

Financial security for individual living expenses according to the purpose of stay: required minimum amounts

Purpose of stay	Required minimum amounts	Comments
Work – EU Blue Card (Section 18g of the Residence Act [AufenthG])	Minimum salary for shortage occupations: €45,934.20 gross per year (in 2026).	- For the issuance of an EU Blue Card to young professionals (persons who have obtained their academic degree in the last three years), a gross minimum salary of €45,934.20 per year applies, regardless of whether they are employed in shortage occupations or regular occupations. - The applicant's livelihood is also considered to be secure if they previously had a work permit (Sections 18a or 18b AufenthG) and have not changed jobs.
	Minimum salary for all other occupations: €50,700 gross per year (in 2026).	
Work – skilled workers (Sections 18a, 18b AufenthG)	Minimum salary for persons up to 45 years of age : not specified. In an approval procedure, the Federal Employment Agency checks whether the remuneration is appropriate. ¹	The minimum salary for persons aged 45 and over applies when the residence title is issued for the first time. This provision does not apply if proof of adequate pension provision can be provided. In certain cases, deviations from the minimum salary are possible.
	Minimum salary for persons aged 45 and over : €55,770 gross per year (in 2026).	
Work – professionally experienced workers (Section 19c (1) AufenthG in conjunction with Section 6 of the Ordinance on the Employment of Foreigners [BeschV])	Minimum salary for persons up to 45 years of age: €45,630 gross per year (in 2026).	- The minimum salary for persons under 45 years of age does not apply if a collective agreement is in place. - The minimum salary for persons aged 45 and over applies when the residence title is issued for the first time. This provision does not apply if proof of adequate pension provision can be provided. In certain cases, deviations from this minimum salary are possible.
	Minimum salary for persons aged 45 and over: €55,770 gross per year (in 2026).	
Research (Section 18d AufenthG)	Scholarship holders & self-financing persons: €1,091 net per month (in 2026)	- For researchers, there is no age-based differentiation in the minimum income requirement. - Self-financing researchers without income can prove that they can cover their living expenses by means of a blocked account or a Declaration of Commitment.
	Employment: no fixed minimum salary.	
Work – professional drivers (Section 19c (1) AufenthG in conjunction with Section 24a BeschV)	Minimum salary for persons up to 45 years of age : not specified. The Federal Employment Agency checks whether the remuneration is appropriate during the approval procedure.	The minimum salary for persons aged 45 and over applies when the residence title is issued for the first time. This provision does not apply if proof of adequate pension provision can be provided. In certain cases, deviations from the minimum salary are possible.
	Minimum salary for persons aged 45 and over: €55,770 gross per year (in 2026).	

¹ As part of the approval procedure at the Federal Employment Agency, the employment conditions will be assessed. An essential prerequisite for the approval is that the remuneration is not worse than that of comparable domestic employees. To this end, the remuneration must correspond to the wage indicated in a collective agreement or the standard local wage (depending on the company, industry and activity).

Purpose of stay	Required minimum amounts	Comments
Work – assistants in nursing (Section 19c (1) in conjunction with Section 22a BeschV)	Minimum salary for persons up to 45 years of age: not specified. The Federal Employment Agency checks whether the remuneration is appropriate during the approval procedure.	The minimum salary for persons aged 45 and over applies when the residence permit is issued for the first time. This provision does not apply if proof of adequate pension provision can be provided. In certain cases, deviations from the minimum salary are possible.
	Minimum salary for persons aged 45 and over: €55,770 gross per year (in 2026).	
Job searching or searching for recognition measures – opportunity card (Section 20a AufenthG)	Own funds: generally €1,091 net per month (in 2026).	• Proof can be provided by means of a blocked account or a Declaration of Commitment. • If an employment contract has been concluded (maximum of 20 hours/week), the agreed upon remuneration can be taken into account.
Recognition partnership (Section 16d (3) AufenthG in conjunction with Section 2a BeschV)	No fixed minimum salary. The Federal Employment Agency checks whether the remuneration is appropriate during the approval procedure.	
Recognition of foreign professional qualifications (Section 16d (1) AufenthG)	School-based measure: own funds of at least €1,091 net per month (in 2026).	• Proof of sufficient funds can be provided in the form of remuneration, (and additionally with) a blocked account or a Declaration of Commitment. • In the case of a company measure, a blocked account or Declaration of Commitment is not required. The gross and net amounts stated apply to employment subject to social security contributions with health insurance cover.
	Company-based measure: remuneration of at least €1,200 gross per month (€941 net in 2026).	
Vocational training (Section 16a (1)(2) AufenthG)	School education: €959 net per month (in 2026).	• If accommodation is provided free of charge, the required amount is reduced by €380 per month. • Proof of sufficient funds to cover living expenses can be provided in the form of the training allowance, (and additionally with) a blocked account or a Declaration of Commitment.
	Company-based & dual vocational training: training allowance of at least €1,048 gross per month (€822 net, in 2026).	
Seeking a place in vocational training (Section 17 (1) AufenthG)	Own funds: at least €1,091 net per month (in 2026).	Proof of sufficient funds can be provided by means of a blocked account or a Declaration of Commitment.
Studying (Section 16b AufenthG)	Own funds: at least €992 net per month (€11,904 per year, in 2026).	Proof of sufficient funds can be provided in the form of a scholarship offer, a blocked account or a Declaration of Commitment.
Seeking a place in university (Section 17 (2) AufenthG)	Own funds: at least €1,091 net per month (in 2026).	Proof of sufficient funds can be provided in the form of a blocked account or a Declaration of Commitment.
Language acquisition in Germany (Section 16f (1) AufenthG) ²	Own funds: at least €1,091 net per month (in 2026).	Proof of sufficient funds can be provided by means of a blocked account or a Declaration of Commitment.

² German courses which do not serve as preparation for academic studies.

Disclaimer: This is an overview of the legal requirements to guarantee financial security for individual living expenses for selected residence titles in the field of economic and educational migration to Germany. The minimum amounts stated provide guidance for securing a livelihood with regard to the granting of a residence title and do not replace an individual assessment. Detailed information on the subject of securing a livelihood can be found in the application notes for the FEG (in German) and in the visa handbook (in German). Even if the minimum salary threshold is exceeded, a review of the individual case may still result in the means of subsistence not being secured. It should also be noted that the Federal Employment Agency's review may conclude that the remuneration is not considered comparable or appropriate, in which case the financial security for living expenses is not relevant.