

German Society and Immigration in Germany

Germany is diverse, open to the world and offers international skilled workers good prospects for living and working. Find out more about German society, quality of life and diversity in Germany.

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A diverse and open society

Germany is a country of immigration with diversity as part of everyday life. Around 83.6 million people live here (source: Federal Statistical Office, as of 29 January 2026). Around 26 percent of people in Germany have a history of migration (source: Federal Statistical Office, as of 13 April 2026). Equal rights regardless of origin

are enshrined in the **Basic Law** (the German constitution) and create good conditions for participation in social, professional and political life.

Quality of life, security and freedom

Germany offers political and economic stability, a reliable **social security system**, and comprehensive, affordable **healthcare**. The country has been among the most peaceful in the world for decades. These conditions provide planning security for anyone who wants to **settle in Germany long term**. Freedom of religion is also enshrined in the Basic Law (Article 4). People of many different faiths live side by side in Germany.

Immigration and residence titles

Germany has been an attractive destination for immigrants for decades, with only a few exceptional years, such as during the global financial crisis or the COVID-19 pandemic. Immigration remains high: net migration (the difference between arrivals and departures) currently stands at 235,000 people per year (source: Federal Statistical Office, as of 16 June 2026).

Residence titles for qualified skilled workers

The number of residence titles issued to qualified skilled workers from third countries (countries outside the EU) has been growing for years. The **EU Blue Card** (a **residence title** for highly qualified professionals from non-EU countries) is becoming increasingly important: around 21,000 EU Blue Cards are currently issued each year (source: **Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)**, as of 29 September 2026). There are also specific residence titles for the self-employed and researchers. Which title applies in an individual case depends on your qualification, field of work and planned activity.

Family reunification

Germany is a family-friendly country: with a **residence permit** or **settlement permit**, such as the **EU Blue Card**, you can **bring your family to join you**, provided you have suitable housing and can support them financially.

Qualifications and recognition of immigrants

The qualification level of international skilled workers in Germany has been rising for years: more and more hold an **academic degree**. One reason for this is the simplified **immigration options** for qualified skilled workers introduced in recent years.

Well-qualified immigrants significantly strengthen the German economy: they increase the number of workers and, through their qualifications, boost labour productivity. The German Council of Economic Experts (an independent panel of economic experts that advises the federal government) expects this to have clearly positive growth effects in the coming years.

Recognition of foreign professional qualifications in Germany

Since 2012, the Recognition Act has made it possible to have foreign professional qualifications recognised in Germany. For non-EU citizens without a **university** degree, this step is necessary in order to be allowed to work in Germany. **Recognition** is also a requirement for **regulated professions** (professions with legally mandated authorisation requirements), such as doctor or lawyer, regardless of origin. The chances of success are good: around 44 percent of applicants achieved full equivalence of their qualification in 2025 (source: **Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB)**, as of 19 August 2026).

Leisure, culture and further education

Sport and leisure

Tens of thousands of sports clubs offer affordable access to football, handball, tennis and many other sports – a great way to quickly find your community.

Further training at adult education centres

Adult education centres ("Volkshochschulen") offer courses in language, culture, society and sport, with no prerequisites and usually at low fees. Under certain conditions, a fee reduction is even possible. It is worth seeking advice locally to find the right course and current class times.

Information on the web

Volkshochschule

[Find a local course which matches your interests](#)

Alumniportal Deutschland

[Current happenings in Germany](#)

Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community

[Religion and the state](#)

Handbook Germany

[Living in Germany as LGBTIQ](#)

German Road Safety

[An overview of the most important rules of the road in Germany](#)



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