

Working as a scientist in Germany

Be innovative!

Germany has always been known as an important **location for industry**, for the car industry and for its mechanical and plant engineering, as well as for being a global player in the chemical and pharmaceutical branches. In the upcoming branches of biotech and nanotechnology, Germany is also at the fore. In 2021, Germany ranks fourth among the most innovative countries worldwide according to the Bloomberg Innovation Index.

Your career as a scientist in Germany

The range of jobs in Germany for scientists as well as for mathematicians is wide. Alongside classic positions in **research and teaching** and in management, scientists and mathematicians work in the IT sector, in marketing and sales, in the fields of administration and law, and in the financial sector. Currently, the branches most in demand for scientists and mathematicians are:

- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Energy and environmental technology
- Medical technology
- Pharmaceuticals
- Physics



Working as a researcher in Germany

The German research landscape is strong. Not only universities and research institutes carry out research; many companies also have their own R&D departments. You can also carry out research as a **doctoral candidate** [↗](#), known in German as a Doktorandin or Doktorand, and earn money in the process. This is possible, for example, when a research team or company financially supports your dissertation or when you receive a **fellowship** [↗](#) from your university or from a research team.

Find out more about your **career opportunities** [↗](#) as a researcher.

Do I need a visa?

As a citizen of the European Union, Liechtenstein, Iceland, Norway or Switzerland, you do not require a visa or a residence permit in order to work in Germany. Citizens of other countries on the other hand require a residence permit. You can find out more about the **work visa for qualified professionals** and the **EU Blue Card** in the **Visa** section.

Tip: If it is proving difficult to find a job position from abroad, it is possible to enter Germany for a period of 6 months after completing your studies in order to look for a job. You can find out which conditions need to be fulfilled in order to apply for a visa for jobseekers at **visa for jobseekers**.

Infobox

Would you like to work as a scientific researcher and need a visa to work in Germany? Then you have two options. You can either apply for a visa for research or the EU Blue Card for this purpose. You should therefore check the requirements for each residence permit and whether you fulfil them.

Next steps



✓ **Your career prospects:** With our **Quick-Check**, you can find out about the opportunities available to you for working and living in Germany.

✓ **The German employment market:** Find out more about Jobhunting and get useful tips in our section "**Looking for a job**".

✓ **Apply now:** Find a suitable position in our "**Make it in Germany**" **Job listings** and use our tips for a successful **job application** in Germany.

Tip: Knowledge of German is not mandatory in order to work as a scientist or mathematician in Germany. However, speaking German will facilitate your entry into the labour market and your day-to-day life in Germany. Find more information on learning opportunities in the **Learning German** section.

Information on the web

Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi)

Industrial Policy

Industry 4.0

The Federal Government

The High-Tech Strategy 2025

Show more

German Chemical Society (GDCh)

Job descriptions for chemists

DPG

German Physical Society

Important research institutions

Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft

Helmholtz Gemeinschaft

Leibniz Association

Max-Planck-Gesellschaft

<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/jobs/professions-in-demand/scientists>

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