



Working in Germany: the
official website
for qualified professionals

Jobseeker visa

If you are having difficulties with finding a job from abroad, you can apply for a residence permit for jobseekers to enter Germany for the purpose of seeking employment in accordance with **Section 18a of the Residence Act (German Residence Act)** [\[7\]](#).

To find out whether you require a visa to enter Germany, see **Who Needs a Visa?**

What are the requirements to receive a visa for jobseekers?

- You are able to provide proof of vocational or academic training.
- Your qualifications are recognised in Germany or are equivalent to a German degree or diploma. If you are already employed in a regulated profession, i.e. in healthcare, a professional practice permit is mandatory. Information on the recognition procedure please see **Recognition**.
- Have you completed vocational training? If so, you must provide proof of possessing the German language skills required for the job you are seeking. Generally speaking, a minimum level of B1 in accordance with the European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) is required.
- You are able to prove that you can cover your costs of living, since you are not able to enter into employment during this time. Proof of being able to cover living costs can be provided in the form of a bank account or a Declaration of Commitment.

Info box

During your stay in Germany, you may work on trial for up to ten hours per week as part of an application.

What opportunities does the visa for jobseekers offer?

The visa or the residence permit for jobseekers can be issued for a period of up to six months.

Important: Please note that the residence permit for jobseekers cannot be extended. After your residence permit has expired, you may only re-apply for the same visa once you have spent the same duration abroad in Germany while seeking employment.

If you have found employment that is in line with your qualifications, you may apply for the **EU Blue Card** or the **residence permit for qualified professionals** at the competent **Foreigners' Authority** [\[7\]](#) without having to apply for a visa in Germany beforehand.

Info box

You may also apply for a residence permit for jobseekers if you are in Germany and already hold a residence permit that enables you to obtain employment.

At a glance: Visa for jobseekers [\[7\]](#) (PDF)



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subject=Visa%20for%20jobseekers&body-
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Information on the web

Federal Foreign Office (FFO)

You can find out which visa you need in order to come to Germany with the **Visa-Navigator** [\[7\]](#)

Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)

Centre of Excellence for Asylum, Migration and Integration in Germany [\[7\]](#)

