Visa for vocational training

Are you interested in completing vocational training in Germany? There is a special visa application procedure for this. You can find out more here.

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Vocational training in Germany opens many doors and is the best way to prepare yourself for the world of work in Germany. There are two options: you can either complete school-based or in-company vocational training. In either case, you may need a **residence title** under **Section 16a of the Residence Act** (AufenthG).

To find out if you need a **visa** to enter Germany, please refer to the "**How do I apply for a visa?**" section.

Requirements for the visa for vocational training

- **A specific training place in Germany:** You can provide evidence that you have an in-company or school-based vocational training place in Germany.
- **Proof of language proficiency:** You have the language skills required for qualified vocational training. You will normally require German language skills at level B1 of the **Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)**. This is the case if the training institution has not yet tested your language skills or if you have not yet completed a preparatory German course.
- **Ability to cover the cost of living:** You must be able to cover your living costs for the entire duration of your stay. Depending on the type of vocational training, different requirements apply. If you plan on taking part in a **school-based vocational training programme**, you can provide evidence of being able to cover your living costs by opening a blocked bank account, submitting a **declaration of commitment**, or through a scholarship. You must have at least **€959 net per month** available to you (as of 2026). If you plan on taking part in a **company-based vocational training programme**, you will receive a training salary, which is also considered as evidence. If your training allowance is **at least €1,048 gross or €822 net per month** (as of 2026), your livelihood is considered secure. Should your training salary be insufficient, you are allowed to compensate the difference by showing that you are in possession of either a blocked bank account or a declaration of commitment.

Federal Employment Agency approval for in-company vocational training

In the case of in-company vocational training, part of the visa procedure may involve having to obtain the approval of the Federal Employment Agency (BA), which assesses, e.g. whether you are to be employed under the same conditions as German apprentices. This is an internal agency procedure that does not require any action on your part.

Do you fulfil these requirements? Find out about the entry visa process.

Here you find an **overview** of how to secure your livelihood according to the purpose of stay.

Your prospects with the visa for vocational training

To complete school-based or company-based vocational training, a corresponding **residence permit** will be issued for the duration of the vocational training programme in question.

With a residence permit for vocational training, you are able to take on a second job for up to 20 hours per week if it is independent of your vocational training.

Language course permitted alongside your vocational training

If you are undergoing qualified in-company vocational training, your residence permit entitles you to attend a preparatory German language course in Germany (**Section 16a (1), sentence 4 of the Residence Act** [AufenthG]). This can be a government-funded vocational language course or another language course specifically designed to prepare you for vocational training.

Once you have successfully completed your vocational training, you can stay in Germany for up to 18 months to find **qualified employment**. To do this, you need a residence permit to for job-seeking under **Section 20 (1) no. 3** of the Residence Act (AufenthG). You can apply for this residence permit at the competent **foreigners authority**.

Residence permit for job search after training as a care assistant

If you have successfully completed vocational training as an assistant or helper in a health or care profession, you can obtain a residence permit for up to 12 months to look for work. This can be extended once for a further six months.

To cover your living costs while you are looking for a job in Germany, you are entitled to take up any form of employment. Once you have found a qualified job, you can apply for a **residence permit for qualified employment** without having to leave Germany. If you are employed as a nursing assistant following your vocational training in a health or care profession, you will receive a residence permit for other employment under **Section 19c (1) of the Residence Act (AufenthG)** in conjunction with **Section 22a of the Ordinance on the Employment of Foreigners (BeschV)**.

To find out what other options are available to you after completing your vocational training in Germany, see the "**Prospects after your vocational training**" section.

Settlement permit after vocational training and work experience

If you have successfully completed vocational training in Germany and have worked in this country for two years, you can obtain a settlement permit (**Section 18c (1), sentence 2 of the Residence Act [AufenthG]**) if you meet the additional requirements for this permit.

Video: Training as an industrial electrician

No training place yet? The visa for the purpose of seeking a vocational training place

Are you interested in completing qualified vocational training in Germany but have not yet found a vocational training place? With a visa for the purpose of seeking a vocational training place under **Section 17 (1) of the Residence Act** (AufenthG) you can come to Germany to apply for a job and find a suitable vocational training place.

To find out if you need a visa to enter Germany, please refer to the "**Do I need a visa?**" section.

Requirements for the visa for seeking a vocational training place

- **Proof of school-leaving certificate:** You have a school-leaving certificate that gives you access to higher education or a qualification from a German school abroad.
- **Proof of language proficiency:** You are able to demonstrate German language skills at level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).
- **Age limit:** You are under the age of 35.
- **Ability to cover the cost of living:** You are able to cover your living costs for the entire duration of your stay. You can prove this by opening a blocked bank account with a minimum of **€1,091** per month (as of 2026) or by submitting a declaration of commitment.

Do you meet the mentioned requirements? Learn about the procedure for the entry and visa process.

Your prospects with the visa for seeking a vocational training place

With a visa or residence permit for the purpose of seeking a vocational training place, you can enter Germany and stay for up to nine months to apply for vocational training. During this time, you are permitted to work up to 20 hours a week. You also have the opportunity to complete up to two weeks of trial work.

Apply for the visa for vocational training online

Do you meet the necessary requirements? Then you can apply for your visa for vocational training or for seeking a training position online here: **Consular Services Portal of the Federal Foreign Office**.

Information on the web

Federal Foreign Office (FFO)

You can find out which visa you need in order to come to Germany with the Visa-Navigator.

Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)

Centre of Excellence for Asylum, Migration and Integration in Germany

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Date: 2026-09-22 11:56:20 GMT