

## 5 steps for working in research in Germany

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### 1. Find a job

If you want to work in research in Germany, the best thing is to start searching for a job while still in your home country. Whether in universities, research institutes or industry, Germany offers a multitude of research opportunities for qualified people from abroad. On the Internet, you can find numerous job portals which offer a job search function specifically for research and science. The **Research in Germany website** [↗](#) has a list of these job portals

### 2. Financing and subsidies

#### Minimum income

To work as a researcher in Germany, you must prove that you are able to support yourself here. You are required to have a net income of at least 1,890 euros a month in the federal states of Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Bremen, Hamburg, Hesse, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland and Schleswig-Holstein, and 1,610 euros in the federal states of Brandenburg, Berlin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia. Under normal circumstances, these income thresholds should not be any problem for international scientists: Many scientific posts in Germany are paid according to collective bargaining agreements and easily comply with the minimum income requirements in full-time positions. On its website, the German Association of University Professors and Lecturers (*Deutscher Hochschulverband*) provides information about **scientific staff salaries** [↗](#) at public universities and research institutes.

#### Fellowships

You can also have your stint of research funded by means of a fellowship. This is especially worthwhile if you want to pursue a project in Germany for a specific period of time. Numerous bodies grant financial support for international researchers in all fields. You can find a list of these on the Research in Germany **website** [↗](#).

### 3. Visa

#### No visa required

Are you a **national of an EU country, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland**? In that case, you can enter Germany without a visa. Once you have a job, you can start your research straight away.

If you are a **citizen of Australia, Israel, Japan, Canada, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, or the USA**, you may enter Germany

without a visa. You can collect your residence permit from your immigration authority once you have entered the country.

### **Visa required**

Researchers from all other countries need a visa for the purpose of research in order to enter Germany. You can find the requirements for obtaining a visa in the section [Visa for research](#) .

The residence permit for the purpose of research (§ 18d AufenthG) is issued for at least one year and entitles you to carry out teaching activities during your research stay in Germany.

## **4. Prospects for the family**

### **Apply for a family visa**

As nationals of an EU state, your spouse and children have the same rights to freedom of movement as you and can move here with you without a visa. If you do not come from an EU country but have a scientist's or researcher's residence permit, your spouse is also entitled to a residence permit which enables him or her to take up employment in Germany. And of course, you can bring your children with you too.

You can find tips about schooling and childcare on this portal. A [brochure](#)  published by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees provides detailed information about residence rights for international scientists and researchers in Germany.

### **Career opportunities for spouses**

Many universities in Germany will also provide support for your spouse in finding a job. The universities' "Dual Career Services" and "Welcome Centres" will assist you and your family as you prepare to move to Germany and help you get settled in here. The services they offer also include finding a language course for your spouse, a kindergarten for your children and accommodation in your new home country.

The Dual Career Netzwerk Deutschland (Dual Career Network Germany, DCND) currently comprises around forty universities. You'll find a list of them [here](#) . If the university you wish to apply to does not feature on this list, enquire with them directly to find out what support they provide for families.

### **Further tips for getting settled in**

Before international academics start their research period in Germany, they often have a lot of questions. The ["Research in Germany"](#)  portal provides useful tips for your preparation. The ["Living in Germany"](#) section provides numerous tips that make your arrival in Germany easier. Whether it's how to register with the residents' registration office (Einwohnermeldeamt), open an account or find accommodation or recreational activities for all the family.

## **5. Language skills**

### **Speaking German makes daily life easier**

As a scientist or researcher, you will not normally need to prove that you speak German, as in international research teams English is frequently spoken. Your spouse is not required to speak German either. Nevertheless, having German skills will of course help you converse with your German colleagues, students, or business and administration employees. Language skills will also help you and your family settle in, make new friends and feel at home.

### **German language courses**

There are all kinds of possibilities all over the world for learning German. Group language courses, online tutorials, vocabulary apps – you'll find a host of useful tips on learning German here on this [portal](#).

## **Information on the web**

### **Research in Germany**

Information on doctoral studies and research in Germany

**Dual Career Netzwerk Deutschland**

Do research in Germany with your spouse

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

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