

## Students from abroad

Foreign students at German universities are a group with high potential. In addition to their profession they are usually already familiar with the cultural side of Germany as well as the language. Moreover, they save time when recruiting foreign students because they are already inside the country.

### Employment of foreign students during their studies

Foreign students can already be employed as student workers during their studies. Students from Austria and Switzerland are allowed to work up to 20 hours per week during the lecture period, just like German students. During the semester break, they can work without any restrictions.

Students from third countries who have a residence permit for the purpose of studying [Section 16f Residence Act – AufenthG](#) may be employed for 120 full days or 240 half days per year with the BA.

In addition, foreign students from third countries can be employed even before completing their studies in accordance with [Section 16b \(4\) of the German Residence Act – AufenthG](#). The following conditions are available:

- **Full-time employment as a professional** ([Section 18a; 18b of the German Residence Act – AufenthG](#)): The acquired knowledge and skills enable them to do so.
- Instead of studying, it is possible to take up qualified vocational training. Before taking up the training, a foreign student must apply for a **residence permit to take up vocational training** at the competent authority.

### Employment after successful completion of studies in Germany

Following their studies in Germany, foreign graduates can immediately take up employment that matches their qualifications. In order to look for a job in Germany, they will usually receive a residence permit valid for 18 months.

The "[How can I recruit a qualified professional from abroad? What employers need to know](#)" explains all legal provisions concerning the employment of skilled workers from abroad.



**Information on the web**  
[\(mailto:info@make-it-in-germany.com?subject=Students%20from%20abroad&body=I%20am%20looking%20for%20foreign%20professionals%20entering%20admission-labour-market%20students\)](#)

**Information on the web**  
[make-it-in-germany.com/en/looking-for-foreign-professionals/entering/admission-labour-market/students](#)  
Federal Employment Agency (BA)  
Information on admission for foreign professionals  
KOFA (Centre of Excellence for recruiting and applying qualified professionals)

International students at German universities: qualified professionals for international market