needed as the German Federal Employment Agency will examine the working conditions and the suitability of your qualification for the job.

**Job portal of the German Employment Agency** >> website in German language only  
[www.jobboerse.arbeitsagentur.de](http://www.jobboerse.arbeitsagentur.de)

**Job portal "Make it in Germany"**  
<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/working-in-germany/job-listings>

**Form "Declaration of Employment"** >> website in German language only  
<https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/unternehmen/arbeitskraefte/fachkraefte-ausland/vorabzustimmung-fuer-auslaendische-beschaefigte>

#### 4. Visa application

Before taking up employment in Germany as a skilled worker from a non-EU country, you need a **visa**. On the website of the German Foreign Office, a “Visa-Navigator” helps potential applicants to check which visa they need.

First of all, you should check whether it is possible to submit an online application in the **Consular Services Portal** of the German Foreign Office for your responsible German mission abroad and your desired residence permit. If it’s not available, you have to make an appointment at the **German mission abroad** (embassy or consulate). You have to bring to the appointment translated and certified copies of the required documents for the residence permit for qualified employment (see listed requirements above) and the following documents:

- completed and signed application form or digital Videx application form
- biometric passport photos
- valid passport
- approval of travel health insurance
- visa fee (€75 in local currency)

The complete list of documents required for the visa application can usually be found on the website of the German mission in your country of residence. The German mission abroad will then examine your application and request an approval from the German Federal Employment Agency. The waiting time for a confirmation or rejection of a visa application differs from place to place.

##### “Visa-Navigator” of the German Foreign Office

<https://digital.diplo.de/navigator/en/visa>

##### Visa regulations of the German Foreign Office

<http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/-/215870>

##### Consular Services Portal (“Auslandsportal”) of the German Foreign Office

<https://digital.diplo.de/visa>

##### Online visa application form (Videx)

<https://videx.diplo.de/videx/visum-erfassung/videx-langfristiger-aufenthalt>

##### “Make it in Germany” step-by-step guide: qualified employment

<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/pdf-visa-skilled-workers>

Please note: Once you have a concrete job offer, you may authorise your future German employer to apply for the so-called **fast-track procedure**. This process helps to speed up the administrative procedures for obtaining your certificate of recognition of foreign qualifications as well as your visa. The fee for this procedure is €411.



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## EU Blue Card

### Information on requirements, entitlements and the application process

The EU Blue Card enables skilled workers from non-EU countries with a university degree to work in Germany. By introducing the EU Blue Card in 2012, Germany has implemented the “EU Council Directive on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly qualified employment”.

### Requirements

If you are a skilled worker with an academic background who wants to work in Germany, the following requirements apply in order to receive a visa:

- **university degree** from a German or a foreign academic institution. The foreign qualification must be fully equivalent to a German university degree.
- for all regulated occupations in Germany: **certificate of recognition** demonstrating the full equivalence of your qualification as well as a **professional practice permit**
- for non-regulated occupations in Germany: **statement of comparability**
- **IT specialist without formal qualifications: at least three years of work experience in ICT.** Work experience should be at university level and a prerequisite for employment in Germany.
- no specific requirements regarding **German language skills**; it is your future employer’s responsibility to examine if your language skills are sufficient.
- **work contract** or **job offer** that matches your qualification; employment in related occupations is not allowed. The work contract must have a term of **at least six months**.
- a **minimum salary** of €48,300 per year for “regular occupations” or €43,759.80 per year for “shortage occupations” (as of 2025). For the EU Blue Card, “shortage occupations” include all professions in the fields of mathematics, computer science, natural science, engineering, and human medicine, but also managers in professions such as childcare services, manufacturing, construction, and communication technology. All other occupations can be seen as regular occupations. A full list of all shortage occupations is available on the website “Make it in Germany”: <https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/pdf-mangelberufe-en>
- for **young professionals**: people who obtained their last degree less than three years ago can obtain an EU Blue Card with a minimum salary of €43,759.80 per year (as of 2025).
- for shortage occupations, IT specialists, and young professionals: **approval of the German Federal Employment Agency (BA)** regarding the working conditions.

**Good to know:** An EU Blue Card can also be obtained by anyone who, instead of a traditional university degree, has a degree at university level that took at least three years to complete. In Germany, this qualification must correspond to at least level 6 of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011) or level 6 of the European Qualifications Framework. Examples of such qualifications are vocational qualifications in education professions.

## Entitlements

If you meet the above-mentioned requirements, you are entitled to the following:

- obtain an **EU Blue Card** for up to four years – or less if your employment contract states a shorter term.
- request a **residence permit** for the immigration of your **spouse and children** (under the age of 18), if you show proof of sufficient financial means to cover living expenses and health insurance for yourself and your family.
- request a residence permit for the immigration of your **parents and parents-in-law**, if your visa or residence permit was first issued after 1 March 2024
- apply for a **permanent residence permit** after 27 months in employment, if you fulfil the following criteria:
  - highly qualified employment requiring academic qualification for at least 27 months
  - contribution to the German pension fund for 27 months
  - sufficient means to cover your living expenses and adequate residential space
  - basic German language skills at least A1 level and basic knowledge of Germany's legal and social system

Please note: If you can prove more than basic German language skills (at least language level B1), you can already apply for a permanent residence permit after just 21 months.

**Good to know:** Due to the minimum salary requirement, obtaining an EU Blue Card is rather difficult. If you do not fulfil this requirement, you may apply for a "residence permit for the purpose of taking up qualified employment" (Handout 1) and not for the EU Blue Card.

## Application process in four steps



### 1. Recognition of qualification

As a skilled worker from a non-EU country who wants to work in Germany with an EU Blue Card, you need to prove that your foreign qualification is **fully equivalent / comparable** to the German reference occupation.

If you want to work in a regulated occupation requiring academic qualification in Germany, you have to go through the **recognition procedure**. In order to receive a **certificate of recognition**, please contact the "Service Center for Professional Recognition" (ZSBA), accessible via the hotline "Working and Living in Germany". The ZSBA advisors will support you in identifying the appropriate reference occupation in Germany, compiling the application documents and identifying the responsible recognition authority in order to obtain your certificate. The recognition procedure can take up to four months. The costs of the procedure vary greatly. Depending on the profession, costs can amount to several hundred euros. Only if the certificate of recognition states that your qualification is fully equivalent, you may apply for the EU Blue Card.

#### Website "Recognition in Germany"

[www.anererkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/index.php](http://www.anererkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/index.php)

#### Service Center for Professional Recognition (ZSBA)

<https://www.anererkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/service-center-for-professional-recognition.php>

#### Hotline “Working and Living in Germany”

+49 30 1815 1111

If you want to work in a non-regulated occupation in Germany that requires an academic qualification, you do not have to go through the above-mentioned recognition procedure, but you must prove that your foreign academic qualification is comparable to a German university degree through a **comparative assessment**. As a first step, you should check whether your university degree is listed in the database “Recognition and evaluation of foreign qualifications” (ANABIN). If ANABIN confirms comparability between your foreign university degree and the reference university degree in Germany, a printout of the result may be sufficient. If your foreign degree is not listed in the database, you must request an individual **statement of comparability** from the “Central Office for Foreign Education” (ZAB). You can request the statement of comparability online, and it costs €208.

**ANABIN database: Recognition and evaluation of foreign qualifications** >> website in German language only

<https://anabin.kmk.org/cms/public/startseite>

**ZAB: Statement of comparability**

<https://zab.kmk.org/en/statement-comparability>

## 2. German language skills

There are no specific requirements regarding German language skills when applying for the EU Blue Card – except for the recognition procedure in some professions. Nevertheless, it is recommended that you have at least basic German language skills in order to support your professional life and your overall successful integration in Germany. In many countries, various language schools offer – mostly fee-based – **courses of German as a foreign language**. Here is a small selection of language schools that offer German language courses as well as certified exams that are accepted by the German authorities.

**Goethe-Institut**

[www.goethe.de/en/](http://www.goethe.de/en/)

**Austrian German Language Diploma (ÖSD)**

[www.osd.at/en/](http://www.osd.at/en/)

**The European Language Certificate (TELC)**

[www.telc.net/en](http://www.telc.net/en)

## 3. Work contract / job offer

There are numerous online resources available for those looking for a job in Germany. Germany's largest online **job exchange** is the job portal of the German Federal Employment Agency. If you want to apply for a job, you usually have to submit the following documents to the employer:

- a cover letter explaining your motivation for the job
- a curriculum vitae, ideally using the Europass format
- certificates of your qualifications from the educational institution(s) that you attended
- if available: reference letters from previous employers

Once you have found a job, your future employer has to fill in the **Declaration of Employment** (if the BA's approval is required). The declaration contains information on the functions and responsibilities of the employee, the working time, and the salary as well as some other details. This declaration is needed as the German Federal Employment Agency (BA) will examine the working conditions and the suitability of your qualification for the job.



**Job portal of the German Employment Agency** >> website in German language only  
[www.jobboerse.arbeitsagentur.de](http://www.jobboerse.arbeitsagentur.de)

**Job portal “Make it in Germany”**

<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/working-in-germany/job-listings>

**Form “Declaration of Employment”** >> website in German language only

[https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/datei/erklaerung-zum-beschaefigungsverhaeltnis\\_ba047549.pdf](https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/datei/erklaerung-zum-beschaefigungsverhaeltnis_ba047549.pdf)

#### 4. Visa application

Before taking up employment in Germany as a skilled worker from a non-EU country, you need a **visa**. On the website of the German Foreign Office, a “Visa-Navigator” helps potential applicants to check which visa they need.

First of all, you should check whether it is possible to submit an online application in the **Consular Services Portal** of the German Foreign Office for your responsible German mission abroad and your desired residence permit. If it's not available, you have to make an appointment at the **German mission abroad** (embassy or consulate). You have to bring to the appointment translated and certified copies of the required documents for the residence permit for qualified employment (see listed requirements above) and the following documents:

- completed and signed application form or digital Videx application form
- biometric passport photos
- valid passport
- approval of travel health insurance
- visa fee (€75 in local currency)

The complete list of documents required for the visa application can usually be found on the website of the German mission in your country of residence. The German mission abroad will then examine your application documents and request an approval from the German Federal Employment Agency – if necessary. The waiting time for a confirmation or rejection of a visa application differs from place to place.

**“Visa-Navigator” of the German Foreign Office**

<https://digital.diplo.de/navigator/en/visa>

**Visa regulations of the German Foreign Office**

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/visa-service/215870-215870>

**Consular Services Portal (“Auslandsportal”) of the German Foreign Office**

<https://digital.diplo.de/visa>

**Online visa application form (Videx)**

<https://videx.diplo.de/videx/visum-erfassung/videx-langfristiger-aufenthalt>

**“Make it in Germany” step-by-step guide: EU Blue Card**

<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/pdf-blue-card-eu>

Please note: Once you have a concrete job offer, you may authorise your future German employer to apply for the so-called **fast-track procedure**. This newly helps to speed up the administrative procedures for obtaining your certificate of recognition of foreign qualifications as well as your visa. The fee for this procedure is €411.



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## Visa for Professionally Experienced Workers

### Information on requirements, entitlements and the application process

The visa for professionally experienced workers enables nationals from non-EU countries to work in **non-regulated professions** in Germany. The visa was newly introduced in March 2024 within the context of the amendment of the German Skilled Immigration Act.

#### Requirements

If you are a national from a country outside the EU with professional experience who wishes to work in Germany, the following requirements apply to receive a visa for professionally experienced workers:

- **university degree or vocational qualification** requiring at least two years of full-time training to complete. The degree or qualification must be recognized by the country it was obtained in.
- evidence of **professional experience** of at least two years within the last five years. The professional experience must be related to the aspired job position in Germany.
- a **concrete job offer in a non-regulated profession** in Germany. Non-regulated professions are professions whose practice is not protected by law; this applies to most vocational training occupations in Germany. Auxiliary tasks will not be sufficient for this purpose.
- a **minimum gross annual salary** of €43,470 (in 2025). Alternatively, your employer being bound by salaries stated in collective agreements is sufficient as well. **Workers over the age of 45** must earn a minimum gross annual salary of €53,130 (in 2025) or provide evidence of **sufficient pension provision**.
- **approval of the German Federal Employment Agency** regarding the working conditions

**Good to know:** Experienced professionals in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT) do not require proof of obtaining a formal professional qualification, such as a university degree, an AHK qualification or a vocational qualification.

#### Entitlements

If you meet the above-mentioned requirements, you are entitled to the following:

- obtain a **residence permit** for the purpose of taking up qualified employment for up to four years. If your employment contract specifies a shorter duration, the residence permit is valid for the duration of the employment contract plus 3 additional months.
- request a **residence permit** for the immigration of your **spouse and children** (under the age of 18) if you have sufficient financial means to cover living expenses and health insurance for yourself and your family.
- request a residence permit for the immigration of your **parents and parents-in-law**, if your visa or residence permit was first issued after 1 March 2024
- apply for a **permanent residence permit** if you fulfil the following criteria:
  - qualified employment for at least 60 months
  - contribution to the German pension fund for 60 months
  - sufficient means to cover your living expenses and adequate residential space
  - sufficient knowledge of German language (at least language level B1) and basic knowledge of Germany's legal and social system

## Application process in five steps



### 1. Qualification

As someone from a non-EU country who wants to work in a non-regulated profession in Germany, you need to prove that you have a foreign university degree or vocational qualification that is recognised in the country where it was obtained. For this requirement to be fulfilled in the visa application, you must present a digital **Statement on your vocational qualification (“DAB”)** of your vocational qualification, or a **Statement of Comparability** for your university degree. To receive these documents, you must submit an application at the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB). Both statements can be requested online. The Statement on vocational qualification (DAB) costs €150, while the fee for the Statement of Comparability is €208.

People with academic degrees can instead check in the anabin database whether their university degree is positively evaluated. In this case a printout of anabin is sufficient.

#### Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB): Statement of Comparability and Statement on vocational qualification

<https://zab.kmk.org/en/statement-comparability>

<https://zab.kmk.org/en/dab>

#### Anabin database: recognition and evaluation of foreign qualifications >> website only available in German

<https://anabin.kmk.org/cms/public/startseite>

#### Hotline “Working and Living in Germany”

+49 30 1815 1111

### 2. Work experience

The visa you want to apply for requires that you have worked at least two years in the last five years. The existing professional experience must have been gained through one or more activities at academic level or at the level of qualified vocational training. The professional experience may have been acquired worldwide and should be related to the future employment in Germany. In order to prove the relevant professional experience, you must generally submit **references of previous employers** and a complete CV with no gaps.

### 3. German language skills

The proof of German language skills is not mandatory by law when applying for a work visa. Nevertheless, depending on your future employer, it may be necessary to prove a certain level of German language skills. It is therefore recommended that you have at least basic German language skills in order to support your professional life and your overall successful integration in Germany. In many countries, various language schools offer – mostly fee-based – **courses of German as a foreign language**. Here is a small selection of language schools that offer German language courses as well as certified exams that are accepted by the German authorities.

#### Goethe-Institute

[www.goethe.de/en/](http://www.goethe.de/en/)

#### Austrian German Language Diploma (ÖSD)

[www.osd.at/en/](http://www.osd.at/en/)

#### The European Language Certificate (TELC)

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#### 4. Work contract / job offer

There are numerous online resources available for those looking for a job in Germany. Germany's largest online **job exchange** is the job portal of the German Federal Employment Agency. If you want to apply for a job, you usually have to submit the following documents to the employer:

- a cover letter explaining your motivation for the job
- a curriculum vitae, ideally using the Europass format
- certificates of your qualifications from the educational institution(s) that you attended
- if available: reference letters from previous employers

Once you have found a job, your future employer should complete the **Declaration of Employment**, which contains information on the employee's functions and responsibilities, the working time, and the salary as well as some other details. This declaration is needed as the German Federal Employment Agency will examine the working conditions and the suitability of your professional experience for the job.

**Job portal of the German Employment Agency** >> website in German language only

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#### 5. Visa application

Before entering Germany in order to take up employment as a professionally experienced worker, you require a visa. On the website of the German Foreign Office, a "Visa-Navigator" helps potential applicants to check which visa they need.

First of all, you should check whether it is possible to submit an online application in the **Consular Services Portal** of the German Foreign Office for your responsible German mission abroad and your desired residence permit. If it's not available, you have to make an appointment at the **German mission abroad** (embassy or consulate). To the appointment, you have to bring translated and certified copies of the required documents as evidence for the residence permit for qualified employment (see listed requirements above) and the following documents:

- completed visa application form or digital Videx application
- biometric passport photos
- valid passport
- if required, proof of German language skills
- Declaration of Employment form
- proof of sufficient health insurance
- visa fee (€75 in local currency)

The complete list of documents required for the visa application can usually be found on the website of the German mission in your country of residence. The German mission abroad will then examine your application documents. The waiting time for a confirmation or rejection of a visa application differs from place to place.

**“Visa-Navigator” of the German Foreign Office**

<https://digital.diplo.de/navigator/en/visa#/vib>

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<http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/-/215870>

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<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/pdf-visa-professionally-experienced-workers>

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## Residence permit for the purpose of undertaking a qualification measure in the context of professional recognition

### Information on requirements, entitlements and the application process

People from non-EU countries whose foreign qualification is only partially recognised by the German recognition authorities do not have to give up yet. They have the opportunity to take part in additional qualification measures in Germany – with the aim of receiving full recognition of their foreign qualification.

Foreign workers who want to take up employment in a **regulated occupation** in Germany are allowed to take part in a “**compensation measure**” in Germany, those interested in taking up employment in a **non-regulated occupation** are allowed to take part in an “**adaptation measure**”.

### Requirements

If you come from a non-EU country and your foreign qualification is only partially recognised by the German recognition authorities and now want to take part in additional qualification measures in Germany, the following requirements apply in order to receive a visa:

- **vocational training certificate** or **university degree**
- for all regulated occupations in Germany: **notification of recognition** that names the necessary “compensation measure” that allows you to gain full recognition of your foreign qualification in Germany
- for non-regulated occupations: **notification of recognition** that describes the main differences between your foreign qualification and the German reference occupation; it is then up to you to seek a suitable “adaptation measure”
- evidence of sufficient **German language skills** (at least language level A2). If the language acquisition is part of your planned qualification measure, there is no specific language skills requirement
- evidence of **enrolment for a qualification measure** in Germany (for regulated occupations: compensation measure, for non-regulated occupations: adaptation measure)
- **proof of sufficient financial means** to cover your living expenses (as of 2025: €1,091 per month), e.g. through a blocked bank account or Declaration of Commitment
- **approval of the German Federal Employment Agency** regarding the working conditions if your qualification measure mainly takes place in a company (> 50% of the time)



## Entitlements

If you meet the above-mentioned requirements, you are entitled to:

- obtain a **residence permit** for the purpose of undertaking a qualification measure in the context of professional recognition for up to 24 months (extension of 12 months possible)
- have **restricted access to employment** during the qualification measure (up to 20 hours per week) in an occupation that is not related to your professional qualification
- have **unrestricted access to employment** during the qualification measure (no time limitation) in an occupation that is related to your professional qualification (e.g. an aspiring doctor may work as a nursing assistant); before taking up employment, the German Federal Employment Agency has to issue an approval
- request a **residence permit** for the immigration of your **spouse and children** (under the age of 18) if you fulfil the following criteria:
  - adequate residential space for you and your family
  - sufficient financial means to cover living expenses for you and your family
- **change the residence permit** for another residence purpose after you gain the full recognition of your qualification (e.g. residence permit for the purpose of taking up qualified employment, seeking employment, vocational training or studies)

## Application process in four steps



### 1. Recognition of qualification

If you want to complete a qualification measure in Germany, you need to prove that your foreign qualification is **partially equivalent** to the German reference occupation.

In order to do so you have to go through the **recognition procedure** and receive a **notification of recognition** that certifies to which extent your foreign qualification is equivalent to the reference occupation in Germany. In order to obtain this notification, please contact the “Service Center for Professional Recognition” (ZSBA), accessible via the hotline “Working and Living in Germany”.

The ZSBA advisors will support you in identifying the appropriate reference occupation in Germany, compiling the application documents and identifying the responsible recognition authority. The recognition procedure can take up to four months. The costs of the procedure vary greatly. Depending on the profession, costs can amount to several hundred euros. Only if the notification of recognition states that your foreign qualification is not fully, but only partially equivalent and that specific requirements must be fulfilled to receive full equivalence, you may apply for the residence permit for the purpose of undertaking a qualification measure in the context of professional recognition.

#### Website “Recognition in Germany”

[www.erkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/index.php](http://www.erkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/index.php)

#### Service Center for Professional Recognition (ZSBA)

<https://www.erkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/service-center-for-professional-recognition.php>

#### Hotline “Working and Living in Germany”

+49 30 1815 1111

## 2. German language skills

Proof of German language skills is a mandatory requirement for people from non-EU countries who want to come to Germany to undergo additional qualification measures in order to receive a full recognition of their foreign qualification. German language skills are not only very important to support the successful completion of your qualification measure, but also for your overall successful integration in Germany.

In many countries, various language schools offer – mostly fee-based – **courses of German as a foreign language**. In order to prove your German language skills, you need a **language certificate** from a certified exam provider. The Goethe-Institute offers language courses and conducts certified exams. There are several other certificates that are also often accepted (see selection below). It is best to check with the German embassy or consulate in your country which certificates will be accepted by them.

<b>Goethe-Institute</b> <a href="http://www.goethe.de/en/">www.goethe.de/en/</a>
<b>Austrian German Language Diploma (ÖSD)</b> <a href="http://www.osd.at/en/">www.osd.at/en/</a>
<b>The European Language Certificate (TELC)</b> <a href="http://www.telc.net/en">www.telc.net/en</a>
<b>Test German as Foreign Language (TestDAF)</b> >> website in German language only <a href="http://www.testdaf.de">www.testdaf.de</a>
<b>German Language University Entrance (DSH)</b> <a href="https://en.dsh-germany.com">https://en.dsh-germany.com</a>
<b>German Language Diploma (DSD)</b> >> website in German language only <a href="https://www.kmk.org/themen/deutsches-sprachdiplom-dsd/">https://www.kmk.org/themen/deutsches-sprachdiplom-dsd/</a>

## 3. Enrolment in qualification measure

If you want to work in a regulated occupation in Germany, the responsible German recognition authority determines in its notification of recognition the specific “**compensation measure**” that you have to undergo in order to receive a full recognition of your qualification.

If you want to work in a non-regulated occupation in Germany, the certificate of recognition describes main differences between your qualification and the German reference occupation; it is then up to you to seek a suitable “**adaptation measure**” in Germany.

Information on existing opportunities of qualification measures that are accepted by German authorities can be found via the database KURSNET of the German Federal Employment Agency. The “Service Center for Professional Recognition” (ZSBA) also offers advice on suitable qualification measures via the hotline “Working and Living in Germany”.

<b>KURSNET Database</b> >> website in German language only <a href="https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/kursnet">https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/kursnet</a>
<b>Language support and migration (e.g. professional language courses)</b> >> website in German language only <a href="https://web.arbeitsagentur.de/sprachfoerderung/home">https://web.arbeitsagentur.de/sprachfoerderung/home</a>
<b>Hotline “Working and Living in Germany”</b> +49 30 1815 1111

## 4. Visa application

Before taking up a qualification measure in Germany, you need a **visa**. The website of the German Foreign Office has a “Visa-Navigator” which helps potential applicants to check which visa they need.

First, you should check whether it is possible to submit an online application in the **Consular Services Portal** of the German Foreign Office for your responsible German mission abroad and your desired residence permit. If it's not available, you must make an appointment at the **German mission abroad** (embassy or consulate). You have to bring to your appointment translated and certified copies of the required documents for the residence permit for the purpose of recognition of foreign qualification (see listed requirements above) and the following documents:

- completed and signed application form or the digital Videx application form
- biometric passport photos
- valid passport
- approval of travel health insurance
- visa fee (€75 in local currency)

The complete list of documents required for the visa application can usually be found on the website of the German mission in your country of residence. The German mission will then examine your application and request an approval from the German Federal Employment Agency – if necessary. The waiting time for a confirmation or rejection of a visa application differs from place to place.

**“Visa-Navigator” of the German Foreign Office**

<https://digital.diplo.de/navigator/en/visa>

**Visa regulations of the German Foreign Office**

<http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/-/215870>

**Consular Services Portal (“Auslandsportal”) of the German Foreign Office**

<https://digital.diplo.de/visa>

**Online visa application form (Videx)**

<https://videx.diplo.de/videx/visum-erfassung/videx-langfristiger-aufenthalt>

**“Make it in Germany” step-by-step guide: Recognition of foreign qualifications**

<https://make-it-in-germany.com/pdf-visa-recognition>



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## Visa for Employment within the Framework of a Recognition Partnership

Information on requirements, entitlements and the application process

The recognition partnership visa enables nationals from non-EU countries to enter Germany and complete the recognition procedure while simultaneously working for their German employer. The visa was newly introduced in March 2024 within the context of the amendment of the German Skilled Immigration Act.

### Requirements

If you are a national from a country outside the EU who wishes to work in Germany, but your qualifications have not yet been recognized, the following requirements apply to receive a recognition partnership visa:

- **university degree or vocational qualification** requiring at least two years of full-time training to complete. The degree or qualification must be recognized by the country it was obtained in.
- a **binding and concrete job offer** for qualified employment from an employer based in Germany. Auxiliary activities are generally not sufficient, unless the goal is employment in a regulated profession, which requires a licence to practise.
- a **recognition partnership agreement** with the future employer stating that the completion of the recognition procedure is part of the employment relationship.
- **proof of language proficiency** for German language skills at a minimum level of A2 (CEFR). Depending on the profession, higher levels of language proficiency may be required.
- a **suitable employer** who has experience in providing vocational training or post-qualification skills development. The suitability of your employer will be verified during the visa procedure.

### Entitlements

If you meet the above-mentioned requirements, you are entitled to the following:

- obtain a **recognition partnership visa** for up to 12 months allowing you to be employed in Germany while pursuing the recognition of your qualification. The recognition partnership visa may be extended for one year at a time up to a maximum of three years.
- pursue **secondary part-time work** for up to 20 hours per week.
- if full recognition is achieved by the end of the procedure, you can – depending on your qualification – apply for a residence permit for skilled workers or an EU Blue Card at the competent authority.
- if partial recognition is achieved by the end of the procedure, i.e., practical or theoretical skills are lacking, your residence permit for a recognition partnership will be extended so that you can take part in qualification measures (e.g., language courses) to address your skills gaps and achieve full recognition.

## Application process in four steps



### 1. Qualification

As a non-EU national wishing to work in Germany and have their qualifications recognised while working for a German employer, you need to prove that you have a foreign university degree or vocational qualification that is recognised in the country where it was obtained. For this requirement to be fulfilled in the visa application, you must present a digital **Statement on your vocational qualification (“DAB”)** of your vocational qualification, or a **Statement of Comparability** for your university degree. To receive these documents, you must submit an application at the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB). Both statements can be requested online. The Statement on vocational qualification (DAB) costs €150, while the fee for the Statement of Comparability is €208.

People with academic degrees can instead check in the anabin database whether their university degree is positively evaluated. In this case a printout of anabin is sufficient.

**Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB): Statement of Comparability and Positive Information Statement**

<https://zab.kmk.org/en/statement-comparability>

<https://zab.kmk.org/en/dab>

**Anabin database: recognition and evaluation of foreign qualifications >> website only available in German**

<https://anabin.kmk.org/cms/public/startseite>

**Hotline “Working and Living in Germany”**

+49 30 1815 1111

### 2. German language skills

In general, the minimum German language requirement to be able to apply for a recognition partnership visa is level A2 (CEFR). It is recommended that you have additional German language skills in order to support your professional life and your overall successful integration in Germany. In many countries, various language schools offer – mostly fee-based – **courses of German as a foreign language**. Here is a small selection of language schools that offer German language courses as well as certified exams that are accepted by the German authorities.

**Goethe-Institut**

[www.goethe.de/en/](http://www.goethe.de/en/)

**Austrian German Language Diploma (ÖSD)**

[www.osd.at/en/](http://www.osd.at/en/)

**The European Language Certificate (TELC)**

[www.telc.net/en](http://www.telc.net/en)

### 3. Work contract / job offer

There are numerous online resources available for those looking for a job in Germany. Germany’s largest online **job exchange** is the job portal of the German Federal Employment Agency. If you want to apply for a job, you usually have to submit the following documents to the employer:

- a cover letter explaining your motivation for the job

- a curriculum vitae, ideally using the Europass format
- certificates of your qualifications from the educational institution(s) that you attended
- if available: reference letters from previous employers

Once you have found a job, your future employer has to provide a binding job offer or work contract for the prospective job position, as well as a recognition partnership agreement. In addition, he must complete the **Declaration of Employment** and the appendix. The declaration contains information on the employee's functions and responsibilities, the working time, and the salary as well as some other details. This declaration is needed as the German Federal Employment Agency (BA) will examine the working conditions and the suitability of your qualification for the job.

**Job portal of the German Employment Agency** >> website in German language only  
[www.jobboerse.arbeitsagentur.de](http://www.jobboerse.arbeitsagentur.de)

**Job portal "Make it in Germany"**

<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/working-in-germany/job-listings>

**Form "Declaration of Employment"** >> website in German language only

[https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/datei/erklarung-zum-beschaefigungsverhaeltnis\\_ba047549.pdf](https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/datei/erklarung-zum-beschaefigungsverhaeltnis_ba047549.pdf)

#### 4. Visa application

Before entering Germany in order to work and start the recognition procedure, you have to apply for the recognition partnership visa. On the website of the German Foreign Office, a "Visa-Navigator" helps potential applicants to check which visa they need.

First of all, you should check whether it is possible to submit an online application in the **Consular Services Portal** of the German Foreign Office for your responsible German mission abroad and your desired residence permit. If it's not available, you have to make an appointment at the German mission abroad (embassy or consulate). To the appointment, you have to bring translated and certified copies of the required documents as evidence for the recognition partnership visa (see listed requirements above) and the following documents:

- completed visa application form or digital Videx application
- valid passport
- proof of language skills
- declaration of Employment form including the appendix
- proof of sufficient health insurance
- visa fee (€75 in local currency)

The complete list of documents required for the visa application can usually be found on the website of the German mission in your country of residence. The German mission abroad will then examine your application documents. The waiting time for a confirmation or rejection of a visa application differs from place to place.

**"Visa-Navigator" of the German Foreign Office**

<https://digital.diplo.de/navigator/en/visa>

**Visa regulations of the German Foreign Office**

<http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/-/215870>

**Consular Services Portal ("Auslandsportal") of the German Foreign Office**

<https://digital.diplo.de/visa>

**Online visa application form (Videx)**

<https://videx.diplo.de/videx/visum-erfassung/videx-langfristiger-aufenthalt>

**"Make it in Germany" step-by-step guide: Employment within the Framework of a Recognition Partnership**

<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/pdf-visa-recognition-partnership>

Please note: Once you have a concrete job offer, you may authorise your future German employer to apply for the so-called **fast-track procedure**. This process helps to speed up the administrative procedures for obtaining your certificate of recognition of foreign qualifications as well as your visa. The fee for this procedure is €411.





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## Residence permit for the purpose of vocational training

### Information on requirements, entitlements and the application process

The residence permit for the purpose of vocational training enables non-EU citizens to come to Germany and undergo vocational training. The permit includes preparatory German language courses, especially if they are job-related. After successful completion of the vocational training, graduates are permitted to stay in Germany for another 18 months to look for a job.

#### Requirements

If you want to come to Germany to undergo vocational training, the following requirements apply in order to receive a visa:

- evidence of sufficient **German language skills** (at least language level B1); a proof of language skills is not required if the training institution that offers the vocational training has already assessed your language skills or if a language course is planned in Germany prior to your vocational training.
- **training contract** or **training offer** from a vocational training institution in Germany
- **proof of sufficient financial means** to cover your living expenses, e.g. through the training salary stipulated in the training contract, a blocked bank account with at least €959 per month (as of 2025) or a Declaration of Commitment.
- in case of company-based vocational training: **approval of the German Federal Employment Agency** regarding the working conditions.

#### Entitlements

If you meet the above-mentioned requirements, you are entitled to the following:

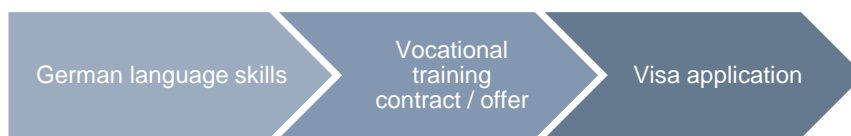
- obtain a **residence permit** for the purpose of vocational training for the duration of the training programme
- engage, for a maximum of 20 hours per week, in **secondary employment** alongside the vocational training; work on a self-employed basis is not permitted
- obtain, after successful completion of your vocational training, a **residence permit for the purpose of seeking employment** for 18 months or apply for a **residence permit for the purpose of taking up qualified employment** in case you find a job
- apply, after successful completion of your vocational training, for a **permanent residence permit**, if you fulfil the following criteria:
  - possession of a residence permit for the purpose of qualified employment for 24 months
  - work contract and contributions to the German pension fund for 24 months
  - sufficient command of German language (at least language level B1)

**Good to know:** As a non-EU citizen who wants to undergo vocational training in Germany, but has not found a vocational training programme yet, you may also receive a **residence permit for the purpose of seeking a vocational training place** if you fulfil the following criteria:

- you are under the age of 35 years
- school-leaving qualification from a German School Abroad or another school-leaving certificate which entitles you to enter higher education in Germany
- sufficient command of German language (at least language level B1)
- sufficient financial means to cover your living expenses, e.g. through a blocked account with at least €1,091 per month (as of 2025) or a Declaration of Commitment

If you find a vocational training programme within nine months, you can request a residence permit for the purpose of vocational training.

## Application process in three steps



### 1. German language skills

The proof of German language skills is a mandatory requirement for non-EU citizens who want to come to Germany for the purpose of vocational training. In many countries, various language schools offer – mostly fee-based – **courses of German as a foreign language**. To prove your German language skills, you need a **language certificate** from a certified exam provider. In many countries, the Goethe-Institut offers language courses and conducts certified exams. There are several other certificates that are also often accepted (see selection below). It is best to check with the German embassy or consulate in your country as to which certificates will be accepted by them.

**Goethe Institute**  
[www.goethe.de/en/](http://www.goethe.de/en/)

**Austrian German Language Diploma (ÖSD)**  
[www.osd.at/en/](http://www.osd.at/en/)

**The European Language Certificate (TELC)**  
<http://www.telc.net/en>

**Test German as Foreign Language (TestDAF)** >> website in German language only  
[www.testdaf.de](http://www.testdaf.de)

**German Language University Entrance (DSH)**  
<https://en.dsh-germany.com>

**German Language Diploma (DSD)** >> website in German language only  
<https://www.kmk.org/themen/deutsches-sprachdiplom-dsd/>

### 2. Vocational training contract / offer

There are numerous online resources available for those looking for a vocational training in Germany. One of the most important online sources for finding vocational training vacancies in Germany is the **job portal** of the German Federal Employment Agency. Depending on the desired profession, you should also have a look at the **apprenticeship exchange** of the German Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Chambers of Skilled Crafts. There are also numerous private resources available that can support you in finding a vocational training programme in Germany.

**Job portal of the German Employment Agency** >> website in German language only  
<http://www.jobboerse.arbeitsagentur.de>

**German Chambers of Commerce and Industry** >> website in German language only  
[www.ihk-lehrstellenboerse.de](http://www.ihk-lehrstellenboerse.de)

**German Chambers of Skilled Crafts** >> website in German language only  
[www.lehrstellen-radar.de](http://www.lehrstellen-radar.de)

### 3. Visa application

Before taking up vocational training in Germany, you need a **visa**. On the website of the German Foreign Office, a “Visa-Navigator” helps potential applicants to check which visa they need.

First of all, you should check whether it is possible to submit an online application in the **Consular Services Portal** of the German Foreign Office for your responsible German mission abroad and your desired residence permit. If it's not available, you have to make an appointment at the **German mission abroad** (embassy or consulate). You have to bring to your appointment translated and certified copies of the required documents for the residence permit for the purpose of vocational training (see listed requirements above), and the following documents:

- completed and signed application form or digital Videx application form
- biometric passport photos
- valid passport
- approval of travel health insurance
- visa fee (€75 in local currency)

The complete list of documents required for the visa application can usually be found on the website of the German mission in your country of residence. The German mission abroad will then examine your application and request an approval from the German Federal Employment Agency – if necessary. The waiting time for a confirmation or rejection of a visa application differs from place to place.

**“Visa-Navigator” of the German Foreign Office**  
<https://digital.diplo.de/navigator/en/visa>

**Visa regulations of the German Foreign Office**  
[www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/-/215870](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/-/215870)

**Consular Services Portal (“Auslandsportal”) of the German Foreign Office**  
<https://digital.diplo.de/visa>

**Online visa application form (Videx)**  
<https://videx.diplo.de/videx/visum-erfassung/videx-langfristiger-aufenthalt>

**“Make it in Germany” step-by-step guide: Visa for vocational training**  
<https://make-it-in-germany.com/pdf-visa-vocational-training>

Please note: Once you have a concrete offer for in-company vocational training, you may authorise your future German employer to apply for the **fast-track procedure**. This process helps to speed up the administrative procedures for obtaining your visa. The fee for this procedure is €411.



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## Residence permit for the purpose of studying

### Information on requirements, entitlements and the application process

The residence permit for the purpose of studying enables non-EU citizens to come to Germany to undertake their studies. The permit includes preparatory measures such as language courses, preparatory courses (*Studienkolleg*) or compulsory internships.

After successful completion of the study programme, graduates are permitted to stay in Germany for another 18 months to look for a job.

### Requirements

If you want to come to Germany to study, the following requirements apply to receive a visa:

- **proof of enrolment in a study programme** or conditional approval for studying
- **proof of sufficient financial means** to cover your living expenses, e.g. through a blocked bank account or a Declaration of Commitment (as of 2025: €11,904 per year)
- In some cases, evidence of **German language skills** (generally level B2). Providing proof of language skills is not required if the training institution at which you want to study has already assessed your language skills or if a language course is planned in Germany prior to your study programme

### Entitlements

If you meet the above-mentioned requirements, you are entitled to the following:

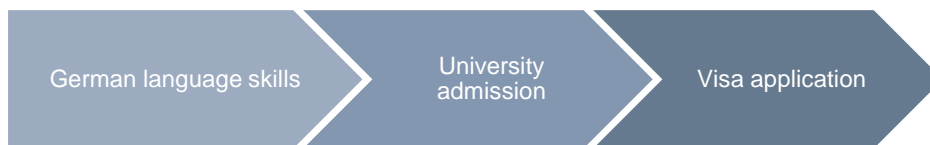
- obtain a **residence permit** for the purpose of studying for a minimum of 12 months. The residence permit can be extended as long as the student can prove that they are enrolled in a degree programme.
- **engage in employment** for a maximum of 140 full days or 280 half days per year
- obtain, after successful completion of your study programme, a **residence permit for the purpose of seeking employment** for 18 months or apply for an **EU Blue Card** or a **residence permit for the purpose of taking up qualified employment** in case you find a job
- apply, after **successful completion of your study programme**, for a **permanent residence permit**, if you fulfil the following criteria:
  - possession of a residence permit for the purpose of qualified employment for 24 months
  - work contract and contributions to the German pension fund for 24 months
  - sufficient knowledge of German language (at least language level B1)
  - proof of sufficient living space

**Good to know:** As a non-EU citizen who wants to study in Germany, but has not yet successfully enrolled in a study programme, you may also request a **residence permit for the purpose of seeking a place in higher education** – if you fulfil the following criteria:

- school-leaving qualification which entitles you to enter higher education in Germany
- German language skills of the intended field of study
- proof of sufficient financial means to cover your living expenses; e. g. through a blocked account with at least €1,091 per month (as of 2025) or a Declaration of Commitment

If you find a university programme within nine months, you can request a residence permit for the purpose of studying.

## Application process in three steps



### 1. German language skills

Proof of German language skills is a mandatory requirement for non-EU citizens who want to come to Germany for the purpose of studying, except for those who are enrolled in English-language degree programmes. In many countries, various language schools offer – mostly fee-based – **courses of German as a foreign language**. In order to prove your German language skills, you need a **language certificate** from a certified exam provider. In many countries, the Goethe-Institute offers language courses and conducts certified exams. There are several other certificates that are also often accepted (see selection below). It is best to enquire at the German embassy or consulate in your country which certificates will be accepted by them.

#### Goethe-Institute

[www.goethe.de/en/](http://www.goethe.de/en/)

#### Austrian German Language Diploma (ÖSD)

[www.osd.at/en/](http://www.osd.at/en/)

#### The European Language Certificate (TELC)

[www.telc.net/en](http://www.telc.net/en)

#### Test German as Foreign Language (TestDAF) >> website in German language only

[www.testdaf.de](http://www.testdaf.de)

#### German Language University Entrance (DSH)

<https://en.dsh-germany.com>

#### German Language Diploma (DSD) >> website in German language only

<https://www.kmk.org/themen/deutsches-sprachdiplom-dsd/>

### 2. University admission

The website “Study in Germany – Land of Ideas” provides comprehensive information and links to people who want to study in Germany. It helps to find suitable university programmes, informs about admission requirements for studying in Germany and gives useful tips for the application procedure. If you decide to apply for a study programme in Germany, it is advisable to visit the database of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in order to check whether your school qualification is eligible for enrolment in a German university programme. If your foreign qualification does not meet the

admission requirements of a German university, you do not have to give up immediately – the institution “Studienkolleg” offers academic bridging courses to prepare applicants from other countries for entering a study programme in Germany successfully.

**“Study in Germany – Land of Ideas”**

<http://www.study-in-germany.de/en/>

**German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)**

<https://www.daad.de/en/>

**“Studienkollegs” in Germany >> website in German language only**

[www.studienkollegs.de/home.html](http://www.studienkollegs.de/home.html)

### 3. Visa application

Before taking up studies in Germany, you need a **visa**. On the website of the German Foreign Office, a “Visa-Navigator” helps potential applicants to check which visa they need.

First of all, you should check whether it is possible to submit an online application in the **Consular Services Portal** of the German Foreign Office for your responsible German mission abroad and your desired residence permit. If it’s not available, you have to make an appointment at the **German mission abroad** (embassy or consulate). You have to bring to the appointment translated and certified copies of the required documents for the residence permit for the purpose of studying (see listed requirements above), and the following documents:

- completed and signed application form or digital Videx application form
- biometric passport photos
- valid passport
- approval of travel health insurance
- visa fee (€75 in local currency)

The complete list of documents required for the visa application can usually be found on the website of the German mission in your country of residence. The German mission will then examine your application. The waiting time for a confirmation or rejection of a visa application differs from place to place.

**“Visa-Navigator” of the German Foreign Office**

<https://digital.diplo.de/navigator/en/visa>

**Visa regulations of the German Foreign Office**

[www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/-/215870](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/-/215870)

**Consular Services Portal (“Auslandsportal”) of the German Foreign Office**

<https://digital.diplo.de/visa>

**Online visa application form (Videx)**

<https://videx.diplo.de/videx/visum-erfassung/videx-langfristiger-aufenthalt>

**“Make it in Germany” step-by-step guide: Visa for studying**

<https://make-it-in-germany.com/pdf-visa-studying>





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## Residence permit for the employment in IT professions with work experience

Information on requirements, entitlements, and the application process

The German Skilled Immigration Act, which was adopted in March 2020 and revised in 2023. The new law provides new opportunities for IT specialists from non-EU countries who do not have any formal qualifications but have acquired some years of professional experience in the IT sector. A special regulation allows these professionals to work in Germany without going through a formal recognition procedure of qualifications.

### Requirements

As an IT specialist, you are allowed to work in Germany, even if you cannot give proof of neither a degree nor a professional qualification in the IT sector. The following requirements apply to receive a visa or a residence permit:

- you have a concrete job offer as IT-specialist in Germany
- you can give proof of at least two years of work experience in an IT profession within the last five years; your work experience must qualify you sufficiently for the employment as an IT specialist
- your potential job in Germany guarantees a **minimum gross income** of at least €43,470 per year (as of 2025) unless your employer is bound by a collective agreement and pays you in accordance with that agreement
- **if you are older than 45**, the potential job offer must enable you to earn a gross annual salary of at least €53,130 (as of 2025) or you must be able to prove that you have adequate pension provision.

**Good to know:** If you have at least three years of professional experience in an IT profession, you may be eligible to receive an EU Blue Card. For more information see Handout 2.

### Entitlements

If you meet the above-mentioned requirements, you will be issued a residence permit in accordance with Section 19c (2) of the Residence Act (in conjunction with Section 6 of the Ordinance on the Employment of Foreigners). The residence permit will generally be issued for the time of the employment contract. With this permit, you are entitled to:

- request a **residence permit** for the immigration of your **spouse and children** (under the age of 18), if you fulfil the following criteria:
  - adequate residential space for you and your family
  - sufficient financial means to cover living expenses for yourself and your family
- apply for a **permanent residence permit (settlement permit)** if you fulfil the following criteria:
  - possession of a valid residence permit for at least five years including the permission for employment
  - contribution to the German pension fund for 60 months
  - sufficient means to cover your living expenses
  - adequate residential space for your family
  - sufficient knowledge of German language (at least level B1) and basic knowledge of Germany's legal and social system

### Application process in three steps



#### 1. German language skills

The proof of German language skills for IT specialists that would like to work in Germany without formal recognition of their qualifications is **not** mandatory by law. Nevertheless, it is recommended that you have at least basic German language skills to support your professional life and your overall successful integration in Germany. In many countries, various language schools offer – mostly fee-based – **courses of German as a foreign language**. Here is a small selection of language schools that offer German language courses as well as certified exams that are accepted by the German authorities.

##### Goethe-Institute

<http://www.goethe.de/en/>

##### Austrian German Language Diploma (ÖSD)

[www.osd.at/en/](http://www.osd.at/en/)

##### The European Language Certificate (TELC)

[www.telc.net/en](http://www.telc.net/en)

#### 2. Work contract / job offer

There are numerous online resources available for those looking for a job in Germany. Germany's largest online **job exchange** is the job portal of the German Federal Employment Agency. If you want to apply for a job, you usually must submit the following documents to the employer:

- a covering letter, explaining your motivation for the job
- a curriculum vitae, ideally using the Europass format
- certificates of your qualifications from the educational institution(s) that you attended
- if available: reference letters from previous employers

Once you have found a job, your future employer should fill in the **Declaration of Employment**, which contains information on the functions and responsibilities of the employee, the working time, and the salary as well as some other details. This declaration is needed as the German Federal Employment Agency will examine the working conditions and the suitability of your qualification for the job.

**Job portal of the German Employment Agency** >> website in German language only  
[www.jobboerse.arbeitsagentur.de](http://www.jobboerse.arbeitsagentur.de)

**Job portal “Make it in Germany”**  
<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/working-in-germany/job-listings>

**Form “Declaration of Employment”** >> website in German language only  
<https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/unternehmen/arbeitskraefte/fachkraefte-ausland/vorabzustimmung-fuer-auslaendische-beschaefigte>

### 3. Visa application

Before taking up employment in Germany as a skilled worker from a non-EU country, you need a **visa**. On the website of the German Foreign Office, a “Visa-Navigator” helps potential applicants to check which visa they need.

First, you should check whether it is possible to submit an online application in the **Consular Services Portal** of the German Foreign Office for your responsible German mission abroad and your desired residence permit. If it's not available, you must make an appointment at the **German mission abroad** (embassy or consulate). You must bring translated and certified copies of the required documents for the residence permit for qualified employment (see listed requirements above) and the following documents to the appointment:

- completed and signed application form or digital Videx application form
- biometric passport photos
- valid passport
- approval of travel health insurance
- visa fee (€75 in local currency)

The complete list of documents required for the visa application can usually be found on the website of the German mission in your country of residence. The German mission abroad will then examine your application and request an approval from the German Federal Employment Agency. The waiting time for a confirmation or rejection of a visa application differs from place to place.

**“Visa-Navigator” of the German Foreign Office**  
<https://digital.diplo.de/navigator/en/visa>

**Visa regulations of the German Foreign Office**  
[www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/-/215870](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/-/215870)

**Consular Services Portal (“Auslandsportal”) of the German Foreign Office**  
<https://digital.diplo.de/visa>

**Online visa application form (Videx)**  
<https://videx.diplo.de/videx/visum-erfassung/videx-langfristiger-aufenthalt>

**“Make it in Germany” step-by-step guide: Visa options for IT professionals**  
<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/pdf-visa-it-professionals>

Please note: Once you have a concrete job offer, you may authorise your future German employer to apply for the so-called **fast-track procedure for skilled workers**. This process helps to speed up the administrative procedures for obtaining the approval from the German Federal Employment Agency as well as the appointment and issuance of your visa. The fee for this procedure is 411 €.



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## The fast-track procedure for skilled workers

### Information on requirements and the application process

Germany's Federal Government expanded the framework for the immigration of qualified skilled workers from countries outside the EU by introducing the Skilled Immigration Act, which was adopted in March 2020 and revised in 2023. Under the new law, employers have the option of using the fast-track procedure to speed up the process of recruiting skilled workers and trainees from abroad as well as entry procedures.

### Requirements

The fast-track procedure for skilled workers is aimed at third-country nationals who are currently abroad and require a visa to enter Germany. The procedure can be used for the entry procedure of the following groups of people:

- Skilled workers with vocational qualifications
- Skilled workers with academic degrees
- Apprentices in a company-based vocational training programme
- Vocational school students, if they can attest that employment will follow once they have completed their vocational training
- Skilled workers who enter the country for post-qualification to have their professional qualification recognised (e.g. within the framework of the visa for recognition partnership or the visa for the purpose of undertaking a qualification measure in the context of professional recognition)
- Other qualified employees (e. g. professionals which professional experience, researchers)

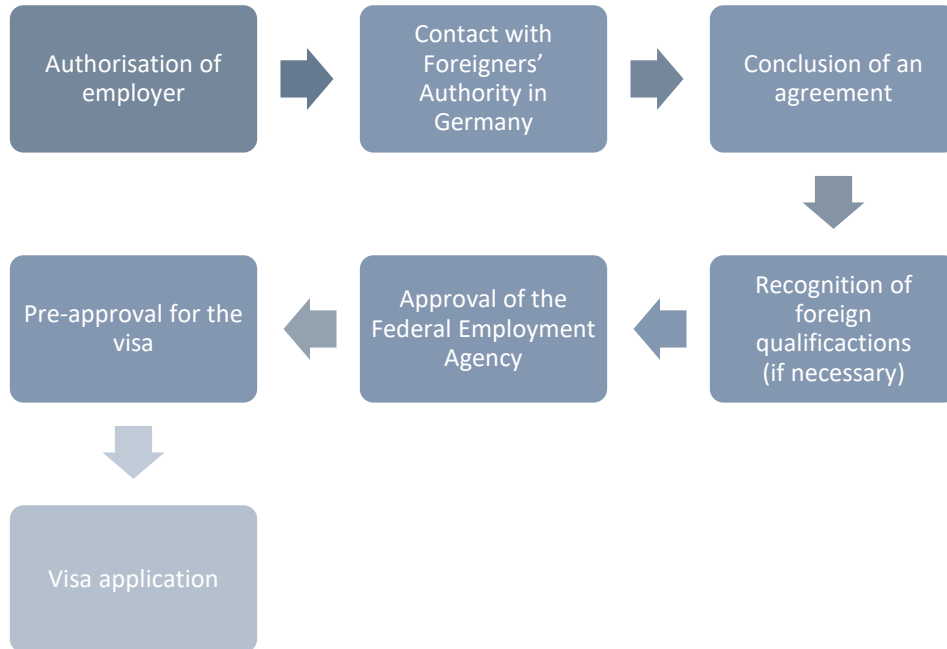
If you belong to one of these groups and are interested in applying for the fast-track procedure, the following preconditions must be met:

- The visa applicant has a **specific job offer** for qualified employment in Germany.
- The visa applicant must have a formal **qualification and / or if required, professional experience** that allows them to carry out the intended employment in Germany.
- If the applicant intends to pursue a **vocational training**, a specific training place in a training institution must be available.

**Good to know:** The fast-track procedure for skilled workers can also be applied to the entry procedure of your spouse and underage children, if their application is also submitted within the same time frame (i. e. within 6 months after the skilled worker has entered Germany).

## The fast-track procedure in seven steps

Your future employer in Germany will apply for the fast-track procedure. The competent Foreigners' Authority in Germany is the point of contact for applying for the fast-track procedure.



### 1. Authorisation of the employer

To apply for the fast-track procedure, you must authorise your future employer in Germany. In principle, the skilled worker/trainee remains the applicant, but the future employer acts as the **authorised representative** in the procedure. At this stage, the following additional documents are required:

- A colour copy of your passport
- Proof of your professional qualifications and / or professional experience, if required

#### “Make it in Germany” Website

<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/looking-for-foreign-professionals/entering/the-fast-track-procedure-for-skilled-workers>

#### “Working and Living in Germany” Hotline

+49 30 1815 1111

### 2. Contact with Foreigners' Authority in Germany

Your future employer has a special role to play in the fast-track procedure. On behalf of the foreign skilled worker or trainee, the employer must contact the respective Foreigners' Authority in Germany to ask for consultation and advice on the steps of the procedure.

Depending on the federal state, either a central agency has been established to deal with the fast-track procedure for skilled workers or it falls into the responsibility of the relevant local Foreigners' Authority.

#### “Make it in Germany” Website – points of contact in the federal states

<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/pdf-zentrale-auslaenderbehoerden-en>

**“Working and Living in Germany” Hotline**

+49 30 1815 1111

### 3. Conclusion of an agreement

If you and your future employer opt for the fast-track procedure, the employer must conclude an agreement with the competent Foreigners' Authority on behalf of the foreign skilled worker/trainee. This agreement describes the procedures involved, and specifies the supporting documents to be provided, the time limits, the parties involved and their respective obligations.

Under the agreement, the Foreigners' Authority acts as an intermediary. In this role, it communicates with all the other authorities involved in the procedure, in particular the recognition bodies, the Federal Employment Agency, and the German mission abroad where you will apply for a visa.

On conclusion of the agreement, the Foreigners' Authority charges a **€411 fee** for processing the application. You, the foreign skilled worker or trainee, are regarded as the person liable to pay the fee.

**“Make it in Germany” Website – Enclosure required to the application to the procedure**

<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/looking-for-foreign-professionals/support/downloads>

**“Working and Living in Germany” Hotline**

+49 30 1815 1111

### 4. Recognition of foreign qualifications

Visa applicants from non-EU countries who wish to work in Germany with an **EU Blue Card** or a **visa for skilled workers** need to prove that their foreign qualification is **equivalent** or **comparable** to the German reference occupation. If the proof of recognition in the form of a recognition notice or a statement of comparability is required, the Foreigners' Authority must initiate the appropriate procedure with the competent recognition body. The following results are possible:

- **Full recognition of the foreign qualification:** If you receive full recognition of your foreign qualification, you may practise your profession in Germany. In this case, the fast-track procedure will continue.
- **Partial recognition of the foreign qualification:** In the case that you only receive partial recognition of your foreign professional qualification, a compensation measure is needed, or further requirements must be met to practice your profession in Germany. In consultation with your future employer, the fast-track procedure may be terminated or continued. If the procedure is to be continued, the purpose of stay changes and an entry visa for the purpose of undertaking **a qualification measure (Section 16d of the Residence Act)** is sought.
- **No recognition or rejection:** Applications for recognition will be refused if the differences between your foreign qualification and the German reference occupation are too great. In this case, the differences cannot be compensated for by undertaking a qualification measure. In accordance with the future employer, the possibility of continuing the procedure will depend on whether you can be employed based on your professional experience. Otherwise, the fast-track procedure for skilled workers will therefore be terminated.

The competent recognition body must decide on the recognition within **two months** after submitting all application documents. In the case of missing documents, the Foreigners' Authority will immediately forward the subsequent demand to your employer. Your employer then is in charge of passing the information to you.



#### Frequently asked questions on the recognition of foreign professional qualifications

<https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/faq.php>

#### “Working and Living in Germany” Hotline

+49 30 1815 1111

### 5. Approval of the Federal Employment Agency

In many cases, the intended employment in Germany requires the approval of the Federal Employment Agency (BA). Depending on the outcome of the recognition procedure, the Foreigners' Authority will request the approval of the Federal Employment Agency. Based on the information provided in the “**Declaration of Employment**” form, the Federal Employment Agency checks the working conditions and, if required, decides whether you are qualified to perform the intended work.

If the Federal Employment Agency has no follow-up questions or requests within the space of a week, approval is deemed to have been granted.

#### “Make it in Germany” Website – Approval of the Federal Employment Agency

<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/looking-for-foreign-professionals/entering/federal-employment-agency>

#### “Working and Living in Germany” Hotline

+49 30 1815 1111

### 6. Pre-approval for the visa

If all requirements (including the recognition of the foreign qualification, if needed, and approval of the Federal Employment Agency) are met, the Foreigners' Authority issues a so-called **pre-approval for the visa** and hands it to your future employer, so they can forward it to you for the fast-track visa application abroad.

**Good to know:** The grant of the pre-approval by the Foreigners' Authority is no guarantee that a visa will be issued. In its capacity as the competent authority, the competent German mission abroad decides on visas for entering Germany.

### 7. Visa application

The fast-track visa procedure abroad requires that the applicant has been granted pre-approval for a visa. If such pre-approval is submitted to the competent German mission, you will be given an appointment to apply for a visa within **three weeks**.

You must bring the required evidence of employment and certificate of qualification (see listed requirements above), the pre-approval for the visa and the following documents to your appointment:

- completed and signed application form or the digital Videx application form
- biometric passport photos
- valid passport
- approval of travel health insurance
- visa fee (€75 in local currency)

The complete list of documents required for the visa application can usually be found on the website of the German mission in your country of residence.

Provided that documents are presented in full at this appointment, the German mission will usually decide on the visa **within three further weeks**. The time limit may be extended if the German mission has not yet received all the documents and information.

**Visa regulations of the German Foreign Office**

[https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/visa-service/-/215870#content\\_3](https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/visa-service/-/215870#content_3)

**“Working and Living in Germany” Hotline**

+49 30 1815 1111

**“Make it in Germany” Website – Types of visas**

<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/visa-residence/types>



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## Job Search Opportunity Card

Information on requirements, entitlements and the application process

The job search opportunity card, or opportunity card for short, enables nationals from countries outside the EU or EEA to enter Germany in order to look for a qualified employment. It was newly introduced in June 2024 within the context of the amendment of the German Skilled Immigration Act.

### Requirements

If you are a national from a country outside the EU or EEA who wishes to look for a job in Germany, two pathways are available in order to receive an opportunity card. Depending on the applicable option, the following requirements apply:

- **Option A: you are considered as a skilled worker, i.e., you have a foreign professional or academic qualification that is fully recognized in Germany, or you have obtained your professional or academic qualification in Germany.**

If you are a skilled worker, you may immediately apply for an opportunity card without scoring points in the point system. You must prove your **ability to cover the cost of living** during the job search: this can be demonstrated either with a blocked account with a minimum of €1,091 net per month (as of 2025) or a declaration of commitment.

**Good to know:** You obtained your qualification in Germany and did not leave Germany afterwards? You may apply for a residence permit for jobseekers (Section 20 of the Residence Act [AufenthG]) as it allows you to look for qualified employment for a longer period (18 months) than an opportunity card (up to 12 months). Additionally, the residence permit allows unrestricted part-time work during the job seeking process.

- **Option B: you are not considered as a skilled worker yet and score at least 6 points in the point system.**
  - **Vocational qualification or university degree:** The foreign degree or qualification must be recognised by the country it was obtained in. Professional qualifications must have been obtained after a minimum training period of two years. People having completed a vocational training programme at a German Chamber of Commerce Abroad (AHK) and meeting the requirements of the Vocational Training Act may also apply for an opportunity card, if their qualification corresponds to the Category A.
  - **Proof of language proficiency:** German language skills at level A1 or higher or English language skills at level B2 or higher (CEFR).
  - **Ability to cover the cost of living** during the job search: this can be demonstrated either with a blocked account with a minimum of €1,091 net per month (as of 2025) or a declaration of commitment.
  - A minimum of **six points in the point system:** points are awarded for equivalence of the obtained qualification, a qualification in a shortage occupation, professional experience, language skills, age, previous stays in Germany and the skilled worker potential of spouses and life partners. Please find more details below.

**Good to know:** If you would like to assess your chances of obtaining an opportunity card, you can do so by using the self-check tool on the “Make it in Germany” website: <https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/visa-residence/self-check-opportunity-card>. The results of the self-check tool are non-binding.

## Entitlements

If you meet the above-mentioned requirements, you are entitled to the following:

- obtain an **opportunity card** for up to 12 months allowing you to either seek employment or become self-employed. The opportunity card may be extended for additional 24 months if you have found a job that meets the requirements for qualified employment, but you are not eligible for another residence title.
- pursue **part-time work** for up to 20 hours per week
- perform **job trials** for up to two weeks per employer as part of the job search process. The job trial must envisage either qualified employment, vocational training or a qualification programme.
- apply for one of the existing **residence titles** for qualified employment, for vocational training, for the recognition of professional qualifications or for self-employment, as soon as you have found a job or vocational training place.

## Application process for option A – Skilled worker:



### 1. Comparability or equivalence of qualification

As a skilled worker from outside the EU or EEA who wants to look for a job in Germany with an opportunity card, you need to prove that your foreign qualification is **fully equivalent or comparable** to the German qualification or that you obtained your qualification in Germany.

If you want to work in a regulated occupation in Germany, you have to undergo the **recognition procedure**. In order to receive a **certificate of recognition**, please contact the “Service Center for Professional Recognition” (ZSBA), accessible via the hotline “Working and Living in Germany” for initial consultation. The ZSBA advisors will support you in identifying the appropriate reference occupation in Germany, compiling the application documents and identifying the responsible recognition authority in order to obtain your certificate. The recognition procedure can take up to four months. The costs of the procedure vary greatly. Depending on the profession, costs can amount to several hundred euros. Only if the certificate of recognition states that your qualification is fully equivalent, you may apply for the opportunity card.

**Website “Recognition in Germany”**  
[www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/index.php](http://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/index.php)

**Service Center for Professional Recognition (ZSBA)**  
<https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/service-center-for-professional-recognition.php>

**Hotline “Working and Living in Germany”**  
+49 30 1815 1111

If you want to work in a non-regulated occupation in Germany that requires an academic qualification, you do not have to go through the above-mentioned recognition procedure, but you must prove that your foreign academic qualification is comparable to a German university degree through a **comparative assessment**. As a first step, you should check whether your university degree is listed in the database “Recognition and evaluation of foreign qualifications” (ANABIN). If ANABIN confirms comparability between your foreign university degree and the reference university degree in Germany, a printout of the result may be sufficient. If your foreign degree is not listed in the database, you must request an individual **statement of comparability** from the “Central Office for Foreign Education” (ZAB). You can request the statement of comparability online, and it costs €208.

**ANABIN database: Recognition and evaluation of foreign qualifications** >> website in German language only  
<https://anabin.kmk.org/cms/public/startseite>

**ZAB: Statement of comparability**  
<https://zab.kmk.org/en/statement-comparability>

## 2. German language skills

In general, there are no specific requirements regarding German language skills when applying for the opportunity card, if you are already considered as a skilled worker. Nevertheless, it is recommended that you have at least basic German language skills in order to support your professional life and your overall successful integration in Germany. In many countries, various language schools offer – mostly fee-based – **courses of German as a foreign language**. Here is a small selection of language schools that offer German language courses as well as certified exams that are accepted by the German authorities.

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**Austrian German Language Diploma (ÖSD)**  
[www.osd.at/en/](http://www.osd.at/en/)

**The European Language Certificate (TELC)**  
[www.telc.net/en](http://www.telc.net/en)

## 3. Opportunity card application

Before entering Germany in order to look for qualified employment, you have to apply for the opportunity card visa. On the website of the German Foreign Office, a “Visa-Navigator” helps potential applicants to check which visa they need.

To apply for the opportunity card from your current country of residence, first check whether the application should be made online or in-person at the German mission abroad. Information on the online application is available on the **Consular Services portal of the Federal Foreign Office**.

In case of in-person application, you have to make an appointment at the **German mission abroad** (embassy or consulate). To the appointment, you have to bring translated and certified copies of the required documents as evidence for the opportunity card (see listed requirements above) and the following documents:

- completed visa application form or digital Videx application form
- proof of qualification and the recognition notice
- valid passport
- biometric passport photos
- proof of financial means to cover the cost of living
- proof of language skills (if applicable)
- proof of sufficient health insurance
- visa fee (€75 in local currency)

The complete list of documents required for the visa application can usually be found on the website of the German mission in your country of residence. The German mission abroad will then examine your application documents. The waiting time for a confirmation or rejection of a visa application differs from place to place.

**“Visa-Navigator” of the German Foreign Office**

<https://digital.diplo.de/navigator/en/visa>

**Consular Services Portal (“Auslandsportal”) of the German Foreign Office**

<https://digital.diplo.de/chancenkarte>

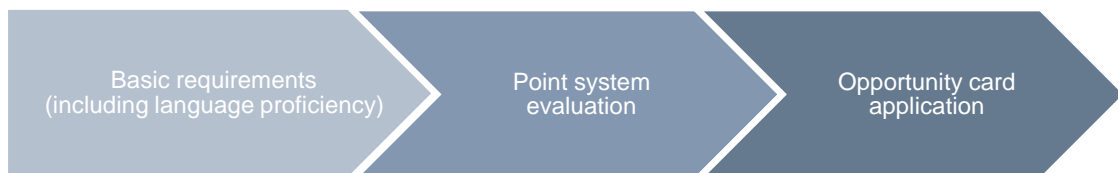
**Visa regulations of the German Foreign Office**

[www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/-/215870](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/-/215870)

**“Make it in Germany” step-by-step guide: Job Search Opportunity Card**

<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/pdf-job-search-opportunity-card>

### Application process for option B – Point system



#### 1. Basic requirements

As mentioned above, the basic requirements for being able to apply for an opportunity card – if you are not considered as a skilled worker, i.e., your foreign qualifications are not recognized in Germany yet or you have not acquired your qualifications in Germany – are that you are in possession of a **foreign vocational qualification or university degree**, that you are able to **cover your cost of living** and that you have a certain **level of proficiency in German**.

- **Vocational or university degree:** you need to prove that you have a foreign university degree or vocational qualification that is recognised in the country where it was obtained. For this requirement to be fulfilled in the visa application, you must present a digital **Statement on your vocational qualification (DAB)** of your vocational qualification, or a **Statement of Comparability** for your university degree. To receive these documents, you must submit an application at the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB). Both statements can be requested online. The Statement on vocational qualification (DAB) costs €150, while the fee for the Statement of Comparability is €208.  
People with academic degrees can instead check in the anabin database whether their university degree is positively evaluated. In this case a printout of anabin is sufficient.
- **Language requirements:** When applying for the opportunity card via the point system, you must prove that you have **at least A1 level German language skills**. Otherwise, **English language skills at level B2** are also accepted. Having German language skills in order to facilitate communication during job search, support your professional life and your overall successful integration in Germany is indispensable. In many countries, various language schools offer – mostly fee-based – **courses of German as a foreign language**. Here is a small selection of language schools that offer German language courses as well as certified exams that are accepted by the German authorities.

Goethe-Institut  
[www.goethe.de/en/](http://www.goethe.de/en/)

Austrian German Language Diploma (ÖSD)  
[www.osd.at/en/](http://www.osd.at/en/)

The European Language Certificate (TELC)  
[www.telc.net/en](http://www.telc.net/en)

## 2. Point system evaluation

If you do not have either a German qualification or a fully recognized foreign qualification, you can score points via the point system. In order to qualify for the opportunity card, you must obtain at least six points. For fulfilling the following criteria, you can be awarded between one and four points:

- **partial equivalence of your qualification:** if the recognition procedure reveals that your qualification is partially recognized in Germany, you score four points. In case of regulated professions, the four points are awarded if you must participate in compensatory measures to obtain a licence to practice your profession.
- **qualification in a shortage occupation:** if you obtained your qualification in a profession in which Germany faces a shortage, you will receive one additional point. A full list of all shortage occupations is available at "Make it in Germany": <https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/pdf-mangelberufe-en>.
- **professional experience:** if you can prove that you have acquired at least two years of professional experience within the past five years, you will be awarded two points. You will receive three points for at least five years of professional experience within the past seven years.
- **language skills:** with German language skills at level A2 (CEFR), you receive one point; with level B1 you earn two points, and level B2 or higher earns you three points. With English language skills at level C1 or higher, you will be awarded an additional point.
- **age:** people aged younger than 35 receive two points. Anyone between the ages of 35 and 40 receive one point.
- **previous stays in Germany:** if you have proof of having legally resided in Germany for at least six consecutive months for non-touristic purposes, such as studying, language learning and work, during the past five years, you will be awarded a point. Copies of expired passports with the visas and entry stamps count as evidence.
- **skilled worker potential of spouses or life partners:** if you are married or in a registered partnership and your spouse or partner meets the requirements for an opportunity card, you will be awarded a point.

Please note: all information that is provided in the above-mentioned categories during the visa application must be supported by appropriate evidence on your side. The self-check tool on the "Make it in Germany" website allows you to have an overview of your results in the point system as well as of all of your indications in each category: <https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/visa-residence/self-check-opportunity-card>. The results of the self-check tool are non-binding.

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To apply for the opportunity card from your current country of residence, first check whether the application should be made **online** or **in-person** at the German mission abroad. Information on the online application is available on the **Consular Services portal of the Federal Foreign Office**.

In case of in-person application, you have to make an appointment at the **German mission abroad** (embassy or consulate). To the appointment, you have to bring translated and certified copies of the



required documents as evidence for the opportunity card (see listed requirements above) and the following documents:

- completed visa application form, digital Videx application
- biometric passport photos
- proof of qualification, and (if applicable) recognition notice
- valid passport
- proof of language skills
- proof of any additional criteria of the points system
- proof of sufficient health insurance
- visa fee (€75 in local currency)

The complete list of documents required for the visa application can usually be found on the website of the German mission in your country of residence. The German mission abroad will then examine your application documents. The waiting time for a confirmation or rejection of a visa application differs from place to place.

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