



## Do I need a visa?

Do I need a visa? Find out if you need a visa to enter Germany.

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Do I need a visa to work in Germany? What are the visa requirements for studying or taking up vocational training in Germany? These are just some of the questions asked by people considering moving to Germany for work and those planning their next career move. In short, whether and what type of visa you need to apply for depends on your country of origin, your professional qualifications and the purpose behind your plans to come to Germany.

## Nationals of EU and EFTA States

As a citizen of an EU country, you are entitled to freedom of movement and have unrestricted access to the German labour market. You do not need a visa or residence permit to enter Germany and take up

employment. The same applies if you come from Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland ([EFTA States](#)).

## Third-country nationals (non-EU and non-EFTA countries)

### Entry and residence for the purpose of gainful employment

Citizens of Australia, Israel, Japan, Canada, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the USA can enter Germany without a visa for the purpose of gainful employment or company-based vocational training. In this case, the respective residence permit must be applied for in Germany before taking up employment. Only if you are a citizen of one of these countries may you apply directly to the [foreigners authority](#) at your place of residence in Germany. However, if you intend to take up employment immediately upon entry, it may, in certain individual cases, be possible to apply for the appropriate visa before entering the country.

**All other third-country nationals who would like to come to Germany for the purpose of gainful employment must submit a visa application to the [responsible German foreigners authority](#) before their arrival.**

### Entry and residence for the purpose of academic studies

If you are coming to Germany to study, you can enter the country without a visa if you are a citizen of the following countries: Andorra, Australia, Brazil, El Salvador, Canada, Honduras, Monaco, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the USA. The same applies if you wish to complete school-based vocational training in Germany. After entering the country, you must apply for the respective residence permit at the responsible [foreigners authority](#) within 90 days.

You can get further information on visa requirements and exemptions on the [website of the Federal Foreign Office](#).



#### Multiple nationalities: What should you consider?

If you have more than one nationality, you should first check whether one of these nationalities is eligible for priority entry into Germany.

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