# The way into the German labour market

## Visa and entry procedure for immigrants from third countries subject to visa obligation

**This overview is a simplified representation of the visa procedure. The steps described are solely for the purpose of clarifying the application procedure for residence permits. Further details on the visa application procedure and information on important points of contact can be found at www.make-it-in-germany.com.**

### Purpose of the journey

<table>
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<th>Work</th>
<th>Work (EU Blue Card)</th>
<th>Recognition of qualification</th>
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| - Job offer in Germany / Employment contract  
- Recognised or comparable qualification  
- Approval for employment by the Federal Employment Agency (BA) required  
- If applicable: professional licence  
- Take minimum salary limit (e.g. persons over 45 years: EUR 48,180 in 2023) into account | - Job offer in Germany / employment contract  
- Recognised or comparable academic degree  
- If applicable: professional licence  
- Minimum salary of at least EUR 58,400 or EUR 45,552 for STEM professions (year 2023)  
- Approval for employment by the Federal Employment Agency (BA) required, if applicable | - Recognition certificate  
- German language skills level A2 (CEFR)  
- Proof of enrolment in a qualifying training programme  
- Proof of financial means | - Equivalence or comparability of the foreign qualification (academic or vocational qualification)  
- Proof of financial means  
- German language skills: level B2 (CEFR); only for people with vocational qualifications | - Hosting contract or agreement with a research organization  
- If required, other proof of financial support (e.g. research funds) | - Commercial, craft or industrial activity  
- Proof of economic interest in Germany  
- Positive impact of the business project on the German economy  
- Secure financial means (equity capital or loan commitment)  
- Individuals over 45 years of age: proof of adequate pension provision | - Spouse, children or parents with valid residence permit in Germany  
- Minimum age of the spouses: 18 years |

### Admission requirements

**General requirements:** Passport + Proof of financial means + No existing reason for expulsion

### Application process abroad

Clarification of intergovernmental agreements and special agreements

### Application process in Germany

- **Make an appointment at the German embassy**
  - Appointment request is free of charge  
  - The German embassies provide information about possible waiting times for appointments on their websites.

- **Apply for a visa**
  - Application form is free of charge  
  - Fees: EUR 75  
  - Processing time varies between a few days and several months  
  - In case of rejection: re-application possible

- **Enter Germany**
  - It is mandatory to have sufficient health insurance coverage prior to entering Germany.

- **Apply for a residence permit**
  - Request the list of the required documents from the foreigners authority  
  - General requirements: Passport + Proof of financial means + No existing reason for expulsion  
  - The amount of the fee varies according to the region, purpose and duration of stay  
  - The fee can be up to EUR 100

### Application for residence permit after entering the country

The residence permit corresponds to the purpose of entry stated in the visa

**Sections 18 para. 2, 18a, 18b para. 1 Act on the Residence - AufenthG or section 19c Act on the Residence - AufenthG**

Residence permit for taking up qualified employment

**Section 18b para. 2 Act of the Residence - AufenthG**

Eu Blue Card

**Section 16d Act on the Residence - AufenthG**

Residence permit for the purpose of recognition of foreign professional qualifications

**Section 20 para. 1 & 2 Act on the Residence - AufenthG**

Residence permit for the purpose of research

**Section 18d Act on the Residence - AufenthG**

Residence permit for the purpose of family reunification of foreigners

**Section 29 Act on the Residence - AufenthG**

Residence permit for the purpose of family reunification of foreigners

**Section 30 Act on the Residence - AufenthG**

Immigration of spouses

**Section 32 Act on the Residence - AufenthG**

Immigration of children