

FAQ

You can contact us in a variety of ways. By email, chat or hotline, in German or in English - our specialists are there to help you.



Contacts



I have some general questions about living and working in Germany. Who can help me?

The "**Hotline Working and Living in Germany**" offers you information, in both German and English, on topics such as looking for work, employment and careers, acceptance of qualifications from abroad, arrival and stay in Germany, and about learning German. Call **+49 30 1815 1111 (tel:+49)** for a personal consultation or send an email to the Federal Employment Agency's advisory service: **[make-it-in-germany\(at\)arbeitsagentur\(dot\)de](mailto:make-it-in-germany(at)arbeitsagentur(dot)de)**. The information and advisory services offered by the Make it in Germany consultants of the GIZ in India, Indonesia and Vietnam expired at the end of 2014.



I have some questions about visas. Who can I ask for help?

The German mission in your country will help you with any questions about visas. You can find the addresses of the German missions in your country on our "**local contacts**" world map.



I have some questions about job-hunting. Who can I ask for help?

You can get support in your job-hunting efforts by calling our "**Hotline Working and Living in Germany**" under the telephone number **+49 30 1815 1111 (tel:+49)** or you can send an e-mail to **[make-it-in-germany\(at\)arbeitsagentur.de](mailto:make-it-in-germany(at)arbeitsagentur.de)**.



I would like to invest in Germany. Who can I ask?

You can ask the Federal Republic of Germany's economic development agency **Germany Trade & Invest (GTAI)**. The specialists at GTAI will inform you about the possibilities of investing in Germany, as well as the background conditions and aid programmes available at your chosen location.



I would like to have my professional qualification recognised in Germany.

Who can I ask for help?

The central information platform for this topic is "[Recognition in Germany](#)". On this website you will find information on all the most important topics. If you have further questions, you can write to the "Recognition in Germany" advisors using the [contact form](#). Alternatively, you can get advice by phone. Information about the hotline is available [here](#).

Working in Germany

Do I need a visa to work in Germany?

You can find out about visas under "[Visa](#)".

What conditions do I have to fulfil to be able to work in Germany?

The conditions you have to fulfil to be able to take up employment in Germany depend on your country of origin. You can check out what possibilities are open to you on our [Quick-Check](#).

What is the "EU Blue Card"?

The EU Blue Card is a stay permit for academics from non-EU countries, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Norway. [Here](#) you can find out what requirements you have to meet to get an EU Blue Card.

Is it possible to get the professional diploma which I obtained abroad recognised?

Yes, this is perfectly possible. The "Recognition Act" (Anerkennungsgesetz) came into effect on April 1st 2012. This act makes it easier to get foreign professional diplomas recognised. "[Recognition in Germany](#)" is the Recognition Act information portal and provides information about the legal bases and procedures for getting your Professional qualification recognised.

Where can I find job vacancies in Germany?

You can find current job offers in Germany in our [job listings](#).

What qualifications stand me in good stead for finding a job in Germany?

Businesses in Germany are currently searching for professionals with technical qualifications, such as engineers and IT specialists. However, there is also a need for doctors and care workers, as well as people with industrial skills. You will find more information on the types of occupation which are being sought after in the article "[Professions in demand](#)".

Can my family come with me to Germany?

You will find information about this in the article "[Family reunification](#)".

Do I have to be able to speak German to get a job in Germany?

Whether or not you need German skills in your job depends on your post and your employer. Whatever the case, it is extremely helpful for everyday life, as well as for an active social life, to learn some basic German. Experience shows that language level B2 on the [Common European Framework of Reference for Languages scale](#) is a good starting basis. In any case, learning German is not so very hard and what's more, there are plenty of ways of getting help. You will find a few tips in the section "[Learning German](#)".



How do you go about applying for a job in Germany?

We've put a few tips together in the section "[Jobs](#)".



What should be included in my work contract?

Serious employers in Germany will always give you a written work contract. You can find out what should be included in the contract in the section "[Jobs](#)".



I am an entrepreneur and would like to employ a qualified professional from abroad. What points do I have to take into consideration?

The section "[For business](#)" provides general information about how to successfully recruit and integrate international qualified professionals.



I have successfully completed my studies in Germany. Can I work here now?

Yes, once you have completed your studies, you are cordially invited to put your specialist knowledge and experience to good use in Germany. The article "[Chances after your studies](#)" explains what opportunities are open to you.



I studied in Germany. Can I be self-employed here?

Yes, as a graduate of a Germany university, you can run a business or work as an independent professional, for example as an engineer. The article "[Perspects after graduation](#)" explains the points you have to take into consideration.



Am I guaranteed a job in Germany?

No, there is no guarantee that you will find a job. Every employer makes his or her own decision as to which applicants are recruited.



Can I do the further training in Germany?

Yes, [here](#) you will find helpful tips, what you have to meet for a successful choice and organisation of a further training.

Setting up a business in Germany



Can I set up a business in Germany? Will I need a visa?

Welcome to Germany. With your business idea, you are making a valuable contribution to the German business landscape. Depending on where you're from, you may require a visa. Use the [Quick Check](#) to assess your options.

Comprehensive information on visa requirements and the application process is available in the Guide to "Setting up a business", in the article "[Visa](#)".



Will I be self-employed or a freelancer?

Information on self-employed (gewerblich) or freelance work (freiberuflich) is available in the section on „Setting up a business“ in the article "[Types of new business](#)".



How do I draw up a business plan?

Information on developing a business plan is available [here](#).



Will I receive support as I set up my own business in Germany?

In Germany, there are several funding programmes, and free information is widely available. Read more in the Guide to “Setting up a business” in the article "[Financing & funding](#)".

Living in Germany



How do I go about looking for accommodation?

In Germany, there is a large choice of rentals. This is why many Germans do not buy their own property, but rent instead. The section "[Living in Germany](#)" explains how you can find suitable accommodation too.



What do I have to take into consideration when moving into new accommodation?

You will find a few tips in the section "[Living in Germany](#)".



Where do I register my place of residence and what documents do I need?

You have to register with the residents' registration office (Einwohnermeldeamt) or citizens' bureau (Bürgeramt) one week at the latest after moving in. You will find more information on this in the section "[Living in Germany](#)".



How do I open a bank account in Germany?

To open an account with a bank in Germany, you need your passport, residence certificate showing your place of residence (Meldebescheinigung), for certain types of account a pay slip from your employer and, with some banks, your work permit. Further information is provided in the section "[Living in Germany](#)".



Where can I get an Internet connection and telephone landline?

In Germany, you have a large number of private operators to choose from for your Internet and telephone connection. The section "[Living in Germany](#)" explains what to look out for.



What school or nursery can we send our child to?

In Germany there is a multitude of different kinds of schools and nurseries. The section "[Living in Germany](#)" explains about the different kinds of child care offers and schools and how to find one suitable for you.



What's the best way to come into contact with German people?

A good way is through sports clubs and associations. The section "[Living in Germany](#)" provides a few tips.



Where can I meet people from my country of origin in Germany?

In nearly all larger towns there are intercultural centres, migrant organisations and associations of all kinds of religions. You will find more information on this in the section "[Living in Germany](#)".

Studying and training



I would like to study in Germany. What requirements do I have to meet?

If you want to study at one of the 426 or so Germany universities, you will need a recognised school-leaving diploma which qualifies you for university studies. Further information is on the [Quick Check](#) and under "[Study & training](#)".



Can I do a vocational training in Germany?

The conditions you have to fulfil to be able to undertake vocational training in Germany depend on your country of origin. You can check out what possibilities are open to you on our [Quick Check](#). You will find information on vocational training under "[Training](#)".



I studied in Germany. Can I now also do a doctorate in Germany?

Numerous opportunities for doing a Doctorate are open to international graduates of German universities. You will find further information about this in the article: [Prospects after graduation / Doctorate](#).



I would like to study or do a doctorate in Germany. How much will it cost?

Unlike many other countries, no tuition fees are charged for undergraduate degrees at most of the public universities in Germany. You can find out what costs you can expect to pay in the article "[5 steps to studying in Germany](#)".



Ich möchte in Deutschland studieren oder promovieren. Kann ich ein Stipendium erhalten?

Informationen rund um das Thema Stipendien finden Sie im Artikel [In 5 Schritten zum Studium](#)".



What are dual vocational training courses?

Dual vocational training courses provide a special way of learning a profession in Germany. On one of these courses, you learn the theory in a vocational training school and do practical work in a company. You can find out more about what distinguishes dual vocational training courses from other courses in the article "[What is a vocational training?](#)".



Which training profile is the right one for me?

In Germany, there are around 330 different occupations that you can train for by doing a dual vocational training course. Making a choice can be difficult. The section "[Training](#)" can help you find the right occupation for you. Moreover, in the article "[5 training profiles at a glance](#)", you can find out about work sectors in which German companies are urgently seeking recruits.

Notes on using this portal



In what languages is "Make it in Germany" available?

The "Make it in Germany" portal is currently available in German, English, Spanish and French. Furthermore you will find websites with reduced content in the following languages:

Albanian

Arabic

Bosnian

Indonesian

Italian

Korean

Portuguese

Russian

Serbian

Turkish

Vietnamese



How can I print out a complete page of the website?

At bottom centre of each page, you will find the printer symbol and "Print" option. If you click on one of them, the print preview of the page will pop up in a new window.



How can I open a PDF file?

To be able to view documents in Portable Document Format (PDF), you need to have a programme which allows you to view PDF documents installed on your computer. If you do, you can view the PDF documents directly in your Web browser by clicking on the download link. If your browser does not support this, or if you want to save the document to your hard disk, right-click on the PDF link and select "Save target/link as...". Then select the folder on your PC to which you want to save the document.



Which web browser do I have to use for optimum, error-free viewing?

This website is optimised for all current web browsers with a resolution of 1280x1024. If you use another resolution or an older browser version, you may find divergences in the display.



The videos stutter when I play them. Why?

The video files are optimised for fast Internet connections. Playback quality is automatically reduced in the case of slow Internet connections. As a result, you may find delays in playback.



I have suggestions for the website. Who can I send my ideas to?

Your suggestions are very welcome! There is an easy way to send them, using the [contact form](#).



The Federal Government has approved the Skilled Immigration Act. What will the law change?

The Skilled Immigration Act came into force on 1.3.2020. The law expands the framework under which qualified professionals from non-EU countries can come to Germany. It also allows Skilled workers with vocational, non-academic training to immigrate to Germany more easily. You can find further information [here](#).

