

## Unemployment



### If you have yet to find a job, register with your local employment agency (*Arbeitsagentur*)

If you are not taking up employment immediately upon your return to Germany, you may be eligible for unemployment benefits. You will need to visit your [local employment agency](#) in person to register. If you are returning to Germany, you do not have to notify the agency three months prior to the end of your employment. This notification requirement is not waived for those who have been abroad on secondment or working abroad while in Germany. In these cases, you can meet the notification requirement by contacting the agency over the phone, by writing, or online, or you can register immediately upon your return to Germany. Advice on open job placement support even before your return can be obtained from the BA's International and Specific (ZAV) at [ZAV.Hotline-Germany@arbeitsagentur.de](mailto:ZAV.Hotline-Germany@arbeitsagentur.de) or via telephone: 0049 228 713 1313.

- If you wish to register yourself as jobless, you can call the following number: 0049 911 1203 10 (no charges)
- Or you can use this [link](#)
- For additional information on registering as a jobless person, please go to the website of the [Federal Employment Agency](#).

### Proof of entitlement to unemployment benefits

If you have been paying into an unemployment insurance scheme in the EU, the EEA or Switzerland prior to your return to Germany, you can transfer these entitlements to Germany. You will need to ask the competent employment agency in your home country for form [PD U2](#). Please contact your local employment agency for further information on the process.

### Unemployment benefits

As a general rule, those who are unemployed in Germany are only entitled to financial support if they had a job subject to social security contributions in Germany prior to registering themselves as unemployed. This is why most people returning to Germany are not eligible for unemployment benefits. However, if you do take up employment in a job that is subject to social security contributions after returning to Germany and then become unemployed, any time you have spent working in the EU, the EEA or Switzerland can count towards your entitlement in Germany. However, this will only be the case, if you provide proof of employment for these periods. The exact rules here differ vastly between different countries, so you should consult the [EURES website](#) to find out what proof you can obtain, what you need to do, and when to do it. For a meeting with a local EURES advisor. For an overview of the various national rules, consult the European Commission's website on ["Your Rights Country by Country"](#). You will also find detailed information on ["Unemployment Benefit & Employment Abroad"](#) leaflet. Please contact your local employment agency for further information on the portability of benefits from other countries.



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subject=Unemployment&body=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mak-it-germany.com%2Fen%2Fliving-in-germany%2Fback-to-germany%2Funemployment)

Federal Office of Administration

Information for emigrants and returnees to Germany

German Pension Insurance

Information on international provisions around pensions

**Alumniportal Deutschland**

Social networking for alumni of German universities, including job offers

**Raphaelswerk e.V.**

Personal advice

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<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/living-in-germany/back-to-germany/unemployment>

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