The Federal Government

Make it in Germany

Working in Germany: the official website for qualified professionals

At a Glance: Job Search Opportunity Card

Visa and entry procedure for immigrants from third countries subject to visa obligation. General entitlement requirements (Section 5 of the Residence Act [AufenthG]): passport, proof of financial means, no existing reason for expulsion.

Step 1 Check the requirements

- Qualifications:
  1. Qualification obtained in Germany or full equivalence of qualification obtained abroad, or
  2. State-recognised academic or vocational qualification abroad (for vocational qualifications: at least two years training period): submit an application to the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) to receive this piece of information, or
  3. Professional qualification positively recognised by the BIBB from a German Chamber of Commerce Abroad (AHK) of category A: ask the AHK about the requirements.
- For cases 2 and 3 additionally:
  - A score of at least six points in the points system.
  - Proof of language skills: German at a minimum level of A1 or English at least a minimum level of B2.
- For all cases:
  - Secure financial means: blocked account with at least **€ 1,091** per month (as of 2026) or Declaration of Commitment.

Step 2 Submit the digital visa application

- Create a user account on the Consular Services Portal and apply for your visa online.
- Prepare the required documents: e.g. passport, proof of qualification and (if applicable) recognition notice, proof of financial means, proof of German language skills, proof of the criteria of the points system.

Please consider: if online visa applications are not yet available in your country, please contact the competent German mission abroad for further information on the visa procedure.

Step 3 Make an appointment at the German embassy

- Bring the original documents in their entirety.
- Pay the visa fees: € 75 (in local currency).

Please consider: processing times may strongly vary depending on the mission abroad and processing workload. Please find further information on the website of the competent embassy.

Step 4 Enter Germany

- Issuance of the opportunity card in the form of a visa.
- Book flight / plan journey to Germany.

Please consider: in order for an entry visa to be issued, proof of valid health insurance coverage must be presented. After finding a job in Germany, new health insurance must be taken out.

Step 5 After finding a job: apply for a residence permit

- Register your home address in Germany at the Residents' Registration Office.
- Book an appointment at the competent foreigners authority.
- Ask the foreigners authority for a list of the required documents and start the preparation.
- **After successful job search:** switch from the opportunity card to a residence permit for the purpose of employment or apply for the extension of the opportunity card.
- Fees may add up to € 100 (Sections 45 ff. of the Residence Ordinance [AufenthV]).

Please consider: the application for the respective residence permit must be submitted before the opportunity card expires.

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.

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