

Career in research in Germany



Germany offers many opportunities to advance in your research career.

Guest lecturership at a higher education institution: as a guest lecturer, you can carry out teaching activities at German higher education institutions for a limited period of time. A guest lecturership helps everyone: the students benefit from your expertise and intercultural perspective, while you, in turn, gain useful experience at a German university as well as professional and methodological impulses for your own work.

Employment at a higher education institution: Of course, you can also apply for a job position at a higher education institution. Many traditional universities as well as universities of applied sciences and research-oriented universities offer positions. You could also combine a job as a research assistant with a doctoral thesis.

Employment in the R&D sector of a company: international researchers have good prospects in German companies. There is particularly high demand for skilled workers in areas with an insufficient number of qualified applicants in Germany, such as **engineers** and **IT specialists**.

If you are interested in doing research in Germany, feel free to visit the [Research in Germany](#) website.

How to do research in Germany in 5 steps

1. Job-hunting:

If you want to conduct research in Germany, it is best to start looking for a job while you are still in your home country. Numerous job portals online provide a job database specifically for research and science. You can find them on the [Research in Germany](#) website.

2. Financing and funding:

To work as a researcher in Germany, you must prove that you are able to support yourself financially. Research employees in Germany are paid according to collective wage agreements and can therefore easily secure funding for your research stay, if they have a full-time job. You can also secure funding for your research stay through a **scholarship**. This is especially worthwhile if you want to carry out a project for a limited time period. You can also support international researchers from all disciplines. You can find an overview on the [Research in Germany](#) website.

3. Visa:

The "[Who needs a visa?](#)" section provides information on whether you need an entry visa or a residence permit for your research stay in Germany. As a rule, a visa or residence permit is required if you are not from Switzerland. The specific requirements for the issuance of a visa are listed in the "[Visa for Researchers](#)" section.

4. Prospects for the family:

As a citizen of an EU country, your spouse and children have the same rights to freedom of movement and they can move here with you without a visa. If you are not from the EU but have a residence permit or researcher, your spouse also has the right to a residence permit with which they can take up an employment. Of course, you can bring your children with you. You can find more information about school and childcare in the "[Family life in Germany](#)" section.

Career opportunities for spouses: many universities in Germany will support your partner in their own career through Dual Career Services as well as the universities' Welcome Centres accompany you and your family on the way to Germany and support you in settling in. About 40 universities are currently represented in the [Network Germany](#) (DCND). If your employer of choice is not on this list, why not ask them directly about family support services?

5. Language skills:

As a scientist or researcher, you usually do not have to prove any skills regarding your proficiency English being the default language in international research teams. Your spouse does not need to either. However, the German language will help you tremendously in your exchanges with German students or employees in companies and administration. Language skills also help you and your family and finding a new home and friends in Germany. Here you can find useful tips concerning the German



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Information on doctoral studies and research in Germany

Research in Germany

Guide for international postdocs and experienced researchers

Germany's Universities of Excellence

Information about the Excellence Initiative and top-level research

<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/working-in-germany/research>

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